

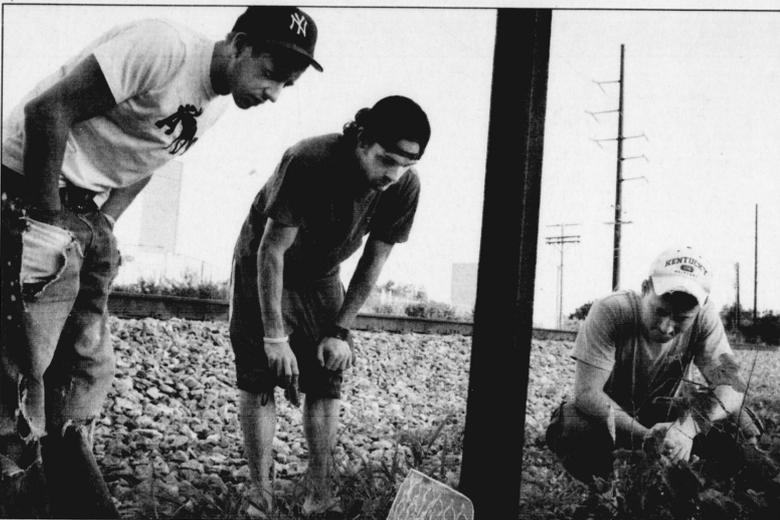
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Thursday, August 25, 2005

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UK police explain actions



(Left to right) Scott Brownlee, Nick Reeves and Dave Monteone look at a memorial to Tom Byers near the railroad tracks where Byers was killed Tuesday morning. Brownlee and Reeves were members of the UK track team with Byers last season. Below: A close-up of the memorial to Byers, which started Tuesday night.

Two officers 'pretty shook up' but followed protocol, major says

By Megan Boehnke and Troy Lyle
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

UK police Maj. Joe Monroe defended the actions of three officers who approached and questioned sophomore Thomas Byers III Tuesday morning. Eleven minutes later, Byers was killed by a train while trying to flee the officers.

"There is no indication of any wrong doing on the part of the officers," Monroe said yesterday.

Monroe said it is standard procedure when subjects are suspected of underage drinking to ask for verification of their age. It is then up to the officer's discretion, he said, to either issue a citation for possession of an alcoholic beverage as a minor or arrest the individual on charges of alcohol intoxication.

Most of the time, people who cooperate with officers only receive a citation, Monroe said. Officers can judge how intoxicated subjects are based on their behavior, including ability to speak clearly and coherently.

"I can walk down the street behind someone and tell if they were drinking," Monroe said.

Officers approached Byers and his acquaintance at a Conn Terrace party Tuesday morning because the subjects were holding alcoholic beverages and appeared to be underage, Monroe said.

One witness told police that Byers told his acquaintance they should run from the officers as they were approaching. When the subjects began to flee, the officers pursued the two on foot. Though they detained his acquaintance, officers lost sight of Byers three or four minutes before he was hit by the train.

The officers decided to pursue Byers because they "felt like he was physically impaired and his judgment was impaired," Monroe said.

A breathalyzer test showed Byers' acquaintance had a blood alcohol content of 0.178. A reading of 0.02 is considered public intoxication for an underage individual in Kentucky.

Lexington police officers follow a similar procedure when dealing with underage drinking, said Lt. Anthony Holman.

Officers rely on their judgment when determining whether to issue a citation or arrest an individual, he said. He said officers decide based on the level of the intoxication and compliance they receive from the subject.

Per standard procedure, See Death on page 2



Byers



Student's father calls for action

By Darlusch Shafa
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The father of a UK student killed in an alcohol-related incident last year called for city and state legislation, as well as assistance from UK, to prevent more drinking-related deaths.

A year ago, incoming sophomore Brian Muth was struck and killed by a tractor-trailer on New Circle Road Tuesday morning. English sophomore Thomas Byers III was struck and killed by a train in another incident involving underage drinking.

Michael Muth Sr. Brian's father, said his voice wasn't heard then, but he hopes changes will be made now.

"All I was hearing back then was the reasons why that wouldn't work and not 'How can we make this work?'" Muth said.

Muth said that though UK cannot directly control what happens off campus, it can work with local and state legislators to create restrictive laws that would limit the size of parties, controlling them before they be-

come too large for officers to handle. Both Byers and Brian Muth were killed following parties with underage drinking.

"You've got to stop the parties from getting that size," Muth said. "Somewhere along the line, someone has to decide what a life is worth."

Brian Muth, a 19-year-old sophomore from Louisville, was arrested while intoxicated on Aug. 24, 2004, and was later released into the custody of a friend, UK sophomore Aaron McNulty, while still intoxicated. While McNulty was speaking with jailers, Muth left the jail and was later struck and killed by a tractor-trailer on nearby New Circle Road.

That incident has similarities to Byers' death. Byers, who transferred from the University of Mississippi, was also 19 years old when he died. He tried to flee UK police officers at a party on the 100 block of Conn Terrace and was later struck and killed by a train near the Virginia Avenue over-

See Muth on page 2

Students ante up to board LexTran

Millions in taxes marked for facility, bus improvements

By Darlusch Shafa
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

An expiring federal grant means UK students will have to open their wallets to ride LexTran buses for the first time in three years.

Students previously rode the buses for free by showing their student IDs, but now students must pay \$50 a semester, or \$75 for the school year, to ride LexTran buses on city routes as part of the "class pass" program.

Despite the sudden change, LexTran officials said they're trying to keep bus transportation cost-friendly for students.

"We hope that it's attractive enough to meet their budget," said Dave Riggins, LexTran's director of community affairs.

Normal fare for LexTran buses is \$30 per month, or \$120 per semester.

LexTran provided bus transportation around the city to students for free through a federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant. The grant, worth \$4.3 million over three years, expires at the end of this month.

LexTran has the option of renewing the grant, but regulations state that the grant cannot be used for the same purpose after it has been renewed, Riggins said.

Another change is who can use the "class pass" system. The program is available to any Fayette County student — college or otherwise — who can show proof of enrollment when buying the pass.

"We felt it was only fair when we looked at this to open this up to all students in Fayette County, regardless of where they go to school," Riggins said.

The pass is not available to university faculty and staff, who must pay standard fares.

Recent rises in gas prices are part of the reason Riggins believes the "class pass" program will help LexTran bring in more revenue. Overall usage of LexTran buses has risen 6 to 10 percent in the last three weeks, which Riggins attributed to steep gas prices.

In November, LexTran will receive \$11.3 million through a tax that voters approved in November 2004. That money, however, is slated to fund improvements to LexTran's facilities, buses and services, Riggins said.

Some students aren't so optimistic that the new plan will be a success.

"They'll probably lose business," said undeclared sophomore Kelly Stone. "I wouldn't use it unless I had to."

Others said they don't have much option but to pay and ride.

"I don't know if it will change anything (for me)," said psychology junior Luke Moons. "I'll have to pay it."

Anyone who wants to buy a "class pass" may do so at the UK parking offices on the corner of Rose Street and Euclid Avenue, or at Parking Structure No. 5 on South Limestone Street. E-mail dshafa@kykernel.com

Finding peace in (self)portraits

Assistant professor Ruth Adams chronicled her 13-month battle with cancer through photography

By Ellie Fairbanks
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

A UK assistant professor shared her 13-month struggle with cancer and chemotherapy last night — a battle documented in self-portrait photographs — for one reason.

She's training to compete in a triathlon, and she's raising money to do so.

Ruth Adams, a photography professor, was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Disease in November 2002. After she began chemotherapy that next month, Adams decided to showcase her struggle with the treatments

through a series of photographs she took herself for a little over a year.

"There are a lot of things out there written that show the before and after but not the actual journey through the disease," Adams said.

Adams and teammates from Team in Training, a group of runners, walkers and cyclists who compete to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, held a



Adams

fundraiser last night at Alfalfa Restaurant to collect money to participate in the Disney International Triathlon Sept. 25. There, she showcased a portion of her photography exhibit entitled "Unremarkable...a journey through cancer, chemotherapy and healing."

"Because I'm a visual artist, I wanted to show my journey through cancer," she said.

Adams' display demonstrates her battle with the chemotherapy and radiation aspect of her disease. Pictures include Adams before her hair

See Cancer on page 2



Ruth Adams, assistant professor of photography, displayed some of her self-portraits taken during her battle with cancer at a fundraiser last night.

Decal designed to illuminate students, road safety concerns

By Darriush Shafa
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

UK police are hoping that some things shiny will help catch people's eyes and better protect pedestrians on campus.

To further pedestrian safety, UK has ordered 3,000 reflective badges that can be attached to clothing or students' bags to make pedestrians more visible. The badges are free.

The badges, which come in blue with a UK logo, cost about \$1.60 each and are being paid for jointly by UK police and the office of the dean of students. The badges are currently in transit from the manufacturer in Finland, and UK police will begin distributing them when they arrive.

"If we keep one person from get-

ting run over, that's what we're looking for," said Kevin Franklin, acting UK police chief. "They're becoming aware. People are starting to think about it and...using more caution."

The badges are the latest addition to the Pedestrian Awareness and Safety Program, which started last spring. Police created the program after five accidents occurred in a three-month period, including one that killed a UK Chandler Medical Center employee and another where a UK spokeswoman was seriously injured.

Since the program began, there have been no pedestrian-vehicle accidents.

Police got the idea from governments in Europe, which distribute the badges to students to help make



A copy of the new decal, designed for items like bags to increase pedestrian visibility. COURTESY OF UK POLICE

them more visible during northern Europe's longer nighttime hours.

"If the governments of Finland, Sweden and Denmark see fit to give these to students, they might work," Franklin said. "You can see people four to five times farther than what your lights actually show."

In the coming weeks, UK police

will also ticket people who jaywalk and drivers who break laws in areas with high pedestrian traffic.

"The road is not getting any bigger, but we doubled or tripled the amount of pedestrian traffic" and vehicle traffic when classes started, Franklin said.

"All we're asking is people to be safe, be intelligent, use common sense," he said. "Don't just dash out into the road."

Tickets for jaywalking are \$100 each and police are hoping that a fine will deter jaywalkers, but some students say they'll take their chances.

"I'm still going to jaywalk, just because it's faster," said animal sciences freshman Shana Wolfe. "(I'll) look for cops and make sure they

aren't looking."

Some student said it will change their habits.

"I work at Pizza Hut and walk across the street every day," said psychology senior Brandon Ferguson. "It's going to be safer because people won't be running out in front of your car all the time."

Other students are grateful for the program.

"I have to get around campus, but I drive around campus, too," said linguistics sophomore Sunny Allen. "People just run headlong in front of your car."

"I'm glad they're giving out tickets because I guess that's the only way people learn to be careful with their lives."

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Art

Continued from page 1

loss, the slow deterioration of her health, after hair loss, she and her family at Thanksgiving, and then, finally, the beginning of the return to normalcy.

"I thought it was interesting that the treatment, not the cancer, is what actually makes you sick," Adams said.

The reality that Adams was, in fact, sick set in when her hair began to fall out.

"The loss of my hair was like an outward symbol to the world that I had cancer," she said.

Without her family as her support, Adams said she would not have been able to get through this disease. However, with her entire family living in Washington, D.C., Adams has had to rely on the support of friends, coworkers and her students. During her treatment, Adams never stopped working, something that she considered to be of utmost importance.

"Teaching kept my life as normal as it could be," Adams said.

During this time, Adams became especially close to her students and other faculty members. Former students even assisted her at her fundraising benefit, hanging pictures and posters.

"When you're sick, you really

have to rely on anyone that is willing to help you. When people offer to help, they really want to, and you have to believe them and let them help," Adams said.

Adams' parents flew in every other weekend during her treatment, and her sister and brother-in-law came three times a month, mostly to attend doctor's appointments with her.

"When you have this disease, you can't ever go to the doctor by yourself. You just can't do that kind of a thing alone," Adams said. "You have to take anyone, friends, family, even a random guy from the street."

Team in Training supports research, patient services, education and community involvement, all directed toward the common goal of, one day, curing leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's Disease and myeloma.

Adams and 12 other team members train six days a week, swimming, biking or running. The team has four coaches, as well as three mentors who have all participated in the triathlon before.

"I first thought about doing a triathlon last summer when I went to New York and watched my cousin participate in one," Adams said. "I thought that the people looked normal, and that it would be a good way to get back into shape. It let me be normal again."

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Death

Continued from page 1

the police department is conducting an internal investigation "just to make sure proper action was taken," Monroe said.

"We are looking to see and basically retrace Mr. Byers' steps that evening," Monroe said. "Where he was, where he drank and who provided that."

Monroe said Byers drank in his residence before attending the off-campus party, but charges could still be filed against individuals who provided alcohol to Byers. The investigation is still open, he added.

Residents dispute size of party; train's speed could have been 40 mph

Several residents of Conn Terrace said Tuesday morning's party scene was nothing out of the ordinary, and one resident disputed UK police's crowd estimates.

"There's no way there were 300 people partying on this street that night," said Bonnie Laurie, a senior finance major and resident on Conn Terrace. UK police officers estimated the crowd size at somewhere between 200 to 300 people.

"I was playing cornhole in my front yard for most of the night," she said. "I was surprised when I heard the news, because I didn't notice any

large parties."

Byers ran from police at a Conn Terrace party and died when a Norfolk Southern train hit him while he was trying to run across the tracks near the Virginia Avenue overpass, according to UK police.

Susan Terpay, spokeswoman for the Virginia railroad corporation, said it's unfortunate but deaths along train tracks aren't that uncommon.

"People must recognize walking on the tracks is extremely dangerous and against the law," she said.

Terpay said the train that hit Byers could have been traveling up to 40 mph when it hit him.

According to Operation Lifesaver, an organization that educates people about the dangers of railroad tracks, more than 5,000 people have been killed along train tracks in the United States since 1990.

In 2004, 480 people died on American railroad tracks; seven deaths occurred in Kentucky.

Wesley Ross, State Coordinator for Operational Lifesaver in Kentucky, said a moving train can be "an optical illusion" when trying to judge its speed.

"They seem farther away than they actually are," Ross said. "That's what makes judging a train's speed so tough and why it's impossible to accurately judge the speed of an oncoming train."

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Muth

Continued from page 1

pass Tuesday night, almost a year to the day after Muth's death.

"It was surprising that it was so similar, what happened," Michael Muth said. "There's not been the changes made to prevent this kind of thing."

Muth is involved in several programs trying to create change, such as the Genesis Project. In the meantime, direct action needs to be taken, he said.

"It's not just coming up with these patch-up programs," he said. "We can't wait for a culture change."

Though the change is too late to save his son or Byers, Michael Muth believes it is important to save lives in the future.

"Maybe that's a message saying, 'We didn't pay attention last year, maybe we should pay attention now,'" Muth said. "If they don't (pay attention), the problem is worse than I think, if they can't take notice after a second time."

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Bush acknowledges casualties, pledges never to retreat in Iraq

By Sam Coates and Mike Allen
THE WASHINGTON POST

NAMPA, Idaho — President Bush, rebutting a rising anti-war movement in the country and on Capitol Hill, told National Guard soldiers and their families Wednesday that terrorists "want us to retreat" but vowed that he never will.

Bush spoke frankly for the second time in three days about the casualties the U.S. military is continuing to suffer in Iraq but rejected demands for the troops to come home, calls that have gained widespread attention during the month he has spent at his ranch in Texas.

"An immediate withdrawal of our troops in Iraq, or the broader Middle East, as some have called for, would only embolden the terrorists and create a staging ground to launch more attacks against America and free nations," he said.

"So long as I'm the president, we will stay, we will fight, and we will win the war on terror."

Bush's status as a wartime president has helped him politically in the past, but his advisers said they are worried that tragedies in Iraq—and a sour reaction at home—could turn that into a burden this fall.

White House officials said they viewed the speech, the second of three he plans to give in the two weeks before Labor Day, as crucial opportunity for Bush to show both compassion and resolve when his conduct of the war is increasingly being publicly questioned, and polls of public support are flirting with Vietnam War-era depths.

During a month when he has been shadowed by Cindy Sheehan, the anti-war mother of a soldier killed in Iraq, the president drew thunderous applause from the camouflage-clad National Guard

troops and others in the Idaho Center arena when he saluted "a mom named Tammy Pruett," who has sent six loved ones to Iraq.

Asserting that "the stakes in Iraq could not be higher," Bush contended that the nation is "achieving our strategic objectives in Iraq."

It is that last contention — that the United States is moving purposely toward its goals and an accompanying exit from Iraq — that has been subject to increasing skepticism by Democrats this summer.

Bush's aides said they realize that the death toll in Iraq — at least 1,867 at the time Bush spoke — will soon reach 2,000, a milestone that will provide a major platform for his critics.

Against this backdrop, the aides said the speech was designed to portray a stark choice between completing the mission in Iraq and showing weakness to terrorists who are prepared to strike in the United States — suggesting dire consequences at home from a hasty withdrawal abroad.

Sheehan, whose son Casey died in an ambush of his Army unit in Iraq last year, returned to Crawford, Texas, late Wednesday — about the time that Bush returned from Idaho — and resumed a peace vigil that she broke off last week to care for her ailing mother.

Sheehan has served as a galvanizing force for opponents of the war, drawing hundreds of activists to rural Crawford in support of her demand to meet personally with Bush and call for a complete pullout from Iraq.

While Bush did not mention her by name, he broke with his two-year policy of avoiding specific mention of casualties and gave a figure about the loss of life for the second speech in a row.

"In this war, we have said farewell to some very good

"...we will stay, we will fight, and we will win the war on terror."

George W. Bush

men and women, including 491 heroes of the National Guard and Reserves," he said. "These brave men and women gave their lives for a cause that is just and necessary for the security of our country, and now we will honor their sacrifice by completing their mission."

By unmistakable implication, he offered Pruett as a counterpoint to Sheehan. She has four sons serving in Iraq with Idaho's National Guard. A fifth son and her husband, Leon Pruett, returned from the country last year, where they had helped train Iraqi firefighters.

"There are few things in life more difficult than seeing a loved one go off to war," he said.

"Tammy says this—and I want you to hear this: 'I know that if something happens to one of the boys, they would leave this world doing what they believe, what they think is right for our country.' And I guess you couldn't ask for a better way of life than giving it for something that you believe in. America lives in freedom because of families like the Pruetts."

After the speech, the president spent two hours with 19 families, mostly from Idaho, which lost relatives in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The relatives were selected by Gov. Dirk Kempthorne, R, who telephoned them on Sunday night, officials said.

To huge applause, the president promised to minimize the number of extensions and repeat mobilization.

He said reservists would now get 30 days of notice "in most cases" before mobilizing for duty, and greater access to the military medical system before and after reporting for duty, and funds for education.

These pledges come during one of the worst months for deaths among the National Guard and Reserves. The National Guard has been stretched to its limits by the battle in Afghanistan and Iraq, with some units doing two or three tours of duty.

The Idaho National Guard has had eight casualties in Iraq, and a further estimated 128 injured, according to the Department of Defense. Last December, Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, the head of the Guard, said that the guard was "under-resourced" and "under equipped."

In his remarks, Bush noted that he is one of 19 presidents who have served in the National Guard — in Bush's case, as a pilot in the Texas Air National Guard during the Vietnam War era.

That tenure, and questions over whether Bush met his responsibilities, erupted in Bush's re-election effort last year.

Locals queued from before dawn to get hold of some of the leftover tickets for the speech, and gave the president more than a dozen standing ovations during his 43-minute speech.

Jill Blue, whose brother Marty is serving in the Air Force, said she was reassured by the Bush's words.

"I'm glad that he's seeing out the job. I liked what he said about honoring the people who have died by not pulling out. It was a good comment."

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WILDCAT Wild NIGHTS

Just a face in the crowd KICKER ENJOYS SIDESTEPPING THE BIG BLUE SPOTLIGHT

By Laura Nelligan
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

When walking around campus, it's usually easy to spot athletes.

Seven-foot basketball players that tower over everyone.

Massively built football players decked out in Wildcat blue.

Even the faces that frequently grace the front page of the sports section.

But not everyone is easy to recognize.

"I like the anonymity," said senior football kicker Taylor Begley, who made his way to his first class yesterday without any shouts, whistles or girly giggles.

"My job is to go out and kick the football. I don't deserve any extra publicity."

However, his performance on the team and in the classroom should earn him credit.

Begley, a 6-foot, 200-pound left-footed kicker, has the UK record for 77 consecutive extra points — which is still going.

Last season, Begley notched a career-best 52-yard field goal at home against Alabama, two weeks after his second-best 51-yarder at Florida.

He finished his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering with a 3.795 grade point average, a major not common among members of the football team.

"It's tough," Begley said. "It's a lot of work outside of class. It's not always interesting, but I'm good at it."

Because the Cats had the day off from practice, Begley began his day at noon with EE 630, Digital Signal Processing.

Begley walked into the classroom yesterday and took a seat by himself, not talking to any of the other students around him.

"I'm a minority in this class," Begley said.

He doesn't spend much time socializing in class, and he rarely sees any of his classmates outside of Anderson Hall.

Begley calls this aspect of his major a "double-edged sword." Although his time in

the classroom isn't very entertaining, he isn't distracted because friends do not surround him.

Routinely busy

Begley gets up around 6 o'clock every morning and goes to the team breakfast. He has team meetings from 7 to 9 a.m., and practice until about noon. After being up for six hours, he then begins his school day.

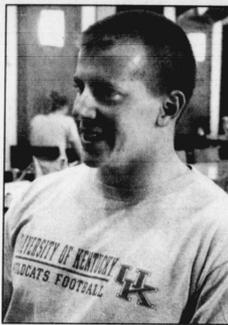
Begley said he tries to get things done before leaving campus.

"I like to leave school at school," he said.

Free from distraction, Begley tries to get his work done in Anderson Hall before heading home. This leaves the weekend to relax and think about football, he said.

This semester, his schedule works pretty well with his major, but that is not always been the case.

During previous seasons, Begley has had to miss practice due to scheduling conflicts.



Senior kicker Taylor Begley has lunch in Ovid's restaurant yesterday. "I like the anonymity," Begley said. "My job is to go out and kick the football. I don't deserve any extra publicity." The engineering graduate student maintained a 3.795 GPA when he finished undergraduate studies this past year. When Begley takes the field Sept. 4 against Louisville, he'll try to keep his UK record extra point streak going.

ROBIN BAKER | STAFF

Familiar sight

For Begley, the Cats added a familiar face this season. New linebackers coach Chuck Smith came to UK after 13 seasons as the head coach at Boyle County High School in Danville, where Begley and sophomore tight end Jacob Tamme played.

"I'm tickled to death that he's here," Begley said. "He's big on fundamentals and inspires everyone."

When Begley committed to UK, he never thought his feelings toward the Louisville rivalry would ever compare to what he experienced at Boyle County against Danville. But after playing them, he hates the color red.

Ever since the Monday after the Tennessee game, we've been in the weight room developing chemistry for the UofL game," Begley said. "We are really put in all of this work, and we have a positive outlook."

In his final year of eligibility, Begley is more confident than ever.

"The (team) attitude is a whole lot better than it's ever been," Begley said. "We are really buying into what the coaches are selling. We have great team chemistry and we are one big family."

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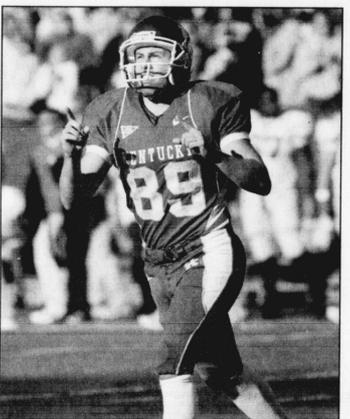


PHOTO BY UK ATHLETICS

Left-footed senior kicker Taylor Begley kicked his career-long 52-yard field goal last season and has made 24-of-38 FG attempts at UK. Begley currently holds the UK record for consecutive extra points (77) a streak that's still going.

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Classifieds continued from page 7

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student activities board

WHAT'S THE DEAL? | Demystifying campus trends

"I think we should see other people..."

Here's the scene: you've just begun your freshman year at UK. The weather is beautiful, the birds are chirping and wait... isn't that your girlfriend/boyfriend over there making out with, well, not you?

Consider me a pessimist on this topic if you wish, but it always seems relationships brought to college are like chewing gum... the taste is there for a minute, but once it's gone, you're ready to spit it out. Personally, I like to think of myself as a realist. Everything about college is essentially brand new once you begin your freshman year: the things you see, the places you go and, of course, the people you meet. Whatever the case may be, there's always something in the back of your head reminding you to pop the big question: "Do you think we should see other people?"

It's known that half of today's marriages end in divorce. However, with the average marriage age increasing, people are realizing it's just too early to settle down. We live in a world characterized by massive influence, resistance, self-centeredness and fast pace. How does this affect our collegiate relationships, especially during freshman year? Let's take an in-depth look at relationships in college, whether they began here or were brought from high school, and evaluate. The remainder of this article will list a few scenarios you may be involved in and some senior insight from yours truly.

First off, with two days of classes under your belt, I'm willing to bet 50 percent of you readers have probably experienced some sort of heart-

break already if this is your case, please stop here and tune in to next week's article entitled, "How to rebuild your self-esteem." For those remaining, continue on.

There are essentially three types of relationships that can be had as a freshman in college. The first is what I like to refer to as "dictated." This type of relationship is when you are currently dating your high school sweetheart who is still in high school. This scenario usually will give rise to your need for power, for you are the one of experiencing new things and therefore, may have the upper-hand. A recent study conducted by my drunken roommate shows that you will probably break up with "What's-his/her-name?" within two months or less.

Another type is considered the "extra baggage" or "mutually undesirable" relationship. This occurs when both parties are freshmen at the same college. With the time-of-your-life mood kicking in and the thought of being independent, a relationship like this is doomed from its beginning. It will be fun to share these new experiences with a special someone, but shortly after, you will realize you're too busy — it's time to pack your own luggage and move on. Projected break up date: three weeks.

The final relationship is the "What-boy/girlfriend?" type. In this scenario, both are college freshmen, but on separate campuses. Here you are on your own; no clue what the other is doing, and they have no clue about your day-to-day agenda. In my four years of relationship expertise, would this last? Projected break up date: tomorrow. I'm willing to bet most of you older readers have gone through similar set-ups. The deception of love and thinking any particular relationship was meant to be can be quickly swept underneath you. And sadly, I'm sure a ma-

jority have read some sort of Dear John/Jane letter before. When you mix certain personalities together, it becomes harder and harder to maintain a healthy relationship. You need both parties to have equal understanding for it to last.

It's the same thing every year. Nowadays, however, breaking up has become easier with the prominence of e-mail and text messaging. Or, for you computer geeks, this would mean the relationship has been electronically deleted. No matter what your role is in the break-up, it's a stressful occurrence.

Don't let this happen to you. This article wasn't written strictly for the purpose of all freshmen relationships to end, but be cautious of your young heart. Here are a few golden rules to note for the first year of college.

Evaluate your current relationship. Place yourself in one of the listed couple types and think about its desirability. Did your girlfriend/bud home stop calling so much? Well, she's probably...never mind. Catch my drift?

Enjoy. College is your chance to get as involved as possible and to meet as many people as possible. Take the time to learn about campus and life through your own eyes.

Take relationships slow. Relationship expert Dan Hayes said, "Few relationships fail because they are built too slowly."

Things will happen when you least expect it. Trust me. I do believe in love at first sight and not letting opportunity pass you by. However, make sure you realize your current opportunity. You've heard about how to save for college and how to prepare for exams. What you haven't heard about is how to develop relationships. Falling in love is fun, but holding on is a challenge.

E-mail: kmoyer@kykernel.com

Enjoy. College is your chance to get as involved as possible and to meet as many people as possible. Take the time to learn about campus and life through your own eyes."

- Kenny Moyer

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IN OUR OPINION

UK dining needs some spice

Lunch lines extended out the hallways of the Student Center Wednesday as frustrated food service workers struggled to clarify the rules concerning UK's new dining plan to each confused student who approached the register.

Some students wanted more than just a meal. Others just wanted a snack, a side item or a drink. No customer seemed to be getting exactly what he or she wanted. But even though students have a variety of meal budgets to choose from, the generalized plan dining services adopted this year is causing more confusion for everyone using a dining account.

The new dining options require students to select the number of meals they anticipate to consume over a semester and purchase each meal with the swipe of a card. Each swipe deducts an entire meal from a student's account, regardless of

whether the student purchases a bag of chips or a hamburger with French fries.

Returning students long for the old name-brand favorites like Long John Silvers and KFC. The addition of Chick-fil-A is only a tease for students who don't have money in a plus account. The dining account doesn't include Chick-fil-A, and limits most students to the scant selection of campus brands.

At many campus eateries, such as the Commons Market on South campus, students swipe their charge card before selecting meal items. It seems like a great deal, but once students step outside the facility, second helpings and desserts are out of the question. Students dining at the Commons can't leave for the bathroom without finishing a meal.

The plan eliminates the option of taking food to go,

which is a common practice for students who don't want to dine alone or are too busy to sit down to eat.

Students must spend an entire swipe, which translates to an average of \$6 worth of food, on late-night study snacks or quick cups of coffee before class. The plan encourages overeating at meals and dismisses the importance of small portions in a college community where students struggle to maintain a healthy diet.

Dining service officials claim this method creates more flexibility and variety for students on the dining plan. Students who eat in large quantities can get more food for a swipe when they want a full meal.

But the reality is the 5,200 UK students on the meal plan this semester have different tastes and eating habits. The new plan bars the convenience of quick snacking

between classes and imposes a traditional (and often impossible) daily diet that makes mealtime a last-chance stuffing fest for students who want to make the most of their money.

The university should consider the spontaneous eating habits of students and implement a plan that privatizes student dining accounts rather than generalizing meals for a wide and diverse population.

Bringing name-brand eateries to campus will promote competition within dining services and make the dining plan a more reasonable investment for students living on campus.

Instead of giving students the flexibility of selecting quantity let them invest in a food service that provides familiar food and the freedom to choose when they eat, how much they eat and how much they pay for it.

Castrating sex offenders would violate their rights

Welcome to the Dark Ages in Kentucky. Lt. Gov. Steve Pence has suggested that a coalition seeking to toughen the state's sex offender laws look into mandating chemical or surgical castration for repeat sex offenders.

Pence and his band of would-be mutilators argue that something more than sheer barbarism is behind the idea of castration. Castration lowers testosterone, in turn lowering the sex drive, thus reducing the offender's desire to commit further sex crimes. (Never mind the possibility that an overabundance of testosterone is also present in those with a strong urge to vengefully slice off

others' testicles.) But even if you take at face value the assumption that castration would be primarily for rehabilitation and not revenge, it still raises serious questions. For example, is castration the only sort of treatment that works? Perhaps instead of playing the role of doctor itself, the government could send offenders to actual doctors for counseling. Although doing so may not be as cost-effective as castration, rehabilitating offenders and bringing them back into society (if that's truly the purpose) is worth the higher price.

Some may argue that castration would act as a deterrent, scaring potential offenders away from committing sex crimes. But people who would molest and rape children clearly have deeper, sicker psychological motives for their crimes than petty criminals like bank robbers do — concern for the future isn't exactly sex offenders' first priority. Deterrence is thus a dubious reason to start chopping.

In addition, if some offenders are too dangerous to let back into society uncastrated, why is it safe to allow them back at all? This is another reason why counseling should be part of any new plan for how to deal with sex offenders — one solution can't work for every offender, and the suggestions of a medical professional should be part of determining how to handle each case. It will be costly but certainly worth it, not just for the sake of the rehabilitation of offenders, but — more importantly — in reducing recidivism and protecting society.

Like the lieutenant governor, I think protecting society from sex offenders is an urgent necessity. But it must be done with respect for offenders' rights — because, yes, even those who have committed horrific crimes still have rights, one of which is to not be forcibly mutilated (chemically or surgically) by the government.

Here's an alternate solution: Mandate counseling for a sex offender after his first crime, and require his counselor to agree to any request for parole. Continue counseling throughout the parole term: if the offender commits another sex crime, make parole conditional on the continuation of counseling, the approval of the counselor, and the taking of the chemical castration drugs. (Some offenders, seeking to lower their sex drives, actually request them.) If the offender decides not to request parole, or when the prison term is over, the government has no power to castrate him.

Such a method would protect society without infringing on anyone's rights. Rather than mandating castration for every offender, it would give them the option to retain their bodily integrity — and if it means that fewer repeat offenders go out on parole, so be it.

What's most important is the counseling, a step of treatment too often ignored by lawmakers more focused on cutting people up. Mandating counseling for all offenders may be costly, but preventing repeat offenses while bringing offenders back to normalcy would be well worth the money.

Brenton Kenkel is a philosophy and political science sophomore. E-mail bkenkel@kykernel.com.

Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Andrew Martin or Assistant Opinions Editor Brenton Kenkel. Please limit letters to 350 words or less. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions.

E-MAIL

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AARON SMITH, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Conservative hypocrisy

When it comes to hypocrisy, conservatives still rule the roost. They are simply outraged that Cindy Sheehan should demand an explanation for why her son was asked to make the ultimate sacrifice. Yet these same activists and pundits were not in the least bit upset about the shameless political exploitation of the largely fabricated Jessica Lynch rescue story in 2003.

Where was the outrage when the dramatic reports released by the Pentagon of Pfc. Lynch's gunshot and stabbing wounds were found to be false? The reports that she fired her M-16 until she ran out of ammunition? (False — she didn't fire a single shot.) The accounts of her mistreatment by Iraqi doctors? (False — she wrote in her own book that she was treated with kindness by a hospital staff who risked their lives to mend her wounds.)

Furthermore, where was the outrage at the deliberate fabrication of the Niger documents which falsely exaggerated Saddam Hussein's nuclear ambitions? (Who do you think forged those documents, and why?)

Where is the outrage at Karl Rove's relentless tactics of character assassina-

tion against political enemies and critics of the Bush administration? Jessica Lynch is still painted as a "hero," though she herself has refused to accept that description, while Cindy Sheehan is labeled as a "crackpot" on the Fox News Channel.

But wasn't her son Casey Sheehan just as much of a hero as Jessica Lynch? She was dramatically rescued and turned into a tool of propaganda. He was killed while on a rescue mission. If the tables were turned, and Cindy Sheehan's critics were liberals, conservatives would be sure to play up her son's heroism and decry any attack on her as unpatriotic and disrespectful. But since her supporters are of the liberal persuasion, it is apparently acceptable to pry into her past, question her character and trivialize her message.

So ignore the heartless smear campaign against an innocent mother protesting the senseless loss of her son, and remember the false and/or misleading statements and dirty tactics of those who promoted and instigated this costly, unnecessary and unwinnable war.

DANIEL BUTTON
psychology graduate student

DAVID COOPER
Lexington resident

UK must fix alcohol rules

Regarding the tragic Thomas Byers accident, SG President Will Nash stated in the Aug. 24 Lexington Herald-Leader, "I wouldn't blame the university at all."

Nash and all UK students should be aware that former UK President Charles Wethington declared UK would be a dry campus without consulting the surrounding neighborhoods. As a former resident of the Elizabeth Street neighborhood, we saw an immediate jump in noisy and disruptive student parties after Wethington's unilateral decree.

UK has to bear some responsibility for this tragedy, and it's time for the university to take action.

The "Promising Practices: Campus Alcohol Strategies" handbook developed at George Mason University has dozens of great ideas and strategies for dealing with alcohol and it is available on the web at: www.promprac.com.edu/

Campus safety depends on student preparation

College. It's one of the craziest and best times of life, but it's also a prime opportunity for some unscrupulous character to make you a victim.

For many students it's the first time away from home, and whether you're from the big city or from Podunk, U.S.A., it's still possible for you to become a victim of a crime.

Hope isn't lost though, as there are plenty of steps to take to avoid becoming the name in the "victim" section of a police report.

Protect your stuff
Your car. Your computer. Your cell phone. Your identity.

Someone out there wants them. Thefts, both of cars and stuff in cars, come and go in waves. They can happen at

any time and in any place, either in the parking lot of your dorm complex, your apartment or out in the Klot.

When someone tries to steal your car or something in it, they're looking for an easy target. A car that isn't locked or that is otherwise easy to get into is a prime target for criminals. Lock your doors, roll up your windows and don't leave anything valuable or enticing out in open view for a thief to see.

Your dorm room is also a likely target. Never leave your dorm room unlocked. It's hard not to trust your roommate, but sometimes you can't. Don't leave cash, jewelry or other items around.

Textbooks are one of the latest crazes as far as crime goes, also. A textbook may cost you a pretty penny, but it's quick cash for someone who swipes it. Don't leave your textbooks unattended in study rooms or the libraries. Within 15 minutes, that book could be cash in someone's wallet.

Even your mail is up for grabs. Your social security number, credit card informa-

tion and more is in the mail, and that's one step away from being in the hands of someone who wants to rack up a bill and get a new plasma screen TV. Never leave your mail out or simply throw it out. Shred it, either with a machine or by hand. The same thing applies with your checks.

Protect yourself

Anyone can become the victim of a violent crime. Robbery, assault or rape all come to mind. But avoiding harm is as easy as being prepared.

Never travel alone at night. NEVER. That's just asking to be a target of a robbery or a sexual assault. Always travel with at least one other person.

Know the emergency numbers. Dialing 911 on campus will send you to Lexington Police. To get campus police, who are usually closer, dial #UKPD from your cell phone to get directly to the dispatcher.

When out partying, watch your drink. Don't ever let it out of your sight and be aware

of someone possibly putting something in it. Date rape drugs aren't usually detectable by smell or taste. If you suspect someone has drugged your drink (usually when you start to feel unusually dizzy or sleepy), get help immediately.

Date rape can happen between you and someone you just met yesterday. If you haven't consented to having sex, then it is, rape. UK Police offer a self-defense program for women called STARR. If you've become a victim of a rape, report it to police or to a doctor and they will see that you get help.

And too much alcohol can impair your judgment too. College may seem like time to cut loose, but be careful with how much you drink. It can save your life.

Though all this information may make it seem like college is riddled with danger, it has the possibility of being the time of your life.

Just be careful.
Darish Shafa is a journalism senior. E-mail dshafa@kykernel.com.



Darish Shafa
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Top 5 albums of the summer

By Steve Lopez | Kernal Music Critic

Unfortunately, summer can't last forever. We're all back to school now, but we still have all those memorable songs of this summer to keep our minds off the books for just a little while longer. The music of this summer is the soundtrack to that killer 4th of July party, our summer job or even a summer fling. With that said, the top five albums of this summer are:



1 Fall Out Boy | *From Under The Cork Tree*

Fall Out Boy's second album, *From Under The Cork Tree*, takes the top spot. The Chicago-based band delivered an album that had a fun, light-hearted spirit along with songs dealing with romance and dra-

ma. The band's hit song, "Sugar, We're Going Down," is an example of how the band mixed up-tempo music with hard hitting lyrics and produced a fun, easy-going song. They don't take themselves too

seriously either; they have a good sense of humor which makes them likeable, shown in their song "I Slept With Someone In Fall Out Boy And All I Got Was This Stupid Song Written About Me."

2 Jack Johnson | *In Between Dreams*

Following in second place is Jack Johnson's third album *In Between Dreams*. Johnson's smooth surf-inspired music has a classic summer feel that instantly

puts his listeners under a palm tree at the beach with a breeze blowing through their hair. Johnson is a friend to those music fans who enjoy taking time to relax and

spend time with a loved one. Songs like "Better Together" and "Do You Remember" echo the sounds of the summer and that special person you spent it with.



3 Foo Fighters | *In Your Honor*

Taking third place is the Foo Fighters' fifth album *In Your Honor*. The album, a proof to the band's hard work, consists of two discs containing 20 songs and pro-

vides nearly an hour and a half of music. Disc one showcases the band's grunge roots and is much heavier than disc two, which is all acoustic. The Foo Fighters de-

liver a solid album and their single, "Best of You," has a memorable chorus and title that makes it a classic summer song.

4 Ben Folds | *Songs for Silverman*

For those who are a little less mainstream, and prefer a piano to a guitar, Ben Folds delivers a must-have with his album *Songs for Silverman*. The album's first single,

"Landed," is about a friend's former love, but avoids being sad or sappy. Folds brings relaxing music along with some fun and possibly some trouble-making with this new al-

bum. In his song "Jesusland," Folds gets political and pokes fun at the red states. Listeners will have a good time with Folds as well as listen to music with a message.



5 Hawthorne Heights | *The Silence In Black and White*

Rounding out the top five summer albums is the Hawthorne Heights release of *The Silence In Black and White*. Although released last

year, the album's single, "Ohio Is For Lovers," released this summer, has had such great success on this summer's Warped Tour and

on the radio that this album made the list. Hawthorne Heights brought emo music to the stage and onto this summer's soundtrack.

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For more information please call Katrina at 257-1897

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