



**REBEL YELL** Scott Padgett and the Wildcats face a tough Ansu Sesay and Ole Miss tomorrow at Rupp. See Sports, page 3.

**WEATHER** Partly sunny today, high of 45. Clear tonight, low of 30. Sunny and dry tomorrow, high of 50.



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## Senate group OK's tuition savings plan

*Money for college would be tax-free*

By Mat Herron  
News Editor

The U.S. Senate Finance Committee approved a tuition plan Monday that could offer relief for families and students trying to pay for college.

The plan, proposed by Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), would allow parents and college students to start a tax-free college savings account.

Money set aside for college tuition, books and living costs that is currently taxable both annually and on withdrawal would be tax-free.

"In this era of skyrocketing costs, where the cost of college has risen three times as fast as inflation, it is vital that we encourage American families to save to keep pace with the rising cost of higher education," McConnell said in a news release.

Increasing tuition has become a force to be reckoned with.

From 1980 to 1994, tuition at U.S. colleges and universities rose 234 percent, while median income rose just 84 percent.

Kentucky has a college tuition savings program with 2,700 participants, tallying \$6.4 million in savings.

McConnell first addressed the idea in 1994 when he proposed the Higher

Education Trust Fund Savings Act. The plan gained more momentum when the Small Business Job Protection Act was signed into law in 1996.

In light of the tuition increase passed last semester, the savings plan is critical for students as they enter state colleges and universities, said Paul Borden, executive director of the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority.

The bill has a solid chance of passing because of the time it has spent on Capitol Hill, Borden said.

"It's been through about three years of effort at the federal level," he said. "We now have a substantial number of senators and representatives that are familiar not just with Kentucky's program, but similar programs that are operated in several other states."

The approval by the finance committee, he said, "may result in legislation being signed during this session."

Kentucky has had a tuition savings program since 1988, which more than 2,700 residents participate in. McConnell had been working on this new savings plan for about three years now, Borden said.

"I don't think it's the kind of thing that a legislator expects to introduce at the beginning of a session and have it voted on at the end of that session," he said.

The biggest obstacle is the competition for money.

"We see at the federal level the approaching of a balanced budget," Borden

said. "There's a huge competing interest for any surplus that might be available, so this is just one of many potential uses of federal financial resources."



... it is vital that we encourage American families to save to keep pace with the rising cost of higher education."

▼  
Mitch McConnell  
U.S. Senator (Ky.)



**STRAPPIN'** Three-month-old Caleigh McKee is buckled in for a ride with her brother Will, 3, and her mom, Jo Lynn.

MATT BARTON/Kentucky Staff

## Buckling up not enough

By Jessica Coy  
Assistant News Editor

Keeping your children safe while in the car means more than just buckling them up.

Car seats and safety belts are highly effective in preventing injuries and deaths. But according to statistics released by the National Safe Kids Campaign, 40 percent of all children still ride unrestrained. Of the children who are restrained, four out of five car seats are used incorrectly.

Child Passenger Safety Week, sponsored by the National Safe Kids Campaign, is designed to raise parents' awareness about proper car seat size, installation and usage.

Many misconceptions exist about car seat usage. One of the most common is once a child is more than 40 inches in height or 60 pounds, they will be safe riding without a car seat.

Jo Lynn McKee, Fayette County Safe Kids Coordinator, disagrees.

"Just because Kentucky law says that children over 60 pounds don't have to ride in car seats people think it is safe, but Safe Kids recommends that even children

weighing 60 pounds be placed in a booster-type car seat."

According to statistics released by the campaign, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of injury-related deaths among children ages 14 and under. Each year nearly 1,400 children die as motor vehicle passengers and about 305,000 are injured. Among those killed, nearly 30 percent are old enough to sit in a booster seat.

"Many parents think that children don't have to be restrained if there is an air bag," McKee said.

Even though air bags, combined with seat belts have saved many lives, the National Highway Traffic Safety Commission warns parents that children and air bags don't mix. Air bags can injure or kill children who are not restrained properly.

Common myths about child passenger safety, as listed by The National Safe Kids Campaign, include the belief that in low speed crashes, children can be protected if they are in parents' laps.

The fact is, even with quick reaction on behalf of the parent, a 10-pound child can be ripped from their arms with a force of 300 pounds.

"Many parents think that it is OK to place a rear-facing car seat in the front seat," McKee said. "Even though I know it is scary to put a baby in the back seat where you can't see them, it's the safest place, and affords the child the most protection in the event of an accident."

Part of the passenger safety campaign includes Lexington car seat checkups, during which parents can have their car seats inspected by car seat experts to make sure they are the right size for their children, are installed correctly and ensure the seat hasn't been recalled.

Parents can call a hotline if they spot an unrestrained child. The license plate number of the car in which the child was spotted is recorded. A letter is sent to the owner telling them they were spotted with an unrestrained child passenger, and are given information about child passenger safety.

"The hotline is a great idea because it is anonymous," McKee said, "and also because it allows concerned citizens to speak for children who can't speak for themselves and tell their parents to buckle them up."

## Campus ready for Valentine's Day

By Jamie Kerr  
Contributing Writer

As Valentine's Day approaches, the number of people with confused looks on their faces increases.

It is a time when many are frantic with worry over what to do for the holiday. Some have seemingly tried everything, and the mere thought of giving in to buying a heart-shaped box of chocolates makes them cringe.

Then there are those who will embark on their first special Valentine's Day and are somehow already fresh out of ideas. Some are dateless and preoccupied with finding ways of forgetting about the holiday altogether. Whether you have a date with someone special or a date with the TV and a box of tissues, everyone seems to recognize Valen-

tine's Day in one way or another.

Gift ideas for the holiday that most people first think of are the traditional: roses, chocolates and stuffed animals.

But more women tend to receive these gifts than men. That is one reason why Dottie Wheat, who works in the Margaret I. King Library, will probably be sending her boyfriend roses for the holiday.

"It's amazing how much men like roses," she said.

Some people get around the same-old gift dilemma by giving traditional gifts with a twist.

"A guy gave me a bear and put gold heart earrings on the bear's ears," said Elizabeth Johnson, a psychology junior. "This was the sweetest Valentine I ever received."

Although married students often

don't have as much time for Valentine's Day, they do try to celebrate the holiday with special memories of the ones in the past.

"I proposed on Valentine's Day and hid her engagement ring in a box of chocolate truffles," said Greg Bishop, a journalism junior. He said his wife was so overwhelmed by the chocolates he almost had to point the ring out to her.

Valentine's Day is not only for people to celebrate with their significant others, but also with their other loved ones. Wheat is planning on baking her children cookies and sending them balloons.

"It seems like kids get left out a lot for that holiday," she said.

Some gifts are so creative and thoughtful you would think they were straight out of a romance novel. Psychology senior Kinna Patel is in a

long-distance relationship and said she was surprised when she went up to New York City to see her boyfriend for Valentine's Day.

"He got me a ticket for 'Beauty and the Beast' on Broadway," she said.

When Bill Fauconneau, a foreign languages and international economics junior, first met his girlfriend, she told him she was "feeling a little lost."

For Valentine's Day, he put flowers and other goodies in her house, along with a present.

"I wrapped up this compass and included a note that said, 'Here's a compass so that you can find your way back to me,'" Fauconneau said.

Students who are single or who won't be around their loved ones for the holiday agree their first priority will be watching UK play Ole Miss.

## Braden leads pack for job

By Jay G. Tate  
Sports Editor

Almost a month after former head volleyball coach Fran Flory left for Louisiana State, Butler University Senior Associate Athletics Director Jona Braden (pronounced "JOHN-uh") has emerged as a leading candidate to become the Cats' sixth head coach.

UK is expected to formally make its decision today.

Braden, who has been at Butler since 1993, has been out of coaching since she left UK for the Indianapolis school. Though some close to the program believed Flory's replacement would come directly from the coaching ranks, Flory said Braden could nonetheless be a perfect fit for UK.

"She's very professional, very intense, very dedicated to doing what it takes to be successful," Flory said.

Flory noted that Braden has enjoyed a very close relationship with current Butler coach Sharon Dingman, who was a UK assistant in 1988 and head coach at conference rival Auburn in 1991.

As a result of that relationship and Braden's coaching background, Flory refused to view Braden's hiatus from coaching as an obstacle.

"I don't look at it like she's been out of coaching," Flory said. "She's been very close with Sharon and what she's doing with the program. So (Braden) knows what's going on and I think it would be an excellent choice."

Dingman agreed, saying Braden's unique blend of experience and tenacity make her an intriguing head coaching prospect.

"She's a great administrator because she was in coaching and she knows what's going through the minds of coaches," Dingman said. "She knows a great deal about the game. I think no matter where she is or what she does, she'll be great."

See BRADEN on 6

## Student wins suit over damaged room

By Hal Kirtley  
Staff Writer

Before last year, the only significance of the word "suit" to Jason Bryant was suiting up for UK's former junior varsity basketball team.

But the talk turned to "lawsuit" when Bryant's father, Don, filed a \$670 claim against the Commonwealth of Kentucky, which he felt was liable for the leakage that damaged his son's room at Wildcat Lodge.

Bryant, a business junior, said his room leaked from Feb. 1 to March 3, 1997, and said obvious damage resulted from the leaky ceiling.

"I came back from a trip and there was brown water all over my bed, my

shoes and clothes," he said. "It was all over everything."

When a UK student thinks his room has been damaged, the first step of legal process begins on campus.

"If in fact students suffered damage, they would be able to file a claim against the state," said Jim Wims, director of Residence Life. "We have the forms that go to Frankfort for review."

So Jason submitted a list of his room's damages, which he totaled at \$670, and his father filed the claim.

Once a filed claim is sent to Frankfort, it is investigated to determine whether or not the dollar amount the claimant has submitted for the damage is appropriate.

The arduous review of Jason's claim

against the Commonwealth, which began in February 1997, ended earlier this month.

The nearly year-long review was not because of questions concerning the validity of the claim, but rather because of the money involved.

The UK Athletic Department approved the validity of the claim early on, but the UK's discrepancy lay in the "fair market value" of the claim.

While Bryant sought \$670, the Board of Claims originally offered \$250, partially because the board said fair market evidence was missing and because of Bryant's \$500 deductible on his homeowner's policy.

The board viewed Bryant's dam-

aged items as "used," and offered \$250 because it normally applies a standard 50 percent appraisal value on used items. The board offered half of the amount of the homeowner's policy.

Bryant rejected the offer, and as the case continued, the board ruled for claims exceeding \$500 to automatically be placed on a list for a hearing when negligence is denied or the amount of damages is disputed.

A hearing was set for early February 1998, but UK, which had denied its negligence caused the damages to Jason Bryant's room, rescinded.

A settlement was reached before the date of the trial, and Don Bryant was awarded \$670.

# Parent involvement focus of education conference



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By Elisabeth Mohr  
Contributing Writer

The UK College of Education, now in its 75th year, is sponsoring a conference on Parent and Community Involvement in Education. The conference, scheduled for Feb. 21 at the Harley Hotel downtown, will advise and educate parents and teachers about how they can help children and become more involved in kids' education.

"I think the goal of the conference is to help both parents and educators see that education is a partnership," said Rosetta Sandige, public relations coordinator for the College of Education. "And have educators and parents talking about the education of their children and each one's responsibilities and rights in the process."

The keynote speaker at the conference will be Asa Hilliard,

who teaches urban education at Georgia State University.

"We are very honored to have such a distinguished person as Dr. Hilliard speaking," said Aimee Mink, staff assistant at the College of Education.

There will also be a presentation by Roy Peterson, secretary of the Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet of Kentucky.

The co-chairs of the conference are Kathryn Wallace, director of Minority Educator Recruitment and Retention for the Kentucky Department of Education; Shirley Raines, professor and dean of the UK College of Education and J. John Harris, professor of education at UK and scholar in the African-American Studies and Research Program.

The conference will include workshop sessions to educate parents and teachers on various topics. "One of the goals they talked

about was having some sessions that would orient parents who maybe aren't comfortable in an academic setting," Mink said. "Or maybe they're not sure how to help their kids in school, but they're very concerned parents."

Sessions include "Underachievement Among Minority Students: Strategies for Parents and Teachers," "Student Management and School Violence: Prevention and Intervention Strategies," "Athletics and Achievement," "Parents Teaching Mathematics Skills to Their Children," "Taking the mystery out of Admissions to College," "Test Preparation for the ACT and the SAT" and "Complex Instruction: An Instructional Group Strategy to Assist All Students in Learning."

The session on "Complex Instruction" will be moderated by Denese Jones, an associate professor at UK, and Karen Webb,

dean of the college of education at Southern University.

"Complex Instruction is a model of instruction for teachers to use to promote equity in the classroom," Jones said. "Regardless of gender, race/ethnicity, or socioeconomic status, this strategy is useful to eliminate the problems of unequal participation in group work."

Jones and Webb are the only people in the eastern part of the country who can teach this strategy.

Plenty of spaces are still available for the conference, and admission is \$20. Grants are available for the cost of admission.

"What we want — who these sessions are for — are parents or anybody who works with at-risk students," Mink said.

For more information about the conference or about the grants available, call Aimee Mink at the College of Education, 257-3889.

# Bill changes crime reporting

By Shruti Dabot  
The Hatchet

WASHINGTON — Legislation proposed by U.S. Sen. Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.) could change the way other colleges and universities across the nation record campus hate crimes.

The 1990 Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act — the law governing campus hate crime reporting — requires institutions of higher education to record as hate crimes murders, rapes or aggravated assaults "motivated by race, religion, sexual orientation and ethnicity."

Under those classifications, the George Washington University police department reports no occurrences of hate crimes between 1994 and 1996.

Torricelli's proposed legislation would expand the categories of crime that could be classified as hate crimes, and include violence motivated by gender- or disability-based discrimination. Methods of recording hate crime statistics at universities and colleges are lacking despite provisions in the 1990 law that require them to tabulate such incidents,

said Michael Liberman of the Anti-Defamation League.

"There is a substantial amount of denial (about hate crime occurrences)," Liberman said. He said some institutions are lax in recording hate crimes because the statistics may hurt their competitive edge.

But University Police Director Dolores Stafford said GW follows the letter of the law, reporting all crimes the 1990 law requires it to record.

Liberman noted, though, that GW did not provide statistics for a 1996 Department of Justice report that tabulated national hate crime statistics.

"GW did not participate at all," he said. "Are they taking the Student Right to Know law seriously?"

Mike Walker, assistant dean of the Community Learning and Living Center, said the university closely follows the Student Right to Know Act and sends all prospective students campus crime statistics.

But Torricelli's new Campus Hate Crimes Right to Know Act of 1997 would amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 by placing even more stringent reporting requirements on universities.

"Current law requires colleges and universities to report statistics on crimes that occur on their campuses," Torricelli said in a speech on the Senate floor Nov. 9. "However, colleges are only required to report those hate crimes that result in murder, rape or aggravated assault."

Those three violent acts account for only 16 percent of hate crimes, Torricelli said.

Walker said the University's Student Code of Conduct already provides protection against gender- and disability-motivated violence. Under the student code, the University forbids violent acts motivated by race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status or sexual orientation.

But the Torricelli legislation also would require vandalism, harassment and simple assault — three offenses that encompass a majority of hate crimes — to be reported on campuses.

Although GW never has faced a violent hate crime, some instances of harassment have occurred.

"This is a relatively benign campus," said Rabbi Gerald Serotta of the Hillel Center, who

has worked in the GW community for 16 years.

The diverse nature of the university's population leads to better understanding of differences and fewer hate crimes, said Michael Baratz, former president of the Jewish Student Leadership Coalition of Hillel.

But in January 1997, faculty members in the English and history departments received literature denouncing the university's community, said Kim Moreland, the associate dean for undergraduate affairs of the Columbian School of Arts and Sciences.

And last semester a professor in the Columbian School received an anti-Semitic e-mail message with no return address, Moreland said.

Such acts of harassment caused anxiety among faculty members, she said.

"The new legislation will address the nature and the magnitude of the problem" by expanding the acts defined as hate crimes, Liberman said.

"The numbers will provide a measure of accountability," he said. He said more accurate statistics will lead to more targeted responses to hate crimes.

# Prof: Media influences racial views

Public opinions reflect attitudes

By Joshua Gordon  
Independent Florida Alligator

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — The media play a large role in shaping Americans' racial attitudes.

This is the conclusion of a University of Illinois researcher who explored the way public opinions are formed on issues such as crime and race.

In a colloquium sponsored by UF's political science department Monday and Tuesday, Bruce Williams, a professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning in the Institute of Communications Research at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, spoke on this and related topics.

Using focus groups, Williams

looked at Americans' public opinion about crime and race.

"Normally we think of public opinion as fixed ideas held by citizens," Williams said. "Instead we need to think of it as involving countless ideas created through conversation and social interaction."

Most public opinion surveys involve people giving "private" opinions, not tempered or influenced by social reactions, he said.

Williams' study involved focus groups that allowed him to discover this socially-oriented public opinion. The focus groups were divided according to race.

Participants were shown a video segment about a crime — one with a picture of a black suspect, the other had a white suspect.

"We found powerful racial stereotypes were triggered by images of the black suspect," Williams said. "The differences were stark. They were most pro-

nounced in those already holding racial stereotypes."

In the focus groups, Williams also found that discussion among the groups lessened the effects of media stereotyping. Both racial groups were frustrated with the media's crime coverage, although the reasons differed.

"White women didn't like the extent of crime coverage, while the black women didn't like how their community was portrayed," Williams said.

The two groups also differed in their relationships with the justice system. While both reported a need for a system tough on crime, the black groups said they felt the system was unfair.

"White women still empathize with the police, while the black women all reported bad experiences with the police," Williams said. "For the black women, crime was a part of everyday experience

and never separate from their daily lives, while white women still had a bracketed distance from crime."

While these findings were important, Williams said he considers changing people's thoughts about public opinion to be equally important. He said when studying public opinion, it is important to focus on what people are willing and able to say in public.

Larry Dodd, a UF political science professor, questioned how researchers can distinguish between public and private opinion.

"Does watching television and discussing the issues with your partner in the bedroom qualify as public opinion?" Dodd asked.

Williams said Dodd's question hit on an important gray area that needs further study.

"The modern media changes the line between public and private," he said, "and we need to increasingly look at this relationship."

# Homosexual couples seek right to wed

By Khyber Oser  
Daily Collegian

STATE COLLEGE, Penn. — When President Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act on Sept. 20, 1996, same-sex marriages were banned throughout the United States.

Many states, including Pennsylvania, have added emphasis to that statement by adopting similar legislation within their borders, prohibiting men to marry men and women to marry women.

National Freedom to Marry Day is a countermeasure. "I don't think people realize

how many obstacles there are for same-sex couples," said Duane Gildea, political co-director of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Student Alliance.

"Our goal is awareness," he said.

Sponsored by the National Freedom to Marry Coalition, today marks the first-ever National Freedom to Marry Day. The date was chosen to be Feb. 12 so it would coincide with Abraham Lincoln's birthday and Valentine's Day, according to the Equal Marriage Rights World Wide Web site. These two holidays represent equality and love, according to the site.

The alliance has commemorated the day throughout this week with guest speakers, informational tables, a candle vigil and a ribbon-wearing campaign.

The ribbons represent the marital idiom of "tying the knot" and serve as a visual reminder that support and recognition should be given to marriages in all forms, said Steve McCann, social education co-director of the alliance.

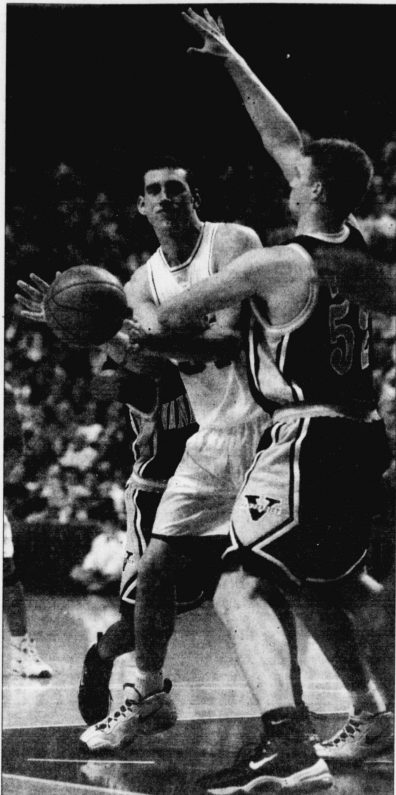
"Marriage is a commitment between two people that love each other," McCann said. "Why do we feel the government is a better judge of who I can love and who I can't?"

The debate about the government's involvement in same-sex marriage legislation is largely based on the issue of marital benefits. American society places such importance on marital status that gay and lesbian couples cannot receive the same rights and privileges as married heterosexual couples, said alliance member Heather Solimini.

"There's no spousal recognition," said alliance member Derek Morr, a computer science freshman. "You're seen as two people who cohabitate, rather than a couple in a long-term, committed relationship."



# Ole Miss no longer dead



## Evans, Sesay lead the Rebel charge to top

By Rob Herbst  
Sports Editor

Up until the last two seasons the University of Mississippi has been a graveyard for basketball.

Before last year the Rebels made only one measly NCAA Tournament dance. But something dramatic took place in Oxford, Miss., last January. The once woe-filled Rebels beat big bad UK for only the ninth time. That win led Ole Miss to its second ever NCAA Tournament appearance.

"Mississippi's basketball program has been a horrible basketball program until the last few years," said head coach Rob Evans who has built life into the graveyard of basketball. "So we can go our track or what happened in the past. We've got a pretty good basketball team now."

The Rebels have been nationally ranked the entire season but now face their toughest challenge during their seasons of prosperity. No. 18 Ole Miss takes on No. 7 UK tomorrow at 12:30 p.m. in Lexington where it has defeated UK only once.

And like seasons in the past, this year the Rebels haven't been too successful on the road. Losses at Tennessee, Georgia and Auburn have left some questioning just how good the Rebels are. A trip to Rupp Arena is certainly more difficult than playing at any one of the Southeastern Conference's mediocre squads.

"I just tell them that Mississippi's had trouble there — it's going to be impossible for (us) to win," Evans said facetiously.

For the Wildcats to win their 84th game against the Rebels, UK must control Mississippi's Ansu Sesay.

Sesay, a preseason candidate for SEC Player of the Year, has been the key for the Rebels' sudden stardom into basketball. A versatile 6-foot-9 power forward, Sesay leads

the Rebels in scoring with 19 points and rebounding (seven) per game.

Georgia head coach Ron Jirsa found a way to control Sesay when his Bulldogs beat Ole Miss 70-68 two weeks ago.

"With Ansu we had to guard him with our small forward because his ability to shoot is one of the toughest things for us to be close to him with a forward," Jirsa said. "In our instance, that was a matchup concern. We had to make sure we stayed with him especially on the perimeter to start."

Jirsa added, "In our minds we could not guard him with a power forward because he's got good quickness and shooting ability and I guess his ability to step out was a major concern."

His strategy worked. Georgia held Sesay to only four rebounds.

UK head coach Tubby Smith knows matching up against Sesay tomorrow will be a problem.

"The athletic forward of Sesay's skill level and ability creates problems not just for us but for everybody. Being a lefty, he can really put the ball on the floor," Smith said. "When you're (6-9) you can do so many things. Especially in motion offenses."

"If you end up switching on him and you're smaller, he can post you up and jump over you. If he gets a bigger guy on him, he can take him outside and go by him or shoot over him."

One Wildcat who knows plenty about Sesay is UK forward Scott Padgett.

While participating in the World University Games last summer both Sesay and Padgett played together and the duo were roommates during the competition.

"He can stand underneath the goal and just jump up and do a windmill if he wants to," Padgett said. "He can really do it all. Out of the people I played with this summer, he was one of the very best."

**FACING THE PRESSURE** Scott Padgett (above) will battle Ole Miss and former roommate Ansu Sesay when UM travels to Rupp tomorrow.

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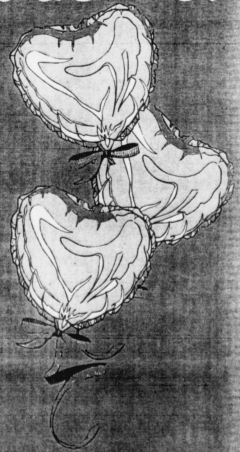
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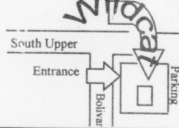
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**STEP 1**  
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**STEP 2**

- After the second Rebel is introduced yell: "Who cares?"

**STEP 3**

- After the third Rebel is introduced yell: "Who's that?"

**STEP 4**

- After the fourth Rebel is introduced yell: "Go home!"

**STEP 5**

- After the fifth Rebel is introduced yell: "Welcome to Rupp!"

**STEP 6**

- After Rebel Coach Rob Evans is introduced begin (and continue) chanting **GO BIG BLUE!!!!**

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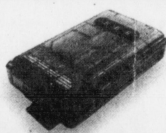
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**SPORTS**

# UK, UGA renew heated rivalry

By Matthew May  
Assistant Sports Editor

ITA Men's National Team Indoor Championships in Louisville.

Senior Cedric Kaufmann, who is ranked third in the nation, will compete in No. 1 singles, likely against the Dawgs' John Roddick.

Kaufmann lost the first set to Roddick last year and was facing match point before rallying to win the second set in a tie-breaker and pulling out the final set 6-2 to win the match.

Sophomore Carlos Drada, ranked No. 51, will play No. 3 singles and then No. 2 doubles with UK's Ariel Gattau.

Sixty-first ranked senior Marcus Fluitt will compete in No. 2 singles and doubles with Johan Hesoun.

Both Drada and Fluitt are looking forward to the home matchup against a team like Georgia.

"This one is a big match," Drada said. "It is definitely the biggest

match we have at home. Last year was a great win because it is so hard to win there with the huge stadium and large crowd."

The crowd at Georgia's Lindsey Hopkins Indoor Center last year, including the pep band, was extremely rowdy, causing several spectators to be escorted out of the venue.

Fluitt hopes the UK fans can create the same type of atmosphere for the Cats here at home.

"I expect the same from our crowd," Fluitt said. "This is a very competitive rivalry."

Despite being ranked No. 6 in the preseason, UK has dropped to No. 11, causing the Cats to feel like they have something to prove.

"People are underrated us," Drada said. "Teams that didn't do anything last year are ranked ahead of us. We are much better than what (the rankings)

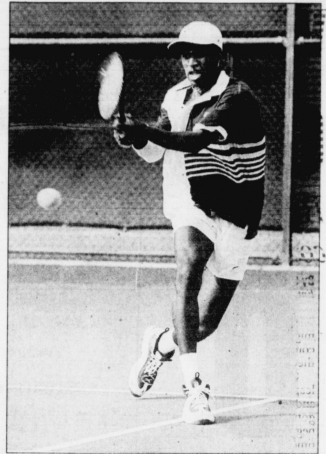


Photo submitted  
**FLUITT MOTION** Senior Marcus Fluitt (above) is ranked No. 61 and will help the Cats battle the Dawgs tomorrow.

show. We want to show them they're wrong." Georgia Head Coach Manuel Diaz is expecting a tough match as well. "We expect Kentucky to be very good," Diaz said. "We see Kentucky as a Top 5 team. I don't understand why they dropped to No. 11 in the last poll."

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## Braden

Former assistant may return to UK

From PAGE 1

Both Flory and Dingman noted that Braden's style resembles that of UK Associate Athletics Director Kathy DeBoer, who coached the Cats from 1984-92. While head coach at UK, DeBoer gained a reputation as a fiery and success-laden leader, compiling a 209-97 record and earning NCAA Coach of the Year honors in 1987 when Big Blue went 31-2 and tied for fifth in the NCAA tournament.

DeBoer walked away from coaching in 1993 to accept her current position within the UK athletic department. She said last month that she would play a significant role in the search for a new coach, but declined to comment for this story.

Nonetheless, Flory believes it would be no serendipitous affair if DeBoer chose Braden for UK's vacant coaching position.

"People recruit people who are like themselves," Flory said. "People hire people who are like themselves. (Braden) is more of the

Kathy DeBoer type than me."

Ole Miss Assistant Coach T.J. Meagher, who served as a UK volunteer coach in 1991 and a UK assistant in 1993 and 1994, said he knew Braden had entertained thoughts of being a head coach again — she was a head coach at Butler prior to her time in Lexington, Meagher said — but was unsure if those thoughts would ever become reality.

"I know (Braden) wanted to do this — I just didn't know that she would come back after she left," Meagher said. "(Braden) is more of a players' coach. Fran was more of a team coach. (Braden) takes time to work with the players in more of a one-on-one relationship.

"If UK can lure her away from Butler, it would be a great move for them."

Flory said Braden was a notch recruiter while at UK, helping to land big-name players like All-SEC performers Molly Drabach and Krista Robinson in the early '90s.

"(DeBoer and Braden) left with a full cupboard as far as recruits when I took the (UK) job," Flory said. "(Braden) had a lot to do with the recruiting at that point. She's a tremendous recruiter and I think she would have a lot of success at UK."

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# whole new country

Backsliders bring eccentric country music to the city.

By O. Jason Stapleton  
Entertainment Editor

At first look, the Backsliders might not look like the prototypical country band. That's because they're not.

Country music has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years, and many would argue it has forgotten its humble beginnings during that time.

The Backsliders are one of the few new country bands that has not forgotten where country music had its genesis. They don't look young and pretty like so many of the new country artists that are coming out of the woodwork these days.

They are a rough-and-tumble looking bunch who looks like they have had just as many downs as they have had ups.

They play a style of music that is so deeply entrenched in the strong roots of country music that the sound is unmistakable. They play everything from Western swings to the classic tear-jerking, old-style country ballads; it is that which makes them stand out from all the other "hip and happening" country.

The band hails from Raleigh, N.C., and has been playing together for seven years.

"Chip (Robinson) and myself have been playing together since 1991," said guitarist Steve Howell. "We started off as an acoustic

thing, with a mandolin and a guitar."

While on their own, the two fledgling musicians played small bars and coffee houses around the Raleigh area.

"After about a year and a half we decided to put an electric band together and we started doing the sort of stuff we are doing now,"

Howell said. "We started writing tunes and stuff and had a bunch of different drummers, a bunch of different bass players, a couple of steel players. We even had a fiddle player at one time."

The band eventually evolved into the beast it is now with Howell handling the electric guitar and lead vocals and Robinson on the acoustic guitar; Danny Kurtz plays the electric bass, Brad Rice also

plays the electric guitar and Jeff Dennis is the drummer.

It took a while for the band to get the tightness they wanted, but now they finally have the old-time country sound that they envisioned when they formed the band.

"It took us a good six to eight months of just working at things to get where we're at now in terms of tightness," Howell said. "We just keep getting better all the time. The more you play together the tighter you get."

Even after they had got the full band together, it was still hard for The Backsliders to get a good gig. They played in a few bars in the



**ROUGH RIDERS** Raleigh, N.C.'s own Backsliders lay a unique brand of country music that is anything but traditional.

Raleigh area, but they found it difficult to really progress in the early stages of the electric band.

"It was hard for us to get some bookings because we'd go up and tell people 'We're playing country music,'" Howell said. "They just weren't used to people playing original country music."

The band had to get bookings in mainly rock and blues bars because all the country bars in the area featured "top 40 cover bands."

With the rise of bands like Jason and the Scorchers, Wilco and Son Volt, The Backsliders were able to finally get off the ground and get several bookings.

"We travel around in a 15 passenger van that we have changed a little bit to put all the equipment in and we added a loft."

"I don't think they really understood what they were booking," Howell said. "There was hay bails everywhere and they were giving out straw hats gettin' ready to line dance on us."

Despite the occasional bad experience, they really enjoys life on the road.

"There's not much more you can ask for than to drive around playing songs that you believe in and connecting with people," Howell said.

Don't get The Backsliders confused with the typical "alternative country" bands though.

"I've never even owned an Uncle Tupelo record or any of that, which seems to be the main influence of that kind of music," said Howell. "We just play the songs that we write."

By keeping the name of their band in mind, however, they are not letting recent success go to their heads.

"I've heard the term Backslider applied to church members who have stopped going to church or slipping out at night," Howell said. "Everybody's a backslider because everybody tries, but there don't nobody quite get there."



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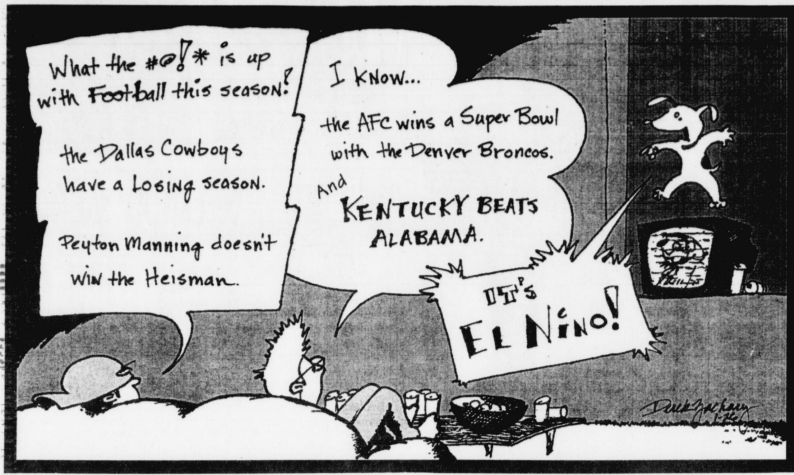
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# ViewPOINT



## A game of risk



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### EDITORIAL board

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- Aaron Sanderford, campus editor
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- Ashley Shrewsbury, columnist

**M**ost probably don't realize the Kentucky Kernel received a less-than-flattering mention in the Student Satisfaction Report. It wasn't much, just a couple of lines about student distaste for the perceived divisiveness on our pages.

Whether those feelings were based upon our news coverage or our editorial content is hard to say. It's probably a mixture of both.

Unfortunately, that's the nature of the beast. On the news side, we routinely cover stories involving conflicts beyond our control and it's our responsibility to present the competing **IN OUR OPINION** views. When this is the case, how can we avoid showing the divisiveness of varying positions? The alternative would be to paint one rosy picture of the world and hope it all works out for the best.

As for our editorial content, it's all about opinion and if everyone were to agree then what's the point of having an editorial page? Its very existence is dependent upon the exchange of conflicting ideas and feelings. All too often, it's the harsh tone and uncompromising rhetoric of those sentiments that get the attention rather than the ideas themselves.

However, this isn't surprising. Political science

professor Dr. Penny Miller has taught that the most active participants in the political arena are often those with viewpoints at the further ends of the spectrum. It's these citizens who feel the greatest pull to get involved whether it be in campaigns, letters to the editor, or just watching CNN nonstop.

Thus, it's often the gentler, more understanding voices in the middle of the political spectrum that get drowned out, even when those voices outnumber those on the right and left.

Naturally, we make mistakes — after all we're students ourselves — and perhaps we let the rhetoric get out of hand on occasion, but it's a risk we take as the one outlet students have for a wide distribution of their voices.

As citizens our goal shouldn't be to outscree another. Rather we should listen to one another regardless of preconceived notions so that we can make educated decisions; however, that's increasingly difficult when so few take advantage of the forum we offer for fear of getting caught in the crossfire.

We ask you to take the same risks our writers take every day and let your many voices be heard.

### READERS' forum

#### A lone wolf cries for nourishment from his followers

To the editor:

At 9:30 on the night of February 11, a lone voice was heard among the stillness of Rupp Arena. It wasn't that hot dog-reeking fan yelling obscenities at the ref, nor was it the coach. It was a player. I think you all know. Does Cameron Mills ring a bell? He yelled what should have been yelled long ago. The words, "Come on, stand up and make some noise!" rang high among the rafters.

Kentuckians are considered to be the best fans in the nation. In my mind, the best fans are the ones who cheer for their team, not only when they are blowing opponents away or making NBA flair moves, but also when they are down by a few baskets. During the Tennessee game, as well

as during many home games this year, only two gray haired ladies sitting behind the basket (the alumni with their rears glued to their seats are on the sidelines) could be seen waving their arms in hopes for a missed free throw.

We are Kentucky. Listen to Cameron Mills and the rest of the players. Stand up for our fight song, wave your hands in the air and enjoy UK basketball. We have the *winning tradition*, now let's have the *winning fans*. From the famous words of Dick Vitale, "It's basketball time in the bluegrass, BABY!"

**Angie Newman**  
marketing and management senior

#### Welker's view is a wash out

To the editor:

Nicholas James Welker has a lot of nerve. His column "It's all good, don't let classism rain on your parade" was published in the Kernel on Jan. 27. It mentioned that the path of least resistance

was to become an art history major and art historians do "not read anything without pretty pictures." Yes, I admit people who study art do read books with a great number of pictures but nursing students do the same thing. If medical textbooks did not have "pretty pictures," how the hell would he know what a pancreas looks like?

It's true, art historians look at the pretty drawings in those big books in the big old scary library but you know what, maybe Mr. Welker, you should do the same. Maybe instead of telling students that hard work and pride in their accomplishments are the surest way to have no friends and become a psychopath. You should get off your ass and look around at the realities of scholastic life.

By the way, please tell me, oh great nursing student, where you plan to eventually get a job (or have mommy and daddy get one for you) so that I won't go there.

**Elizabeth C. Ramirez**  
arts administration junior

### TALKback!

Readers are encouraged to submit letters to the editor and guest opinions to the Viewpoint page in person or by mail.

Address your comments to "Letters to the Editor," Kentucky Kernel Editorial Editor, 35 Enoch J. Grehan Journalism Building; UK; Lexington, Ky. 40506-0042. Send electronic mail to kernel@pop.uky.edu.

Letters should be approximately 250 words; guest opinions should be no longer than 850 words.

All material should be type-written and double-spaced, but hand-written will be accepted if it is legible.

Include your name and major classification (for publication), as well as your address and telephone number for verification.

Check out the Kentucky Kernel on-line at [www.kykernel.com](http://www.kykernel.com) for more letters to the editor.

## Do dead birds and tuition hikes motivate you?

Guess not because we're no more active than a slug

**S**ay it isn't happening. An issue is rising on this campus that might actually stir the emotions of those who go to school here. I know it's hard to imagine such a thing happening, but it really is.

Aside from dead birds and people complaining about how bad the snow was, the proposed SGA amendment is the item making the biggest news on campus this week.

Some people want the number of required signatures on a candidate's petition to increase. For president/vice president, one would need 1,000 signatures. Senators at large would need 400 signatures. College senators would need 25 percent of their college's students and freshman senators would need 3 percent of the freshman class.

Big news indeed, since hardly anybody actually shows up and votes in these elections. No wonder no one in administration takes SGA seriously. They know that those who care passionately about issues concerning students are too far and few between.

So how do we get students to care? First of all, some students are not willing to care. They are not willing to get up off their butts to go down and find out what is going on between SGA and the UK administration.

Once they find out what is going on, they are not willing to voice their opinion in a proper manner.

They would rather be armchair critics, sitting at home and complaining about SGA when few of them have probably taken the time to go down and even meet their representatives.

In my freshman year, less than 150 freshmen voted in the freshman senator election. There were roughly 5,000 freshmen at UK that year, and only 150 bothered to show up.

Perhaps if people were to look more closely, they would realize that SGA is the only officially recognized voice of the students here on campus. Sitting in a corner position and muttering under one's breath about how bad things are isn't exactly a constructive way to do things.

It was SGA who fought bitterly for the students in the plus/minus grading system debate. They fought hard enough that we will be without a plus/minus system next fall.

How many of you who opposed the system actually went down to the SGA offices and said "How can I make a difference in this fight?"

Don't even bother, because I know the answer. Probably the same number of students who

bothered to find out how they could make a difference in the fight over an excessive tuition increase, one in which the Council on Postsecondary Education blatantly violated their own policy in hiking tuition 23 percent over two years.

Two giant vans were poised, ready to leave the Student Center filled with angry students who weren't happy about getting jacked by a board of self-serving, arrogant rich bureaucrats. I think six people showed up. I guess everyone else has their tuition paid for by some rich aunt-or-uncle.

Ge, and I wonder why this council never really even listened to our concerns. Why should they care when 99.9 percent of the student body doesn't?

We need to turn to a segment of campus for inspiration. They are (cringe if you must) the Greeks.

Sure, we've heard the stereotypes of the Greek community. But why not recognize them for something that they possess more of than any other segment of the student population?

That thing is unity.

Fraternities and sororities are united in all aspects of life. From the using of each other's houses for rush activities, to the shoving of one another's sidewalks, to the support of Greek candidates and issues before SGA, we should commend these people for having something the rest of campus is sorely lacking.

They encourage members to become involved in community service by sponsoring events for charity, such as the Alpha Delta Pi rock-a-thon.

Delta sponsored \$k run.

What do the rest of you do when these things are going on?

Some feel that now, with the increase in required signatures to run for SGA, we will continue to see Greek candidates dominate the SGA offices. If that's the case, then I think we're in better hands than if a majority of people here in these

offices.

And yet numbers for fraternity and sorority rush continue to decline. Perhaps it's because people are afraid to get involved in something that might demand some commitment and some time.

Granted, there might be other reasons for not wanting to rush a Greek organization, but there's no good excuse why you shouldn't be involved in the process of governing yourselves.

Maybe if people would find out how they can get involved instead of sitting with their arms folded like a defiant six year old complaining about their babysitter, this debate wouldn't even be one.

Kernel Columnist Matt Ellison is a journalism sophomore. He can be reached at [mde110@pop.uky.edu](mailto:mde110@pop.uky.edu).



**Matt Ellison**  
Kernel Columnist

## Return to the books is welcome retreat from WW III

**W**e are one month into the term and I am finally beginning to relax. No, the beginning of class didn't traumatize me; my Christmas break did. I needed a vacation from my vacation.

I didn't expect the holidays to be so harrowing. For example, I was looking forward to a nice peaceful time with my visiting sister and brother-in-law. Instead, I watched them fight like Wildcats and Cardinals over which in-laws to visit.

My sister does not get along perfectly with her mother-in-law. This is because the latter is well-intentioned but — shall we say — dominating. Case in point: when she visited my sister in D.C., she took advantage of a morning her daughter-in-law was sleeping late to re-arrange all the furniture in her condo. To quote Dave Barry, "I am not making this up."

Why didn't I walk away from the kids' arguments? I couldn't. For reasons that passeth my understanding, they would fight in the hall, where I was huddled next to the heater. My parent's house is as balmy as the North Pole because my dad is one of those men who, to quote Erna Bombeck, "has antifreeze running through his veins."

I visited my cousins most of the time to get some peace (and to thaw out). Unfortunately, our customary time of Pictionary, bowling, and wild laughter were shelved in favor of exploring my aunt and uncle's new computer.

They spent most of the day huddled around it, mesmerized by only Santa knows what.

I wound up crouching over my six-month-old cousin, making faces to make her laugh. (She usually cried instead.)

Unbeknownst to us, she was coming down with something. The day after Christmas, we all woke up with whopping head colds. (Text for Christmas '97: "And a little child shall infect them.")

I went to see *At Good! A G Gets* with some friends and drowned out most of Jack Nicholson's lines by blowing my nose incessantly. In two hours, I used up the equivalent of a half box of Kleenex in the cinema's toilet paper. Now I know why I have so much trouble in some classes. I have no brain. The contents of my head: one huge sinus.

I hope I gave my cold to everyone at my 10-year high school reunion. Most schools have several cliques: the jocks, the brains, the pretentious, etc. Our class of '86 had two groups: twenty Louisville East End snobs — and everyone else. The only time they spoke to us social lepers was to verbally stomp us for not playing field hockey. To quote one of my friends,

"Their noses are so high in the air, they would drown if it rained."

I figured that they had grown up since graduation. After all, we're 28 now. But no. When my friends and I trooped out from the hostess' kitchen to the main room, the huddle of blonde East Enders coldly replied to our polite catching-up questions.

They tolerated us only for the fifteen minutes it took for the UK vs. U of L game on the TV to end. Then they deliberately looked away, got up and haughtily swept into the kitchen in a body.

I was strongly tempted to grab a bell from the mantelpiece and pace after them, tolling it and chanting, "Unclean! Unclean!"

I did manage to get a reaction from one person. I had squeezed into the jammed kitchen (where the snobs stayed for the rest of the evening) and was paying the hostess \$2.50, explaining that it

was half of the \$5 she stipulated for a couple on the invitation. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw one of the trophy wives sneer.

I casually added, "The famous musician I met on the nude beach couldn't make it."

"That wiped the smirk off her face. It's hard to maintain a contemptuous reaction when you're laughing hysterically."

I spent the rest of my vacation glutting myself on the magazines I'd missed while I was at school. Since I have no TV, I had been totally out of the loop. I didn't discover that Princess Di had lived up to her given name until a week after the crash.

If World War III had been declared, I would never have known at all. After all, judging by the school's reaction to this state-of-emergency snob, classes would have still been on.

Kernel Columnist Beverly Spitzer is a library and information sciences graduate student.

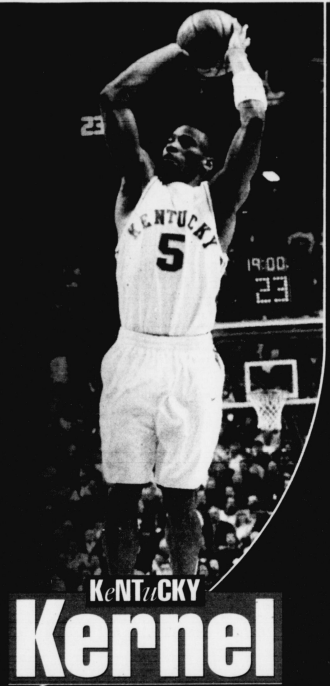


**Beverly Spitzer**  
Kernel Columnist





# GO BIG BLUE!



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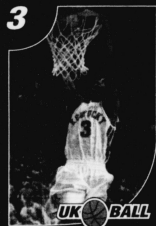
## 1997-'98 University of Kentucky Wildcats



**11**  
Saul Smith • G



**34**  
Scott Padgett • F



**3**  
Allen Edwards • F



**15**  
Jeff Sheppard • G



**5**  
Wayne Turner • G



**13**  
Nazr Mohammed • C



**4**  
Tubby Smith  
Coach



**42**  
Jamaal Magloire • C



**33**  
Michael Bradley • F



**25**  
Myron Anthony • F



**14**  
Heshimu Evans • F



**21**  
Cameron Mills • G



**22**  
Ryan Hogan • G



**4**  
Steven Masiello • G



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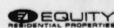
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