

KENTUCKY KERNEL

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Todd recommends no raises for faculty, staff

Budget would be first since 2002-03 to leave salaries unchanged

By Jill Laster
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Staff and faculty will not receive salary increases next year because of shortfalls in the state budget and increased operating costs for the university, President Lee Todd announced yesterday.

"We have explored every avenue to increase salaries for faculty and staff, but the funds are simply not there," Todd said in a campuswide e-mail yesterday.

If approved, the budget will be the first since 2002-03 that does not include raises for faculty and staff, and the first since 1992-93 that does not include increases or pay bonuses.

To balance the salary freeze, which would not include hospital employees, Todd will propose putting \$850,000 into the "fighting fund," which helps retain faculty who have job offers from other colleges by supplementing their salaries, said UK spokesman Jay Blanton. The university will also absorb any increase to employee health insurance premiums for UK HMO plans next year, Todd said.

Whether the staff hiring freeze enacted at the beginning of the year will continue has not yet been deter-

mined, Blanton said. Faculty salaries have increased an average of 3.6 percent each year since 2003, while staff raises have averaged 3.3 percent.

Todd's announcement comes the week after the state House and Senate approved a \$20 million cut to UK's funding. To help offset the reduction, Todd will propose tuition increases of 9 percent for in-state students and 6.6 percent for out-of-state students. An additional \$14 million will have to be recovered through department and college cuts, which will be determined in the next few months by the provost, deans and senior administrators, Todd said.

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"We have explored every avenue to increase salaries for faculty and staff, but the funds are simply not there."

LEE TODD
UK president

Proposal includes 9 percent tuition hike

By Jill Laster
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In spite of a potential state budget cut of \$20 million next year, UK students will have the same tuition increase as last year, pending approval of the UK Board of Trustees this month.

In a campuswide e-mail yesterday, President Lee Todd announced his recommendation to raise tuition and mandatory fees 9 percent for in-state students and 6.6 percent for out-of-state students for the 2008-09 school year. That means lower-division undergraduate students from

See Tuition on page 3

SG considers limiting group funding grants

By Katie Saltz
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Student groups will have to be more selective when requesting money from Student Government if a proposed amendment passes at tonight's full Senate meeting.

If passed, the changes to the Appropriations Act would limit student organizations to one funding grant per year, regardless of the type of request, and would remove the diversity requirement from what is currently the service and diversity grant.

The proposed changes to the act would let SG help more students who need funding next year, said Sen. Kevin Parrott, who co-sponsored the act with Sen. Mary Bosserman.

"We basically wanted to allow more groups to get funding," he said. "We were looking for the best way to fray the cost, and that was to limit each group to one funding (request) per year."

The service and diversity grant is currently reserved for community service projects or any event that the Appropriations and Revenue Committee deems as "promoting campus diversity." The amendment would change the name to a "service grant" and the requirement about promoting diversity would be removed from the legislation.

Parrott, who is chairman of the committee, said he wanted to put more emphasis on service, which would not eliminate services to diversity. But requests for "diverse" groups and activities has begun to encompass more than SG expected, and defining what was beneficial to diversity was difficult to manage, he said.

"I felt like the true purpose of diversity grants was being corrupted," Parrott said. "It isn't that we don't support diversity, we just changed it to have better control."

Currently, student groups can apply for a service and diversity grant even after receiving another type of grant. Under the proposed rules, an organization could only receive funding once, regardless of the type of request. Grants for club sports, college student councils and service projects are limited to \$1,000, while general funding grants are capped at \$500.

Discussions to change the legislation began after the Appropriations and Revenue Committee allotted its entire \$70,000 budget for student organizations by mid-February. Preventing that from happening again was a factor in proposing the changes, Parrott said.

Senate President Tyler Montell said the limit on grants per organization would ensure that students bring forward their best ideas and the projects that need funding the

See SG on page 3

UK 7, Louisville 6



A record crowd of 4,009 crammed Cliff Hagan Stadium last night to watch UK down Louisville 7-6 in extra innings. UK's previous record of 3,529 was set in 2006.

PHOTOS BY ED MATTHEWS | STAFF



Senior catcher Tyler Howe tags out Louisville outfielder Jared Wondra at home plate during the Cats' 12-inning win last night.

Midseason win comes at critical point

The Cats entered last night's game needing a dose of the same juices that sparked them to a top-10 perch in college baseball.

Despite a rough start and a late scare against Louisville, No. 9 UK outlasted the Cardinals while finding momentum in a game sandwiched in the middle of a tough Southeastern Conference schedule.

In front of a record-setting crowd of 4,009 fans — most who were pleading for a UK come-back — the Cats answered in the eighth inning with two huge runs to tie the game at 6-6. In the gut-wrenching finish, UK forced extra innings and showed the



J.D. WILLIAMS
Kernel columnist

See Williams on page 5

Walking off in record fashion

Wiley's extra inning homer lifts Cats over Cards

By Matthew George
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Never have more people gathered on UK's campus to watch an NCAA baseball game. A record 4,009 people crammed into Cliff Hagan Stadium for last night's game between UK and of Louisville — more than the

packed house during the 2006 NCAA Regional (3,529), when the school added extra seating down the first and third base lines.

Fans stood throughout the stadium and along the third base wall. They parked as far out as Commonwealth Stadium. And they packed the porch in right-center field, allowing for shoulder-to-shoulder standing only. The only empty seats belonged to season ticket holders, many of whom failed to make it out to the game of the year so far.

Some felt the aggravation of

the crowd. All felt the excitement of the game's finish.

In a battle of late-inning heroics, the Cats had the last laugh. The unlikely of long-ball threats, sophomore left fielder Keenan Wiley, delivered a 12th inning walk-off win with his first career home run.

The solo blast — a towering shot that cleared the old scoreboard in right field — lifted No. 9 UK (26-5, 7-5 Southeastern Conference) to a 7-6 win over archival Louisville (16-13, 4-5

See Baseball on page 5

N.C. newspaper editor to tell story of covering Duke lacrosse case

By Kelley Apoldo
news@kykernel.com

When three Duke University lacrosse players were wrongly charged with rape, the case attracted intense national media coverage and analysis. One focal point in the controversy was the town's local newspaper, the Durham Herald-Sun, which received national praise and criticism for its reports on the case.

Bob Ashley, editor of the Herald-Sun since January 2005, is presenting "The Kaleidoscopic Narratives of the

Duke Lacrosse Case" at 4 p.m. today in the W.T. Young Library Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.

Ashley, former editor of the Messenger-Inquirer in Owensboro, Ky., will speak on how the narrative evolved over time in relation to issues of race, power, the media, the judicial system and the town-gown relationship in Durham, N.C.

"I think it has made all of us here even more cautious about accusations and charges in the criminal justice sys-



Ashley

tem," Ashley said.

The Herald-Sun worked to help open lines of communication among the media, the public and people related to the case when the controversy first surfaced in March 2006, Ashley said. Charges were dropped 18 months later, and the case left a lasting mark on the school as well as the community, he said.

"I think the community was more than a little shell-shocked at the intensi-

ty and duration of national coverage that the case has received," Ashley said. The negative and often over-simplified portrayals of the community left its members "more than a little resentful," he said.

Throughout the last year, Ashley has tried to help the community confront lingering societal issues and questions revealed by the case, he said.

The Wendell H. Ford Public Policy Research Center is sponsoring Ashley's speech. The event offers students a unique chance to hear a firsthand account from someone close to the case,

said Tracy Campbell, a history professor and co-director of the center.

Students can also ask Ashley questions about mistakes and successes made throughout the coverage of the case, Campbell said.

"Future journalists and prosecutors have much to learn from what happened in Durham," he said. "And we hope this discussion will challenge students to explore their own biases and assumptions about a host of issues in case they find themselves in a similar position one day."

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Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black

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

Aries (March 21 - April 19) Today is an 8 — More study is required, and you'll have the patience now. Keep your objective in mind so you don't wander off in the wrong direction.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Today is a 7 — You finally start to see the fruits of your efforts. The money you've been promised is coming in. Don't spend it all in one place.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) Today is a 9 — Put in a few corrections and your path to success is clear. You and your team can make the goal with hardly any opposition.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Today

is a 6 — You're impatient to get started on a new project and you will, soon. But, first, there's something to finish. Make the latter top priority.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Today is an 8 — Friends help you convince the competition that you're right. You can out talk them, if nothing else. Besides, their argument is flimsy.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Today is a 6 — Stand up for your standards at work. You're known for high quality. Make sure you earn others' respect and they'll also send you more business.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Today is an 8 — Conditions for travel have just improved. Details that could have been a problem are quickly resolved. That could even include leaving somebody at home.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Today is a 6 — Best not to discuss financial matters at work. You could be doing better than some of the others. Don't explain why or how, just

stash away your winnings.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Today is an 8 — A person with slightly different skills brings exactly what you need. Your faith is renewed as you get past the problem. You're back in the race again.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Today is a 6 — By now, you're probably tired of talking about what you'd like to do. You don't have a lot of patience for that sort of thing. Make it happen.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Today is an 8 — You're lucky now, so take a risk you previously avoided. You won't win on your very first try. You'll get better as you go along. Outcome is good.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Today is a 6 — You think it's important to get one thing, somebody else thinks it's another. If you're paying, you get to choose. It's nice to listen, however.

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THE DISH

LOVE LIVES

'The Biggest Loser':
Wedding bliss!

"We are the luckiest people on earth!" said "The Biggest Loser" alum Amy Hildreth, 28, on tying the knot with her Season 3 teammate Marty Wolff, 27, outside Charleston, S.C., on March 29. "It was right on the water, and I couldn't have asked for a better day." At the reception at nearby Blossom restaurant, the guests were seated around a single table set for 20, where they each took a turn offering marital advice to the couple. Says Hildreth, "We just can't get enough of each other!" The newlyweds, who have kept the weight off and run a weight-loss company, Reality Wellness, in Omaha, Neb., will fit fitness into their weeklong St. Lucia honeymoon.

"We will be able to make an active vacation," she says, "with waterskiing and things like that. We love being active now."

on the French Riviera — because "they are very similar, both hardworking."

Personal training for LeAnn!

"He's so supportive," LeAnn Rimes gushes to Us of her dancer-hubby of six years, Dean Sheremet, 27. "He's constantly telling me how beautiful I am." Which is great motivation when it comes to getting psyched to pump iron at the gym, admits the singer, 25 (who's working on a new album). "We work out together most of the time," she says. "And sometimes we will go on a couple-hour hike in the hills. I love it, I really do!"

Andy Roddick: Getting Married!

It's love-love for tennis star Andy Roddick, 25 — who announced via his Web site on March 31 that he is engaged to Sports Illustrated swimsuit model Brooklyn Decker, 20. "Andy proposed in early March," read the statement about the couple, who met in NYC last year. "They plan to enjoy their engagement and will wait to set a wedding date."

Fergie & Josh's Sin City Birthday

To toast turning 33 on March 27, Fergie teamed up with Quentin Tarantino, 45, in a joint birthday party at Jet nightclub in Las Vegas. "We wanted to do something that was crazy

and a lot of fun," the singer tells Us. It was a packed night, with Fergie starting the celebration with fiancé Josh Duhamel, 35, and pals at the Mirage's Bare pool lounge before catching Cirque du Soleil's Love show and hitting the Beatles Revolution Lounge. (Her pal Kid Rock was on hand and gifted her with a hot-dog cooker.) She bunked with Duhamel at the Mirage villas, but gave Us the heads-up that she had "no plans" for a quickie Vegas wedding: "It's a blast here!"

Paris & Benji's road romance!

Paris Hilton added "groupie" to her, uh, resume when the reality star, 27, jetted from London to South Africa to Germany with Benji Madden on his Good Charlotte tour. "Everybody on the trip now digs Paris and thinks she's loads of fun," says a friend of the rocker, 29. "She can't resist going out — even in South Africa — but that's Paris, and that's why he loves her!"

David's New Girlfriend

At Chicago, NYC and L.A. premieres of "Run, Fat Boy, Run," director David Schwimmer, 41, brought a souvenir from the comedy he filmed in London in 2006: club waitress Zoe Buckman. They dated, split, then rekindled the romance a few months ago, says a source: "She's a charming British girl."

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Football: UK vs. Arkansas Fayetteville, AR; UK vs. Georgia Albany, GA; UK vs. South Carolina Columbia, SC; Music City Bowl vs. Florida State
Basketball: Men's SEC Basketball Tournament: Atlanta, GA; Women's SEC Basketball Tournament: Nashville, TN
WHSAP: Marching Band; NCAA: Men's Basketball Tournament: Auburn, GA; UK Basketball: Pop Band

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SALARIES

Continued from page 1

Faculty and staff pay raises, as well as tuition increases, still have to be approved by the Board of Trustees at the April 22 meeting.

Faculty trustee Ernie Yanarella said last night that he and the two other faculty and staff trustees have already begun discussing Todd's proposal. Yanarella said he does not want a situation at UK comparable to Kentucky public schools this year, where teachers will be receiving a 1 percent raise and may face layoffs.

"I think between getting no salary increase a year versus layoffs, I'd rather bite the bullet and accept no pay raises," he said.

Todd warned in his e-mail that "the economic outlook for the next couple of years in Kentucky and the rest of the U.S. is not promising."

Yanarella said he hopes UK's budget problems are short term.

"It certainly is an unfortunate set of events we're having to deal with, but the hope is that we'll have rebounded in a year or two," he said.

English senior Cassandra Lyons said she is concerned for how rising tuition costs will im-

pact current and aspiring college students. With high tuition, raises may not be a good option this year, she said.

"I don't know somebody who needs a raise every single year of their lives," Lyons said.

Some UK staff members were concerned yesterday that they would not be able to keep up with the rising cost of living without a salary increase.

"I think it's good for (students) that tuition isn't going up as much, but it's bad for the staff," said Ronald Montgomery, a custodian in the Student Center.

Montgomery has worked at UK for 17 years. As a staff member, he received pay raises of 5 percent last year and 3.5 percent the year before that. Montgomery said the raises have balanced inflation and, without the raise, he may fall behind.

"The cost-of-living increase — to me, it's another setback," Montgomery said.

Another UK custodian, Joseph Dunbar, said the staff hiring freeze enacted at the beginning of the year has created more work for current staff.

"It's true, cost of tuition is going up, but we struggle. We're doing more than we should be because we're understaffed," he said.

TUITION

Continued from page 1

Kentucky would pay an extra \$319.75 a year, and out-of-state lower-division students would pay \$493.75 more.

On-campus housing prices would not be raised and dining costs would go up 4 percent if Todd's plan clears the April 22 meeting, as his proposals have the past few years. It would also increase financial aid to partially offset the tuition increase's impact on students, Todd said.

Out-of-state tuition would be raised less because those students already pay more, said UK spokesman Jay Blanton. A lower rate of increase would also help bring in out-of-state students, he said.

Todd's decision to increase tuition comes on the heels of last week's decision by the state House and Senate to cut higher education's budget by 3 percent, in addition to a 3 percent cut already in place. Gov. Steve

Beshear must still approve the cuts, and the House and Senate must approve them again separately.

In yesterday's e-mail, Todd said UK would have to raise tuition 18 percent to fully offset state budget cuts, which he said was "simply too high." The tuition hikes Todd proposes would reduce UK's deficit to \$14 million. The rest of the funds would come from department and college cuts, which will be determined in the next few months.

Students wanting to discuss the tuition increase can participate in a student forum on April 18, four days before the board decides how much more students will have to shell out.

Student Government President Nick Phelps said talks with university officials earlier this year led him to believe tuition might go up half of what is proposed. Now students will pay more to get the same quality of education.

"It really makes you wonder, are we getting close to the breaking point?" Phelps said.

SG

Continued from page 1

most.

"We want to make sure students are coming to us with the event they have the most need for," said Montell, who was recently elected SG president for next year.

Montell reviewed the proposal and said he agreed with Parrott about the removal of the diversity grant.

"Not to downplay diversi-

ty, but it is such a general term," Montell said. "So many things could be considered as diversity."

If this act passes, Montell said he believes the A&R committee will operate much better next year. The changes Parrott and Bosserman suggested were well thought out and would benefit students who need funding from SG, he said.

"We want to affect as many students as possible and we want to make it fair," Montell said.

Companies race to make phones energy-efficient

By Victor Godinez
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Behind every great new portable gadget is a battery struggling to keep up.

The humble lithium ion battery has fallen behind as:

■ Cell phones have sprouted color screens, then cameras, Web browsers and GPS trackers.

■ MP3 players have transformed into touch-screen video players.

■ Laptops have adopted Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and Blu-ray.

Battery companies have been able to increase the energy density of their lithium ion batteries about 10 percent per year in the last several years, but the growing energy demands of portable devices have outpaced those gains.

Work is booming for tech companies designing integrated circuits to make cell phones and other handheld gadgets more energy-efficient.

The growth in the power management industry was highlighted last month when Analog Devices Inc. officially opened its power management research center in Richardson, Texas.

The company has only a handful of engineers now, but it expects to hire more.

Analog Devices isn't the only company in the Dallas area working on portable power management technology.

Dallas-based Texas Instruments Inc. is generally considered the leading firm in that realm, while start-ups such as Pe+2 Technologies LP (formerly PowerPulse Technologies) in Richardson are working on their own solutions to the problem of portable power.

"There are a number of people who weren't previously in the business, who say, 'There's good money here,'" said Stephan Ohr, research director for analog semiconductors at research firm Gartner Inc.

Analog Devices is one of those entrants.

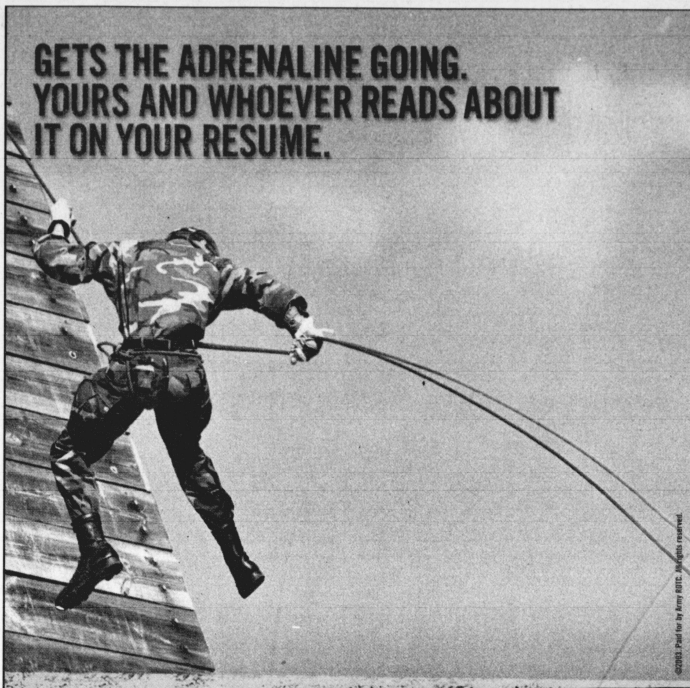
Peter Henry, vice president of power management products for Analog Devices, joined the Massachusetts-based firm in 2006 to jump-start that division.

Henry said power management has become a bigger concern for makers of cell phones and other portable devices over the last few years, as more features have been crammed in.

"If you look back to 2001, nobody had a problem with battery life" on cell phones, he said.

"But it was a basic voice-only handset."

Now consumers expect their phones to be essentially pocket computers, sending and receiving e-mail, connecting to wireless Internet networks and playing back almost any digital media.



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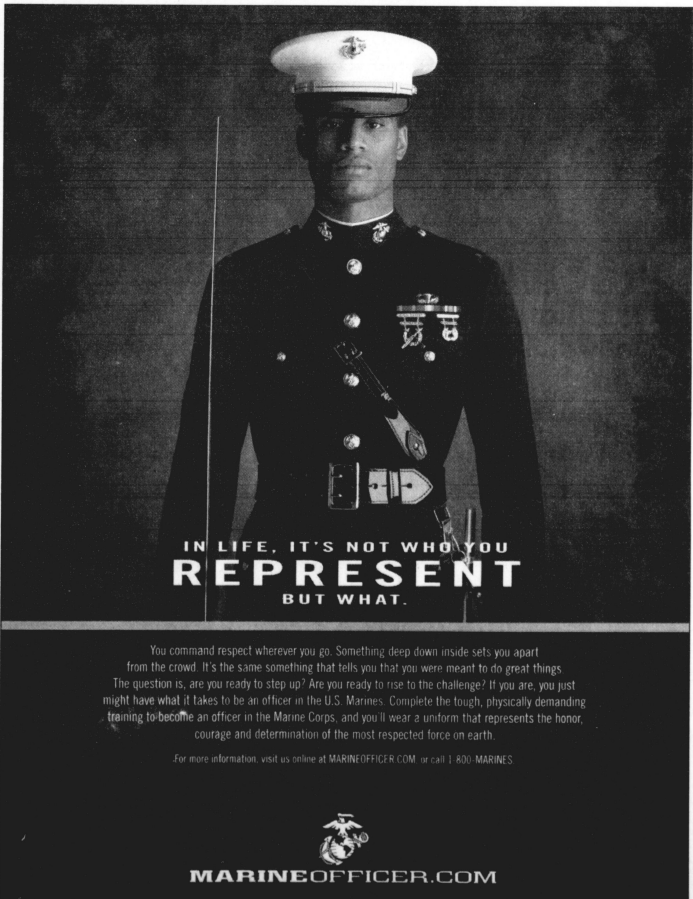
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Mayor calls for scholarships to boost economy

By John David Morgan
news@kykernel.com

Mayor Jim Newberry's city budget address last night spoke to the role of future Wildcats in Lexington's economy.

Newberry asked city council members to support a new initiative that would begin redefining the Lexington workforce by encouraging high school students to attend college in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Newberry proposed that the city provide \$500,000 in scholarships to Lexington high school students going into STEM fields.

"I cannot think of a better way to spend 0.2 percent of the general fund by investing in our high

school students while at the same time sending the world a message that Lexington actively supports STEM education," Newberry said.

"We must take aggressive steps to develop our workforce so we can attract the high-tech jobs of the future," he said.

Newberry acknowledged that many of the council members might have reservations about starting a new initiative during a tight budget year, but he said it was necessary for Lexington's progress.

"When 83 percent of our general fund comes from taxes tied directly to our local economy, we must find ways to make Lexing-



Newberry

ton's local economy prosper," he said.

The 2008-09 city budget is a proposed spending plan of \$274 million, which is down from \$281 million spent in 2007-08.

The bulk of the spending will go toward public safety, Newberry said.

According to the city ward increased personnel costs to meet collective bargaining agreements in police, fire and corrections, and \$13.4 million will fund equipment upgrades in the departments. A \$70 million bond will address undervalued liability in police and fire pensions.

Newberry also expressed the need to support emergency opera-

tions, storm sewer projects and employee retirement funds in his proposal.

An estimated \$3.4 million will be allocated for storm sewer projects, which are required by a recent settlement with the Environmental Protection Agency, and \$2 million to \$6 million will go toward employee retirement payments.

While the majority of this year's budget will focus on correcting current issues affecting Lexington, Newberry said he recognized the potential of Lexington's economy. Educating the state's youth in the fields of math and science would help the city cross the threshold into an increasingly high-tech world, he said.

Nashville improv sketch group brings act to UK

By Kelly Wiley
features@kykernel.com

In a twist from the usual performance rules, tonight the audience members will determine what scenes the actors portray on stage.

The Improv Nashville Touring Group will perform for free in the Wortham Theater in the Student Center at 7 p.m.

Callie Hanks, director of cultural arts for the Student Activities Board, compared Improv Nashville to the TV show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?"

"The group takes suggestions from the audience and turns the ideas into scenes of improvised stories and songs, Hanks said.

"Improv Nashville has the same basic idea

of improv comedy. They go around and do a lot of team building, leadership workshops and they do 60-minute shows," Hanks said.

Emily Volman, managing director of Improv Nashville, said she and a few other actors started the company because they realized Nashville was lacking in the improvisational department.

The improvisation group is comprised of actors who do comedy full-time and others who have day jobs but do improv on the side.

Volman said they rehearse like any sports team in order to get better.

"We don't know what is going to happen during the show," Volman said. "We just try and make ourselves better."

Volman believes that the show will be fit-

ting for college students since they are often stressed out.

"I would hope to think that young people today like to laugh and make fun of things that are happening in the world in a humorous fashion," Volman said. "There are a lot of funny things happening in life, and it's better to laugh about them than cry."

Hanks said there are comedy venues around town, but it is not every day that students get to see a group like Volman and Improv Nashville.

"Everybody likes to laugh," Hanks said. "I hope it will kind of provide a break just to come out for an hour and catch a few laughs."

NEWS BRIEFS

UK sorority adviser wins award

The Southeastern Panhellenic Association awarded the Greek Adviser of the Year award to Susan West, UK's assistant dean of students, director of fraternity and sorority affairs and adviser for UK's Panhellenic Council.

This is the second time West has won the award, which is based on experience, and a student's application and recommendation essay. As Panhellenic Council adviser, she oversees 14 sororities, which have a total of about 2,000 members.

The UK Panhellenic Council was also

awarded for its women's issues programming, including a safety awareness session and an HPV informational session.

Session to draw interest for Alternative Spring Break

Students and staff interested in planning spring break service trips for next year can find out more information tonight in the Student Center. Five to six students and staff will share their experiences and show photos from this year's Spring Break program.

One group traveled to Maryville, Tenn., for "Once Upon a Time in Appalachia," where they learned about the culture and served the community with projects such as trail maintenance. The other group went to Albany, Ga., to help build houses.

The steering committee for next year's UK Alternative Spring Break will choose new locations. The meeting will be in room 106, the Center for Student Involvement, at 8 p.m. It is open to students, staff and faculty interested in participating or joining the steering committee.

Method to teach math disguised as videogame

By Emily Heffer
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — The creators of a new educational videogame say they have sneaked the latest teaching research into a colorful, animated adventure game so fun that kids will hardly realize they're learning math.

"At the end of the day, when a child sits down to play, the child thinks it's a game," said Lou Gray, co-founder and chief executive of

Bellevue, Wash.-based DreamBox Learning. "The parents know the kids are seriously learning, but the kids think it's a serious game."

DreamBox, which announced the game this month, says it is filling a gap left between effective — but boring — educational software and engaging "edu-tainment" that doesn't really teach kids effectively. Experts say DreamBox did its homework, but there isn't research to show it boosts math skills more effectively than other methods.

The company was co-founded by theme — pirates or pets, for example — and then play a scavenger-hunt-style game, "finding" things to help the characters. As they play, the game adapts to their level of math skill and the ways they learn best. There are more than a million paths through the game.

The company hasn't set a subscription price yet. At first, it will be sold to parents for at-home use. DreamBox says it is working on a strategy to give low-income kids access to its program.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY CRIME REPORT

UK Police reports from
April 1 to April 7

- April 1** Arrest following traffic stop reported from Farm Road and University Drive at 1:58 a.m.
- April 1** Arrest following drug use reported from Kirwan I at 9:55 p.m.
- April 2** Alcohol intoxication reported from Parking Structure No. 5 at 2:50 a.m. regarding a subject stumbling around where UKPD keeps equipment.
- April 2** Alcohol intoxication reported from Samaritan Hospital at 9:20 a.m.
- April 2** Arrest following traffic stop reported from the Speedway on South Limestone Street at 5:05 p.m.
- April 3** Arrest following traffic stop reported from Avenue of Champions at 12:52 a.m.
- April 3** Arrest following indecent exposure reported from Rose Street at 2 a.m. regarding a man wearing no clothing walking toward Avenue of Champions.
- April 3** Alcohol intoxication reported from Samaritan Hospital at 6:35 a.m.
- April 3** Theft reported from Greg Page Apartments at 2:09 p.m.
- April 4** Drug use reported from UK Hospital at 12:57 a.m.
- April 4** Report from W.T. Young Library at 2:02 a.m. regarding an unknown number of people swimming in high water behind building.
- April 4** Theft of wallet reported from Samaritan Hospital at 1:12 p.m.
- April 4** Theft of items from lab reported from UK Hospital at 5:50 p.m.
- April 4** Alcohol intoxication reported from Cliff Hagan Stadium at 6:38 p.m.
- April 4** Theft reported from K Lot at 7:01 p.m.
- April 4** Fire reported from Blazer Hall at 10:08 p.m.
- April 4** Drug use reported from Kirwan Tower at 10:13 p.m.
- April 4** Alcohol use reported from Kirwan Tower at 11:54 p.m.
- April 5** Alcohol intoxication reported from Rose Street and Rose Lane at 12:40 a.m.
- April 5** Alcohol intoxication reported from Columbia Terrace and Dixie Court at 2:56 a.m.
- April 5** Report from Sigma Chi House director at 2:18 a.m. regarding fraternity brothers continuing earlier discord by sending threatening text messages to each other.
- April 5** Fire reported from dumpster outside Fine Arts Building at 3:46 p.m.
- April 6** Assault reported from Blanding Tower at 2:30 a.m.
- April 6** Arrest following traffic stop reported from Maxwell Street and South Limestone Street at 3:02 a.m.
- April 6** Theft of laptop reported from W.T. Young Library at 6:14 a.m.
- April 7** Theft of Coke machine cover reported from Farmhouse Fraternity House at 7:48 p.m.

Compiled from UK police reports
by staff writer Alice Haymond.
E-mail ahaymond@kykernel.com.

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A shoulder to lean on UK soccer veteran helps her sister make a smooth transition on and off the softball field

By Bobby Reagan
bregan@kykernel.com

For many freshmen, the idea of going away for college can be intimidating at times. For student-athletes, it can be downright scary.

Balancing schoolwork with daily practices, games and road trips can be a daunting task for first-year players. Until 1972, the NCAA barred freshmen from playing in varsity sports so they could get acclimated with their first year at college, but rules changed and freshmen eventually became mainstays on collegiate teams.

Without a year to adjust, freshmen often struggle on the field as they balance their new lifestyle in college. Fortunately for freshman third baseman Annie Rowlands, she's had a shoulder to lean on in her first year at UK — her sister Kate Rowlands, a former UK soccer player.

Despite completing her athletic career with the women's soccer team in the fall, Kate Rowlands remains at UK while she finishes her degree. With Kate nearby on campus, Annie said her freshman transition has been a lot smoother than expected.

"Having Kate here makes everything about college that much easier," Annie Rowlands said. "If I ever got the slightest bit homesick, I would call her and she'd be there to talk to me about it since she has been through it too."

Throughout Annie Rowlands' first

season on the softball team, Kate Rowlands has been there to help her sister get through a tough loss or just to get away from school and athletics. The sisters try to get together at least once a week for dinner or at church, but they admit it hasn't always been easy with the daily regimen of practices, games and school.

"I know I can call her whenever I need to, though, and can go over to her house to get away from everything," Annie Rowlands said.

And like most freshmen, there have been times when Annie Rowlands has wanted to do exactly that: get away from everything. Heading into the Cats' doubleheader tonight against Louisiana State, she's struggled at the plate where she is hitting .176 with nine RBIs.

Despite her sister's woes at the plate, Kate Rowlands isn't worried. Given Annie Rowlands' past success — she was named first team All-Ohio in high school — and the fact that she's just a freshman, Kate Rowlands expects her younger sister's numbers to quickly shoot up.

"Annie has a ton of potential," Kate Rowlands said. "She's fought through adversity before, and there's no doubt in my mind she'll bounce back from her slump now."

Kate Rowlands said she went through ups and downs during her soccer career until her senior year, when she scored two goals and recorded an assist.

Annie Rowlands will likely experi-



Kate Rowlands has helped mentor her sister Annie Rowlands during her first year as a student-athlete at UK.

ED MATTHEWS | STAFF

ence the roller-coaster ride of athletics throughout her collegiate career, but enduring the tough times always makes the successful moments that much sweeter, her sister said.

The sisters come from a line of college athletes. Their brother Tommy Rowlands was a wrestler at Ohio State, and their sister Meghan Rowlands played softball at Ohio State as well.

Their sister-in-law Elizabeth Rowlands was a soccer player for the Cats from 1999 to 2003.

"I try to give Annie as much advice as I can, but I'm sure she's heard it all before," Kate Rowlands said. "Our siblings have always been there for each other, and we just pass the advice down the line trying to help each other be as successful as possible."

Kate Rowlands is scheduled to graduate in December, which both sisters say they're not prepared for.

"I don't think I'm ready for her to go, because I think I take it for granted that she's here now," Annie Rowlands said. "Once she leaves, I think I'll get truly homesick for the first time, because I won't have family to turn to right away."

BASEBALL

Continued from page 1

Big East).

"That felt good," Wiley said about beating the night's hero. "It felt real good." Wiley knew the ball was gone the second the 1-0 pitch left his bat. As he crouched around the bases, he had only one thought running through his mind.

"Touch first," Wiley said. "Just don't miss first."

Wiley, who finished 4-for-6 with two RBIs, was greeted by a mob of teammates at home plate and a thunderous ovation from the fans, many of whom stuck around through the late innings.

"I love it," Wiley said of the record crowd. "I wish everybody would come out every game. It's a lot more fun playing in front of that many people, and there's a lot more energy in the ballpark."

The homer put an end to what was a back-and-forth affair.

Cardinal third baseman Chris

Dominguez blasted a three-run home run against senior reliever Aaron Lovett in the eighth, punctuating a comeback that put U of L ahead 6-4.

The Cats had been clinging to a 4-3 lead. One would have thought the homer had been deflating enough to put the game out of reach. But UK rallied for two of its own in the bottom half to tie the game and eventually send it to extra innings.

Both bullpens held through the extra frames to set the stage for Wiley's dramatic 12th-inning homer.

"You're not expecting Keenan Wiley to hit a home run, but you are expecting him to compete his ass off," UK head coach John Cohen said. "And when kids are competing hard, good things are going to happen."

Cohen said he and his kids were especially happy to win the game to reward the fans who turned out in such great numbers.

"I think our kids get excited about playing in front of that many people," Cohen said, "because that right there is a Southeastern Conference atmosphere everywhere we go."

WILLIAMS

Continued from page 1

necessary will-not-lose attitude that great teams have. That same state of mind will be needed as the Cats continue fighting through the SEC.

The win over Louisville, a team fresh off an appearance in the 2007 College World Series in Omaha, Neb., couldn't have come at a better time.

On the backside of the best start to a season in the program's history, the Cats had crawled into a midseason slide, losing five of the last 11 games heading into last night's outing.

Now, with an overall record of 26-5 with 25 games left to play, it would seem immature to saddle Paul Revere with bell horns and raise the alarm, because at first glimpse the Cats look a-ok.

They have heavy hitters, leading the SEC in batting average at .350.

They have landlords of the mound, leading the conference in earned runs, giving up only 3.17 runs per game.

They have an omniscient under-

standing of the every crescent the ball will roll to, leading the conference in fielding.

But what raises the eyebrow about UK is not where they are, it's that they've been here before. The 1940 start this season was a mirror image of last season with the same hopes of a promising postseason. But after losses hosed down the initial hot streak, the Cats finished 15-19. In the 2008 campaign they're just 7-5 since their first loss.

With all the major pieces back in place again this year, the only question is if this edition of "Cats with Bats" is a new and improved version, or just a broken record.

It's a critical time for UK.

The fans know it, too. Sensing the urgency to fuel a new streak, fans piled every crack and corner of Cliff Hagan Stadium last night, hoping to see the blue and white pull of a huge win over their in-state rival. The turnout was even larger than UK's NCAA Tournament game in 2006, and the fans were every bit as raucous as they were then.

In UK's quest for Omaha this year, the Cats have to be sharp from opening pitch to the final out,

and with more challenges from the SEC on deck, April will leave no room for error.

After splitting games in series against Mississippi State, South Carolina and Auburn, UK has yet to flex its muscle as the premiere SEC power. Despite being statistically the best team in the conference, the Cats have not taken claim to the best record. Although an SEC championship is not required to make the playoffs, success against good teams is an unwritten must for the clubs that will be in Omaha.

Yesterday's performance wasn't just a win over those birds you love to hate. The defeat of U of L, a team that made it big last year, provided the Cats with more confidence as they take another SEC road trip this weekend — a journey that has been unkind so far this season.

The Cats are 5-4 on the road in the SEC. They have a chance to make a statement this weekend against the Bulldogs in Athens, Ga. But at least for now, they have the juices flowing again.

Assistant sports editor J.D. Williams is a journalism senior. E-mail: jwilliams@kykernel.com.

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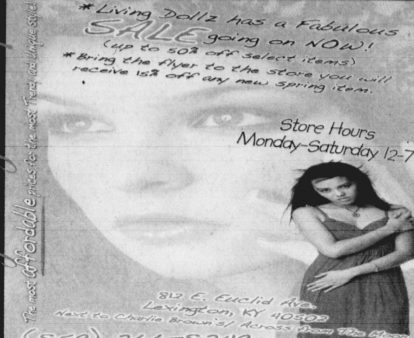
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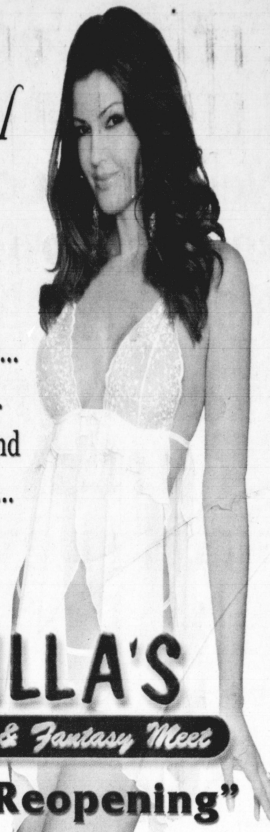
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■ KERNEL EDITORIAL

New health clinic should result in higher-quality care

Starting this summer, students who go to the clinic on campus will find a far more welcoming environment than the current clinic.

A new \$25 million building for University Health Services will open May 19 after two years of construction. At four floors and 73,000 square feet, the building represents a substantial increase in space for health services on campus.

The new building includes more private exam rooms, making it easier for students to discuss their medical problems confidentially. It also features large, energy-efficient windows that bring lots of natural light into the clinic, which will reduce costs for heating and lighting.

For a university that prides itself on its medical facilities and at the same time is jockeying for top-20 status, this expanded student health building is step in the right direction. But a bigger building shouldn't be an end in itself — rather, it should be a means for higher-quality care.

Ideally, the renovated space will provide the medical staff to treat student patients more efficiently and more

quickly, allowing them to get back to their responsibilities without an extended stay in the waiting room. However, getting students in and out of the clinic quickly should not be the primary goal.

Quality medical care requires that the attending physician and assistants take the time to talk to patients in order to accurately diagnose and treat their symptoms. Especially since the clinic's doctors generally are not the primary care physicians for many students, the medical staff should ensure that the appropriate amount of time is taken with each student for the purpose of fully discussing their medical history.

A more spacious building can help achieve this goal. With fewer overcrowded waiting rooms and treatment spaces, there will be less pressure on clinic staff to cycle through patients as quickly as possible.

While efficiency is an admirable quality that the new building hopes to promote, quality of care for individual student patients should not be sacrificed.

University Health Services should keep this in mind as it prepares to move into its sizable new facility.

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Marriage isn't the best choice for everyone

When the Kernel arrived in my e-mail inbox on Tuesday, a column in favor of marriage over cohabitation caught my eye. I immediately knew who the author would be, as this is just yet another column promoting traditional gender roles and sexism that Natalie Glover has written.

I agree with Glover that marriage is "important and good," but I'm not naive enough — or patronizing enough — to believe that it is the right choice for each and every relationship. Need I remind you that there are many couples in this country who are not legally allowed to get married? Also, with divorce rates approaching 50 percent, the argument that not all relationships should end in marriage becomes even stronger. Let's face it: It's much easier to get a divorce than get out of a joint lease or mortgage.

It's often argued that cohabitation leads to these higher divorce rates, because people don't take their marriage vows so seriously if they cohabitated first. I would argue that individuals progressive enough to cohabitate before marriage are also less likely to stay in abusive, unfulfilling or otherwise unhealthy relationships than those with the backward, overly religious values Glover conveys each week.

Just because we haven't signed a piece of paper and paid \$20,000 for a wedding doesn't mean my partner and I aren't committed to each other. Last time I checked, women could vote, and individuals have the right to love, sleep and live with whomever they choose. If marriage and only marriage is right for Glover, more power to her. But don't imply that one relationship is better, healthier or more fulfilling than any other — just because you quoted a few Bible verses.

Tara Bonistall
Social work alumna

Justifications for abortion don't make sense

In regard to the whole abortion issue, I just want to point out a couple of things. First of all, if a doctor is treating a pregnant woman, and if his treatment accidentally injures or kills the unborn child, then the woman can turn around and sue him, and he can even face jail time.

Likewise, if someone gets in a car accident and kills a pregnant woman, that person is charged with two counts of vehicular manslaughter. An unborn child can also be an inheritor to an estate. There are many other instances like this, where the law treats the unborn as already possessing life and rights that are protected under the law.

I personally know an obstetrician-gynecologist who has never felt it necessary to perform an abortion for "medical" reasons. Likewise, the presidential candidate Ron Paul, who is also an obstetrician-gynecologist and has delivered over 4,000 babies, says he has never even heard of a case in which an abortion was necessary to save the life of the woman.

If the law already says that the unborn have life, why should exceptions be made if the woman simply chooses to not want the child? Pregnancy is always a risk when having sexual relations, and I think it's time people started taking responsibility for their actions. If you get pregnant because you are having sex, it's not the child's fault, and you don't know what the potential is for that child's future. Is it anyone's right to deny someone his or her potential?

Furthermore, there are innumerable families that would love to adopt a child. We often hear about "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," and we complain when the government passes laws that encroach on our right to those things. And yet people demand laws that actually deny these three basic tenants of our constitution — whether in so-called "antiterrorism" laws, demand for more central economic planning, or, in this case, the right to terminate life before it even has a chance to experience life outside the womb.

Donald Keefe
Painting junior

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Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Linsen Li. Be sure to include your full name, class, major and phone number (for confirmation).

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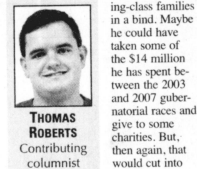
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DON WRIGHT, The Palm Beach Post

McConnell continues to help Ky., so let's keep him in the Senate

Bruce Lunsford, a perennial losing Democratic candidate, began airing ads this week about how much it hurts him to see working-class families in a bind. Maybe he could have taken some of the \$14 million he has spent between the 2003 and 2007 gubernatorial races and give to some charities. But, then again, that would cut into his personal



THOMAS ROBERTS
Contributing columnist

spending for his property in Chicago and Hillary Clinton can get together in one of their expensive homes and count their millions of dollars while talking about how much it pains them that the working class is hurting.

I'm still waiting for Democratic senatorial candidate Greg Fischer, who's running against Lunsford, to introduce himself to the state. A news release from his campaign said he's happy to report having raised \$1 million thus far. That sounds pretty impressive until you realize he put in \$500,000. But, his campaign claims, his fundraising is picking up. While Fischer is becoming the choice candidate for most Kentucky liberals, it

seems he will be wasting his money on this race. Lunsford is better known, willing to waste his money (as is evident from his losing gubernatorial bids in 2003 and 2007) and has the backing of the Washington establishment Democrats.

At this point, when the government has issued refunds to spur spending in the economy, I probably should be complaining that these two dollars into this race. However, I cannot help to wonder why they are passing away their money. Do they really think they have a chance against Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell?

What has Lunsford done for Kentucky? His list of accomplishments is nonexistent. And Fischer's record? Nada.

McConnell, on the other hand, has a long record of delivering for Kentucky. No matter where in Kentucky you live, McConnell has helped your area of the state. He created the tobacco buyout to help Kentucky's tobacco farmers. He has secured more than \$200 million for public universities in Kentucky. McConnell continues to fight for a speedy and safe disposal of the nerve gas stored at the Bluegrass Army Depot in Richmond. He has secured funds for the University of Louisville hospital.

Even the liberal Courier-Journal dubbed McConnell the "Godfather of

Green" for his work in helping the parks system in Louisville. He has fought for better care for our veterans and better funding and support for our military nationwide, but also for those in Kentucky at Fort Campbell and Fort Knox. In Paducah, McConnell has secured around \$20 million for economic development. Moreover, at the nuclear plant in Paducah, McConnell has helped injured workers at the plant to get the help they need. In Owensboro, McConnell has secured more than \$50 million for riverfront and economic development.

Those are just a few of the highlights of McConnell's accomplishments. How has he been able to do all of this? The first reason is that he is effective. But now he is even more effective as the top Republican in the Senate. In this role, everything that comes before the Senate goes through McConnell's office. By default, that gives him the chance to help Kentucky on any issue.

With all of that said, there is a simple question that Kentucky voters must ask themselves this fall: Do you want to trade an effective, experienced leader who consistently delivers for a rookie who will have to spend the first couple of months learning the process?

Thomas Roberts is the chairman of UK College Republicans. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

Instead of resorting to price controls for gas, follow supply and demand

In Washington, failed policies seem to be as likely to be reinstated as successful ones. Case in point: petroleum regulation and the "windfall profits" tax.

In a ritual as predictable as Donald Trump firing an eager go-getter, Congress demands testimony from oil executives and threatens additional taxes and price regulations whenever petroleum prices rise. It's an old tradition — and one based on economic ignorance.

Bowing to flawed thinking and the popular will, President Nixon (with Congress) instituted general price controls in 1973. It was a vain attempt to control inflation. After the predictable shortages arose, price controls were eliminated on everything except petroleum products and natural gas. Not eliminating those price controls created the energy crisis of the 1970s and the memorable gas lines.

Yes, the Arab oil embargo reduced the world supply of petroleum. Yes, worldwide economic growth created more demand. However, increasing demand and shrinking supply cause higher prices, not gas lines. This isn't a mystery. Around chapter five in every "principles of economics" class, the impacts of price ceilings are explained. They lead to shortages. The logic is clear, and the evidence is consistent and overwhelming. When Reagan eliminated petroleum price controls in 1981, the shortages and the gas lines disappeared. Why would politicians use such

tried-and-failed policies? Maybe because the public rarely understands who's actually at fault. Surveys taken in the 1970s about the energy crisis bear this out. Who did the respondents blame? Not Washington for its Byzantine price and allocation controls. They didn't even blame OPEC. They blamed "Big Oil."

In "The Myth of the Rational Voter," economist professor Bryan Caplan exposes the discouraging gap between popular conceptions of economics and economic reality. With that in mind, it isn't surprising that the same 1970s-era surveys showing the energy crisis to be the biggest problem also showed the most popular solutions were those that would amplify the very things causing the crisis. A large majority wanted more stringent price controls. A near majority even wanted to issue ration coupons.

Then as now, a weakening dollar and strong economies overseas led to higher petroleum prices. Then as now, the popular culprits were the oil companies. In a result especially depressing to those of us who spent decades teaching chapter five, a recent Gallup survey found that 70 percent of Americans want Washington to implement controls to counter the high price of petroleum. Even more unnerving is the 64 percent of Americans who think you can cut the price of gasoline by imposing "a significant additional tax on oil company profits."

In a bad-policy rerun, Congress, blaming high prices on high profits, again demands testimony from oil company executives and threatens regulations and additional taxes. Though consumers may not realize it,

none of this will help them.

Today's high oil-company profits are largely caused by high prices on the petroleum they pump from their own reserves. Anybody who owns petroleum reserves, whether it's Exxon, Venezuela, Iran, widows, orphans or the University of Texas, gets more money when petroleum prices rise.

These high prices are the result of straight-forward economics: Demand has increased more than supply. For instance, China's demand for petroleum has doubled in just the last 10 years. Unless and until supply catches up, no regulations, taxes or histrionics will bring gas prices down.

Penalizing Americans for having the foresight to buy and develop oil reserves (which an additional profits tax would do), ensures that a larger percentage of these valuable resources will be controlled by the likes of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. A political truth-advertising law would require disclosing this fact when legislators propose additional profit taxes on oil companies.

Expecting politicians to ignore popular opinion may be asking too much. But if our leaders are going to read the polls, maybe they should read some from the 1970s and then look at the careers of those who followed them: None of the presidents who enforced energy price controls and windfall profits taxes was re-elected.

David W. Kreutzer is senior policy analyst for energy economics and climate change at the Heritage Foundation. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

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ED MATTHEWS | STAFF

Omarion Stokes sits on the path at the Arboretum yesterday after his shoe came untied during a walk with his parents, Robert and Debbie.

General: Too early to set troop withdrawal date

By Nancy A. Youssef
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Gen. David Petraeus dashed hopes yesterday that the U.S. could start significant troop withdrawals from Iraq any time soon, drawing the ire of legislators as he suggested that there would still be 100,000 troops there until the end of the Bush administration.

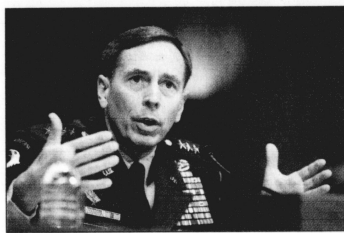
Seven months after telling Congress that he would offer a plan for reducing the troop presence, the general instead recommended a halt in troop withdrawals after roughly 30,000 "surge" troops leave this summer, followed by at least 45 days to consider any further pullbacks. The situation, he said, was too tenuous to do more than that.

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, was among the Democrats who decried Petraeus' recommendation as an open-ended commitment. Meanwhile, many Republican senators countered that a precipitous drawdown would undercut the gains from the U.S. troop build-up.

The sometimes-contentious hearing saw senators from both parties voicing frustration over the strains on U.S. troops and the limited political advances of the Iraqi government. Some raised their voices; others expressed exasperation. At the end of her questioning, Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., said: "I give up."

Under questioning, Petraeus said there was "no mathematical equation" for withdrawing troops, and he repeatedly called the situation "fragile and reversible." The closest he came to giving an answer was when Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., asked for a ranking of where the U.S. is on a 10-point continuum of progress. Petraeus said it was "six or seven."

But the general held firm. Further U.S. troop reductions would happen "when the condi-



CHUCK KENNEDY | MCT

Army General David Petraeus, top commander of U.S. forces in Iraq, testifies before the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee on the state of the war in Iraq yesterday on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

tions allow you to do that," Petraeus said.

Ambassador Ryan Crocker, the U.S. envoy to Iraq, said that more political reconciliation, which the U.S. believes is key to long-term stability, would occur when the Iraqi leadership "and their communities do not feel threatened."

Throughout their daylong testimony before the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations committees, Petraeus and Crocker tried to highlight recent security gains while asking lawmakers for more time to ensure those gains are sustainable.

They boasted that civilian casualties had fallen, al-Qaida was weakened, the Iraqi army was stronger and more than 91,000 Iraqi citizens were armed and working with the U.S., mostly in Iraq's Sunni communities.

But they also were forced to acknowledge that the flawed Iraqi-led offensive in the mostly Shiite city of Basra showed that the Shiite-dominated south is on the precipice of an intra-sectarian war.

The Iraqi military all but collapsed within days of fighting rebel groups there, quashing hopes that the forces could soon

take over security of their communities.

Moreover, violence has been rising in the capital. Twelve U.S. troops have been killed in Iraq since Sunday, most in Baghdad province. And civilian deaths in Baghdad are rising, from 172 in February to 211 in March, according to statistics compiled by McClatchy. So far in April, 58 Iraqis have been killed in the capital, the statistics show.

The five combat surge brigades are scheduled to leave by the end of July, leaving 15 brigades, or roughly 140,000 troops, in Iraq.

Both Petraeus and Crocker spoke extensively about Basra, acknowledging that the Iraqi-led offensive exposed weaknesses in the Iraqi leadership and military but insisting that the gains of the U.S. troop buildup hadn't dissipated. Petraeus said the operation could have been better executed.

"Taken as a snapshot, with scenes of increasing violence and masked gunmen in the streets, it is hard to see how the situation supports the narrative of progress in Iraq," Crocker said. "When viewed with a broader lens, the Iraqi decision to combat groups in Basra has major significance."

As Petraeus testifies, Baghdad teeters on edge

By Leila Fadel
McClatchy Newspapers

BAGHDAD — Army Gen. David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker were highly critical of Iraq when they testified yesterday before the Senate, barely giving credit for an Iranian-brokered cease-fire that curbed the killing after a week of Shiite-on-Shiite bloodshed in southern Iraq and Baghdad.

As they spoke, firebrand Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr threatened to unleash his Mahdi Army militia against U.S. and Iraqi forces. Once again, it was Iran that stepped into the political vacuum and urged a halt to militia attacks into the heavily fortified Green Zone, where U.S. and Iraqi officials, including Petraeus and Crocker, have their offices.

The Iranian foreign ministry called for "restraint and prudence of various Iraqi groups," an implicit rebuke of al-Sadr, who is living and studying in Iran.

The violence began two weeks ago when Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki launched an ill-prepared offensive against militias in the southern port city of Basra. It ebbed after a delegation of the Iraqi governing parties traveled to Iran for talks with a top commander of the Qods forces of Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

This week, it transformed into a conflict largely between the Mahdi Army and U.S. forces. Twelve U.S. troops were killed since Sunday, at least eight of them in the capital, several of them from rocket and mortar attacks into the Green Zone.

Tuesday was the last day of al-Maliki's ulti-

matum for militias, mainly the Mahdi Army, to turn in weapons for cash or face a battle. Far from disarming itself and handing its weapons to forces dominated by Shiites in al-Maliki's Dawa party, al-Sadr threatened to end the ceasefire he declared in August.

"If it is required to lift the freeze (cease-fire) in order to carry out our goals, objectives, doctrines and religious principles and patriotism, we will do that later and in a separate statement," he said in a statement read by his aide, Salah al-Obaidi.

Al-Sadr also postponed his planned million-man march in Baghdad to protest the U.S. occupation on the five-year anniversary of the fall of the capital. The march was expected to bring more violence.

Petraeus acknowledged, though almost in passing, that the clash between the Iraqi government and militias loyal to al-Sadr and other Shiite leaders — known as "Special Groups" — is one of the biggest threats to Iraqi stability.

"Unchecked, the Special Groups pose the greatest long-term threat to the viability of a democratic Iraq," he said.

Although he was speaking in the context of the threat Iran posed through its support of militia groups, he did not mention that Iran also backs the Shiite-led government and that the government sanctions a variety of militias.

Nearly every party has its own militia, including al-Maliki's rival, the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, whose forces were largely absorbed into the ranks of the Iraqi Security Forces but remain loyal to the party. The Kurdish parties also have the peshmerga.

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