

THE Kentucky Kernel

Thursday, September 8, 2005

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Trustees want new contract for Todd

Chairman says board wants president back; vote expected to come at Sept. 20 meeting

By Troy Lyle
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The board of trustees conducted the first of two closed session meetings yesterday aimed at discussing the terms of a contract extension for President Lee Todd.

The special meeting lasted nearly two hours, with 11 of the board's 20 members present. The remaining trustees will meet at 2:30 p.m. today.

Board chairman James Hardymon said over the course of the two meetings, he wants to give each board member a chance to express concerns and provide feedback to Todd.

"We want (Todd) to carry on

with his service," Hardymon said. "And we want a new contract that lets him know we want him to continue."

Hardymon said after he has everyone's input, he'll go back to the president with the trustees' suggestions.

"The objective is to incorporate everyone's thinking in this matter," he said, adding that "this is the board's contract, not mine."

Because the meeting involved a personnel matter, it was closed to the press and the public. Hardy-

mon declined to answer specifics about any contract proposal the group discussed.

The process of evaluating Todd began this past June, with each trustee writing an evaluation of his performance.

Those evaluations were compiled into a single document and presented to Todd. He then noted the board's recommendations and began working to address its concerns.

Hardymon said the board's suggestions were overall "very

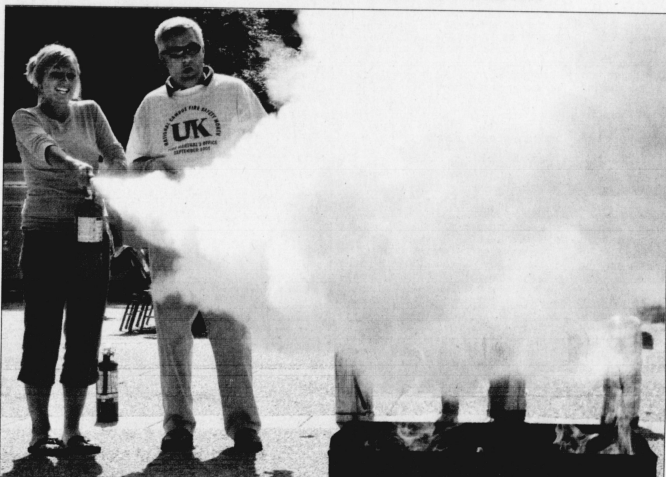
positive," citing increased funding at the state and corporate levels and higher-quality incoming students as two of the many positives listed.

The board also said Todd needed improvement on internal communications with faculty, staff and students.

Tom Harris, associate vice president of external affairs, said UK's public relations department is partly to blame for people not

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NATIONAL CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH



TRICIA SPAULDING | STAFF

Kelli Fuzy, kinesiology senior, tries to extinguish a fire with the help from UK assistant fire marshal Greg Williamson. The fire was part of a demonstration meant to educate students on fire safety. This is the first of four demonstrations during the month of September, which is National Campus Fire Safety Month.

Catching fire to illuminate campus safety concerns

By Bobbi Vowels
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The Lexington Fire Department and campus fire safety officials had a very simple motto when conducting a fire safety demonstration yesterday at Commons Plaza.

"When you hear the alarm, move your butt so you won't be an ash."

That slogan, printed on the backs of free t-shirts, was part of a demonstration yesterday to teach faculty, staff and students the importance of fire safety, how to use a fire extinguisher and what to do in

case of a fire.

"The No. 1 safety technique we want people to learn is that if a fire starts, pull the alarm and evacuate the building," said Greg Williamson, assistant fire marshal for the Lexington Fire Department.

"That is the message we are trying to get across."

In April 2005 alone, six students were killed in four fires at Miami University in Ohio, Southern Adventist University in Tennessee, Penn State University and at the University of Maryland.

As a result, fire safety and prevention has been promoted on campuses na-

Future Demonstrations

Sept. 14, Patterson Office Tower
Sept. 21, North Campus Dorms
Sept. 28, Medical Center Plaza

tionwide during the month of September, which Congress designated as National Campus Fire Safety Month.

The demonstration at Commons Plaza was the first in a four part series set to take place across UK's campus this month.

Williamson said he wants everyone to know that fire safety is their responsibility.

"Throughout the nation

there are fires everyday that injure and even kill people," he said.

Fire Marshal Gary Beach elaborated on the dangers of candles when asked about the items that are not permitted in residence halls.

"We don't permit candles in dorms because they are dangerous," he said. "About four years ago, a couple of girls in Donovan Hall had candles in their room and left them burning. The candles melted and their room caught on fire as a result."

"They were no longer

See Safety on page 2

"We recognize that Blackboard is a mission-critical system. It plays a very significant role on campus."

Norman Pedigo

director of UK's Teaching and Academic Support Center(TASC)

Blackboard difficulties slow down schoolwork

By Sean Rose
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Lines of students 10 to 15 deep have recently formed at the Information Technology customer service desk in McVey Hall over problems with Blackboard, the online system used to assist courses in colleges across the country.

Many of the problems came from students being unable to log in to Blackboard, causing them to miss classwork, in some cases.

"The information a student needs to be able to use (Blackboard)... is available to them," said Sidney Scott, a manager in the Information Systems customer service center.

This is UK's fifth year using Blackboard, and the system has close to 23,000 users according to Norman Pedigo, director of Teaching and Academic Support Center (TASC), one of the organizations that manage Blackboard at UK.

Earlier in the year, Blackboard shut down when it was overloaded with users.

Pedigo said all the known problems with the system itself, like this one, are solved.

"We recognize that Blackboard is a mission-critical system," Pedigo said. "It plays a very significant role on campus."

But the confusion is not always the students' faults, he said.

"It is not a simple system," Pedigo said.

He said that this complexity was due to the needs of Blackboard to provide security and to serve 17 different colleges and Internet stu-

dents.

Scott said the primary problem students are having is that they are omitting the first step, which is creating an account. A student must request a new account from the system using their social security number and their PAC number. Then the student can use their user ID and a default password to change the default password to a personal one.

After this step, the student can access Blackboard, but must change their password every 180 days for security reasons. Scott recommended that students change their password every semester to avoid getting locked out of the system.

UK will be making two changes to ease the problems of Blackboard. The customer service desk will be expanding into a 24/7 system "within the next 10 days," Pedigo said. The students can reach it through an 800 number, through their custom Web site or through e-mail.

UK is working on a new system to manage Blackboard and other UK infrastructure that will activate a student's account automatically, removing the most troubling step of accessing Blackboard. These changes will be in effect in January, but the overall system will not be complete until 2007.

Students having trouble with Blackboard are encouraged to go to the IT customer service desk in McVey Hall or go to the IT website at www.uky.edu/IT/CustomerService.

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Washington bids farewell to chief justice

By Charles Lane
THE WASHINGTON POST



Former Chief Justice William Rehnquist
Born: Oct. 1, 1924
Died: Sept. 3, 2005
Court service: 33 years
Years as chief justice: 18

WASHINGTON — President Bush led official Washington yesterday in remembrance of Chief Justice William Rehnquist at a funeral service that offered an unusual personal glimpse of a man whose 33-year Supreme Court tenure made him one of the more consequential figures in U.S. judicial history.

"Many will never forget the sight of this man, weakened by illness, rising to his full height and saying, 'Raise your right hand, Mr. President, and repeat after me,'" Bush said, referring to Rehnquist's appearance at Bush's swearing-in on Jan. 20, three months after the chief jus-

tice first learned that he had thyroid cancer. Rehnquist died at 80 on Saturday.

The service took place at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Northwest Washington, and Rehnquist was later laid to rest at a private burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

His friend of more than five decades, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, spoke admiringly of his leadership as chief justice, after he was elevated to that job by President Reagan in 1986. "He never twisted arms to get a vote on a case," she said. Instead, like the expert horsemen on the ranch where she grew up, "he guided us with loose reins and used the spurs only rarely."

For the most part, however, the chief justice's official persona was not the focus of the two-hour service, which was attended not only by the president and first lady Laura Bush, but also by Vice President Dick Cheney and his wife, Lynne, all eight associate justices of the court, the Republican and Democratic leaders of the Senate, federal judges, dozens of the chief justice's former law clerks and members of his Lutheran congregation.

Hardly any mention was made of the content of the many opinions he wrote on the court, or of the deep and often controversial impact on the law he had

See Rehnquist on page 2



Melissa Gentry, an undecided freshman, looks to Sidney Scott, Customer Service Center manager for UK Information Technology, for help with getting her e-mail password at McVey Hall Tuesday.

Board

Continued from page 1

knowing about Todd's campus activities.

"We need to document more of what he is doing around campus and communicate this to the faculty, students and board," he said.

Todd said he understands the board's concerns and added that his office is working on ways to increase his visibility and accessibility across the campus.

"We are already planning several additional meetings with faculty and students throughout the semester," he

said. "We're also looking at initiating a social breakfast and luncheon where I can meet with faculty regularly."

Todd said this summer's inaugural "Dream Tour," which took UK officials to 16 cities around the state, helped him fulfill many of his off-campus obligations, freeing up more time for faculty and student functions this semester.

Hardymon said he's glad to hear Todd is addressing the board's concerns and reiterated that the purpose of the two special meetings wasn't to conduct further evaluations, but to let Todd know the board's final thoughts.

Todd's current contract is set to expire on June 30, 2006. He was appointed president in 2001.

His total compensation package for

2005, including the 4 percent salary pool raise given to faculty and staff this past spring, a car and a house, is \$416,630.

Hardymon said he hopes to have the entire process finalized before the next regularly scheduled board meeting on Sept. 20 so that the board can take a vote at that time.

If that isn't the case, the issue may be tabled until the board's following meeting, set for Oct. 25.

Todd's current contract is good until this coming summer.

"I would, however, like to go ahead and get it finished," Hardymon said.

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Safety

Continued from page 1

able to live in their room for the rest of the semester due to the damage. Candles smell good, and look pretty, but they are extremely dangerous," he said. "The most important part of fire pre-

vention is the students."

Students who visited the demonstration yesterday received "hands-on" training in the proper use of fire extinguishers and were able to watch a sprinkler demonstration by John Bradley with Brown Sprinkler Corp., a fire prevention company that serves Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky.

UK Emergency Management Director Christy Giles urged people to visit

the demonstrations to raise fire safety awareness.

"We just encourage students, faculty and staff to come to these demonstrations to ask questions and voice their concerns about fire safety," she said. "Being part of this campus means being safe, and we want to help everyone achieve that."

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Rehnquist

Continued from page 1

during a Supreme Court tenure that began with his nomination as associate justice by Richard Nixon in 1971.

Rather, amid frequent laughter, speaker after speaker recalled the chief justice's rich personal and family life, a life that was, as they told it, free of conflict but full of jokes, family vacations and parlor games.

What emerged from the eulogies was a kind of parallel biography separate and distinct from his amply documented official record — and much different from the sometimes stern face he showed while running oral arguments at the court. The service made plain Rehnquist had left as much of an impact on his loved ones as he did on the country, if not more.

Rehnquist, Bush said, "was devoted to his public duties, but not consumed by them."

"To say that family came first with my Dad is to say there was competition. There wasn't," said Nancy Spears, his daughter.

Among the new insights was the fact that Rehnquist, music lover, first suspected his illness when he found that he couldn't sing hymns at church, according to the Rev. George Evans, pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in McLean, Va., where Rehnquist attended services for many years.

Evans also said in his sermon that as recently as "a week ago Monday," Rehnquist was still intending to return to the court for the term that begins Oct. 3.

O'Connor, who recalled first meeting the future chief justice when he was bussing tables at a Stanford dining hall during their student days, remembered an unpublicized emergency room visit in the last week of his life, when a physician asked him who his primary care doctor was.

"My dentist," Rehnquist quipped.

Perhaps the most touching account of Rehnquist's family life came from Rehnquist's granddaughter, Natalie Ann Rehnquist Lynch, who has the same first name as Rehnquist's late wife.

She read from a letter she had written to him earlier this summer, noting that, before he died, the chief justice had asked her to read it at his funeral.

Lynch, a high school student, spoke of Rehnquist's passion for croquet

games with his grandchildren and his taste for baloney, jelly and mayonnaise sandwiches.

He would offer a "shiny quarter" to any child who could memorize all 50 state capitals, and taught them that they could sometimes improve their chances at cards by looking at a reflection of their opponent's hand in a window, Lynch said.

Rehnquist's son, James, said that "no one smelled the roses more than my Dad." He said that, during Rehnquist's time in Washington, he made it home for dinner with his family by 7:15 p.m. For half a century, Rehnquist had never missed a performance of Handel's Messiah at Christmas time.

He also revealed that Rehnquist, "vaguely dissatisfied" with law practice in 1968, bought a house in Colorado, "built a weird boat," and took his family for a summer of picking fruit alongside migrant workers.

James Rehnquist said his father considered making the new lifestyle permanent, but changed his mind and eventually went to Washington in 1969 as assistant attorney general in the Nixon administration.

Spears also spoke of her father's ability to enjoy the simple pleasures in life, from "a ripe pear" to "a distant view of the mountains."

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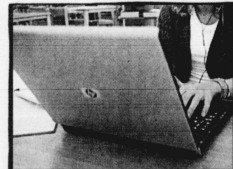
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WHAT'S THE DEAL? | Demystifying campus trends

"Kentucky Kribs"

A glimpse into the off-campus life and style of UK students

What is it about college that makes "the life" so special and unforgettable? Is it the fact that you are finally on your own? Is it the people we meet along the path to class? Or, is it that drunken-a-hole puking his guts out in the bushes outside Kirwan Tower at 4 o'clock in the morning? You bet it's that last one. I guarantee we have all seen it, or something similar. But that is all part of living in the dorms and the college experience. Like all great things though, life in the dorms can't last forever.



Kenny Moyer
KERNEL COLUMNIST

However, the next biggest decision you will have to make, besides vodka or whiskey, is where to live for the next "x" number of years you are here at school. In my four years here, I have pretty much experienced every possible living condition there is to offer in college. The dorms, the frat house, the apartment and now, the off-campus house; all of which have taught me something different about life.

In respect to college housing, I've decided to recognize a couple houses this week, and share some of the reasons why we will honor them as the "ultimate college houses."

When my eyes first caught a glimpse of the 3,500 square foot, two-story home on Ridgeway Road in Chevy Chase, I couldn't help but consider it a dream. Home to seniors Bobby Corey, Ryan McCorry, Aaron Metten, Ken Myers and first year law student Justin Peterson, this well-designed piece of property sits delicately in a young neighborhood just minutes from campus. The floors are made of solid wood, the kitchen is decked out in brand new granite countertop and stainless steel appliances, and a finished basement offers a wide variety of surprises, but the jet-powered, three-foot-deep Jacuzzi takes the cake.

Although this house is much suitable for lavish living, it does have some downsides. For instance, the landscaping must be maintained by the tenants, and the group must abide by neighborhood rules and regulations. Nevertheless, a night at this house will leave you with bizarre storytelling in the morning, for the beauty of this house resembles something you would think as a myth. Tell me these



This modern-style kitchen is located in the basement and is fully stocked to fulfill any culinary desire, be it a midnight grilled cheese sandwich or food and drinks for a Friday night party.

guys aren't having the time of their life.

The next house on the chart is a wonderful one-story house located off University Avenue (notice I don't use specific addresses, for safety from paparazzi). Home to juniors Brian Allen, Aaron Ellis and senior Kyle Reed, this elegant half-acre estate sits draped by beautiful trees and contains a front porch overlooking the scenic avenue.

When entering through the front door, you are immediately enchanted by the comfortable feeling and aroma of college. The living, dining and game rooms are all connected, with bedrooms adjacent. The refrigerator in the basement kitchen is where the household keeps a fully stocked case of Keystone and a Mad Mushroom pizza box from the night before.

A house in this neighborhood is not expected to maintain its landscaping, however, it does have the chance of undergoing "party-plan" limitations. No worries though -- a night spent at this house will allow you to truly feel at college, and not remember your name in the morning.

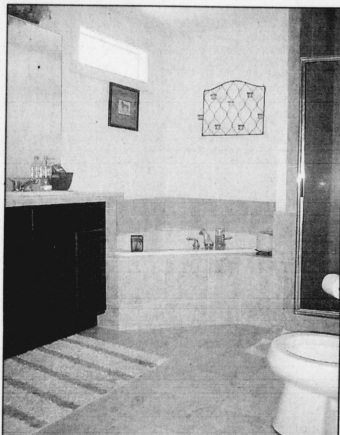
Now that you have heard about a couple different types of houses around the campus area, let me share with you some insight on selecting a place to live for the years to come.

Location. The closer to campus, the better, at least in my book. Makes it easier to get to class.

Roommates. We've all experienced bad roommates. The random one who never talks, the best friend who disowns you after seeing you live -- it all happens.

Here are a few questions to ask yourself about a potential roommate:

• Do they pee on the seat (or leave the seat up)?



This glamorous Spanish mosaic-themed bathroom in the Ridgeway house features a three-foot-deep, jet-powered jacuzzi.

• Do they shave their back hair over your sink?

• Do they use your washcloth when bathing?

If a prospective roommate scored yes on any of these, I'd look elsewhere.

Choosing a roommate is almost as important as choosing a spouse.

• **Cost.** Yes, living can become expensive. Be sure you are receiving the most for your buck. Consider all factors of the living conditions and determine if you got the best deal. Some things to consider: number of bathrooms per person, size of bedrooms, location to campus and neighbors.

• **Neighborhood.** There are many types of neighborhoods associated with college living. There are your Waller through Conn Terrace (off South Limestone) type streets, all of which considerably resemble Bourbon Street, just without the bars. Many streets are similar to those above, but for the most part, things get quieter the further you get from campus. Also, be wary of any neighborhood associations and jerk neighbors who will call the cops even if you are throwing a football off your property.

The bottom-line is: wherever you live, live it up.

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Musician?

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Tuesday, October 11 7:00 PM

Past shows have included rock, folk, bluegrass, and pop styles, but all genres will be considered.

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Europe called overlooked terrorist recruiting area

By Walter Pincus
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Western Europe is a core recruiting ground for Muslim terrorists that is being overlooked given the U.S. focus on Iraq and the Middle East, according to Francis Fukuyama, academic dean of Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies.

The failure of European countries to assimilate their large and growing Muslim populations in the era of globalization has caused an alienation among the young that has created a "hard core for terrorism," Fukuyama said in Washington at a bipartisan policy forum on terrorism and security, sponsored by the New America Foundation.

"Fixing the Middle East is only part of the problem. It is a West European problem, too," Fukuyama said. He pointed out that the leaders of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks came out of a cell in Hamburg and that most of the extremists participating in the more recent bombings in Spain and England were born in those countries.

Fukuyama's analysis squares with recent CIA conclusions about the importance of Western Europe, where, as one former senior intelligence official put it yesterday, "there are 10 million Muslims... that are not integrated into their societies."

Fukuyama called this one area of the war against terrorism in which U.S. and European interests merge and joint cooperation has begun to be productive. The Europeans "need to understand American assimilation" because their approach of "multiculturalism has been a failure," Fukuyama said.

The security and terrorism conference drew more than 100 legislators, academics and former policy-makers, who expressed a broad range of views and concerns about extremism and the strategies for confronting it.

Robert Pape, a University of Chicago professor and author of "Dying to Win," a book based on a study of 460 suicide bombers, told his audience that Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network decided two years ago to target Western European countries that had allied themselves with the United States in Iraq. Pape said Norwegian intelligence obtained a September 2003 document from a Web site reportedly affiliated with al-Qaida. The document discussed hitting Spain before its elections and, thereafter, the

British, the Italians and the Poles, all of whom had troops in Iraq.

In his book, Pape described the situation, saying: "Every suicide terrorist campaign has had a clear goal that is secular and political: to compel a modern democracy to withdraw military forces from the territory that the terrorists view as their homeland."

Retired Army Col. Lawrence Wilkerson, who was the chief of staff of then-Secretary of State Colin Powell, described to the conference what he called the "rightful paranoia" that senior Bush administration policy-makers have regarding the prospect that terrorists might somehow obtain nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.

"Katrina gives us no confidence," Wilkerson said, in U.S. preparations for a terrorist nuclear explosion in a major city "10 times more worried about what happens to civil liberties after that attack."

Wilkerson then drew the picture of Bush or a future president forced to act "to satisfy demands of the American people." He said the likely steps after such a dramatic attack would include "closed doors and closed borders... no foreign students at all" and would "make the Patriot Act pale," a reference to the post-Sept. 11 law designed to give law enforcement agencies more latitude to investigate would-be terrorists.

Princeton professor John Ikenberry criticized the Bush administration's counterterrorism policies, saying that its unilateralism has become a "provocation and unsettling element in the world." His solution is "to rediscover bargaining with the Supreme Court — are even more crucial to the confirmation process now that he is under consideration to lead the court."

"The documents we have requested from Judge Roberts' time in the most senior executive branch position he held are of unparalleled relevance to our evaluation of his fitness for the position to which the president as now decided to nominate him, that of chief justice of the United States," the Judiciary Committee's eight Democrats wrote.

Democrats believe the documents will shed light on whether Roberts was an ideological architect of the first Bush administration's policies in such controversial areas as affirmative action and abortion. They say that if he proves to be too rigid in his beliefs, that would disqualify him to serve on the Supreme

Court.

White House officials have provided more than 60,000 pages of documents from Roberts' years as an associate White House counsel in the Reagan administration. But they have insisted that releasing documents from his time in the Office of the Solicitor General would have a "chilling effect" on the department.

"The documents from the Office of the Solicitor General are privileged," said Brian Roehrkasse, a Justice Department spokesman. "Just as seven former solicitors general from both Democratic and Republican administrations have stated, the confidentiality of these documents allows the solicitor general's office to defend and represent the people of the United States and can't be sacrificed as part of the confirmation process."

The Judiciary Committee's chairman, Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., who will preside over the confirmation hearings for Roberts, endorsed the administration's position.

Democrats expressed dismay that administration officials have declined to meet with them to discuss ways of resolving the impasse, such as redacting the names of staff attorneys. They argued that when Reagan nominated Rehnquist as chief justice, his administration released about two dozen documents related to Rehnquist's service as an assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel.

Administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said that the two situations were not comparable because of differences between the two offices: The solicitor general represents the United States in litigation, they said, and disclosure of internal documents could undermine the government's legal position.

Democrats also cited a 1941 opinion by then-Attorney General Robert H. Jackson, who has served as solicitor general and later was a Supreme Court justice, that they said endorses disclosing confidential information to cause he argued that nominees "whose entire history will not stand light" should be rejected.

The administration officials said Jackson's opinion related to the disclosure of information about a nominee's criminal record in an FBI background check and did not relate to documents written during ordinary government work that were unrelated to a criminal investigation.



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U.S. troops free American hostage

By Noam N. Levey and Claire Luna
LOS ANGELES TIMES

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. forces freed American contractor Roy Hallums in an early morning raid on a farmhouse south of here Wednesday, more than 10 months after he was abducted from a Baghdad office.

A U.S. military spokesman said soldiers raided the house hours after they learned of Hallums' whereabouts from an Iraqi detainee. An unidentified Iraqi citizen was freed, and another detained. Hallums, who was held in Yusufiya, which is in an area of Iraq known as the "Triangle of Death," was in "good condition" and receiving medical care, the U.S. military reported.

Hallums' liberation brought a happy conclusion to what has become a frighteningly familiar story in Iraq, where more than 200 foreigners have been kidnapped since the U.S. invasion 2 1/2 years ago.

While freeing many captives, insurgents have conducted numerous high-profile executions, including the recent slayings of two Algerian diplomats who were abducted from the same upscale Baghdad neighborhood where Hallums was kidnapped.

Carrie Cooper, a 29-year-old therapist who lives in Westminster, Calif., was

shocked to hear her father's voice at the other end of a 3 a.m. telephone call Wednesday.

His first words, she said, were: "This is Dad."

"Nobody had told me he was going to be rescued, so I was caught totally off guard," she said.

"Now I'm just delirious with happiness."

Over the next 12 minutes, her father sketched out the brutal outlines of his captivity.

"He was tied up most of the time, gagged, in a hole in the ground. He was beaten severely most days," Cooper said.

"He said he had a lot of stories to tell... He said he was sorry for what he put us through, for putting us in the position of being a hostage family."

"I told him not to worry about that," she continued. "All I want is to see him. I want to go straight to wherever he is. I'm ecstatic to be seeing my dad."

Hallums worked for the Saudi Arabian Trading and Construction Co. supplying food to the Iraqi army. On Nov. 1, gunmen stormed the company's offices in Baghdad's Mansour neighborhood, killing one Iraqi guard

and abducting at least six people, including Hallums. Five of them were later freed.

Hallums' family in southern California began a campaign to free him, appearing on national television, creating a Web site devoted to his release and enlisting the Rev. Jesse Jackson in their effort.

The family also sent English and Arabic fliers to Iraq offering a \$40,000 reward for information leading to his safe release.

In January, Hallums' captors released a video showing a haggard-looking Hallums with a rifle to his head pleading for Arab leaders, including Libyan president Moammar Gadhafi, to help save his life. Gadhafi later called for Hallums' release.

Yesterday, the U.S. military released a brief statement from Hallums in which he thanked his liberators and supporters.

"Both of us are in good health and look forward to returning to our respective families," Hallums said, referring to his fellow prisoner.

The military said the Iraqis' name was being withheld pending notification of his family.

"He was tied up most of the time, in a hole in the ground. He was beaten pretty severely most days"

Carrie Cooper
daughter of Roy Hallums

HURRICANE KATRINA

Consumers will determine long-term economic impact

By Margaret Webb Pressler and Paul Blustein
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — The long-term economic impact of Hurricane Katrina will hinge in large part on how U.S. consumers react to the disaster and resulting surge in gas prices. Will they fall into the camp represented by Lisa Kays, of Washington, or Heather Rories, of Burke, Va.?

Kays, who works in international development, said the hurricane has forced big changes in her spending plans.

"It reinforced to me the need to save, to have cash," Kays said while sitting in a Dupont Circle sandwich shop. "We've been thinking about buying a car, but after this, I'm like, no, it's not worth it."

Likewise, one of Kays' lunch companions said she and her boyfriend had planned to drive to New York over the weekend but settled on a day trip to Annapolis, Md., instead.

But a little farther down Connecticut Avenue, Rories, a librarian for a downtown law firm, said rising gas prices have had no impact on her spending or travel plans. She and her family drove to Charlotte, N.C., over the holiday weekend, she said, and "every time we stopped, the gas prices had gone up."

"I just felt fortunate we could afford it," Rories said.

Consumer spending on food, clothing, services and big-ticket items accounts for about 70 percent of U.S. economic output. So much is riding on the extent to which Americans change their spending in response to high gas prices.

The surge in gasoline prices in the week ending on Labor Day was virtually unprecedented — the retail price rose 45 cents, to a nationwide average of about \$3.057 a gallon. In inflation-adjusted terms, that's the highest since 1981.

"Of course, we don't know whether the price is going to stay at \$3," said Nigel Gault, U.S. economist at Global Insight Inc., a forecasting and research firm. "But the longer prices stay at this level, the harder it is to believe that consumers will just carry on doing what they were doing."

Even before Katrina laid waste to the central Gulf Coast, gas prices were dampening consumption, according to a survey in early May for the National Retail Federation. People with low incomes are those most likely to economize when gas prices rise. That is one reason Wal-Mart Stores Inc. reduced its earnings forecast for the third quarter.

Americans are hardly about to abandon their free-spending ways, Craig Johnson, president of Customer

Growth Partners, a retail consultancy in New York, issued a study Tuesday showing that after disasters, U.S. consumers tend to be "resilient."

Citing evidence from Hurricane Andrew in 1992; the Northridge, Calif., earthquake in 1994; the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks; and the four hurricanes in Florida last year, Johnson said, "Although the months of the event may briefly stun retail momentum, consumer spending tends to snap back sharply." On average, the firm's data show, retail spending (excluding autos and food service) was nearly 6 percent higher than the year before by the first Christmas after the event.

Katrina, however, knocked out a substantial portion of the nation's petroleum infrastructure, especially refineries that produce gasoline, when gas supplies were already stretched thin.

"The larger worry may not be Katrina itself," Johnson said, "but if energy prices were to continue their sharp climb."

The storm's impact will come in phases, said Michael Niemira, chief economist for the New York-based International Council of Shopping Centers. "We haven't really seen the impact from the home heating oil and natural gas use that will kick in in the wintertime."

Troops head home to aid relief efforts

By Ellen Knickmeyer
THE WASHINGTON POST

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Hundreds of Louisiana National Guard soldiers deployed in Iraq were in Kuwait on Wednesday as a first step on the way home, where the majority of their 3,700-strong brigade was likely to help with hurricane relief, U.S. military officials said.

The military was also sending advance teams to help members of the Louisiana Guard's 256th Brigade Combat Team with their own families' disaster assistance, as well as 100 military chaplains to counsel the veterans returning to devastation at home.

"There's no question they got a double whammy after a year in a very tough combat environment and then a catastrophe like this, which might be the biggest disaster in U.S. history," Brig. Gen.

Sean Byrne, the U.S. military's director of personnel management, said in Kuwait.

Nearly 500 of the Louisiana brigade's troops lost homes or loved ones or were otherwise affected by Hurricane Katrina, said Lt. Col. Debbie Haston-Hilger, a U.S. military spokeswoman in Kuwait. Scores of the soldiers have family members not yet accounted for, she said. The brigade, which served in Baghdad, was coming to the end of its normal rotation, military officials said.

Sgt. John Roger, 30, of lower St. Bernard Parish, said his wife and two children were safely at his mother-in-law's house in Kansas. But a neighbor back in Louisiana who was riding out the storm on her roof took a picture of Roger's house floating by.

Asked where his house was now, Roger said: "Prob-

ably in the Gulf somewhere."

Before Katrina, "I was looking forward to getting home, taking some time off, getting back into life," he said.

The military was trying to speed transport home for the Louisiana Guard members, the U.S. military said separately in a statement in Baghdad. The entire brigade was expected to be out of Iraq by the third week of September.

Most were expected to help with Katrina relief, said the brigade's commander, Brig. Gen. John Basilica.

"The vast majority of soldiers in this brigade are anxious and ready to help," Basilica said in a statement.

A Mississippi National Guard unit based south of Baghdad also had hundreds of members affected by the hurricane. They are due to return in January.

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IN OUR OPINION

Students must protect valuables

In light of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast, Americans are taking time to examine the security of their own possessions and property.

Students from Bayou universities, including Tulane and the University of New Orleans, are transferring to other schools across the country, leaving homes, valuables and possessions behind. Many of these possessions are irreplaceable, but getting renters' insurance — something most students neglect to do — would have helped many students get back on their feet faster.

Hurricanes and tsunamis are mere legends to UK students, but the possibility of natural disasters hitting close to home is not

an idea that should be pushed aside.

Two years ago, students experienced the wrath of nature first hand — in the icy cold of February. The ice storm of 2003 left the city without power for days. Falling trees, downed power lines and layers of ice caused costly damage to property around campus.

And many of these students didn't consider the possibility of a disaster before it happened.

The common attitude of students feeding off of a parent's income is that college is an excuse to live poorly and neglect necessary precautions to protect possessions and property investments. Avoiding the cost of insurance with the assumption that nothing will hap-

pen to a car, home or other expensive necessity is a naive and immature move.

College is a time to develop the maturity to take responsibility for possessions, especially when a house, apartment or car is being financed by a parent. It is the duty of college students to appreciate the luxuries of living under a parent's wing so that they may take their time to enhance the quality of life through higher education.

But for other students who fund their college education out of their own pockets, taking responsibility for possessions is often not a first priority. Health insurance and car insurance are often put on the back burner when bills for school leave many students, who are

working a job and balancing class penniless.

Being "safe rather than sorry" means assuming the attitude of a pessimist, whether that means taking a loan out for renters' insurance or working extra hours at a part-time job. Renters' insurance is available to all students through the Red Cross or AAA insurance company. Everything from a car to a laptop may be insured with a fee.

Students should value their possessions and respect their property by investing in insurance. Living on the edge does not guarantee that nature will be at the mercy of students' lifestyle. A lesson is to be taken from the disaster on the Gulf Coast, and it applies to everyone, even students.

Voters are reaping the reward for re-electing President Bush

Some of us saw this coming. Not the hurricane, of course, but the Bush administration's disastrous response to it — and his entire sorry excuse for a second term, in fact.

President George W. Bush's approval ratings have been on a nosedive since the American public wised up about the war, only about a year and a half after the pretense of "weapons of mass destruction" faded into the memory hole. And the trend is bound to continue, since Bush barely even pretended to care — let alone do anything — after Hurricane Katrina hit.

It's better late than never, I suppose, for the American public to realize that Bush is incompetent. But this was no less obvious on Election Day last November, when we could have (and should have) had the sense to vote him out.

That's why, for now, Bush is the president we deserve. Now, what's happened so far this term is out of the blue; in fact, almost all of his screw-ups since Jan. 20 have a first-term antecedent.

The handling of the war in Iraq has been the target of much criticism; now 59 percent of Americans disapprove of Bush's handling of the war, and 53 percent think the United States should not have gone to war, according to the Gallup poll this week.

But even though U.S. fatalities have increased since Bush's re-election, his handling of the war was just as awful beforehand. The revelations about the (nonexistent) weapons of mass destruction and the realization that there weren't nearly enough troops for the effort came a long time ago. All else that's different now is the prominence of Cindy Sheehan, a fallen soldier's mother — and if a better face on the anti-war publicity effort is what it took to galvanize the U.S. public against a war that was wrong from the start, we've even worse off than I thought.

Remember this past winter, when partially privatizing Social Security was the order of the day? (Perhaps you don't; Bush and the GOP aren't too eager to revive their laughable failure to fool the American public into buying their plan.) It seemed out of the blue, coming after a campaign focused on terrorism and gay marriage, but Bush had actually been seeking for some time to drain Social Security.

Indeed, he campaigned about "reforming" (i.e., partially privatizing) it — in 2000, that. And when his 2001 tax cut brought on federal budget problems, he considered tapping the Social Security surplus to make up for deficiencies in other areas.

And the utter lack of compassion we've witnessed for the past couple of weeks? Bush showed the same face in December 2004 after the tsunami disaster in Asia with a paltry initial offer of \$15 million in relief — about half of what Republicans were planning on spending on Bush's inauguration.

He eventually raised that total to \$350 million, but only under pressure and shame — the same combination that got him to admit that the government hadn't done well enough at handling the Katrina disaster. The best way to get prompt relief from the U.S. government, apparently, is to be a resident of a swing state during election season. Bush and federal troops — got to the affected areas of Florida last year faster than you can say, "The governor's my brother."

Bush's presidency has actually been in this sorry state before — four years ago, just before the Sept. 11 attacks, when his approval ratings were lukewarm at best. They jumped almost 50 percentage points after the attack.

We shouldn't have given him a pass back then, let alone in last year's election. But it's too late for regret now. We screwed up, and we've got 3 1/2 years to pay the cost.

Brenton Kenkel is a philosophy and political science sophomore. Email kenkel@kykernel.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sports columnist was off the mark

It seems as if Derek Poore was watching another game besides the UK-Louisville match-up on Sunday. In his article, "Cats 'D' the MVP," his praises of the defense are laughable.

Giving up 31 points in a game — much less 28 in a half — is not an MVP performance. While UoL quarterback Brian Brohm did not have Peyton Manning numbers, he still passed at a high efficiency (one incompleting in the first half) while the UoL wide receivers dropped balls that hit them in the numbers in the second half.

Let's not fail to mention that the "MVP" gave up 209 yards on the ground. That translates to our defensive line being dominated, as well as the clock being controlled by UoL.

So while the Kentucky defense looked good on paper, you watched closely, the reason for our second-half turnout was readjustments. UoL decided to soak the clock in the second half and play very conservative, not taking any chances deep. Therefore, UK put eight men in the box to contain UoL running back Michael Bush. That is why we were able to stay in the game.

This leads me to question the coaching of UoL head coach Bobby Petrino. He had the opportunity to finish UK off early in the second half, but chose to play keep-away instead of showing the Commonwealth more of what they did in the first half.

He did the same against Miami in a loss last year, which leads me to believe this is a trend for him, and makes him not as impressive as he looks around the media.

So while the Kentucky defense looked good on paper in the second half, paying close attention, one can see that the UoL coaching staff almost dropped the ball by allowing UK back in the game by playing too conservatively.

I commend Rich Brooks and the staff for the adjustments made at halftime. But wait until we play a coach that shows no mercy (see Florida's Urban Meyer) to make any praises about the defense. I know I'll be watching when we play Florida Sept. 24.

NICK SMITH
political science senior



AARON SMITH, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

FDA should end abortion politics

On Aug. 26, the Food and Drug Administration again delayed the approval for over-the-counter sales of Plan B, more commonly called emergency contraception (EC).



Amanda Gatewood
KENTUCKY KERNEL COLUMNIST

again, because the FDA has been blocking the drug's confirmation since December 2003, when an FDA panel of scientists voted 23-4 to allow over-the-counter sales, but was denied by the FDA due to what many, such as former deputy director for the FDA Dr. Robert Fenichel, call "abortion politics."

The U.S. Senate blocked the vote on Dr. Lester Crawford's nomination for FDA Commissioner until the FDA made a decision on EC. After being assured that the FDA would either approve or deny EC's over-the-counter status by Sept. 1, Crawford was confirmed.

But now the FDA has gone back on its word. In response, Susan Wood, the director of the Office of Women's Health at the FDA, flat-out quit her position after fighting nearly two years for EC's approval, writing in her letter of resignation, "I have spent the last 15 years working to ensure that science informs good health policy decisions. I can no longer serve as staff when scientific and clinical evidence, fully evaluated and recommended for approval by the professional staff here, has been overruled."

It's funny that EC is the new target of abortion politics, as it is not actually an abortifacient. Not to be confused with the RU-486, EC prevents pregnancy by preventing ovulation and fertilization of an egg if it has already been released. Some studies also show that EC may prevent a fertilized egg from implanting

in the uterus, but if fertilization and implantation have already occurred, there is no effect on the cells.

By using a larger dose of the same hormones used in daily birth control pills for over 35 years, EC has an unintended pregnancy prevention rate of 80 to 90 percent within 72 hours of sex, and has done so for 2.4 million American women and millions more abroad with very few side effects. In fact, if you use certain kinds of birth control pills, you can administer EC yourself by simply taking a larger dose of your normal contraceptive, which may be the best road to take for many women, as delaying the first dose of EC by more than 12 hours increased the risk of pregnancy by almost 50 percent.

As we all know, pro-choice and anti-choice alike, about half of the U.S.'s three million unintended pregnancies end in abortion — 28.5 percent of teenage pregnancies are terminated by abortion. So it appears that EC should be something that we all could agree on. Since its first uses in 1997, EC has drastically lowered the number of unintended pregnancies and thus lowered the abortion rate.

Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Patty Murray are taking an active stand against the FDA's politically-motivated deferral. They wrote, "In today's statement the FDA acknowledged that the application has scientific merit, but still refused to approve it. We can only infer that the FDA is working to put ideological beliefs ahead of women's health."

The "ideological beliefs" of which they speak seem to be the FDA's bogus claims that over-the-counter status of EC would "encourage promiscuity," and young teens would not understand the directions for the drug, which requires the pill to be taken ASAP and another taken 12 hours later. Yet studies based in

California, England and Canada, as well as those carried out by the American Academy of Pediatrics (who endorses over-the-counter EC access for teens) all indicate that teenagers can use EC safely and effectively, and access to EC does not cause them to abandon their usual birth control methods or engage in riskier sexual behavior.

EC costs \$30 for two pills, making it uneconomical for many teens who can access regular birth control at Planned Parenthood for as low as \$2 a month. In fact, the only difference between teens who were made aware of the existence of EC and those who weren't, lay not in their sexual behaviors, which stayed the same — but teens who were educated about EC were three times more likely to use it after contraceptive failure. But interestingly, the FDA has never before raised questions about teen usage of other drugs.

The "ideological beliefs" to which they refer is that, if women choose to have sex, they should be forced to pay the biological consequences — ostensibly to scare women and young teens out of managing their sexuality by denying them the means to best manage their fertility. EC is just what it sounds like — emergency contraception, and is necessary as an accessible last-resort, a backup, a plan B as it were, to prevent the unwanted pregnancies that end in abortion.

If we as a society want to reduce the number of abortions, we should focus our energies on preventing unwanted pregnancies, offering economic programs that benefit single mothers and provide them and their children with adequate health care, and removing the social stigma of single motherhood — not on denying women the right to have sex by putting politics ahead of science.

Amanda Gatewood is an English senior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

Online Poll Question

Do you think UK should have stopped recognizing Student Government as an organization in response to Becky Ellingsworth's victory in Fayette Circuit Court?

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KEITH SMILEY | STAFF
Sophomore tailback Rafael Little, who rushed for 78 yards on eight carries against Louisville Sunday, said UK couldn't afford to take Idaho State lightly. "Louisville underestimated us, and you saw what happened," he said.

'Ohio U.' the rallying cry to avoid Saturday letdown

By Chris Johnson
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

After Sunday's emotionally and physically draining loss to rival Louisville, it wouldn't be completely out of the question for fans to assume there will be a letdown for Saturday's game against Division I-AA Idaho State.

After all, it was just one year ago that UK lost to an underestimated Ohio team at Commonwealth Stadium, two weeks after hammering Indiana 51-32.

Different year... different story?

"We can't underestimate them," sophomore running back Rafael Little said. "Louisville underestimated us, and you saw what happened."

Senior wide receiver Tommy Cook said the team was upset about Sunday's loss and hungry to get its first win of the young season.

"We're disappointed with losing to Louisville," Cook said. "We should've won."

Cook said the team isn't overlooking the Bengals of Idaho State, who went 3-8 last season and defeated Southern Utah in last week's season opener 38-13.

"Idaho State's a good team; they have a lot of seniors," Cook said. "They're 1-0 and we're 0-1. We haven't won a football game yet and we have to."

Idaho State's calling card is their rush defense, which only allowed six yards on the ground in last week's victory.

"Idaho State's got a good defensive front; they'll get after you," offensive line coach Jimmy Heggins said. "Everybody's just hungry for a win."

Heggins said senior defensive end B. Jay Parsons would start Saturday against the Bengals. Parsons, who was benched during Sunday's game against UofL, in favor of

senior tackle Ernie Pelayo, has a broken bone in his thumb.

Senior safety Muhammad Abdullah, who recorded two tackles and a fumble recovery in last year's Ohio game, repeated the pledge of treating Idaho State like any other game.

"We're not going to take them lightly," Abdullah said. "Against Ohio we lost to a team that wasn't better than us. There's no way we can take (Idaho State) lightly."

Defensive coordinator Mike Archer said the team appeared to be as businesslike in practice as they had been before the UofL game.

He said he hasn't sensed a letdown.

"Ohio should be a grim reminder," Archer said. "We aren't Georgia or Florida where we can just walk out and beat somebody."

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Holt cleared for Idaho State

Senior wide receiver Glenn Holt, whom UK head coach Rich Brooks previously said would not play Saturday's football game vs. Idaho State, was cleared to play yesterday.

Holt injured his neck in Sunday's loss against Louisville 31-24.

Sophomore defensive tackle Jason Leger has also been cleared for Saturday's game, Brooks said.

Volleyball falls to UofL

UK volleyball lost its first match of the season last night to the No. 11 Louisville Cardinals. Despite rallying in the second and third games, UK dropped all three games by tallies of 30-18, 30-26 and 35-33.

Outside hitter Danielle Wallace led UK (3-1) with a 14-kill performance. Libero Jenni Casper led all players with 12 blocks.

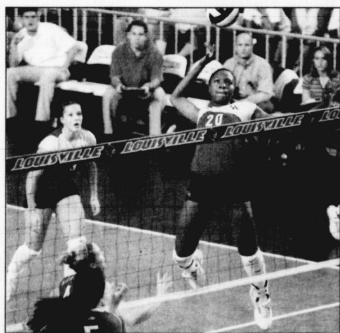
Fox Sports hooks up with Big Blue Network

A 10-year agreement was announced yesterday between Fox Sports Network and the Big Blue Sports Network.

FSN will regionally carry all UK football, men's and women's basketball and baseball games produced by locally by BBSN and WKYT-TV.

The network will also broadcast a new monthly program "Behind the Blue," a coach's show dedicated to Wildcat Olympic sports.

The contract allows FSN to carry five men's hoops games: Northern (S.D.) State



HILLY SCHIFFER | STAFF
Middle blocker Queen Nzenwa goes for a kill against Louisville last night at Cardinal Arena. Nzenwa had 10 kills and four blocks in the Cats' loss.

(exhibition, Nov. 2), Liberty (Nov. 25), High Point (Nov. 29), Iona (Dec. 23) and Central Florida (Jan. 3).

Barnhart named mentoring spokesman

UK Athletic Director Mitch Barnhart was named spokesman and advocate for the Kentucky National Guard's Bluegrass Challenge Academy yesterday.

Based in Fort Knox, Ky., the Academy trains and mentors 16 to 18-year-old high school dropouts in a 17-month "quasi-military program" that helps kids improve life skills, enhance self-discipline and raise education levels.

Barnhart said the Academy

changes lives. "Through a program that includes discipline, academics and life-skills training, these teens are getting a second chance," Barnhart said in a statement. "Clearly, it's a program that works."

Coventry ranked 15th nationally in singles

Junior women's tennis player Kim Coventry is ranked 15th in the nation, according to preseason Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings.

This is Coventry's highest ranking. She finished last season ranking No. 28 in singles.

Got a sports tip? E-mail: sports@kykernel.com

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