

# KENTUCKY KERNEL

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## One year after Flight 5191



Robert L. "Bobby" Meaux's mother, Barbara, center, mourns the death of her son yesterday afternoon after a citywide memorial service at Southland Christian Church for the victims of last year's Comair Flight 5191 crash. **ELLIOTT HESS/STAFF**

### Community unites to remember the 49 lives lost in crash

By Ali Cicarhi  
news@kykernel.com

Family and community supporters shed tears and spoke of hope for the future when they gathered yesterday at Southland Christian Church for a public memorial service for victims of Flight 5191.

Well-wishers lined the entrance of the church with signs demonstrating their love for the families and their continued thoughts and prayers for the 49 victims of the crash, which took place a year ago today.

Inside the church, families of the victims wore blue stickers adorned with doves. A banner that read "Remember 5191" hung over the stage, filled with signatures and messages written by mourners who visited the airport following the crash.

Music played throughout the memorial service, and the audience was particularly emotional during a performance of "You Raise Me Up," sung by Katie Feola, Tom Jones and Jeff Day of Southland Christian Church.

Journalism sophomore Morgan Witt attended the memorial and said the victims' families needed support from friends and the community.

"I don't think anything can really help," Witt said, "but they have great friends and family."

Witt said she is particularly familiar with the grief of her friend Clay Turner, who lost his father, Larry Turner, in the crash. Turner was the associate dean of agricultural extension at UK.

The senior minister at the

church, Jon Weece, did much to honor the families at the memorial through his distinctive approach, Witt said. Weece, who wore a black T-shirt with "5191" across the front, used handwritten poster boards to accompany his remarks.

Commanding attention with each of the 100-plus poster boards, Weece expressed his sorrow and love for the families and friends of the victims.

Weece used the poster boards to support his message that 5191 is more than a number; it represents the 49 individuals who died. His final poster quoted 1 Corinthians 13:8 — "Love never fails" — which emphasized the necessity of love within the community.

Leaders from the city and the state, including Mayor Jim Newberry, Gov. Ernie Fletcher and several religious figures, addressed the families and visitors.

Newberry, whose office planned the service, gave his condolences and spoke of how he gradually became attached to the victims as each of their stories became known. He spoke of how impressed he was by the lives they led.

"In the days that followed (the accident), we all came to know people who truly lived life fully," Newberry said.

A choked-up Wayne Turner, the brother of Larry Turner, brought some in the audience to tears while talking about the harsh responsibility first responders faced.

"There was nothing more that you could do," Turner said, "and yet you did something more: You created an atmosphere of reverence."

#### MORE INSIDE

Columnist reflects on community remembering a tragedy one year later **PAGE 3**

#### ON THE WEB

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See more photos from yesterday's Flight 5191 memorial service



Lois Turner, widow of Larry Turner, the former associate dean of agricultural extension at UK, sits in front of several family photos in her home Saturday. Larry Turner and 48 others died one year ago today in the crash of Comair Flight 5191. **ED MATTHEWS/STAFF**

### 'We'll never get over it'

Pain lingers for families of victims with UK ties

By Katie Saltz  
ksaltz@kykernel.com

Clay Turner used to look into the stands at his high school basketball games and see his mother and father cheering him on. But this past year, when Clay returned to help coach his old team, someone was missing.

"I would be coaching from the bench, look up into the stands and see my mom sitting by herself," he said. "It was a harsh reminder that my dad is gone."

Clay's father, Larry Turner, was an associate dean of agricultural extension for UK, and one of the 49 victims of Comair Flight 5191, which crashed a year ago today. The flight took off from the wrong runway, the shorter of the two at Blue Grass Airport in Lexington. The plane didn't have enough room to reach a proper takeoff speed and crashed less than a mile from the airport.

After a year of grief, families are still coping with the absence of their loved ones.

Clay's loss is one Adam Hooker knows. His older brother, former UK baseball player Jon Hooker, was also on Flight 5191. When Adam looks at his nephew, he sees a resemblance to his brother.

"We see signs of Jon in him, and we compare baby pictures," Adam said. "But maybe we're just searching for Jon in anything."

Time has passed, but the Turner and Hooker families are still learning to live with the losses brought on by the crash.

#### Celebration becomes tragedy

That morning, the Hooker family rested after a night of celebrating Jon's marriage to Scarlett Parsley. The families assumed the new bride and groom were on a flight to their honeymoon in California.

Then the phones began to ring, and the families heard Jon and Scarlett's plane had crashed near Blue Grass Airport.

"We were hoping that they had overslept at their hotel," Adam said. "We were in a state of panic and worry trying to figure it all out."

Scarlett's father went to the airport, Adam said, while the Hooker and the Parsley families gathered at the couple's condo in Lexington. They called the phone number shown on the news for family members of passengers, and a representative from a care team came to the condo.

See Families on page 3

## New VP revises view on top 20

By Jill Lester  
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UK's new vice president for research has changed his opinion of the top-20 goal, saying now it is attainable by its 2020 deadline.

"Absolutely, it's achievable," James Tracy said in a Friday interview. "If I didn't think it was an achievable goal, I wouldn't be there."

In an interview with the Kernel in April, Tracy said although the Top 20 Business Plan's goals aren't out of reach, getting there by 2020 might be "a steep climb."

"I don't know if you'll get there," Tracy said. "It might be 2020 or 2030."

Tracy was selected for the position over the summer. He came from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he was the associate dean of research for the veterinary medicine school.

When Tracy starts Oct. 1, he will be UK's top research official below the provost and the president, overseeing 18 centers, institutes and facilities run by the university.

The first thing Tracy will do at UK, he said, is meet with department heads and other officials to "get the lay of the land."

"I have to fit into the culture of the campus," Tracy said.

Research is a major focus of UK's Top 20 Business Plan, which calls for increasing the university's annual research expenditures to \$768 million by 2020. UK's research budget in the 2006-07 school year was \$275.8 million — about 36 percent of the target amount.

UK received \$280 million in research funding from external awards, such as grants and fellowships, for the 2007 fiscal year, down \$10 million from last year. Research awards from federal contracts have stayed about the same.

Provost Kumble Subbaswamy said while UK will be affected by the federal research budget, other

See Research on page 3

## Obama rallies student support

By Blair Thomas  
btomas@kykernel.com

Hands shot up in the air, voices sang along to Luther Allison's "Freedom," and the crowd erupted in applause yesterday evening as Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama took the stage at a campaign stop in Lexington.

The sold-out rally attracted supporters of all ages, and much of the event's energy came from college students.

"I can't believe how many students are here," said Student Government Vice President Brittany Langdon, who attended the rally. "I feel like the event got hardly any publicity on campus, but the number of students who showed up is just overwhelming."

Many students thought the turnout at the rally at the Lexington Center reflected a nationwide trend of high youth support for Obama, a U.S. senator from Illinois.

"I'm not surprised at all at how many students are here," said Sheryl Williams, an elementary education senior. "Looking around the room you can tell that this is a

See Obama on page 3

Wailing fiddles and banjos take over the Fine Arts Library **Features, PAGE 8**

Unproven offensive line key to Cats' hopes **Sports, PAGE 4**

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## HOROSCOPES

By Linda C. Black

To get the advantage, check the day's rating; 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

**Aries (March 21 - April 19)** Today is a 7 — You won't have time for talking or planning or maybe even for lunch. You're up to your neck in alligators. Do what needs to be done.

**Taurus (April 20 - May 20)** Today is a 7 — Your job isn't easy now. There's money but not enough. Luckily, you're good at this. That's why you've been put in charge.

**Gemini (May 21 - June 21)** Today is a 6 — You're coming back to your responsibilities with new experience. Others will ask for your opinion. Have a good answer prepared.

**Cancer (June 22 - July 22)** Today is a 7 — Figure out what you really need to accomplish your goals. Don't get any toys or frills, stick to the basics. Remember, you'll be paying interest.

**Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22)** Today is a 7 — Don't argue with a lucky break if it happens to come your way. Gather up as much as you can of the booty and don't tell a soul.

**Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)** Today is a 7 — You're one of the folks assigned to keeping the information flowing. This is important because conditions are constantly changing. Pay attention.

**Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)** Today is a 7 — It might be hard to concentrate on your work assignment. At least pretend you're doing something useful. Wipe that smile off your face.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)** Today is a 6 — This is one of those days when you really wish you could work from home. If you can't, start drawing up a plan to make that happen.

pen. All you need is your own business.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)** Today is a 6 — Your studies bring you to an impasse, a brick wall, as it were. Don't crash into it, know this might happen and plan an alternative route.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)** Today is a 7 — It isn't easy pinching pennies but you've developed a talent. This time, it will take even more attention than usual. It'll be worth the effort.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)** Today is a 7 — You're in a good frame of mind to take charge of the situation. There are problems yet to solve but that's OK. That's your specialty.

**Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)** Today is a 7 — Schedule a little extra private time for thinking. You can sort through the tangle much more easily without a bunch of distractions.

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## CRISS ANGEL CASTS HIS SPELL ON BRITNEY

What custody battle? Spears leaves her kids home as she parties (and spends the night!) with the magician

By Eric Anderson  
US Weekly

While sons Sean and Jayden were at her home sleeping (and under the care of a new nanny) on August 18, a dazed and subdued Britney Spears strolled into Hollywood hot spot Teddy's with a few male pals a little before midnight. Nestled into a corner booth near the DJ, she was clad in dark sunglasses, knee-high tan boots and a bandanna covering her hair extensions. The pop star, who reeked of sweet, fruity perfume, sucked down drinks and fidgeted with the top of her silver strapless dress, exposing her breast to throngs of patrons. "When I shook her hand, she kind of molested it," a clubgoer who met Spears that night tells Us.

Spears' bizarre behavior capped off yet another stint of clapping, late nights and very surprising sleepovers: three with illusionist Criss Angel, whom she only recently met. This, just as ex-husband Kevin Federline, 29, steps up his efforts to gain full custody of their sons. In fact, Federline subpoenaed an executive from Promises Treatment Center to release information of Spears' February stay at the rehab facility on the day of her Teddy's incident.

### Wild Week

Spears' carefree spree began three days earlier on August 15 — as soon as Federline's bodyguard picked up Sean, 23 months, and Jayden, 11 months,

from her Beverly Hills mansion for a few days with Dad. First on her agenda? A meeting at the L.A. office of her divorce lawyer, Laura Wasser. She emerged looking sullen, which she quickly treated with some retail therapy at Versace in Beverly Hills with ex-assistant Alli Sims. (Among her many purchases, Spears, 25, snatched up three white bags totaling nearly \$11,000.)

But Spears' real pick-me-up arrived later that night while she dined on lemon chicken at her regular haunt, L.A. eatery Cravings, in the form of Angel, the Las Vegas magician known for his A&E series, "Mindfreak" (and whom Cameron Diaz dated briefly in May; see box, page 59), who approached her table with his entourage. "Criss was sitting outside, and Britney was sitting inside," Cravings owner Ibrahim Oztok tells Us. "He went inside to her table. He just introduced himself." After their 20-minute chat ("They were friendly and having a good time," says Oztok), the two left separately.

But their brief meeting was all it took for Angel to mesmerize Spears: Later that night, the pair arrived at The Tower Beverly Hills holding hands. "Criss is a magician — he knows how to do low-level hypnosis," says an Angel pal. "If he ran into Britney Spears, I'm sure it was like shooting fish in a barrel."

### Business or Pleasure?

Angel denied the hookup to People, insisting they were collaborating on her performance at

the MTV Video Music Awards in September. But he and Spears were seen leaving the same room the next morning. They also ordered turkey club sandwiches from room service before they left (and at one point, Spears even locked herself out of the suite). The duo were seen the next night entering the W Los Angeles-Westwood hotel at 3 a.m. and didn't leave until later that morning. (Angel's rep had no comment.)

Sources close to Angel insist they're involved — at least for now. "Criss is a total dog," says the Angel pal. "He knows that Britney is susceptible at the moment and is going for it. He's totally doing this to raise his profile." The Angel pal says seducing Hollywood women is a priority for the magician. "He's got a different chick in his bed every night, but he knows the power of hooking up with famous, beautiful girls like Cameron and Britney." What's so charming about the 39-year-old? Says an insider close to Angel, "Criss has a way, an aura about him." Agrees the Angel pal: "He turns on that bad boy rebel thing, and it's game over for whomever he has in his sights."

Is it love? Not likely. "He'll charm her for a couple weeks, get bored and drop her, probably after the VMAs," says the Angel pal. A source close to Angel adds it's all a routine for the illusionist: "All the girls fall for it. When the game plan works, you stick to it." Counters a source close to Angel, "Criss didn't get into this for the attention. He's a good guy."

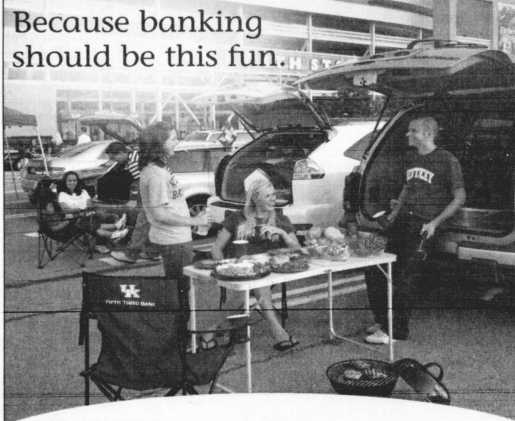
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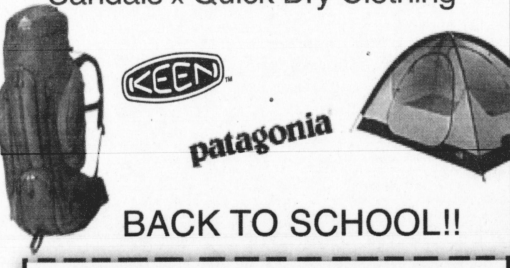
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## FAMILIES

Continued from page 1

"That is when we knew," Adam said. The realization of loss did not immediately set in for the Hooker family because they were already expecting Jon to be away for a while, Adam said. "It still felt like they were just on their honeymoon and they would return," he said.

Despite all the explanations for the crash, Adam said he never put blame on anyone.

"Deep down it didn't matter. Whatever was said couldn't change that we lost them," he said. "We're still heartbroken. We've healed to the point we think we can, but we'll never get over it."

### A painful return home

Lois Turner woke up the morning of the crash and was not surprised to see her husband was not there.

"Larry had gotten up early to make the flight, and he did not wake me, as was our normal routine," she said. "The last thing he always did was e-mail me his itinerary with flight numbers and things like that."

Lois's friend called with news about the plane crash, but Lois said she was not alarmed until she opened the e-mail from her husband and saw that his flight was Comair Flight 5191.

Lois and her two daughters turned on the TV and waited for word on possible survivors.

"A reporter said that there was a row of ambulances lined up at the field and that none of them had been called," she said. "That's when I knew."

Clay's cell phone kept ringing while he sat in a church service at his college in Indiana. After ignoring several calls from his mother and sisters, the then-18-year-old decided to step out of the service.

"I called my house and my mom was crying," he said. "She told me there had

been a plane crash and that my dad was on the plane."

Clay returned to his dorm room alone and waited, not knowing if his dad had survived.

"Finally I just called my mom and said I needed to know," he said. "She told me my dad had passed away. It was the lowest moment of my life."

Life following the crash was full of emotion, and living day to day was hard, Lois said.

Some comfort came from more than 1,300 sympathy cards and letters the Turner family received and thousands of visitors at Larry's funeral services and at Lois' home the day of the crash.

"That physical outpouring of concern was very comforting," she said. Clay moved home to be close to his family. He said he ignored news updates about the crash.

"The only fact that mattered to me was that my dad was gone," he said.

Lois didn't pay attention to new details about the cause of the crash either, she said.

"From the very day of the crash I have tried to focus on being thankful for the almost 30 years I had with Larry," she said, "and not focus on what happened at the end of the runway last August."

Lois said her family is recovering, but slowly.

Clay will return to Indiana to attend Taylor University. He said he feels enough time has passed, and he is ready to leave home again.

"My mom and sisters are doing better, and I feel like that is where I'm supposed to be," he said. "But I still feel a little lost sometimes without my dad."

The one-year anniversary will be hard, but Lois said if anything positive can be drawn from her experience, it is that she always feels remembered.

"A positive of being part of a public tragedy is that people still do remember and people can reflect," she said. "I'm allowed to talk about Larry and what he meant to us."

# Community responsible for remembering victims

It's quiet just before 6 a.m. near the end of Runway 22 at Blue Grass Airport — the runway Comair Flight 5191 was supposed to take off from a year ago today.

Jet engines throttled up yesterday with a heavy whine and lifted off in darkness on a muggy morning typical to Lexington in August. It was a morning similar to the one crash victims experienced as they boarded Flight 5191 last year.

Much has happened since Aug. 27, 2006, and much has been discovered about the circumstances surrounding the crash, from the understaffed air tower to the pilot error in verifying the runway the flight was on. A constant since that morning has been the pain of the victim's families.

As time passes after any tragedy, people tend to move on and forget. As a journalist and community member not directly connected to the crash, it's often easy to see such an accident only by the numbers — 49 people dead instead of a new husband and wife, caring parents and young individuals with plans for their future.

A memorial exhibit at the Aviation Museum of Kentucky near the airport tells the stories of broken lives. Letters sit behind glass addressed to passengers, serving as a goodbye that couldn't be done in per-

son. A handmade card with a child's jerky writing in marker telling a mother she is missed. A thank you to guests of Jon and Scarlet Parsley Hooker's wedding, which was held just the night before. One hand-written letter several pages long from an airport employee who checked in Tim Snoddy, 51, a Lexington businessman, and Marcie Thomason, 25, a Lexington native who worked in Washington, D.C., but was home to plan her wedding. The employee wanted to record interactions with the victims, even if they were small — how Snoddy was friendly and how Thomason was pretty.

No one will understand the pain like the families of the victims. But it's clear the crash touched most everyone in the community.

Elizabeth Casey, 39, of Versailles, visited the museum yesterday with her family. She didn't come to view the memorial exhibit but took a minute to look over the cards and letters. "I think about it whenever I'm getting on a plane myself," Casey said. "I didn't know anybody on board, but I still think about what a tragedy it was."

Steve Collier knew several people on board including Pat Smith, a 58-year-old Lexington man who worked with Habitat for Humanity.

Collier volunteers at the aviation museum and also covered the crash as a cameraman for NBC affiliate WLEX-18. The day was a blur, Col-

lier said, and it wasn't until later in the day he realized he'd met some of the victims before.

"I try not to think about it because it makes it easier, sometimes," he said. "I just wonder what would be going on (if they were alive)."

Besides the exhibit at the aviation museum — which other volunteers said receives a few visitors each month — there is no permanent memorial for the crash victims or their families. The responsibility of carrying on their memory and recognizing those departed as unique individuals falls on each person in the community. And preserving such memory is never guaranteed in a world that continuously looks forward.

"I think everything fades with time if you didn't have any direct connection."

**ELIZABETH CASEY**  
Versailles resident

"I still think people think about it a lot," she said.

Collier was closing down the museum yesterday after 5 p.m., and had turned off the lights in the main hangar. He switched on his flashlight and looked over the messages to victims before leaving. He looked down silent, in the dark, shining his light over each one carefully.

"It's a day I won't forget for a long time," he said.

Sean Rose is a journalism senior who covered the Flight 5191 crash last year for the Kernel. E-mail: [arose@kykernel.com](mailto:arose@kykernel.com).



SEAN ROSE  
Kernel columnist



Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama shakes hands with the crowd in the Lexington Center yesterday following a campaign rally.

ED MATTHEWS  
STAFF

## Local leaders evaluate higher-education reform

By Ryan Lasley  
[news@kykernel.com](mailto:news@kykernel.com)

Kentucky business leaders discussed the future of UK and other state colleges Friday at the last of nine forums, sponsored by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, that have taken place across the Bluegrass this month.

"The purpose of the study is to follow up on the '97 reforms and evaluate what progress has been made and what still needs to be done," forum moderator Diana Taylor said.

Reevaluating the approach of the reforms is necessary if Kentucky is to keep up with the rest of the country, said forum leaders Aims McGuinness and Dennis Jones from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems.

"There are many good initiatives, but many do not have systemic affect," McGuinness said. "There is a real miss between the goals and what actually occurs."

The 1997 reforms found that low education attainment was a factor in Kentucky's low per capita income, according to a presentation by McGuinness and Jones.

The business leaders said they are con-

ducting the study not just to review educational success, but also to judge what the business environment will look like over the next 13 years.

Routine behavior is the primary reason students are not prepared for the workplace, said forum attendee and businessman Marty Kish, and more education would be beneficial to increasing profits.

"It makes a big difference between the four-year college student and high school degree," said Kish, who is vice president of marketing and communications at the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers.

UK is taking steps to achieve its plan to become a top-20 public research university, which aims to benefit the state economically by generating students who are more likely to lead productive careers.

"You've got to find a reason to be here (at UK)," said Student Government President Nick Phelps.

Phelps, who attended the forum, said he is pleased that the business leaders are making an effort to evaluate education reform and are using feedback from the forums to decide what needs to be done to continue education reform.



Tracy

more laboratory buildings," he said.

Although it is too early to say exactly what will be changing in UK's research program, Tracy said he doesn't see any major problems.

"It's not a question of things being broken and needing to be fixed," Tracy said. "I don't see anything that is broken at Kentucky."

## OBAMA

Continued from page 1

younger group of supporters. He's gotten such a great turnout at college campuses around the country; I'm glad there's so many students here even though it's not at UK."

Students and other members of the crowd of just over 1,800 continued cheering on Obama as he discussed national issues like literacy, bankruptcy, energy policy and the war in Iraq.

He called the nation's health care and educational systems "broken" and discussed local and state issues as well.

"It needs to come to the attention of the national government that if there is someone in Kentucky who is poor, that impoverishes all of us," Obama said.

Cindy Alexberg, a psychology freshman, said it is encouraging to have potential candidates come to Kentucky.

"I'm from Pikeville, which is n't the hugest town or the most

likely stop for a presidential candidate," Alexberg said. "But when we get the chance to talk about issues with a candidate like Obama at a local level, it really gives us encouragement that even the issues of Eastern Kentucky can be solved."

Obama said traveling around the country and talking to people in every state is important because everyone has "different issues they want to see solved."

Evidence of the large number of students backing Obama can be seen on social-networking sites like Facebook.com, where he has over 135,000 friends and more than 325,000 members in at least 500 groups for supporters. By contrast, fellow Democratic primary candidate Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York has 19,000 members in her largest group on the Web site.

"He's here, and he's talking about issues that students care about," Williams said. "He talks about bridging this country's education gap, and as a future teacher, this is important to me. He talks

about ending this war, which is important to so many young people who feel helpless. He gives us hope that our voices will be heard."

Obama asked the crowd for its continued energy and support for change during his presidential campaign.



"You didn't come out here today because you are against something — everyone is against something; everyone has something to be cynical about," Obama said. "Just like citizens in other parts of this nation, you are here because you want to be for something."

After the half-hour rally, students and other supporters gathered to discuss the issues they support.

"It's not just about the educational system and my future as a teacher," Williams said. "As an African-American, it's about something more than that. It's about a minority candidate for president. It's about changing history. It's about the possibility of making history."

*Office of Student Activities, Leadership & Involvement*  
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The Campus Calendar is produced by the Office of Student Activities, Leadership & Involvement. Registered Student Orgs. and UK Depts. can submit information for FREE online ONE WEEK PRIOR to the MONDAY information is to appear. Call 252-8867 for more information.

Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Photographs by Women: Selected Works from the Collection, 12:00 PM, Singletary Center for the Arts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Photographs by Women: Selected Works from the Collection, 12:00 PM, Singletary Center for the Arts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ad Club Meeting, 7:00 PM, Student Center</li> <li>Photographs by Women: Selected Works from the Collection, 12:00 PM, Singletary Center for the Arts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Younglife-FYF, 7:50 PM, Student Center</li> <li>Photographs by Women: Selected Works from the Collection, 12:00 PM, Singletary Center for the Arts</li> <li>The Late Night Film Series Presents: 28 Weeks Later, 10:00 PM, Worsham Theatre</li> </ul>		 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></i></p> 

## POSITION PREVIEW: OFFENSIVE LINE

# Experienced Williams anchors offensive line in transition

By Kenny Colston  
kcolston@kykernel.com

For the UK offensive line the goal is simple — put the best five guys out there to prevent sacks and open up running lanes. But after three starters from last year's team departed due to graduation, deciding on those five guys is becoming a lot harder for UK.

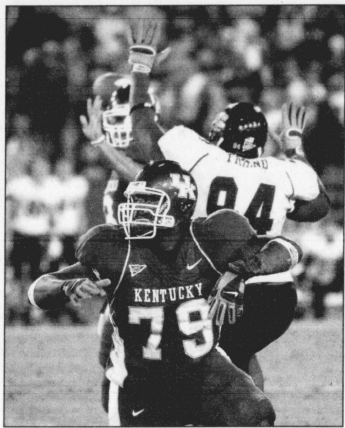
With Michael Aitchison, Trail Williams and Matt McCutchan gone, a host of competitors are vying for vacated positions at center, right guard and right tackle.

Senior Eric Scott played himself into the center position after the spring, but the battles continue at right guard (between senior Jason Leger and junior Jess Beets) and at right tackle (between junior Josh Winchell and sophomore Justin Jeffries).

In addition to the three open positions, there has also been a shakeup at left guard. Both offensive line coach Jimmy Heggins and head coach Rich Brooks have said that returning starter Christian Johnson has to work his way back up the depth chart at left guard, where sophomore former tight end Zipp Duncan is listed as the starter.

Even with all the upperclassmen battling for starting positions, Heggins expects incoming freshmen to raise the bar even higher. "I expect the freshmen to get back into the hunt (as well as) guys who are coming back from injuries," Heggins said. "We are expecting some changes."

One of the freshmen looking to contend is Brad Durham,



BRAD LUTTRELL | STAFF

Left tackle Garry Williams, UK's most experienced offensive lineman, will be entrusted with protecting the blindside of quarterback Andre Woodson.

whom Brooks thinks can make right tackle a four-man race.

Because of the inexperience on the line, the pressure to perform lies with the most experienced lineman remaining — junior left tackle Garry Williams. He will need to help form a cohesive line to ensure the fireworks keep exploding over Commonwealth Stadium.

A lot of that pressure is coming straight from Heggins.

**Coming up**  
Tomorrow: Linebackers  
Wednesday: Defensive backs

"I'm expecting leadership," Heggins said. "He's the one who's got to take the bull by the horns and get people going." Williams embraced the pres-

sure. "With the experience I have, I know I can help these guys and be a leader on this team," he said.

Williams can accomplish everything expected of him, Brooks said.

"(Williams) matured a lot," Brooks said. "He's matured off the field as well as on it. He's extremely athletic, stronger, leaner. I expect him to have an outstanding year."

If the line hopes to improve from last year when it gave up 39 sacks, including six against Florida, Williams must have an outstanding year at left tackle keeping away defenders who come for Andre Woodson's back.

"It feels good playing at left tackle because it's a challenge playing on the blindside," Williams said.

Woodson expressed confidence in Williams.

"I feel comfortable with Garry," Woodson said. "He lays his life on the line each and every game."

Woodson doesn't believe inexperience is a problem on the offensive line either.

"We truly believe those guys will get themselves ready," Woodson said. "They are deep. There is a lot of experience there that goes unnoticed."

Woodson's backfield mate, running back Rafael Little, is not concerned either.

"I expect a lot of improvement, but I know (the offensive line) will be better this year," Little said. "We've got vets teaching the young guys. I don't think they'll struggle."

## O-line could give us something to talk about

You have to listen closely to hear people talking about it.



JONATHAN SMITH  
Kernel columnist

Rich Brooks talks about it, but that's because he's the head coach and he has to know everything about his football team.

But, other than Brooks, no one's saying much about the offensive line. Instead, and for good reason, people are talking about the schedule. And the streaks. And the bowl possibilities (Shreveport notwithstanding). And that Woodson's

Around the school, city and state, the topics of preseason chatter among fans have been almost unanimous.

But not much is being said about the big uglies. That's a shame. Because outside of quarterback, it's the position group the Cats have to get the most out of in order to be successful this season.

People should be talking about the depth of the offensive line, because if depth means success, the Cats could have a big year.

Back are Garry Williams and Christian Johnson, both starters of 12 games a year ago. Jason Leger and Eric Scott are penciled in to start Saturday against Eastern Kentucky, and both contributed heavily last year. Brooks has also raved this fall about Justin Jeffries and Zipp Duncan, the latter having taken over Johnson's starting spot.

Beyond that, the Cats brought in two junior college transfers in Jess Beets and Josh Winchell and three of the state's top high school linemen.

"Good competition means more depth," Williams said. "More guys are stepping up." As deep as the Cats may be, people should still be talking about the loss of three starters.

Michael Aitchison started the final 22 games of his career. Matt McCutchan started in all but four games during his UK career. Also gone is Trail Williams, who was a stopgap at multiple spots last year.

"It's fair," offensive line coach Jimmy Heggins said about the question marks surrounding his unit. "We lost three guys, and

now we are trying to plug those holes."

Those three will be missed, but people should be talking about how the Cats can still improve now that the departed have moved on.

As good as the offense was last year, it could have had much better numbers if the offensive line had reduced the sacks allowed and widened the lanes for the running backs. UK was last in the league in sacks allowed and rushing offense.

If the Cats want to beat the big boys this year, they can't afford to have Woodson getting knocked down as much, and they'll have to get more on the ground if they want to beat the big boys. If Woodson gets hurt, or if they can't run the ball, they won't win the big, close games. That's how important the offensive line is.

And just imagine how good the Cats could be if they improve in those areas.

Then people would really be talking about the offensive line.

Jonathan Smith is a journalism senior. His column will run on Mondays and Wednesdays. E-mail: jsmith@kykernel.com

## Skinner pleased with winning weekend

By Kenny Colston  
kcolston@kykernel.com

For head coach Craig Skinner, it was an ideal plan — start the season on the road in a tournament against an elite opponent to immediately introduce the UK volleyball team to a hostile environment.

After the Cats went 2-1 in the University of Northern Iowa Invitational, Skinner said he thought his plan worked.

"The environment (at UNI) helps with pressure," Skinner said. "UNI is a national power. It's the reason why we came."

The Cats started the tournament with a three-game sweep of Wright State (30-18, 30-25, 30-21) on Friday night. The win improved UK's overall record to 23-8 in season openers and extended the current streak to four without a loss. The win was especially sweet for the Cats, who endured a 17-hour trip to get to Cedar Falls, Iowa, when storms forced the team to take a bus from Fort Wayne, Ind.

But the Cats couldn't celebrate for long, receiving their first loss of the season to Western Michigan in the opener of a Saturday doubleheader. The Cats lost in three games (30-27, 30-28, 30-26).

"We were very good at times," Skinner said. "But we also showed things we real-

ly need to work on." Skinner said those things include consistency, long-term focusing and communication.

"It just comes with more matches," Skinner said.

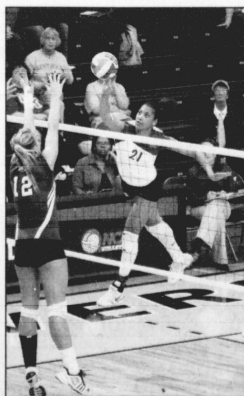
In Saturday's second match, against host UNI, the Cats had to fight their way through five games, but prevailed 3-2 (26-30, 30-23, 30-24, 29-31, 17-15) to leave the tournament with a winning record. For Skinner, the win against UNI was the most important.

"One of our goals this year is to respond," Skinner said. "With a loss to Western Michigan, we came back and responded well. I'm proud of the team for battling."

Skinner was also pleased to see the team dealing with close matches early in the season.

Senior middle blocker Nicole Britenriker was named to the All-Tournament team. She provided two of UK's three double-doubles during the tournament, against Wright State and UNI. Junior middle blocker Queen Nzenwa recorded a double-double against UNI.

The Cats will return to action on Wednesday when they travel to Bowling Green, Ky., to take on Western Kentucky at 8 p.m.



THOMAS SANDS | STAFF

Nicole Britenriker sends a ball over the net against Ohio University in last season's NCAA Tournament. Britenriker had two double-doubles this weekend.

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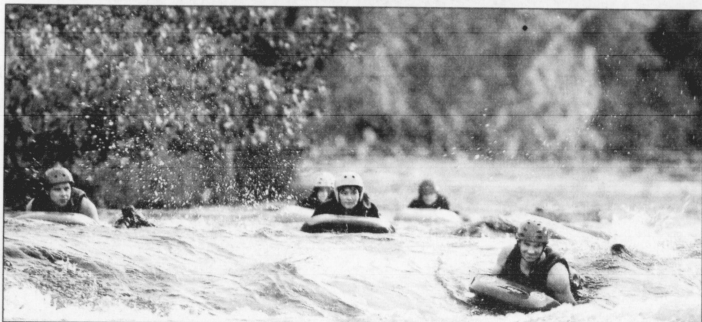
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INSTRUCTOR SHANE BOLLING, FAR RIGHT, LEADS, FROM LEFT, SIMON REPTON, AMANDA SHEETZ, LIZZ FENA AND PRISCILLA REPTON INTO WHITewater DURING A RIVERBOARDING CLASS IN GOLDEN, COLO., WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2007.

## Riverboarders seek whitewater action

**By Andrew Wineke**  
The Gazette

Running rapids in a big, rubber raft ain't so tough. A foot and a half of rubber and air between you and those nasty rocks and scary rapids does wonders for your self-confidence.

On the other hand, running rapids on a glorified body board, with all your precious bodily parts from the waist down exposed to rocks and rapids? Now we're talking.

Riverboarding has a long way to go before it catches the popularity of rafting or kayaking, but for getting up close and personal with whitewater, it can't be beat.

"When it gets you into the surf, your first sensation is you're on a Jet Ski, because you're right down in the water," said Doug Hyldahl of Logan, Utah, after taking a riverboarding class recently on Clear

Creek in the Golden, Colo., whitewater park.

"It's not like when you're rafting on a river and you just sort of hold on for dear life," he said.

Shane Bolling is riverboarding's patron saint in Colorado. He's the president, CEO and chief instructor for RipBoard, a company he started in 1999 after trying out riverboarding in New Zealand, where it's known as sledging.

"What I like about them is it's real simple," Bolling said. "When you're kayaking, you have to be able to roll over... it's a lot of learning. I didn't have the attention span for that. With this, I could just jump on the river."

RipBoard's riverboards are similar in some ways to kayaks. They're made out of the same tough plastic, and the sides come up around the boarder to offer some protection from im-

pacts and additional flotation (some riverboarders do use conventional foam body boards, or a larger version intended for river tubing).

Before sending them down the river, Bolling puts his students in sleeveless wet suits, life vests and short swim fins, plus helmets, shin guards and knee pads.

The body armor suggests riverboarding will be a rough ride and it certainly can be. On the other hand, the boards seem to get caught in holes (where a rapid crashes back on itself and sends paddlers through the spin cycle) less often than kayaks.

"I think I hit every rock on the river," said Roxanne Vidal, after completing her first run through the Golden park.

She survived the trip... the trick is to use the board as a shield and then spin away from the rocks... but her husband, Rick, took a knock on his knee that left him limping.

Because boarders lie right on the waterline, they can't see as far downstream as rafters and kayakers, making planning ahead and scouting rapids much more important, Bolling said.

Kicking with fins can be more work than paddling, too. A lot more.

"You think you're fit and this thing kicks your butt," said Rick Vidal.

But the rewards make it worth the effort. Boarders can surf along waves in the river just like body boarders do in the ocean.

Except river waves never end.

Plus, when your head lies a few inches above the water, running even the tiniest riffle feels like an adventure.

"This is awesome," said Priscilla Repton, who was taking a class with her husband, Simon. "I think I might just have found a new thing."

## Scientist find something to please wine-lovers

By Robert S. Boyd  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Gene scientists are getting around to the good stuff, instead of gloomy topics like the causes of cancer, heart attacks and AIDS. They've just discovered the genes that give red wine its satisfying flavor and aroma... and perhaps its supposed health benefits.

Biologists in France (of course) have deciphered the DNA of a line of grapevines derived from pinot noir, which produce a red wine popularized in the 2004 movie "Sideways."

The DNA contains 30,434 genes that carry the instructions to make the vine, whose scientific name is *Vitis vinifera*. Among the genes, the researchers found 89 that are responsible for producing the fragrant resins and oils in red grapes.

Typical plants have only half as many such genes as these grapevines do, according to Patrick Wincker, a plant geneticist at the French-Italian Public Consortium for Grapevine Genome Characterization in Evry, France. Wincker is the principal author of a paper published in Sunday's edition of the journal *Nature*.

The grapevine genes' relative abundance is directly correlated with the aromatic features of wines," Wincker wrote.

Similar genes are credited with the distinctive scent of peppermint plants, he reported.

In addition, another 43 grapevine genes are involved in the synthesis of resveratrol, a substance found in the skin of red grapes that gets taken

up in wine. Resveratrol activates a gene that has been shown to slow down the aging process in plant and animal cells.

Resveratrol "has been associated with the health benefits associated with moderate consumption of red wine," Wincker wrote.

The new understanding of grapevine genes may help explain the wide diversity of wine flavors, he said.

In March, for example, Australian scientists reported finding mutations in two red-grape genes that produced a white grapevine that was the parent of most of the world's white-grape varieties.

"If only one gene had been mutated, most grapes would still be red and we would not have the more than 3,000 white grape cultivars available today," plant geneticist Amanda Walker reported.

In his *Nature* paper, Wincker said his French-Italian team chose to work on grapevines, the first fruit plant to have its genome decoded, "because of its important place in the cultural heritage of humanity, beginning in the Neolithic period." The period is also known as the New Stone Age, dating from about 10,000 years ago.

Ancient writers affirm wine's historic place. Wincker noted that the Greek historian Thucydides (450-395 B.C.) wrote that "the Mediterranean people began to emerge from ignorance when they learned to cultivate olives and grapes."

Traces of white wine were found in the tomb of the Egyptian king Tutankhamun, who reigned from 1333 to 1324 B.C.

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# OPINIONS

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## Push hard to get students to use new safety system

Most students at UK today rely on two mediums for a great deal of their communication — e-mail and cell phones. So it only makes sense UK is targeting both with a new system intended to improve campus security.

Whether the Wide Area Rapid Notification system UK recently purchased actually succeeds, though, will depend on how effective university officials are at convincing students to sign up for the notices.

UK purchased the WARN system after last year's Virginia Tech shootings so messages can be quickly spread across campus in an emergency, the Kernel reported last week. Messages can be sent simultaneously through e-mail, text messages, phone calls and faxes.

But the system will start with an essentially empty contact list, as students, faculty and staff must sign up for notifications. In an emergency, messages will only be sent to people who have put their contact information in the system.

The university should always be mindful of student safety and constantly examining potential issues, but ultimately students must also take a role in ensuring their own safety.

When WARN is launched within the next few weeks — administrators are expected to send out a campus-wide e-mail once it's ready — every student should take the time to sign up for the emergency notifications.

At the same time, though, UK should be mindful of the system's purpose and shouldn't abuse it with non-emergency messages. If students feel as if they're receiving frivolous notices, they are likely to unsubscribe,

## KERNEL EDITORIAL

which would undercut the system's effectiveness.

And while sending mass messages to cell phones has the potential to reach a large number of students at once, it could be difficult to communicate with classrooms, where students and professors are generally expected to turn their cell phones off. In a situation like the one at Virginia Tech,

though, the classroom is exactly where the notices are needed the most. A representative from the University of Florida — a school that has used a system similar to WARN for three years — pointed out to the Kernel that only one student in a class has to receive the notification for the system to be effective.

This is certainly true; in a class with several hundred students, it's likely that one or two people will see the message immediately. But in a small seminar class with only 15 students, the chances are greatly diminished, and the safety of the class is effectively left to luck.

A university-wide policy should accompany the WARN system, to ensure there is no delay between when a message is sent and when it is read in every classroom on campus. Perhaps each instructor should be required to either leave his or her cell phone on vibrate during the class or designate a student in the class to do the same.

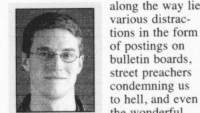
UK's purchase of the WARN system is an important step in ensuring safety during an emergency, but it will not be effective without widespread participation among students, faculty and staff.



CHRISTO SMITH, Kernel cartoonist

## Credit-card 'freebies' aren't worth the hidden costs

As most students are aware, there is more to traveling through campus than just walking from class to class.



CHAD REESE  
Opinions editor

Along the way lie various distractions in the form of postings on bulletin boards, street preachers condemning us to hell, and even the wonderful hot-dog stand outside of White Hall.

While many of these distractions are helpful, or at worst merely annoying, it is important that new students realize the potential for some of them to be genuinely harmful.

Take, for instance, the frequent presence of tiny coupons and other "freebie" offers informing students that all manner of items, from pizzas to T-shirts, can be theirs at no cost. Unfortunately, some of these offers require some "participation" on the part of anyone wishing to take advantage of said rewards. Specifically, students must often sign up for a credit card to "participate."

The problem? Many new students have never been forced to provide for their own fiscal well-being before entering college and have no idea what kind of long-term damage they could do to their credit rating through irresponsible credit card use.

The companies providing these cards seem to have no moral qualms about fooling naive students into applying for credit cards that often carry excessive interest rates and annual fees, meaning that even a fairly

responsible student could end up owing the credit card company hefty financial charges. Very few students would be capable of remaining in school with the debt they could quickly accumulate.

I'm not, to be fair, laying all of the blame on credit card companies. After all, the student signing up for a credit card still makes the decision in the end. The companies, however, still show a wanton disregard for the well-being of students in search of higher profits, and that is unacceptable.

Since UK has done little to nothing to prevent this particular type of solicitation or to educate students on the importance of fiscal responsibility (except the occasional mention of it as a concept in orientation speeches by the administration), it is up to individual students to educate themselves and to exercise restraint when dealing with financial decisions.

In general, avoiding a credit card in college is a good plan. It's true that using a credit card with a small monthly limit for strictly food or gas can help a student build a good credit history from a young age, but the temptation of a card can often prove too much for those of us in college.

Furthermore, there are a variety of ways for college students to save money without sacrificing their quality of life. When leaving campus to go to a party or restaurant, always carpool. You'll be amazed at how much gas you can save if you and your roommate trade off driving duties.

Secondly, realize that, although stylish, brand new polo shirts are not a weekly necessity. It's shocking how much some students spend on clothing that they don't need every

month, and then proceed to complain about the high price of books and tuition.

While we're on the subject of books, veteran students will tell you that purchasing your books directly from other students or online can cut the cost of books by as much as half every semester. True, buying from the University Bookstore or Kennedy Bookstore allows you to see and buy the book at the same time, but as long as you're careful and pay attention, shopping online can dramatically reduce your textbook cost.

All these minor, yet useful, tips aside, the main necessities in surviving the fiscal demands of college are personal restraint and responsibility. Always read contracts (whether they come from a credit card company or your cell phone service provider) fully and make sure you understand them before signing. Realize that decisions you make now could affect your ability to buy a house in 10 years or prevent you from getting a car loan.

We are, for better or worse, adults — in a very real sense — once we step foot on a college campus. We are held responsible for our own well-being, and it is either our will to improve our lives or our inability to curb our own desires that will determine whether or not we are financially prepared for life after college.

In a nutshell, think before you act, save before you spend, and spring for one of those five dollar "hot and ready" pizzas instead of paying thousands of dollars in credit card debt for a "free" pizza.

Chad Reese is a philosophy and political science junior. E-mail: opinions@kykernel.com.

## Economy, road safety would benefit from Sunday alcohol sales

The Lexington city council's first approval in removing Sunday alcohol restrictions is a refreshing step forward for not only UK students but also the city as a whole.

The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council passed an initial ordinance Aug. 21 that, if approved in a second reading, will allow all retail businesses with a liquor license to sell alcohol on Sundays, including package sales, distilled spirits and liquor-by-the-drink, the Kernel reported Aug. 23.

Although some people feel this added availability would cause an increase in alcohol consumption, we think the amount of alcohol people drink will not significantly change. If people plan to drink on Sundays, restrictions make them more likely to purchase extra liquor on Saturday — not to decide to change their plans.

If anything, this ordinance will allow the current Sunday alcohol consumers to drink from the safety of their own homes instead of traveling out on the town and endangering themselves and those around them by driving home after consuming alcohol.

## KERNEL EDITORIAL

Not only could this ordinance make the Sunday night roads safer, but it will also help local businesses.

The alleviation of the Sunday alcohol ban would give Lexington one of the same tourism advantages Louisville and Northern Kentucky already have, said council member David Stevens in the Kernel article.

Passing the ordinance would also be good for smaller restaurants and bars. Under the current rules, few establishments can serve alcohol on Sundays in Lexington, and these are mainly restaurants that can seat over 100 people and generate 50 percent or more of their income from food. Some hotels and racetracks can also serve liquor.

Opening up Sunday alcohol sales to all kinds of establishments would be good for both the local economy and small business owners.

We encourage the city council to reapprove this ordinance, so Lexington can see financial and safety improvements as soon as possible.

## Celebrities deserve punishment for their crimes, like everybody else

In an age when celebrities seem to be exempt from the true extent of the law, it's refreshing that someone as cruel as Michael Vick is going to be punished for committing a crime.



MEGAN VAZMINA  
Kernel columnist

Lindsay Lohan served one day in jail for drunk driving and drug charges. Nicole Richie received a four-day sentence for driving under the influence. And who could forget Paris Hilton and her messy three weeks in jail for driving on her suspended license, which was taken away for drunken, reckless driving?

Each of these celebrity cases makes me cringe because in the real world, the world where people don't spend thousands of dollars on a purse or import water from the Holy Land, breaking the law is serious business.

I can almost guarantee that if I were to decide to drive drunk and were pulled over, I would spend far more time in jail than these celebrities did, especially if I had cocaine on me.

I would also have to admit that I had been charged with a crime and been to jail while applying for jobs, something that apparently hasn't deterred the careers of the aforementioned actresses.

But Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick is the exception to the celebrity rule. After Vick announced Friday he would plead guilty to dog-fighting charges, the National Football League suspended him without pay, which means his livelihood has been taken away. Now we can only hope that he spends real time behind bars.

Vick admits in his plea agreement that he helped fund the fighting and "helped kill some dogs not worthy of the pit," according to the Associated Press.

The man admits to killing dogs. I don't care if it was part of a so-called "collective effort" — killing dogs by strangling them and drowning them, for any reason, is appalling.

I don't admit to knowing all the facts surrounding this case. I don't care what the exact terminology of Vick's crime is at this point — I just know that he should be punished severely.

This country would not function without the established law. Law and courts keep this country stable and its citizens civilized. There have been too

many instances of late where the country ignores criminal behaviors. The U.S. government doesn't seem to acknowledge that illegal immigrants are in fact illegal. Hollywood doesn't seem to care if drunk driving is illegal.

But, finally, there are those willing to step up and say what Vick did was wrong. Honestly, I think it would be hard for anyone to say killing dogs isn't wrong and shouldn't be punished severely.

Criminals need to be punished. I don't pay taxes to support the court system so that people only get reprimanded for serious crimes. I pay taxes to ensure people who commit atrocities are punished for what they did. Vick is an example of how the judicial system should work.

He has admitted to breaking the law, and he will be punished not only by the NFL, but probably also by the government. No one is above the law, and no one should ever be elevated to that status. It doesn't matter how much money or recognition you have; there is no reason that you should break the law and think you shouldn't be disciplined accordingly.

Megan Vazmina is a political science senior. E-mail: opinions@kykernel.com.

## Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Chad Reese. Please limit letters to 350 words or fewer. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

## Cartoonists Needed

The Kernel is looking for a cartoonist to draw pieces for the Opinions page on a regular basis. Those who have an interest in campus and local issues will be given special attention, although cartoonists of all interests will be considered.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

## Weekly Poll Question

Do you expect new Student Government President Nick Phelps to do a better or worse job than last year's president, Jonah Brown?

Vote online at www.kykernel.com





KARIE HAMILTON | TACOMA NEWS TRIBUNE

Melody Liao, center, of Austin, Texas, gives a high-five to Jennifer Hale, of Seattle, who finished a physical abilities test as instructor Patricia Reshaw looks on at a Tacoma Fire Department training center in Tacoma, Washington, Tuesday, July 17, 2007. Camp Blaze introduces young women to the fire service.

## Teen girls fight fires, stoke the one inside

By Melissa Santos  
McClintock Newspapers

TACOMA, Wash. — An old Mercury Grand Marquis lies mangled on the grounds of the Tacoma Fire Department Training Center, its roof shorn away and its windshield folded over like a piece of crinkled cellophane.

The perpetrators: a group of teenage girls.

The wreckage was collateral damage from a vehicle extrication exercise at Camp Blaze, a firefighting camp for 16- to 19-year-old girls being held this week at fire training centers in Tacoma and North Bend, Wash. The young women hacked into the car with pairs of oversized scissors and then tried to open as they simulated removing a person from a burning vehicle.

The camp is run by female professional firefighters with the goal of helping young women enter similar careers.

The camp teaches girls specific firefighting skills, such as how to lower oneself from upper-story windows using a rope, how to handle a hose and

how to climb an aerial ladder on a fire engine.

The girls also practice search and rescue skills with a dummy, use chainsaws to cut through wood and learn to work while wearing up to 100 pounds of gear. One day during the camp, the group will be fighting a live fire.

About 50 female firefighters from around the nation are volunteering at the camp this week as counselors and administrative helpers.

They're there to help show the girls that firefighting is a viable career option for women, said Karen Kerr, a San Francisco firefighter who helped found the camp in 2001.

"It's really inspiring being around people that aren't big muscle guys, but have the same limitations as you," said camper Kayla Cant, 16, of Weiser, Idaho. "They understand that when you're dirty, you want to take a shower."

Though the first female career firefighters were hired in 1973, only about 2 percent of the 300,000 firefighters in the United States and Canada today

are women.

"There aren't always people encouraging young women to go into it," Kerr said. "It's a physically demanding job, and it's still predominantly men. We want to create opportunities in the fire service because we know there were pioneering women who did that for us."

The camp received about 70 applicants this year and accepted 24.

One, 19-year-old Martina Jelvinger, flew in from her home city of Stockholm, Sweden, to attend.

Jelvinger, who wants to work as an engineer to make buildings more fire-resistant, said she found out about the camp on the Internet and decided to apply.

Camp directors look for girls with leadership skills and try to choose ones with different levels of firefighting experience, Kerr said.

"It's not like playing basketball and just running out there," camper Ariassa Wilson, 16, said. "Your life is at stake. You're not playing around. It's really eye-opening."

## Don't run for the hills — hear bluegrass on campus

By Kristin Sherrard  
features@kykernel.com

UK is gettin' back to its roots today at the Fine Arts Library.

Local bluegrass acts will be sharing their talents with UK students at a free concert at the John Jacobs Niles Center for American Music from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event is a preview of the 2007 J.D. Crowe Bluegrass Music Festival that will take place Aug. 30 to Sept. 1 at Ichthus Farm in Wilmore, Ky.

Today's concert will be "a good lunchtime break to listen to some good Appalachian sound," said Kara Benge, organizer and host of the preview event.

Bluegrass music is crucial to this state and to the lives of college students, said UK musicology professor Ron Pen, who is the director of the Niles Center.

"(Bluegrass music is) an honest and direct expression that reveals the soul of the people who live in this beautiful and interesting region," Pen said. "This style has real ties to who we are, and it's always just fun

"(Bluegrass music is) an honest and direct expression that reveals the soul of the people who live in this beautiful and interesting region."

RON PEN  
director of the Niles Center

to hang out with friends, sip a cool beverage and hear musicians go at it."

WRFL radio hosts Bob Gregory and Dave Kiser use their radio shows to promote bluegrass music. They are in a band, Uncle Dave, that will be performing today.

Gregory, who has worked in the Center for Manufacturing at UK since 1998, has a passion for bluegrass music and thinks it deserves wider appreciation.

"It's probably something you won't know anything about if you didn't grow up around it," Gregory said. "It's got a passion about it that I think is really great. It welcomes you, but it

doesn't pound you and market you, so maybe it's a little more old-fashioned in that way."

The event will also feature other bluegrass musicians, free ticket giveaways for the J.D. Crowe festival and discounted \$10 day passes for students.

The festival's namesake, Grammy winner J.D. Crowe, is an influential figure in the world of bluegrass music Pen said.

"When you name a festival after someone, especially someone who is alive, it is a monument to a legendary kind of figure," Pen said.

This year's festival includes performances by Crowe, Bobby Osborne, the Lonesome River Band, Mountain Heart, Eddie Pennington, the Dean Osborne Band, the Moron Brothers and Tim Lake.

"I never got to see these performers in their heyday, so it's really a thrill to see them before they go," Gregory said. "They play just as good today as they used to."

For more information on the festival, call 858-3001 or visit its Web site ([www.jdcrowe-festival.com](http://www.jdcrowe-festival.com)).

## Students can vie to be next top comic

Emily Coovert  
ecoovert@kykernel.com

Forget Tyra Banks and "America's Next Top Model": UK is hosting its own twist that's less about beauty and more about laughter.

UK's Next Top Comic will be held tonight at 8 at the Center Theater in the Student Center. This contest will give students a chance to get up and show their peers just how funny they can be.

"It's an amateur stand-up series," said integrated strategic

communications and marketing senior Lauren Baxter, director of pop culture for Student Activities Board, which is sponsoring the series. "Students have five minutes to give us their best."

Baxter said any UK student can show up to perform or sign up in advance on the SAB Web site ([www.uksab.org](http://www.uksab.org)).

"There really isn't a venue like this amateur contest," Baxter said. "We can bring artists to UK anytime, but this is a chance to see your friends perform."

The winner of tonight's competition will receive a new

iPod shuffle, Baxter said.

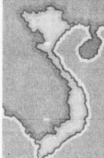
The UK's Next Top Comic competition occurs on the fourth Monday of every month throughout the school year and is followed by Laughs on the Lawn — professional comedians performing at the Memorial Hall amphitheater — on the fourth Thursday of each warmer month.

SAB hopes at least five to 10 people show up to perform.

"Comedy is always something people have in common," Baxter said. "It's going to be a really good time."

**VIETNAM!** Don't miss this opportunity to study abroad for the Winter 2007 term. Meet with Prof. Peter Berres on Monday, 8-27-07 or Tuesday 9-4-07 at 7:00pm in CB201, Whitehall Classroom Building, to discuss the details. Prof. Berres can be reached at [pnberres1@uky.edu](mailto:pnberres1@uky.edu) or 323-1100, ext. 80545.

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**



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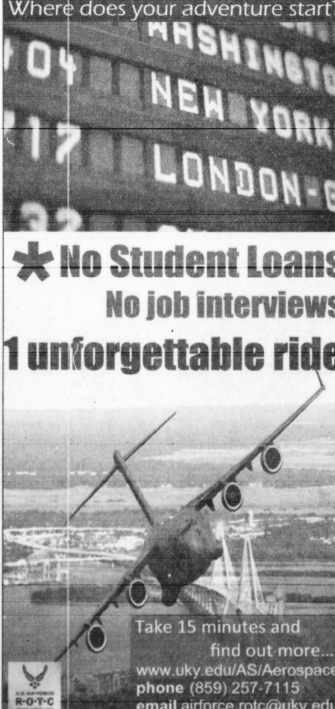


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