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THE Kentucky Kernel

Friday, February 3, 2006

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3 days later, UK finds U-Connect fix

By Tim Wiseman
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

UK Information Technology has identified the problem with the U-Connect System, but there remains work to be done for students, faculty and staff to return to their inboxes.

The problem arose as a result of UK's password synchronization plan — an effort to give each user one password for all UK online activities. That meant having the system's more than 80,000 passwords reset, said Doyle Friskney, UK's chief technology officer.

As of this week, some 30,000 passwords had yet to be changed, he

said. When a U-Connect server rebooted, Friskney said it reset those passwords and led to the lockout.

"The network worked; the mail was there," he said. "But no one knew the password."

UK has reset the affected passwords to the UKIT default password, which is "u" followed a dollar sign (\$) and then the last six digits of a user's Social Security number. All of the passwords should have been reset by late yesterday, Friskney said.

Since Monday afternoon, many of U-Connect's 50,000 accounts have been inaccessible to users as a result of the password problem. Locked out, many on campus have

not been able to read or send e-mail week.

Now the system is up and running, but the work lies in getting the word out.

"The biggest problem we have right now is telling everybody their password and then getting them to change it," he said. "What we've been doing this afternoon is trying to make sure everyone knows their password and what to do."

To publicize the procedure for getting back online, UKIT has worked with faculty, staff and graduate students to help inform as many people as possible. The steps for resetting the password have also

been posted in computer labs across campus and on UK's Web pages.

Friskney said those who have had trouble logging in should go to the U-Connect Account Manager at <http://uconnect.uky.edu/manager> and follow these steps:

- Enter current ID and current password. If the log-in succeeds, the password has not been affected.

- If the password fails, then it has been changed to the default. Try the user ID with the default password. If that works, the password can be changed to the user's preference.

- If this fails, try again later as the account still may be processed

by UKIT.

After changing the password, users may still have trouble accessing their e-mail due to the "sluggishness" of the server. As long as users have been able to log in to the Account Manager, they should soon be able to get their e-mail, Friskney said.

As passwords are reset, he said U-Connect would return to its normal speed.

"As people use the correct passwords, even the sluggishness will go away," Friskney said.

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A night of 'Magic'



Above: Jacob Cook, co-starring as Papageno in Mozart's "The Magic Flute," sings during a performance last night by UK Opera at the Lexington Opera House.

Right: (From left) Mary Joy Nelson, Brandy Lynn Hawkins and Tiffany Fox gather around Yuell Chandler in "The Magic Flute" last night.



PHOTOS BY
KASHA STEVENSON
STAFF

Ring in 250 years of the magic of Mozart, the UK Opera Theater presented "The Magic Flute" to patrons at the Lexington Opera House last night.

The two-act opera follows Prince Tamino on his quest to save his beloved princess and is rife with Masonic symbolism.

"The Magic Flute" will be performed again on Saturday, Thursday and Feb. 11 at the Opera House at 7 p.m.

Officials target students' downloads

UK administrators can now identify those who are downloading illegally

By Dariush Shafa
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Though no more illegal downloading lawsuits have been filed against UK students since the first three a year ago, campus administrators said downloading now carries an even greater risk of detection than before.

Last year, UK couldn't be sure of who was using the computer system to download.

That situation has changed. "This year, when we get a complaint like that, we know exactly who to deliver it to," Cotter said.

If a student has a file-sharing complaint leveled against them, the university will notify them that they need to delete copyrighted material from their computer, remove the file-sharing programs and never do it again. During the 2005 school year, 469 students had such complaints brought against them.

If a student has a second complaint brought against them, they will be sent to the dean of students, something which has already happened to two students this semester.

Because UK's campus networks now allow administrators to be certain of who is downloading, if a subpoena is issued, UK has only one option.

"We'll have to turn that name over," Cotter said.

Though UK only had three students named in illegal downloading lawsuits, that doesn't mean students should feel safe betting against the law of averages.

"If they (students) are engaging in file downloading in some way where they're not paying royalties to the artist, they're playing Russian Roulette," said

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UK athletes top SEC's Honor Roll

By Eric Lindsey
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

One of the nation's most successful athletic programs on the field has now established itself as one of the most successful off the field.

In January, the Southeastern Conference announced 52 of UK's student-athletes were selected to the 2005-2006 Fall Academic Honor Roll, more than any other school in the conference.

The honor roll consists of 456 student-athletes compiled from the 12-team conference and is based on grades from the 2005 Spring, Summer and Fall terms. The University of South Carolina had the second most student-athletes with a total of 50.

Of the 52 student-athletes selected from UK, 24 were chosen from the football team, an accomplishment that made head coach Rich Brooks extremely proud.

"We always stress to the kids to work hard in the classroom," Brooks said. "We want our players to get a

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Newsroom: 257-1915

Campus honors King's legacy

By Ryan Evans
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Coretta Scott King once said, "Freedom is never really won, you earn it and win it in every generation."

These words were one of the key messages of the UK memorial service held yesterday for King, who died on January 31. She was 78.

The service, held in the Student Center, attracted a number of UK students, administrators and faculty members. The service was opened with an invocation by Rev. Willis Polk, the pastor of the Imani Baptist Church of Lexington and a rendition of "Amazing Grace" by UK vocal performance and opera senior Afon Battle.

The service was hosted by the UK chapter of Alpha Kappa Al-

pha, of which King was a member.

"Coretta Scott King represented a very important part of this country's civil rights movement," said Ricardo Nazario-Colon, Director of the UK Martin Luther King Cultural Center.

"We have to keep this generation in touch with that legacy."

King's legacy was the foremost subject of the service. King devoted her life to preserving and spreading her husband's philosophy of nonviolence and also participated in many anti-poverty efforts. She was the driving force behind the effort to establish a national holiday in honor of her husband, which began in 1986.

"I think that students should learn this lesson from this memorial service: that the accomplishments of Mrs. King and other civil rights icons took a great



Photos show Coretta Scott King over the years at UK's memorial service for her in the Student Center yesterday.

amount of work and sacrifice," said Rev. Cynthia Cain of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington, who spoke of the spiritual and social justice journey of

See King on page 2

FILM REVIEW: 'THE NEW WORLD'

Beauty of 'World' only skin deep

By Chris Collins
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Director Terrence Malick's latest film, "The New World," is basically a love story between John Smith, played by Colin Farrell, and Pocahontas played by Q'orianka Kilcher. While I have no objections to love stories, I would prefer that the two in love speak a common language, at least on film. Then, you know, maybe the audience could follow along. This is one of a few problems with the movie.

Now, let me say right now that I am a huge Malick fan. I loved "Badlands," "Days of Heaven," and "The Thin Red Line." I walked into the theater expecting something similar, and while the movie is visually stunning, the story was somewhat lacking.

The film opens with the English landing at Jamestown and Smith set to hang upon arrival. The leader of the expedition, Captain Newport, played by Christopher Plummer, pardons Smith when he realizes there is an awful lot to be done when settling a new land. On one of his trips into the mainland Smith is sentenced to die by an impromptu Indian council he

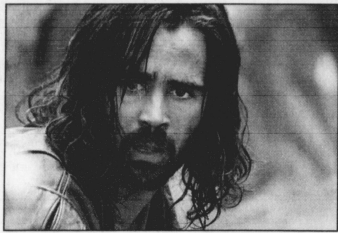


PHOTO COURTESY NEW LINE CINEMA
Colin Farrell stars as John Smith in the Terrence Malick film "The New World" which chronicles the trials and tribulations of the Jamestown colony.

stumbles upon and is rescued by the chief's daughter, Pocahontas, with whom he falls in love.

Smith can't lead his men because he thinks of Pocahontas all the time. He can't barter for goods with the locals, and he can't make decisions regarding disputes among his own people. Smith is eventually forced out of command by the settlers and relegated to working alongside them. When the Indians realize that the settlers plan to stay for good they organize a war party to attack the English and, accordingly, banish Pocahon-

tas from their tribe. Pocahontas joins the English and Smith becomes more in conflict with himself. Should he forget about this romance, or should he fall for this native who apparently feels the same way about him?

The movie is beautiful on screen and Kilcher is a very attractive newcomer who basically steals scenes from those around her. The score by John Hopper is warm and haunting and helps make the romance between Smith and Pocahontas seem doomed from the outset. Farrell does a good

job of acting indecisive and lost in the Virginia wilderness.

The opening scene during which the Indians watch the English land their ships is just plain awesome.

Unfortunately, the story just isn't there. Entire dialogues among the Indians are given without subtitles so the audience never knows them as characters. In fact, the only Indian who gets some kind of character development is Pocahontas' brother.

Fans of Malick will appreciate the look of the film and be familiar with the voice-overs that accompany it. However, while those voice-overs of internal dialogue worked for the conflict of war in "The Thin Red Line" they seem almost farcical in "The New World" when they are used to describe subjective feelings of love.

You've got to give Malick credit for constantly biting off more than any director could chew, and while the story is slow and there is no real climax, the film is just so gorgeous you can't look away.

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King

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King.

UK president Lee Todd spoke on behalf of the university at yesterday's service. Among the issues he mentioned was UK's emphasis on diversity.

"Services such as these give you a chance to re-educate yourself to the high ideals that the Kings stood for, and that is something that as a university should do both

as individuals and as an institution," said Todd.

"Both Kings dedicated their lives to making this country more diverse, and that should be a goal our students should take from this service."

Students, to whom the service provided a look into civil rights history, were also affected.

"Students should take a charge to contribute to eternalizing the legacy of the Kings," said Tracy Bonilla, a biology senior.

"Reverend Polk mentioned that Coretta had

passed in the same place that she honeymooned with Dr. King.

"To me, that kind of demonstrates things coming full circle, like the need to renew the freedoms won every generation."

"There are a lot of things that students of this generation take for granted," said George Brown, a councilman in the Lexington-Fayette County Urban Government.

"Hopefully this service will cause us to do a little more soul-searching, and ask more questions about how we can improve what's happen-

ing and what's not happen-

ing." "One of the most important messages here is that freedom and liberty are not abstractions, but actions that are taken by individuals," said Dr. William Turner, the UK vice president and associate provost who served as master of ceremonies for the service.

"These virtues do not come without a price, or without sacrifice. Mrs. King's life was an excellent example of that."

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— Dr. William Turner, UK vice president and associate provost on Coretta Scott King's legacy

Download

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UK Associate General Counsel Katherine Adams, who works in UK's Legal Counsel Office.

"Save your money for your legal expenses," Cotter said. "It's generally \$6,000 to settle."

Cotter and John Tibe, director of UK Enterprise Computing and Communications Systems, both agreed, however, that downloading is less of a problem than it used to be, possibly because there are more affordable ways to legally download music.

"It wouldn't surprise me if those were making a dent in peer-to-peer (file-sharing)," Cotter said, but added it's not over yet. "As long as there's mechanisms that facilitate pirating of music, videos and games, people will take advantage of these."

The threat of legal action shouldn't be the only thing to deter students from illegally downloading.

"Quite a few malware infections, which are viruses, Trojans and worms, are from peer-to-peer (file-sharing)," Cotter said, including chat rooms and instant messaging as possible ways to allow malware to infiltrate.

Preventing these kinds of problems means users take

precautions and avoid putting themselves at risk.

"The logical defense against (infection) is to take advantage of the university's free anti-virus tools and free anti-adware and anti-spyware (software) available (elsewhere)," Cotter said, adding properly immunizing a computer should take no more than an hour. "(It's) generally little to no difficulty. Just a matter of time."

Cotter also said users should set their Windows operating system machines to automatically download and update security protocols every day from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m.

Strong passwords, which are much more difficult to break, are also recommend-

ed. To set a strong password, Tibe recommends a specific type of password, which should also be changed every 90 days.

"There's upper (case letters) and lower (case letters), numbers and symbols," Tibe said. "For a strong password, you've got to draw from at least three of these."

Overall, the real mission here is one for the benefit of UK students.

"(The) Information Technology (department) is trying to act in the best interests of students by informing them of appropriate behavior," Cotter said.

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Craig raises UK golf's profile

By Ryan Wood
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

In 1994 Brian Craig was living his dream: teeing off with the pros in the U.S. Open.

A scholarship golfer during his time at the University of Florida, Craig was only 24 years old when he played with PGA Tour legend Ernie Els at Oakmont Country Club in Oakmont, Penn.

"The open is one of those unique events that everyone gets a chance to get in," Craig said while reminiscing in his office. "In retrospect, at least I can always say I played in a major."

That's not all the head coach for UK's men's golf can put on his resume.

The reigning Southeastern Conference coach of the year also won last year's conference championship, and has turned around a college team in four years.

Craig surprised many, including himself, by winning an SEC championship in only his fourth season.

"I never would have thought we could win the SEC championship that quickly," Craig said. "I thought we could win one, but I didn't think it could happen that quickly... all the pieces came together."

Craig doesn't take much of the credit for the team's success.

"Ultimately you win with people and the people we have are pretty darn special... I tell the guys practice doesn't make perfect, it

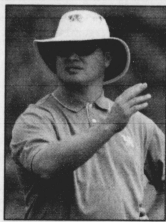


PHOTO COURTESY UK ATHLETICS
Brian Craig won an SEC championship in only his fourth year as head coach at UK.

makes permanent. If you practice poorly you get worse very quickly, if you practice effectively you can get better very quickly."

But others in the program think Craig is a big part of the quick turnaround. "Craig leads by example," assistant coach David Trainer said. "He has a lot of balance in his life and that bleeds over to our players."

"He also knows what he's talking about," Trainer said. "And there isn't a single guy on the team who wouldn't do anything he asked."

"Craig's players, current and past, attribute their success to him."

"He's great to talk to," senior golfer Matt Kohn said. "He's like my second dad."

This year's captain and the only starter back from last year's squad, Kohn came

to UK his freshman year high on talent and low on assurance.

"He helped me build my confidence," Kohn said. "It was little things... he has random meetings in the year to talk about grades, girls and life. He's definitely like a father figure."

John B. Holmes, a PGA Tour player and former UK All-American who played an integral role in last season's SEC championship, gives credit to his college coach for preparing him for the next level.

"Coach Craig helped me a whole lot," Holmes said. "He helped me with parts of my game I lacked before college. I've taken what I've learned from college over to the pros."

After four years under Craig, UK has back-to-back top-10 finishes in the NCAA tournament and the conference title.

The Cats are currently ranked 13th in the nation by Golfweek.com, but the high ranking still places them behind No. 1 Georgia, No. 4 Florida and sixth-ranked Tennessee.

UK's senior captain isn't pleased that three conference foes are ranked higher than his Cats.

"We've always been under the radar," Kohn said. "Now we are on the radar (but) we still don't get any respect."

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Women's hoops walloped

Last night, No. 14 Georgia erased any momentum UK had from last week's win over Tennessee. The Bulldogs defeated No. 21 UK, 91-57, at Stegeman Coliseum in Athens, Ga.

Georgia (16-5, 5-3 Southeastern Conference) shot 64 percent (34-of-53) from the field, led by sophomore forward Tasha Humphrey's 26 points. Sophomore forward Eleia Roddy led UK with 12

points. UK (15-5, 4-3 SEC) plays Florida Sunday at noon at Memorial Coliseum.

Women's tennis swept at Nationals

No. 1 Stanford lived up to its billing yesterday at the USTA-ITA National Team Indoor Championships in Madison, Wis., defeating No. 13 UK 7-0 in the first round. Stanford's domination was total, as only one set was closer than three games

and the doubles teams were defeated 8-4, 8-4 and 8-2.

Gymnastics looks to stay 'Bama'

No. 13 UK (5-0) looks to stay undefeated when it takes on No. 3 Alabama (7-0) tonight at Memorial Coliseum. UK is led by junior Krystle Cook, who has finished first or second in the all-around at every meet this season.

COMPILED FROM UK ATHLETICS, STAFF REPORTS

growth and improve their post college quality of life.

Bob Bradley, Associate Athletics Director for Student Services, believes the CATS program has not only done that this year, but every year since it began in 1981.

"This is not an exceptional year by our standards," Bradley said. "I've been here many years and this is definitely not the first time we've led the SEC Academic Honor Roll."

Bradley attributed his staff and the players for continually achieving excellence under such difficult circumstances.

"A huge majority of our athletes astound me," Bradley said. "To have to go out and travel as much as they do and then come back home and maintain a 3.5 grade point average for example just amazes me."

Bradley said most people don't realize how much pressure is put on the student-athletes to succeed.

"For a lot of these students, they've done this their whole life," he said. "They've always been good at what they do."

"But when they get to

UK and come into the SEC with the best-of-the-best student-athletes, they have to elevate their games even more while keeping up academically at a tough academic school. It just amazes me."

The program, which Bradley calls almost like a fraternity, has more than 300 students a day come through whether it's for tutoring or just hanging out. They offer more than 100 hours of tutoring a day and some tutors are on call 24 hours a day.

"The kids that made it on that list are obviously very driven," said Bradley. "They're the whole package."

The Honor Roll announcement comes just a little over a month after three UK students were selected to the NCAA All-Academic team.

"I think it's just extremely unusual to have three players make the All-Academic team," said Brooks. "I think it speaks great volumes about our program."

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Honors

Continued from page 1

quality education as well as performing on the field."

The remaining 28 student-athletes came from the men's and women's soccer teams and the volleyball team.

Brooks credits the Center for Academic and Tutorial Services and the entire athletic department for making a commitment to stressing the importance of excellence both on and off the field.

"We meet at least once a week with the CATS program and the coaching staff to communicate with the players to keep up with their school work," Brooks said.

"If we see they're missing assignments or they're falling behind, we make them do extra to help push them to get back on track."

The stated mission of CATS is to create an environment where all student-athletes have the opportunity to maximize their academics, personal and social

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IN OUR OPINION

UK police chief the right man for the job

Finally, UK has a permanent police chief again. The school had been searching for a new one since former UK Police Chief Fred Otto III resigned in November 2004. More than 14 months later, President Lee Todd introduced McDonald Vick as the next police chief Wednesday. Vick seems like a great hire — he's more than qualified — but it was a long time coming. In the wake of Otto's departure, perhaps UK had to take the long road and guarantee it had the right person for the job. Otto left UK after being reprimanded for having a UK police employee help him with his doctoral degree at Eastern Kentucky University. After that, UK needed to find someone who could give the position credibility again, someone who could put a good face on the department again. During that 14-month search, UK asked for applicants before re-opening the search again in hopes of drawing stronger candidates. When the final deadline came in October, the school had 75 candidates, which the search committee and the consulting firm Warren-Oldani whittled down. "Anytime you go through a transition, you have the opportunity to find the best in whatever you want to do," Todd said. Vick certainly seems to have the right credentials. For 10 years, he led the 49-member police department at North Carolina Central University. He has bachelor's and master's de-

grees in criminal justice. Chief Vick has the right blend of experience and leadership to lead this institution's safety efforts as we continue down this path," Todd said. Vick will relieve interim police chief Kevin Franklin in mid-March, and we hope he will continue some of the good things Franklin did on the job. Franklin pioneered more open communication between the department and campus. He avoided the ambiguous campus safety e-mail alerts that seemed only to raise fears. Once on the job, Vick must continue this openness by being a visible presence on campus. And he must continue to work closely with the Lexington Police Department. "We do have a collaborative kind of relationship in terms of how their boundaries merge into the city of Lexington," said Lexington Police Chief Anthony Beatty. "There are many programs we work with hand-in-hand, dealing with activities that affect students here at the university, the faculty and the staff." UK and Lexington need that relationship, and we hope Vick and Beatty can deliver it. The campus waited 14 months for a new permanent police chief — he will be worth it since UK tabbed a highly qualified, experienced candidate. Now, Vick must pick up what Franklin began and give UK some much-needed stability at one of its most important positions.

SEC Tournament move bad deal for students

In the move to Nashville, Tenn.'s Gaylord Entertainment Center this season for the men's Southeastern Conference basketball tournament, several sacrifices were made regarding money including ticket sales. The arena has a capacity of 17,000, far fewer than Atlanta's Georgia Dome, the site of the tournament in 2005 and next year, which holds 40,000. "The Georgia Dome...had enough seats to take care of everybody. This year, it's a different situation," said Joe Sharpe, UK's assistant athletic director and the director of ticket operations. Different indeed. The sacrifice that students made, especially UK students, the strongest followers of their basketball team around the country, is a lack of tickets. Forty tickets are being distributed in the ticket lottery Feb. 29 at Memorial Coliseum. The tickets are 10 dollars each, which is fair considering that each ticket gets its bearer into a two-game session of the tournament. Sharpe said last season, 1,000 student tickets were sold to each tournament session in which UK participated.

"Obviously, we were not thrilled," Sharpe said about the lack of ticket availability. This situation, combined with the fact that selling tickets above face value in Tennessee is legal, means that it could cost a student a pretty penny to see their peers play. The SEC should consider students, the most ardent supporters of college sports, in its decision on where to host the conference tournament. Sure, playing in an empty arena for a Thursday or Friday quarterfinal match isn't doing the SEC any favors in regards to its bottom line. But there is a happy medium: a facility holding 25,000 people (i.e., Rupp Arena, Thompson-Boling Arena in Knoxville or Phillips Arena in Atlanta, which seats 21,000). The SEC has to make money. There's no getting around that. But people who want to go to the tournament aren't getting the opportunity to see it because of the move to Nashville. That doesn't seem to make any business sense, and neither does cutting out their biggest customers of the future.



BRAD STURGEON, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Costs of coal don't come cheap

I'd like to respond to Cody D. Belcher's letter from Tuesday. I'm glad you're organizing young people at UK to talk about coal. In your conversations, I would like for you not to get blinded by the light, and consider some of the true costs of coal. I am a former deep and surface miner. I have a young wife and a two-year old daughter. I've tried to build a future for my family, but the coal company has taken it away in the name of cheap energy. If you live where I do, you'll see how they've mined my and my daughter's heritage away. Coal is being used to keep the lights on now, but we have to look at our future beyond coal if you'll want to have a Pike County to come home to. Coal might be helping some get through school but it is not helping with the education of my daughter. My wife can't bathe our daughter in peace for fear she'll drink the contaminated bath water. The heavy blasting near our home has terrified my whole family. The bulk of the coal severance tax that you mentioned doesn't stay in eastern Kentucky. If it did, we would have the best of everything. The truth is that we don't have the best of everything. We have some of the highest rates of poverty, drug abuse and failing school systems in the country. Our roads are unsafe for everyone due to overloaded coal trucks. If we truly reaped the benefits of coal, our young people wouldn't have to go all the way to Lexington to get a good education. You should keep on communicating about coal. Do the issue justice and include the true costs of coal when telling the whole story. You're welcome up in my holler if you want to experience it for yourself.

RAUL TORRES URIAS
Pike County, Ky.

E-mail outage raises concerns

The current situation with UK's e-mail server is but one in a long list of downtime and outages. The system is painfully slow to use on-campus; it is slow when accessing off-campus. I am troubled by the fact the system has been down for so long and passwords are being reset, yet I have

heard nothing about what actually happened. Has security been compromised? Were e-mail accounts accessed by unauthorized persons? What is going on? The bigger concern is that UK has chosen to use this broken and inefficient system to be the "official" means of communication with students. Last semester, I was sent notification of scholarship programs from the offices in Funkhouser building two days before the deadline to apply. Unfortunately, they didn't make it to my e-mail account till two days AFTER the deadline to apply! The current situation begs the question: how many other awkward situations between students and the registrar's office, billings, financial aid, etc. will arise until this university that strives to be a "top 20 institution" gets a decent and reliable e-mail server? With the ongoing tuition increases every semester, is it too much to ask UK to invest in a better mail system?

JOHN MILLER
history senior

Give credit when it's due

Tuesday, the Kernel rightly praised modest efforts by Student Government to better the outrageously awful state of the student dining plan. Conspicuously absent from this editorial, however, were the names of those senators who pushed hardest for these measures. The efforts of Senators Andy Bates and Will Fuller are behind almost all aspects of Student Government that have received praise this school year, yet personal credit is not often given by the Kernel. Perhaps the Kernel should, rather than obsess over not giving certain members of the student body too much free credit, give praise to students whose work on behalf of their fellow students is commendable. If all the members of SG here at UK had the same concern for the student body as these two young men, our university would surely be a better place. If only our campus media could summon some courage to come out strongly on an issue and give praise where praise is due. It is clear who is serious about solving campus issues in student government, and even clearer who isn't. Let's show the students the distinction between the two.

RICHARD BECKER
political science and history freshman

State of the Union offered Bush's distorted outlook

Monday night's State of the Union address was, for lack of a better word, excruciatingly painful. Painful in the sense that, as always, President Bush used the sacrifice of our armed forces to gain political capital at a time when he knew many Americans would be tuned in, which is about par for the course for Bush and pretty much anyone else involved in politics these days. As he recognized Staff Sergeant Dan Clay's wife and parents, he looked up towards the balcony of the Senate Chambers and winked. How touching. The State of the Union was also painful in the sense that it fully illustrated the divisiveness that is present in Washington today. Immediately after Bush would propose extending either tax breaks or the Patriot Act, his Republican allies would rise to their feet in a cacophonous frenzy of hoots and applause. When Bush conceded defeat in last year's failed attempt to privatize Social Security, it

was the Democrats' time to gloat, and gloat they did. Based on the demeanor of the members of Congress on Monday night, the minimum age for running for the House should be changed to 12. But enough about the State of the Union, the event. Let's talk about the speech, where the real essence of the status of our great nation was discussed. Sort of. Bush began the night by outlining the perceived successes of his "war on terror" and by playing on his aforementioned pro-military image. Emphasis was placed on statements beginning with "We're on the offensive," "the road of victory," "Our work in Iraq is difficult" and "I am confident." That's great George, but what about the rest of us? We aren't that confident. But can you blame us? For all your pro-"war on terror" rhetoric, you still haven't caught Osama bin Laden, dead or alive. Bush then went into talking about the economy, a subject which, although on a different plane than the "war on terror," demanded the same approach as Bush's view on foreign affairs: refusal to acknowledge re-

ality. For all of Bush's emphasis on a perceived strong economy, he's still not exercising the economic principles of common sense. He once again reiterated his desire for Congress to make his tax cuts permanent. These tax cuts, although lauded by Bush and members of his constituency who benefit from them, threaten to send America further into a spiraling nosedive towards a deeper national debt unless they are repealed. Two parts of the address honestly took me by surprise. First, Bush's admission that "America is addicted to oil," which Bush conceded was often located in "unstable parts of the world." You'd think this would be obvious to our president, but considering his track record with foreign intelligence, I guess anything is possible. Bush's apparent enthusiasm towards developing alternative energy sources, although somewhat encouraging for those that have been advocating this sort of initiative for some time now, is more than likely a political move, a la Karl Rove, to appease liberals and buy him some sort of support on the

left. I still find it hard to believe that someone who once was CEO of a small energy company, albeit an unsuccessful one, would suddenly forsake his former livelihood. What a flip-flopper. The second random Bush moment was when he somehow managed to segue from thanking Sandra Day O'Connor for her service on the Supreme Court to speaking out against human cloning and "creating human-animal hybrids." Apparently, George Bush was watching "The Island of Dr. Moreau" on Starz before delivering his State of the Union address. Then again, I watched "Harold and Kumar Go To White Castle" before taking the GRE, so I don't have much room to talk. Regardless of what side you are on, you have to admit that Monday's wacky Capitol Hill sideshow was less about substance and more about hype, an opportunity for the three branches of our government to pat themselves on the back for a job well done. Unfortunately, it's a mediocre job well done at best. Doug Scott is a journalism and political science senior. Email dscott@kykernel.com



Doug Scott
KERNEL COLUMNIST

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