

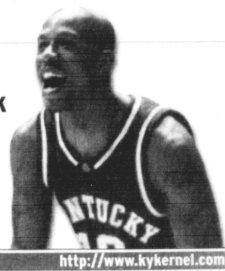
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GUESS WHO'S BACK
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CHARACTER CHANGE



JOHN WAMPLER | KERNEL STAFF

Just one of the kids

Young hockey fans Rachel Kaplan, Brittany Snowden and Chandler Dunn gather around MOW, the mascot for the Men O'War hockey team. UK marketing junior Matt Hogg plays MOW. "I love seeing kids smiling and making them happy," he said.

UK STUDENT PUTS ON A SHOW FOR HOCKEY CROWDS

By Derek Poore
STAFF WRITER

“Parents will try everything to get my attention for their kids.”

- MATT HOGG,
MARKETING JUNIOR AND
MEN O'WAR MASCOT

Matt Hogg has "multiple personalities." On most days, he's a marketing junior, but sometimes he's a grinning "kid" with a head of wild, gold hair under a viking cap. He's also been an oversized walking baseball.

This is the drill for a sports mascot. In the summer Hogg is "Pee-Wee" for the Lexington Legends minor league baseball franchise, and when hockey rolls around in the winter, he becomes "MOW," the Men O'War's mascot.

He stumbled into the world of mascots last summer when a friend, who worked for the Lexington Legends as "Big L," and UK's Wildcat told him about a job opening with the Legends.

That was his first mas-

cot job. This fall, when he saw that the Men O'War team was looking for a mascot of their own, he figured he would give it a shot.

"There was a one-or-two minute audition where they put on some music and were like, 'all right, go!'" Hogg said. "I just danced around and did my thing."

Kristin Klingshirm, director of public relations for the Men O'War, said eight to 10 people tried out but Hogg was a natural.

"He wasn't shy in the least bit and showed true mascot qualities," Klingshirm said. Hogg stays pretty busy with class, hockey games and Men O'War community appearances each week.

"We do parades, go to schools and do reading pro-

See MASCOT on 3



JOHN WAMPLER | KERNEL STAFF

Risky business

Hogg slides down stairs at Lexington Ice Arena. He said he does stunts, even if they hurt, to please fans.

Data system keeps UK, INS up to speed

New technology: International student information will be kept up-to-date through the Internet

By Kate Fitzgerald
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

UK will meet the deadline for new national requirements concerning international student information.

The Office of International Affairs will implement the Immigration and Naturalization Service's new information system before the Jan. 31 deadline set by the INS.

According to the INS, the electronic Student and Exchange Visitor Information System will allow accurate information to be kept current on international students' status changes.

The information will include the student's American port of entry, address changes and program of study changes.

Douglas Boyd, associate provost for international affairs, said that before SEVIS, UK's international students' paperwork has been processed at their port of entry and could take up to six months to reach the university.

With SEVIS, programs sponsoring international students will be able to access current information from the INS and transmit updates to the INS over the Internet, according to the INS.

Zambian student Dennis Nainan, an electrical engineering sophomore, said SEVIS "may make it easier" on international students to change majors because the INS would be able to update information faster.

UK is leading Kentucky universities with the implementation of SEVIS. In July,

UK's Office of International Affairs took the initiative and hosted a workshop for other Kentucky colleges and universities to learn about SEVIS, said Karen Slaymaker, assistant director for international student services.

Boyd said the reason UK is ahead of schedule is because "international students are vital to UK, so we don't want to jeopardize their work."

He said collecting information with SEVIS should not be any more cumbersome for international students compared to the previous system because students will not have to provide any more information than what was required in the past.

According to the INS, SEVIS is expected to help schools to be better able to comply with its requirements.

The U.S. government has collected information on international students since schools began hosting them, Boyd said.

The implementation of an electronic system has been planned for many years, he said. The INS was testing pilot programs for SEVIS before Sept. 11, 2001. However, after the attacks, the INS pushed for the faster electronic system, Boyd said.

Implementing SEVIS has been a joint venture with the UK Office of International Affairs, the Registrar's Office and the Information Technology Center, Boyd said.

The initiative required the purchase of a new server, software and hardware. A new full-time employee was also hired.

It's a bird, plane - no ... it's a stain

Gross: Stains on ceiling in buildings could be mold but probably aren't much more than an eyesore

By Jack Hopkins
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you're reading this in class right now, look up at the ceiling. See any discolored tiles? If your classroom is like many on campus, there are circles of dark brown on the tiles above your head.

Stains on ceilings are common in many buildings on campus. What many students don't realize is that the discoloring can be mold, and the mold can cause allergic symptoms.

The stains are caused mainly from water leaks, said Jack Miller, the Capital Projects Manager.

Possible causes are roof leaks, generally limited to the top floor of a building, leaky piping, domestic water sprinklers, condensation on ductwork or piping during humid weather and even spills from the floor above, he said.

The presence of water stains does not necessarily mean that mold is growing,

but it is possible if the water doesn't dry quickly, said David Acker, the senior industrial hygienist of the UK Environmental Health and Safety.

"If the water damage is not dried completely within 48 hours, then mold growth is possible," Acker said.

Different types of mold exist, but the types found growing indoors depend on environmental conditions that support growth, Acker said.

Some species of mold thrive only in chronic moisture and others can grow after a single water damage event, he said.

The molding can result in allergic symptoms.

"Molds can cause allergic reactions to the eyes, nose, throat and skin of susceptible individuals," Acker said. "Some molds produce toxins that can cause adverse health effects, but it is rare to find significant amounts of these types of molds growing indoors."

See MOLD on 3

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS

The Low-down



Senator Lott agrees with President Bush that his words were wrong and he is sorry. He repudiates segregation because it is immoral.

Ron Bonjean, spokesman for Sen. Trent Lott, after Bush condemned Lott's statement at Sen. Thurmond's 100th birthday celebration.

Kentucky asks for smallpox vaccine

FRANKFORT — Kentucky has asked the federal government for 8,000 doses of smallpox vaccine, public health officials said Thursday. When President Bush gives the order and the federal government releases vaccine, front-line medical workers who volunteer and pass two medical screenings are to be vaccinated at 10 or 12 local health departments. Vaccinations are unlikely before Jan. 24, when newly enacted federal liability protections take effect, officials said. The vaccine is highly effective against smallpox but causes dangerous side effects in many people and is fatal in about one case in 1 million. "The whole business of do you or don't you vaccinate against smallpox is based on risk," Dr. Rice Leach, commissioner of the state Department for Public Health, said at a news conference Thursday. Smallpox was declared eradicated worldwide in 1980, but experts fear that unauthorized stocks of the virus could fall into terrorists' hands.

500 Ky. inmates could get out early

FRANKFORT — As many as 500 state inmates serving their time in local jails will probably get an early release as the state tries to cope with its budget problems. Gov. Paul Patton said Wednesday. "We've got to get this thing under control," Patton said in an impromptu interview. There are about 4,200 state inmates in county jails. Most are Class D felons, those with the least dangerous or violent charges, whose sentences are from one to five years' incarceration. The releases will have the snowballing effect of throwing many local jail budgets into disarray because they depend on state income for inmate housing to operate their own facilities. "The cheapest thing we can do for one extra prisoner is keep them in a state institution," Patton said. The early-release program will target nonviolent offenders. "I don't see any other alternative," Patton said.



YO, ROUND SIX: Believe it or not, Sylvester Stallone may put on the gloves one more time as Rocky Balboa. According to The Hollywood Reporter, a deal is nearly in place to shoot "Rocky VI," which would be the first movie in the 26-year-old franchise since 1990, and which would find the 56-year-old actor playing a 50-year-old Balboa, now running a youth center, who is pulled back into the ring for one last fight. Having stiffed in recent years with such action hopefuls as "Get Carter," "Driven," and the all-but-unreleased "D-Tox," it's no wonder Stallone wants to get back to his most famous and dependable characters. (He's also spoken in recent months of reviving the "Rambo" series.) But "Rocky VI" was a long time ago, and it seemed to indicate that the series was out of steam, as its \$40 million take made it the only "Rocky" movie not to clear \$100 million at U.S. theaters.

30,000 gallons of alcohol starts fire

TACOMA, Wash. — A spectacular rail-car fire fueled by 30,000 gallons of spilled alcohol sent flames high into the air, prompting the evacuation of nearby businesses and halting traffic in an industrial area. No one was injured in the Wednesday afternoon blaze. The railcar contained denatured alcohol, a fuel additive that made for a roaring blaze but did not pose any significant health threat from fumes, said Bill Dunbar, an Environmental Protection Agency spokesman. Businesses within a six-block area were temporarily evacuated as a precaution, said Fire Deputy Chief Gary Schiesz. About 30,000 gallons of alcohol spilled and an unknown amount that did not burn soaked into the ground or the nearby Puyallup River, said Sandy Howard, a spokesman for the state Ecology Department.



LOSS: Multi-instrumentalist Mary Hansen from the group Stereolab died Monday after she was hit by a car while riding a bicycle in London. Hansen, who was 36, joined Stereolab in 1992. "It is with great regret and deep sadness that we announce the death of Mary Hansen," the group's members said in an official statement. "The suddenness of her death has shocked the band. Mary was a special person. Our thoughts are with her family and friends who will miss her greatly." The statement also said Hansen's funeral would be held next week in Brisbane, Australia, where she was born January 11, 1966. Stereolab has recorded eight studio albums since the retro-pop group formed in 1990. The most recent album, "Sound-Dust" (Elektra) came out last year and debuted at No. 11 on Billboard's Heat-seekers chart.

Helicopter crashes, kills U.S. soldiers

SANTA CRUZ DE YOJOA, Honduras — An American Black Hawk helicopter crashed in the hills of central Honduras during a night training exercise, killing five U.S. soldiers. The helicopter, from Soto Cano Air Force Base in Palmerola, Honduras, crashed about 9 p.m. Wednesday while on routine training, said Lt. Col. Bill Costello, a spokesman for the U.S. Southern Command in Florida. "Right now, we are classifying it as a training accident," Costello said Thursday. "It is being investigated." The names of the dead were being withheld until their families could be notified. The crew belonged to the 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment, based at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. There had been heavy rains in the area over the past three days, but the cause of the crash was not known.

Al-Qaida may be training in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Suicide squads are being trained in Pakistan by al-Qaida operatives to hit targets in Afghanistan and the bombers' families are being promised \$50,000, say Afghan and Pakistani sources. The Pakistani government denies the presence of camps here. But privately, some officials in Pakistan's intelligence community and Interior Ministry say they believe there is such bomb training and that it is protected by Pakistani militants and Taliban sympathizers in the Pakistan military. The nephew of Maulvi Abdul Kabir, the Taliban's No. 3 man, says the training camps are in Bajour and Manshara, towns in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province. The nephew asked that his name not be used, saying he feared retaliation from both the Taliban and Pakistanis. He said he agreed to an exclusive interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday because he believes suicide bombing is wrong.

Cuban train derailment kills 14

COLISEO, Cuba — A train carrying 800 people derailed just before pulling into a station in central Cuba, killing 14 and injuring more than 70, officials said Wednesday. One car nearly hit the train station platform when the accident happened Tuesday night. The passengers included more than 140 university students headed for a gathering in eastern Cuba.

Compiled from wire reports.

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MASCOT

Continued from page 1

grams," Hogg said, with his giant "MOW" head by his side in the dressing room at Rupp Arena.

He spends about the same amount of time during the summer with the baseball games as he does with hockey in the winter, even though there are more home baseball games than hockey games.

Hogg said the best part of the job is playing with the kids.

"Little kids get real excited and some parents get into it, too," he said. "Parents will try everything to get my attention for their kids."

He said he likes to be able to "act dumb" and not

Dressed to chill

Marketing junior Matt Hogg, who plays the role of MOW, the mascot for the Men O' War hockey team, puts his costume back on after taking a break during the game.

JOHN WAMPLER | KERNEL STAFF



worry about what he's doing when he puts on his costume and joins the crowd.

Kingshirm said everyone loves MOW.

"Kids love MOW, and

adults love MOW as well. He's very friendly and fun-loving, and that shows with people's perception of him, especially their expressions from that first encounter."

MOLD

Continued from page 1

If there is mold growing indoors, it does not mean that building occupants will become sick, he said.

"Most situations here at UK involving indoor mold growth are isolated, and when handled properly, do not result in any adverse health effects," Acker said.

UK has a system in place to deal with mold in university buildings. The system often involves a cooperative effort between his office and the Physical Plant Division.

"I have to examine building materials such as ceiling tiles or drywall to see if there is mold growing on the inside where it can't be seen," Acker said. "That's one reason I need assistance from the Physical Plant Di-

vision. They help me access and inspect the inside of ceilings, walls, and air handlers."

Many large college campuses have a lot of old buildings, so mold is common to schools like UK, Acker said. In old buildings, water leaks are inevitable, he said.

"Swift, appropriate responses are the key to keeping water damage from becoming a more serious problem," he said. "Prompt reporting of water damage or chronic moisture problems is critical."

"It's something impossible to render a quick response when the problem is not reported by my office or the Physical Plant Division," he said.

"This sometimes occurs when leaks are ignored or overlooked, or when the leak is in an inconspicuous area, such as behind walls or above ceilings."

The expenses of water damage or mold abatement can vary from relatively cheap to an excessive amount

of money, Acker said. For example, if a building is flooded and building materials such as carpet and drywall are not promptly dried, there is a potential for widespread mold growth. If widespread mold growth does occur, then fixing the problem is expensive, Acker said.

Physical Plant workers fix the problems after Acker and his group evaluates the water damage and mold growth.

"If there is relatively isolated mold growth, the Physical Plant Division will remove affected building materials with porous surfaces, such as drywall, carpet or ceiling tiles," Acker said.

"Hard, non-porous surfaces such as glass or metal can be cleaned and sanitized. In rare instances of widespread mold growth, outside mold abatement contractors may be called," he said.

Problems or questions about the ceiling stains can be directed to David Acker at 257-7600.

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Byrd brings rap artists to area

Promote: UK student loves bringing hip-hop artists into the Lexington area, which lacks the genre

By Robbie Clark
STAFF WRITER

In between promoting such musical acts in Lexington as Scarface and Nappy Roots, Brandon Byrd has found the time to get his masters degree in sports management at UK.

Byrd's marketing and promotional company, Quiet Storm Enterprises, is responsible for the sudden surge in hip-hop groups gracing the area with their beats. He will graduate this December.

"I bring hip-hop to Lexington," Byrd said. "It's completely overlooked in this market, but it's desired."

Byrd, with Quiet Storm Enterprises, has brought such rap groups as The Clipse, Scarface and Nappy Roots to Varsity Blue in Lexington.

Tonight's show of Petey Pablo at Varsity Blue is also a Quiet Storm project.

The idea to market hip-hop concerts in Lexington was realized after an internship with Arista Records in New York City last summer, Byrd said.

While at Arista, Byrd was able to make the necessary contacts that enabled him to bring shows to Lexington.

He also established himself as a worthy musical promoter while working with hip-hop acts. "It's all about credibility and responsibility," Byrd said. "Once you prove yourself, the people look out for you."

After leaving Arista, Byrd wanted to remain in the music business while living in Lexington. He found a medium for his passion by capitalizing on the college scene.

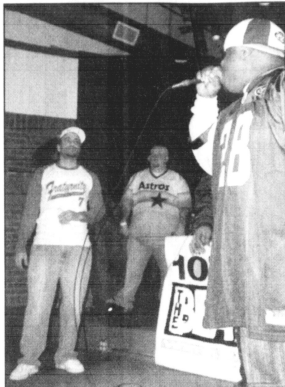
"I love everything there is about college," Byrd said. "I wanted to try to capture the college market in the area."

Byrd, a California native from the Oakland area, moved to Lexington last year to attend UK and pursue his masters degree after getting his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

While living in California until the age of 17, Byrd's love for mu-

Brandon Byrd, left, finds the time in his busy schedule as a UK student to promote hip-hop artists like Scarface, front, in Lexington.

DESIRE CAHILL | KERNEL STAFF



sic was kindled from mixed sources — the church and his family.

The stepson of a pastor, Byrd's first encounter with music came from his involvement with the church.

"Since my stepfather was the pastor, I had to sing in the choir every Sunday," he said. "It was a good experience for me musically."

Byrd refers to his cousin and older brother as his first source of exposure to hip-hop. He says that "Colors" by Ice-T was one of his original favorites.

"After I heard 'Colors,' I was in love with hip-hop," Byrd said. "I was stealing my brother's records, anything I could get my hands on."

This spring, Byrd says he will probably be working in Cancun setting up concerts for students on spring break.

As for remaining in Lexington, Byrd says his future is full of possibilities.

"I'm trying to establish my company," he said. "I don't want to just uproot Quiet Storm after everything I've worked for."

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Week of December 9-15

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MEETINGS	*Revival Bible Study, 7:00pm, Student Center, Rm. 245	Fri	13
ACADEMIC	*Math Tutoring, 1:05-5:00pm, Math Resource Center 063 Classroom Building		
SPECIAL EVENTS	*77th Annual Keeneland Snowball Semi-Formal Dance, 9:00pm-1:00am, Kentucky Inn, Lexington Rm. \$10.00 per person or \$18.00 a couple		
	*La Residence francaise, 5-6pm, Keeneland Hall		
SPORTS	*The Kwon Do practice, 5:30-7:00pm, Alumni Gym Loft		
ARTS/MOVIES	*Piano Christmas, Students of Professor Inna Voro, 12:00 Noon, John Jacob Niles Gallery Series, Rm. Lucille Caudill Fine Arts Library		
SPORTS	*UK Men's Basketball Game vs. Michigan State, 4:00pm, Rupp Arena	Sat	14
	*The Kwon Do practice, 11:00am-12:30pm, Alumni Gym Loft		
MEETINGS	*International Student Bible Study, 6:30pm, Baptist Student Union	Sun	15
	*Alpha Kappa Psi Executive Board Meeting, 7:00pm, Student Center, Rm. 203		
ACADEMIC	*Math Tutoring, 6:00-10:00pm, Commons Rm. 307		
	*Math Tutoring, 6:00-10:00pm, Holmes Hall Lobby		
	*Physics Tutoring 211/213, 7:00-9:00pm, Commons 307		
	*Chemistry Tutoring 108/107, 7:00-9:00pm, Holmes Hall Lobby		
	*Biology All 100-level, 7:00-9:00pm, Holmes Hall Lobby		

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Coaching search begins, but blacks left off list

As the rumors fly about possible candidates to fill UK's football coaching vacancy, it merits noting that none of the mentioned candidates is black. Considering the Southeastern Conference's history, this does not come as a news flash.

The SEC has never seen a black head football coach. And for at least the last two seasons, South Carolina's Charlie Strong, a defensive coordinator, has been the only top-tier black assistant in the conference.

The numbers are just as inexcusable across the nation. Four blacks began the 2002 season as head coaches: Notre Dame's Tyrone Willingham, Michigan State's Bobby Williams, San Jose State's Fitz Hill and New Mexico State's Tony Samuel. Michigan State named Williams in the middle of an underachieving season. This means that black coaches fill three out of 117 Division I-A head coaching jobs. Or, they make up less than three percent the head coaches while blacks make up 47 percent of the players, according to an article published in the Christian Science Monitor.

On its behalf, Michigan State actively sought a black replacement for Williams. The school offered the position to Marvin Lewis, the defensive coordinator for the NFL's Washington Redskins, who turned the job down.

Plus, Michigan State did more than most schools. As Richard Lapchick, the founder and

director of Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society, wrote "not only are blacks not getting the jobs, they also aren't even being interviewed."

This seems to be the case at UK. The Cats' Pause reported the top possible candidates for the job are Mike Riley, an assistant coach for the NFL's New Orleans Saints, Norm Chow, the offensive coordinator for the University of Southern California and Walt Harris, the head coach at the University of Pittsburgh — who are all white.

Surprisingly enough, this is a step backward for UK. When former Athletics Director C.M. Newton sought a successor for Bill Curry in 1996, he contacted at least two blacks coaches. Larry Kirksey, a former Kentucky State University coach who is now wide receivers coach for the NFL's Detroit Lions, was granted a formal interview and was one of three finalists. Newton also talked to Sherman Lewis, then offensive coordinator for the NFL's Green Bay Packers, but Lewis said he was never formerly interviewed.

There are qualified black coaches out there. Strong's defense, for example, limited the Cats to six points in 2001. This season UK scored 12 against his unit, but managed only a safety in the second half. If UK fails even to consider a black coach for its vacancy, it will be doing its part to keep blacks out of top jobs. Plus, UK Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart will be hindering his search for the best possible candidate.

READERRESPONSE

Strip mining is not the answer for fund

To the editor:

This is an open letter to President Lee Todd and the UK Board of Trustees.

I write to express my support for the 1991 Lands Unsuitable for Mining designation on the main block of the Robinsion Forest in Breathitt, Knott and Perry counties. I feel that further mining in the Robinsion Forest would forever alter the feasibility of using the forest as an educational and research tool for the betterment of the people of Eastern Kentucky. We need to work to find more long-term and sustainable ways to provide scholarships for students from Appalachia through the Robinsion Scholars program. Mining the forest to sustain the scholarship program in the short term would mean foregoing the stream of future educational benefits provided by this ecological resource that UK has been entrusted with for future generations.

Mining lands to create opportunities for young people when mining has already been so ineffectual in providing a reliable and sustained source of income, and done so little to improve the educational attainment of the people of this region over the years, seems less strategic than looking closer at the entire budget for the E.O. Robinsion Trust and designating priorities for continued funding. When faced with declining revenues or costs in excess of what may have been anticipated, public entities are forced to make tough decisions everyday, but this does not have to be at the expense of future stability.

Providing a college education for young people who would not otherwise have an opportunity to go to college contributes greatly to the intellectual asset base of the region and increases the capacity its people. Using an economic development mechanism that has failed to bring our state's people out of poverty and has destroyed the natural systems and watersheds that provide life and identity to the people of Eastern Kentucky seems contrary to the goal of the Robinsion Scholars Program and the E.O. Robinsion Trust. Especially if mining will mean short-term solvency at the expense of greatly diminished long-term betterment for the people the trust was established to bolster.

I ask you to work to preserve the unique ecological resource that Robinsion Forest represents. As the largest designated educational and research facility in Kentucky and perhaps all of Appalachia, the forest is truly one of the diverse forest ecosystems of the Cumberland Plateau can be studied and experienced with a minimum of interference from mining and drilling activities.

The long-term benefits this resource provides our educational institution, the people of Eastern Kentucky and the entire commonwealth are part of what makes UK one of America's greatest public institutions and will be another thing that will set our university apart from others into the future.

Please work with the Board of Trustees, the larger UK community and the many resources available in the commonwealth to try to work toward alternatives to mining the forest. It is possible to continue to provide the children of Eastern Kentucky with educational and economic empowerment opportunities, but mining one of our university's most unique educational assets is not the answer.

BENJAMIN M. GRAMIG
 AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS GRADUATE STUDENT

“The long-term benefits this resource provides [UK], the people of Eastern Kentucky and the entire Commonwealth are part of what makes UK one of America's greatest public institutions.”

Bigot's view of gays, God needs an adjustment

A couple of weeks ago in a column, I wrote that Fred Phelps is a "hate-spewing creature." The events of the following weekend led me to conclude that I was wrong. Flat wrong.

Fred Phelps cannot be described as a hate-spewing creature. Those three words can't possibly do the man justice.

They are far too weak, too tame and too puny to describe such an incredible waste of human space. In fact, I can hardly think of words to describe Phelps, who led a picket of several Lexington churches in response to the baptism of quadruplets adopted by gay parents.

We've all seen pictures and news stories featuring Phelps and his Westboro Baptist "Church" cronies from Topeka, Kan. Everywhere they go, they carry signs reading



Wes Blevins
 KERNEL COLUMNIST

"God Hates Fags," among other things. Apparently, Phelps has moved on to add a new slogan to his repertoire: "God Hates America."

I must admit, I haven't been to church in a couple of years, but I don't remember reading anywhere in my Bible that God hates anyone. In fact, I'm pretty sure it mentions somewhere that God does, in fact, love everyone. True, He doesn't like sin, but He loves sinners.

God loves Matthew Shepard, who according to Phelps' Web site has been "burning in hell" for 1,518 days, at last count. God also loves Diane Whipple, who was mauled to death by two dogs in San Francisco, and per Phelps, has been in hell for 681 days. Get this — God even loves Phelps himself, despite his sins.

You see, my Bible says, "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

But that part is in the New Testament, which Fred Phelps's Bible apparently does not include. He seems to be stuck in an Old Testament world of a vengeful and wrathful God who punishes sin with violence and destruction.

Phelps sees the United States as a modern Sodom and Gomorrah. His signs now include such filth as "Thank God for September 11." He says he believes the terrorist attacks on America were God's way of punishing our sinful nation.

He's even gone as far as to picket New York Fire Department events with signs saying things like "Dead Firefighters Burning in Hell." Here in Lexington, his 13-year-old grandson took out an American flag, threw it on the ground, and proceeded to stomp and walk all over it. Frankly, I'm genuinely surprised Phelps is still among the living.

Anyone who publicly disagrees with the views of the Westboro Baptist "Church" is labeled a "fag" or a "fag-enabler," if

heterosexual. As such, President Bush has been labeled a "fag-enabler," along with several prominent religious leaders such as Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson and Billy Graham.

Whether one believes that homosexuality is a sin is not an issue here. You can believe that being gay is a sin and still tolerate and accept gay people.

Since high school, I have learned to moderate my views on homosexuality, and now I am proud to be friends or acquaintances with several gay people.

I think it's sad people like Phelps can't learn to tolerate homosexuals. Something tells me God would be more pleased than He is with Phelps's present direction. From what I've seen, however, such a change appears unlikely.

Wes Blevins is a history senior. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel.

I must admit, I haven't been to church in a couple of years, but I don't remember reading anywhere in my Bible that God hates anyone."

Dead man's home contained no drugs

Lawsuit: Family of man who was shot while handcuffed file wrongful death suit; search of his home finds no drugs

LOUISVILLE — No illegal drugs were found in a search of the apartment of a man who was handcuffed and shot to death by a police detective last week, according to court records.

Crack pipes were found at the apartment of the dead man, James Edward Taylor, 50, according to the documents. Police spokeswoman Helene Kramer said the paraphernalia was being tested for residue and that the results of a drug screen conducted as part of Taylor's autopsy may not be available for several weeks.

Louisville Police Chief Greg Smith has said that witnesses who were in Taylor's apartment when he was shot Dec. 5 told investigators that they and Taylor had been smoking crack cocaine and drinking vodka all day on Wednesday. Taylor's estate filed a wrongful death suit against Detective Mike O'Neil, alleging that he shot and killed Taylor — after Taylor's hands had been handcuffed behind his back — "without just or legitimate cause."

The suit also alleges that O'Neil's partner, Detective Brian Luckett, failed in his duty to prevent Taylor's death and

that the department failed to adequately train and supervise the officers, who joined the force in 1996.

Smith said the detectives told investigators that Taylor, after he was handcuffed, took a knife into his hands, worked his hands around to his hip and was able to make slicing motions that threatened the officers.

Smith said O'Neil fired one shot when Taylor fired one shot at him, and 11 more when Taylor backed him into a corner. The coroner's office has not released information on how many bullets hit Taylor.

A search warrant returned to court Wednesday shows that 30 items were seized from the apartment, including a "razor boxcutter type knife" found in Taylor's right hand. Twelve 40-caliber casings were found as well as a blue jacket with a bullet hole.

Investigators found a vodka bottle on a table, a plastic crack pipe on the floor under the table, and three metal tubes, also described as crack pipes, on a dresser.

The lawsuit was filed in Jefferson County Circuit Court on behalf of Taylor's four children by lawyers

Kathryn Wallace and Aubrey Williams.

Both officers have been suspended, pending criminal and internal investigations.

Smith said this week on WHAS Radio that O'Neil "ultimately will have to defend his action in court."

In O'Neil's defense, Smith noted that he and Luckett warned Taylor to put down the knife but that he ignored those orders, according to the witnesses.

"This officer has a legal right to be judged in a fair manner," Smith said. "Just because it doesn't sound right doesn't mean it might not be right."

Religious and community leaders have protested in front of the police station for the past three days demanding the ouster of Smith, who leaves office when the new Louisville-Jefferson County merged government goes into effect next month.

Martin Luther King III marched with about 75 protesters Wednesday in Louisville.

"We want law and order to be able to do its job," King said. "There are many police officers who do their job every day all across our nation, but when police brutality and injustice exists like this, changes need to be made and need to be made immediately."

Just because it doesn't sound right doesn't mean it might not be right."

— LOUISVILLE POLICE CHIEF GREG SMITH, ON THE SHOOTING OF A HANDCUFFED MAN BY A POLICE OFFICER. SMITH SAID THAT OFFICER, MIKE O'NEIL, WILL "ULTIMATELY HAVE TO DEFEND HIS ACTION IN COURT."

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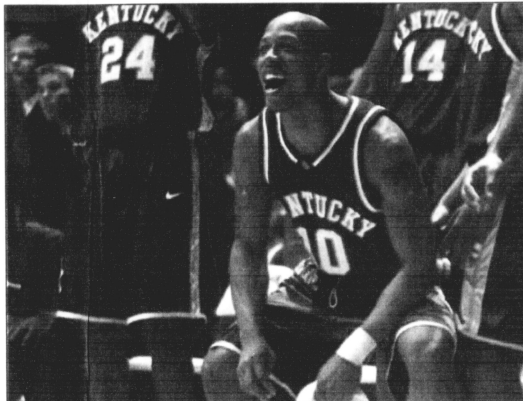
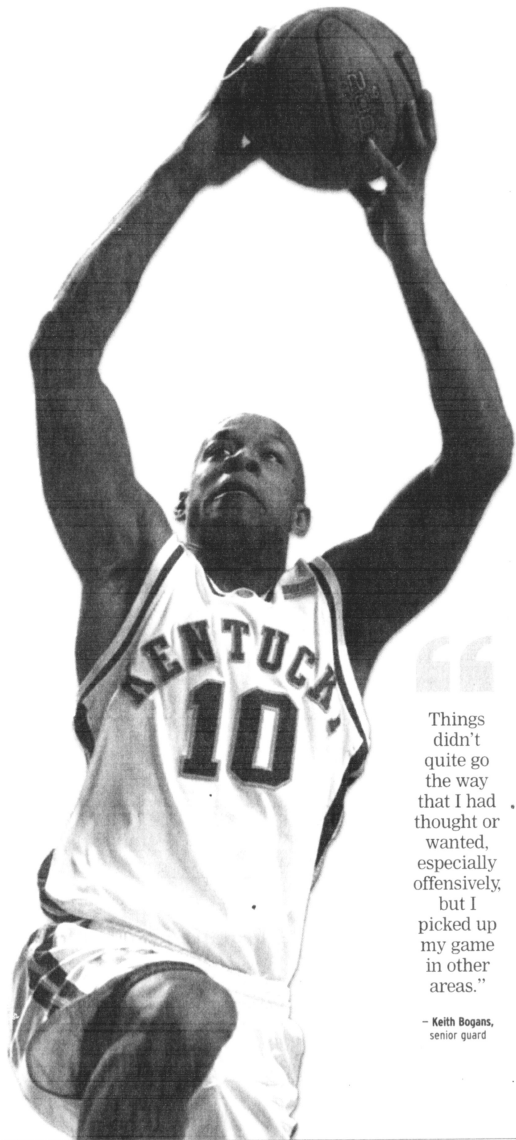


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Back in touch

Keith Bogans cheers on the UK reserves during the final minutes of UK's 98-81 victory over North Carolina Dec. 7 in Chapel Hill, N.C. Bogans scored 20 points for the third straight game.

BOGANS PUTS JUNIOR SEASON IN THE PAST, REGAINING CONFIDENCE WITH PATIENT PLAY

By Alex Williams
STAFF WRITER

It isn't ironic that Keith Bogans is placed front and center of the team photo this year. That's because the Keith Bogans of old is back, and he intends to remain the center of UK basketball's attention.

Bogans, a senior guard, is determined to erase the doubts of last season and lead the team with the help of fellow seniors Jules Camara and Marquis Estill.

Bogans is playing the best basketball of his college career this season. His scoring average is a team-high 18.7 points per game and beyond his regained shooting touch is his ability to make his teammates around him better.

During media day at the beginning of the season coach Tubby Smith expressed his desire for Bogans to be the team leader. So far, Smith is pleased with what he's seen from his seasoned veteran.

"Keith is off to a good start this year, which helps our team a lot," Smith said. "If he keeps up the intensity, and keeps making shots, we'll be tough to beat."

Smith was referring to Bogans' offensive struggles last season. Mirrored in a mysterious season-long shooting slump, Bogans saw his scoring average plummet from 17.0 points per game as a sophomore to 11.6 as a junior.

Bogans' scoring average was not all that dropped. He lacked confidence with every shot he missed and as the team's struggles grew, so did his frustration.

"I look at last year as a learning experience," he said. "Things didn't quite go the way that I had thought or wanted, especially offensively, but I picked up my game in other areas."

The "other areas" Bogans is improving are his shot selection and ability to distribute

the ball. He has shown maturity by looking for open teammates or driving strong to the basket for high percentage shots this season, instead of forcing perimeter jump shots.

"He's really been mixing up his offense, making open shots and attacking the glass," Smith said. "He's showing his all-around basketball ability."

It is a perfect reflection to his improved field-goal percentage as well as the team's. Bogans is shooting 57.1 percent from the field and 51.6 percent from 3-point range this season compared to his dismal 39.4 percent from the field and 31.5 percent from 3-point range last season.

UK's shooting improvement is as equally impressive. The Cats' team shooting percentage this season is a resounding 51.8 percent from the field and 40.2 percent compared to last seasons dismal 44.8 percent from the field and a paltry 31.7 percent from 3-point range.

Bogans is not surprised with his shooting resurgence.

"I know the way I'm capable of playing," Bogans said. "Last year was (a surprise), but this year isn't. I'm just going out and doing what coach asks me to do."

The team hopes Bogans early-season success transcends throughout the next month. The Cats face Michigan State, Indiana and Louisville before getting into Southeastern Conference play.

Even with his early success Bogans deferred sole leadership of the team, citing Camara and Estill as equally valuable. But Smith said Bogans has what it takes to lead the team.

"Most of the players look up to Keith because he is the most experienced veteran player, having spent the most time on the court," Smith said. "Keith's ready — he's been a leader since he's been here and now it's his time to shine."

Things didn't quite go the way that I had thought or wanted, especially offensively, but I picked up my game in other areas."

— Keith Bogans, senior guard

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