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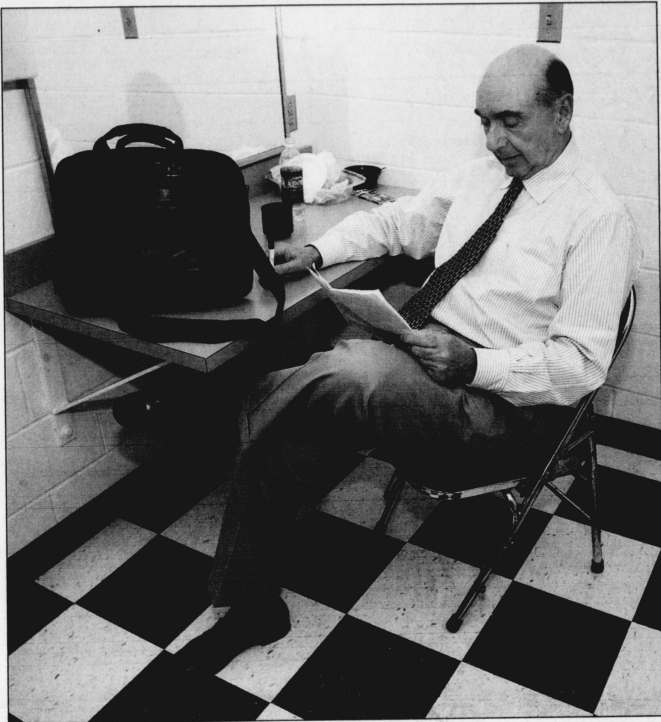
THE KENTUCKY Kernel

Celebrating 33 years of independence

Freshman guard
makes defensive mark
Page 8

Targeting Top 20: Residence Life
provides positive atmosphere
Page 6

BEYOND THE HYPE



Above: ESPN college basketball commentator Dick Vitale studies statistics before UK's game against Mississippi State on Saturday night at Rupp Arena. Vitale was covering the game as part of ESPN's College Gameday. Below: Vitale appears on one of several ESPN's live broadcasts from the Lexington Civic Center. Vitale, who has covered college hoops for 25 years, was one of the main attractions for fans.

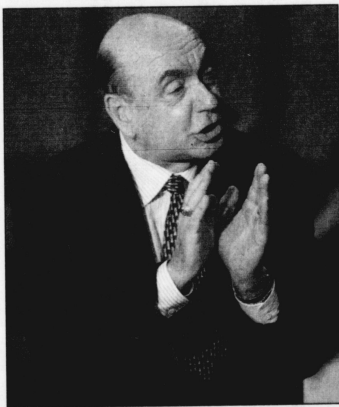
It's Awesome, Baby

Story by Jeff Patterson

Photos by Jonathan Palmer
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The Big Blue sea parts as seven officers escort him to the stage. Once the crowd catches a glimpse of the boisterous broadcaster, they reach a fevered pitch.

Chants of "Dickie V, Dickie V" fill the room. As show time approaches, the applause crescendos. Dick Vitale, the voice of college basketball, signs autographs for the sport's groupies. Then it gets really loud. The show starts.



"It's kind of like walking in every arena with Elvis,"

says Brad Nessler, Vitale's broadcast partner.

After 25 years of energizing the sport with catchphrases and youthful enthusiasm, the 65-year-old Vitale still gets goosebumps. And tiptop is still an hour away.

This is ESPN College Gameday Saturday night in the lobby of Rupp Arena, right before UK and Mississippi State take center stage.

"The game's the easy part," Vitale says. "I couldn't hear anything (host Chris) Fowler was saying."

The calm before the storm

Three hours before the game, the arena is virtually empty.

The lights are dim. More shockingly, Vitale is silent.

He hides in a dressing room to read notes and statistics.

"Oh boy, I need to see what they are going to ask me on the show," Vitale says.

As the clock clicks down toward tiptop, the ease wears off. The hyperactive announcer has returned.

Before going on air, Vitale turns to Nessler, his play-by-play announcer and friend, to take away the anxiety.

"He'll put me in a comfort zone," Vitale says.

So, how does anyone do that?

"I tell him to calm down," Nessler says. Luckily for Vitale, he still is bouncing off the walls of

ter a day of travel.

For the past two and a half years, Vitale has spent as little time on the road as possible. He would rather be at his Lakewood Ranch, Fla., home with his wife, Lorraine, than travel up and down the interstate.

ESPN pays for a commercial plane ticket, but Vitale pays a little extra and flies on a private jet instead. He uses extra income from speaking engagements — at about \$45,000 a pop — and his seven books to help fund the difference. But it's all worth it.

"It's been a godsend," Vitale says.

When he does stay in a hotel, he makes sure to relax before the game. He draws a "nice, hot bath" before reading all the stats and information about the teams he'll be analyzing.

"I like to sit alone and just have total concentration away from the phones," Vitale says. "There's nothing better than sitting alone in that bathtub."

No big-timer here

Whenever he walks by fans have to look twice. Then they flock toward him.

Vitale doesn't mind — he never has.

It's two hours before UK plays, and Rupp Arena is already loud. Students in the eRuppZone display their

See Vitale on page 4

Students raise funds to honor fallen soldier

UK student Jeffrey Scott died in Iraq; scholarship will aid engineering majors

By Becky Hall
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

For UK engineering professor Paul Goodrum, the "cheerful presence" of one student defines his memory of a class he taught a few years ago.

While other students may have been asleep or distracted, Goodrum could always count on Jeffrey Graham to pick up the spirits of others in the classroom.

"He was one of those students who always gave a smile no matter how bad a lecture was going," Goodrum said. "He was the type of student who makes this job worthwhile."

Graham — who was killed Feb. 19, 2004, in Iraq — is being honored with an engineering scholarship commemorating his achievements as a soldier and member of the UK community.

Graham graduated with honors from UK in May 2003 in civil engineering. He was also a member of UK's Army ROTC program. The ROTC has a room called "the Graham room," dedicated to Graham's memory and containing many of his military awards.

Two of his fellow civil engineering classmates, Lee Carlisle and Ulric Kulik, cofounded the 2nd Lt. Jeffrey C. Graham Memorial Scholarship in August 2004 to honor Graham's achievements at UK and his sacrifices as a soldier.

"Jeff didn't get to pursue his dreams as an engineer," Carlisle said. "This scholarship is a way to provide the opportunity for someone else to carry on the engineering dreams he didn't get to fulfill."

Kulik said he admires Graham's dedication to his country. "He had the option to stay here but he wanted to go (to Iraq)," Kulik said.

"Jeff did something for us, so we wanted to do something for him."

Graham was offered a desk job in the United States after the unexpected death of his brother Kevin in June 2003.

But Carol Graham, Jeffrey Graham's mother, remembers her son telling her, "the only thing worse than a country at war is a soldier not at war."

While serving in Iraq, Graham told his family of his desire to help rebuild the war-torn country.

"His dream was to help rebuild the roads, bridges and buildings in Iraq," Carol Graham said. "He loved serving his

See Soldier on page 2

"This scholarship is a way to provide the opportunity for someone else to carry on the engineering dreams he didn't get to fulfill."

Lee Carlisle
Cofounder of the 2nd Lt. Jeffrey C. Graham Memorial Scholarship

UK's medical center offers hepatitis study

By Jeff Fichner
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

People with hepatitis C may qualify to participate in a study with investigative medicine at the Chandler Medical Center.

The program, Ideal Study, is designed to test whether smaller doses of a common treatment, interferon, for hepatitis C may be as effective as larger doses currently being administered, said Dr. Alvaro Koch, an assistant medicine professor.

"There is some information from previous studies that raises questions about using less of the drug interferon to treat hepatitis C and getting the same results as larger doses," he said.

The Ideal Study is sponsored by the Schering-Plough Corporation and will involve 2,880 patients at 100 U.S. study centers.

Koch said Schering-Plough contacted UK because they were aware of the medical center's work and believed it would be an ideal location for a test center.

Patients will participate in the study for a year and must meet certain criteria.

Most importantly, Koch said, patients must have never received any form of treatment for hepatitis C to be considered for the study.

If accepted, patients will begin a 12-week screening phase to see if they respond to initial treatments. If there is no response, patients will not be permitted to continue in the study, Koch said.

Those who fully respond will continue treatment, however, as will partial responders, who will be retested after six months to verify treatment response.

The major downfall of interferon is side effects, Koch said.

"The goal is to determine whether a smaller dosage is indeed as effective, so patients can continue using the drug for longer periods of time due to reduced amounts of side effects," he said.

Koch said the study benefits those diagnosed with hepatitis C because it is a way to get free treatment.

"A problem for many people is that Medicare doesn't cover hepatitis C medication, and the treatment can be pretty expensive," Koch said.

Koch also said the study may curb drug abuse problems in Eastern Kentucky.

"We are working to help unveil the hepatitis C problem

See Study on page 2

About the study

For more information, call 323-6423, and visit www.idealstudy.com and www.metrotrial.com

Author Thompson dead at 67

By Martin Weil and Allan Lengel
THE WASHINGTON POST

Hunter S. Thompson, whose life and writing, vivid and quirky reflections of each other, made him one of the principal symbols of the American counterculture, shot and killed himself Sunday at his home near Aspen. He was 67.

Thompson was a practitioner of personal journalism, pouring thoughts and ideas onto the page in a style that was vividly his own and that brought him cult-like status and widespread recognition.

He was the author of books on politics and American society that were regarded as groundbreaking among

journalists and other students of current affairs in their irreverence and idiosyncratic insights.

Among those for which he was famed are *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* and *Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail*.

Part of what made for his outlaw-seeming independence and his defiance of convention appeared to be an affinity for the drug lifestyle, which limited his appeal to many.

Tricia Louthis, a communications specialist who spoke Sunday night on behalf of the Pitkin County sheriff, confirmed that Thompson died at his home of "what appears to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound."

She said the shooting was reported at 5:52 p.m. but declined to say who made the report.

Further information was to be released by the family, she said.

Sheriff Bob Braudis said in a brief telephone interview that Thompson was alone in his kitchen when he shot himself with a handgun. His wife was at a gym at the time, Braudis said.

Thompson was known for a style that he described as "gonzo journalism," a form of "new journalism."

It was rooted in the idea that absolute fidelity to the indisputably factual and provable did not always provide the best avenue to truth.

Instead, "gonzo journalism" and its practitioners suggested that a deeper truth could be found in the ambiguous zones between fact and fiction.

"Objective journalism is one of the main reasons that American politics has been allowed to be so corrupt for so long," Thompson told interviewers in a characteristic pronouncement on both institutions.

"You can't be objective about Nixon," he said. "How can you be objective about Clinton?"

He was born in Louisville, and after a brief youth entered the Air Force, according to one account as part of a parole agreement.

Study

Continued from page 1

in Eastern Kentucky, because one of the biggest causes of hepatitis C is intravenous drug abuse," he said.

There are no specific statistics on hepatitis C in Eastern Kentucky, and Koch said it would be helpful if UK could provide information on whether hepatitis C is indeed a problem in the area.

A study is also being conducted for those people who have already received

hepatitis C treatments but did not respond to treatment, Koch said.

That study is called Metro Trial and is sponsored by Vertex Pharmaceuticals. He said it is designed to address dosage concerns as well as investigational drugs.

UK is receiving full funding for the Ideal Study from Schering-Plough, Koch said.

"It is important for us to get the word out about the study," Dr. Alvaro Koch, assistant medicine professor

ple seeking treatment," he said.
E-mail news@kykernel.com

Soldier

Continued from page 1

country"

On Feb. 19, 2004, Graham was killed by an improvised explosive device that detonated seconds after he spotted it and warned his troops. His actions saved the lives of many men in his platoon.

After his death, the military awarded Graham the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

A strong student

Graham and his personality left the same impact on his family as it did his friends and classmates.

"His smile lit up a room and he was very charismatic," said Melanie Graham, Jeffrey's younger sister and a UK nursing junior.

"Jeff was pretty much happy all the time," Kulik said. "He was always in a positive mode."

Goodrum, who taught Graham in two courses, said he was a strong engineering student.

"He was always appreciative of what we're trying to accomplish as educators," Goodrum said.

"I felt like I lost someone in my own family," he said of Graham's death.

The only challenger to Graham's love of engineering and the ROTC was UK basketball.

He and his brother Kevin once painted the NCAA tournament bracket on the wall of their apartment. The two also built stadium seating so they could watch games on TV with 50 or 60 friends, Melanie Graham said.

While stationed in Fallujah, Iraq, Jeff turned his camp into a UK basketball haven. He decorated the camp with UK memorabilia sent to him by family and friends, Carol Graham said.

At night he would write "Go Big Blue" on the dry erase board so it was the first thing his men saw in the morning, she said. Two months before he was killed, Graham was able to watch last year's Kentucky-Indiana basketball game on TV in Iraq.

'A tribute to Jeff'

The 2nd Lt. Jeffrey C. Graham Memorial Scholarship is still in the fundraising stage. The goal is to raise \$10,000 in two years so the scholarship can be endowed, meaning it will be offered every year.

If the monetary goal is not met, the future of the scholarship will be unclear, said Sharon Townsend, a marketing specialist in the Office of Engineering Advancement.

So far, fundraising efforts have raised \$7,000 since August 2004, Carlisle said. Engineering societies, civil engineering firms and private citizens have all contributed to the cause, he said.

Other fundraising efforts are being organized by the UK College of Engineering. Townsend said. She said efforts to encourage donations for the scholarship fund have been included in engineering publications. The office has also sent appeals through direct mail.

Letters asking for support for the scholarship will be sent to Graham's classmates and young UK alumni, Townsend said.

The scholarship criteria have not yet been established.

About the scholarship

Donations for the 2nd Lt. Jeffrey C. Graham Memorial Scholarship can be sent to:

Office of Advancement
251 Ralph G. Anderson Building
College of Engineering
University of Kentucky 40506

"We're just honored they would want to remember him that way," Carol Graham said of the scholarship. "It would mean so much to Jeff."

The scholarship is fitting because of Jeff's love for his major and his school, his sister said.

"I think it's such a tribute to Jeff: it keeps his name there," Melanie Graham said. "It puts a personal aspect behind the scholarship, and that may inspire people."

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Arts & Sciences

February 21-25, 2005

TUESDAY'S EVENTS

Visit www.as.uky.edu/geekweek/ for events & list of open classes.

11 AM: GUEST SPEAKER: AMBASSADOR MARY PENDELTON, DIPLOMAT IN RESIDENCE

The James W. Stuckert Career Center hosts a Department of State information session that will give students an opportunity to hear about fellowships for undergraduate and graduate students as well as the fall internship program.

Location: Room 101, Stuckert Bldg.

NOON-1 PM: ARTS AND SCIENCES AMBASSADORS PRESENT "AN INTERNATIONAL EXTRAVAGANZA"

Meet representatives from the UK Study Abroad Office and from programs in French, German, Classics, Arabic & Islamic Studies, Japan Studies, Chinese, Russian Studies, Jewish Studies, Hispanic Studies and members of various International Student Organizations, including the Muslim Student Organization.

Location: Room 230, Student Center
Refreshments served.

2-4 PM: FILM SCREENING OF "FEBRUARY ONE: THE STORY OF THE GREENSBORO FOUR"

An hour-long feature documentary written and co-produced by Daniel Smith, UK History Dept., tells the powerful story of personal moral courage that transformed Greensboro, NC, and the nation at the dawn of the 1960s civil rights movement. February 1, 1960 was the day that four North Carolina A&T students sat down for service at Woolworth's lunch counter and in doing so stood up for the rights of all black men and women.

Location: Student Center Theatre
Refreshments served.

7-8 PM: THE ARTS & SCIENCES AMBASSADORS PRESENT "THE PASSION TO SAY IT OUT LOUD!" POETRY SLAM; NIKKY FINNEY, UK ENGLISH DEPT., AS EMCEE.

The poems presented will be original student compositions. Come and help celebrate the music of the spoken word!

Location: Cats Den in UK Student Center (lower level of old Student Center)
Refreshments will be served.

7-8 PM: JIM KRUPA, DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY "READING BONES"

How do forensic investigators on CSI do that? By "reading" bones, scientists can determine what an animal ate, where it lived, how it moved, etc. We can read the animal's ecology and behavior right off the bones. This will really be a lot of fun.

Location: Thomas Hunt Morgan Building (corner of Rose and Washington Streets) **Parking:** Please use the parking structure at the end of Hilltop

6-8 PM: "EARTH SCIENCES OPEN HOUSE"

The Department of Geological Sciences presents an Open House. Hands-on activities include glow-in-the-dark minerals; the "ant farm;" videos of active volcanoes; and guided tours of the mineral and fossil collections in the Huddell Museum in Bowman Hall.

Location: The Stone Building, 2nd floor (on Washington Avenue). **Parking:** Please use the parking structure at the end of Hilltop

OPEN CLASSES FOR TUESDAY

AMST 102: Intro to American Studies (M, Tu, W, Th, F, 11:00-12:00 AM, 2006-07-01)

AMST 212: Advanced American Studies (R, Tu, W, Th, F, 11:00-12:00 AM, 2006-07-01)

AMST 213: American Studies II (W, Th, F, 11:00-12:00 AM, 2006-07-01)

AMST 214: American Studies III (Th, F, 11:00-12:00 AM, 2006-07-01)

AMST 215: American Studies IV (F, 11:00-12:00 AM, 2006-07-01)

AMST 216: American Studies V (S, 11:00-12:00 AM, 2006-07-01)

AMST 217: American Studies VI (Su, 11:00-12:00 AM, 2006-07-01)

AMST 218: American Studies VII (M, 11:00-12:00 AM, 2006-07-01)

AMST 219: American Studies VIII (Tu, 11:00-12:00 AM, 2006-07-01)


AMST 220: American Studies IX (W, 11:00-12:00 AM, 2006-07-01)

AMST 221: American Studies X (Th, 11:00-12:00 AM, 2006-07-01)

AMST 222: American Studies XI (F, 11:00-12:00 AM, 2006-07-01)

AMST 223: American Studies XII (S, 11:00-12:00 AM, 2006-07-01)

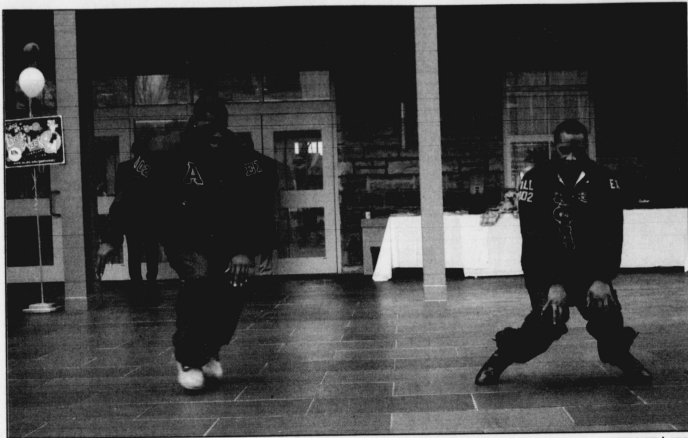
AMST 224: American Studies XIII (Su, 11:00-12:00 AM, 2006-07-01)



Geek Week
2005

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DANCING FOR GEEK WEEK



Leslie Hollerman, left, and Greg Thompson, Jr., right, perform a short step dance routine outside the Main Building yesterday. Below is a list of today's Geek Week events.

February One: The Story of the Greensboro Four, film screening, Student Center Theater, 2 p.m.

"The Passion to Say It Out Loud!" Poetry Slam, Cats Den in the Student Center, 7 p.m.

"Reading Bones," Dr. Jim Krupa, department of biology, Thomas Hunt Morgan Building, 7 p.m.

Israel frees Palestinian captives

By Laura King
LOS ANGELES TIMES

JERUSALEM — Israel freed 500 Palestinian prisoners Monday, the first such mass release since Palestinian Authority President Abbas took office last month.

At checkpoints in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, tearful Palestinian families greeted prison buses carrying the freed men. Some of the men stepped off the buses, dropped to their knees and kissed the ground.

Prisoner releases are seen as one of the most crucial means by which Israel can bolster Abbas' credibility in the eyes of Palestinians and build on the momentum generated by a peace summit earlier this month in Egypt.

Few issues galvanize Palestinian public opinion as the releases. Palestinians regard the prisoners as national heroes, and Abbas would risk being hounded out of office if he were unable to secure the freedom of large numbers of those behind bars in Israel.

But freeing prisoners is a political risk for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who is under enormous pressure from conservatives over his plan to uproot Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank. His Cabinet approved the withdrawal Sunday.

Some families of Israelis slain in Palestinian suicide bombings and other attacks

fought an unsuccessful legal battle to block Monday's prisoner release. Although none of those freed was directly involved in attacks on Israelis, televised scenes of prisoners jubilantly raising their manacled hands in the air were wrenching for many in Israel.

"Our loved ones are buried in the ground and terrorists are being released," said Pina Eisenman, whose mother and 5-year-old daughter were killed in a suicide bombing at a Jerusalem bus stop in June 2002 carried out by the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade.

For Palestinians, the homecomings were fraught with emotion.

"I am so happy to be out of prison," said 43-year-old Ismail Amassi, who was jailed in early 2002 after being convicted of membership in a terrorist organization.

"I could hardly picture any more what my wife and children looked like. ... I was so afraid I might die away from my family."

In the northern West Bank town of Jenin, one Palestinian man was killed by celebratory gunfire.

Monday's release was the largest since 1996, when Israel freed 800 Palestinians under the terms of the Oslo peace accords.

An additional 400 prisoners are to be let out of Israeli jails in the next three months.

"I was so afraid I might die away from my family."

Ismail Amassi, released Palestinian

Vioxx could be back on the market again

By Delhia Ricks
NEWCASTLE

In the last decade, the public has seen a series of high-profile drugs designed to treat everything from diabetes to heartburn banished from the market, and it was widely believed early last week that the painkillers called COX-2 inhibitors would succumb to the same fate.

But when two Food and Drug Administration panels narrowly voted Friday to allow Vioxx to make a comeback — and for Celebrex and Bextra to remain on pharmacy shelves — many doctors and health-care activists responded to the decision with shock.

Just days before the vote, a flurry of medical studies demonstrated that each of the medications was inherently

dangerous, capable of raising the risk of heart attacks, strokes and a wide range of other cardiovascular problems.

Dr. Jeffrey Drazen, editor of *The New England Journal of Medicine*, wrote an editorial that perhaps it was time to end the problematic pharmaceutical run of the drug class called COX-2.

Nevertheless, proponents who pleaded with FDA panels to keep the drugs spoken of patients who need them to beat back chronic pain.

Dr. Mark Fendrick, a professor of medicine at the University of Michigan, said that despite the controversy, judicious use can help sidestep potential dangers. "Now that the FDA panel has noted the potential for all COX-2 inhibitors to increase the risk of adverse cardiovascular

events, their use should be limited to individuals at risk for stomach injury and those who are at low risk for cardiac problems."

COX-2 inhibitors, initially dubbed super-aspirin, prevent the stomach ulceration associated with aspirin.

Critics Friday were less diplomatic, charging that the drugs entered the market on fast-track approvals based on small industry-run studies that were not strong enough to spot the dangers that have unfolded. Troubles linked to Merck's Vioxx and Pfizer's two drugs, Celebrex and Bextra, are emblematic of medications that are fast-tracked and overhyped, experts said Friday.

"These are weapons of mass destruction," said Dr. Sidney Wolfe, director of consumer watchdog Public Citi-

zen's Health Research Group, referring to the drugs. Wolfe, one of the most vocal critics of the pharmaceutical industry and the FDA, said the decision to leave COX-2 inhibitors on the market "defies common sense."

Two FDA expert panels heard testimony about the medications from proponents and critics during a three-day hearing last week, and while the panels' vote is merely a recommendation to keep the drugs in pharmacies, the FDA, which has final word, generally abides by its advisers' conclusions.

Vioxx, voluntarily withdrawn by Merck in September when heart risks first surfaced in a cancer prevention trial, was never banned by the FDA. Questions remain about how the agency will re-evaluate it in the near future.

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For more information contact Senator Becky Ellingsworth at (859) 257-3191 or b_ellingsworth@hotmail.com

Office of Student Activities, Leadership & Involvement

WWW.UKY.EDU/CAMPUSCALENDAR

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Visit the web site for event details or to post your own UK event.

The Campus Calendar is produced by the Office of Student Activities, Leadership & Involvement. Registered Student Orgs. and UK Dept. can submit information for FREE online ONE WEEK PRIOR to the MONDAY information to appear. Call 257-8667 for more information.

| Tuesday 22 nd | Wednesday 23 rd | Thursday 24 th | Friday 25 th | Saturday 26 th | Sunday 27 th |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| Baptist Student Union's English Conversation Class, 8:00 PM, 429 Columbia Ave. UK Leadership Fair, 4:00 PM, Small Ballroom at the Student Center Leftist Student Union Meeting, 8:00 PM, Student Center 228 Operation Motivation, 4:15 PM, Lexington Traditional Magnet School Car of Woodson Lecture Series, 4:00 PM, 210 Student Center Bakht Khawana, 8:00 PM, Worsham Theatre February One: The Story of the Greensboro Four, 2:00 PM, Student Center Theatre UK Berean Bible Study, 8:00 PM, Student Center, Room 113 Arts & Sciences Geek Week, 12:00 PM, campus venue UK Anime Club Meeting, 6:00 PM, Center Theatre, Student Center UK Horticulture Club meeting, 5:00 PM, Ag. North greenhouse classroom UK Green Thumb Meeting, 7:00 PM, Student Center, Room 106 The Passion to Say It Out Loud! (poetry slam), 7:00 PM, Cats Den UK Fencing Club Meeting, 8:00 PM, Buell Army/Barker Hall International Extravaganza, 12:00 PM, Room 230 Student Center Baptist Student Union presents "TNT", 7:30 PM, 429 Columbia Ave. | "The Rock", 8:00 PM, Baptist Student Center on Columbia Ave. Worsham Club Whiteboard Club Meeting, 8:00 PM, Johnson Center Lobby Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry Workshop Service, 5:05 PM A&S Ambassadors present a "Pre-Professional Fair", 4:00 PM, Room 210 Student Center Arts & Sciences Geek Week, 12:00 PM, campus venue UK College Republican Meeting, 8:00 PM, Commons Market Room 306 Tudo Sobre Mi Madra (All About My Mother), 6:00 PM, W.T. Young Library Eyewitness Testimony in the Courtroom, 2:00 PM, Room 230 Student Center UK Water Ski Club, 9:00 PM, Commons Room 306A UK Judo Club practice, 5:00 PM, Alumni Gym Loft Lavender Society Meeting, 7:30 PM, Center Cat's For Christ Meeting, 7:00 PM, Commons Market Room 228 Central KY FCA Meeting, 8:00 PM, Commons Market Table Francaise, French conversation group, 3:00 PM, Student Center, Room 231 Comedy Caravan, 8:00 PM, Cats Den | Baptist Student Union's Freshman Focus Group Meeting, 7:30 PM, 429 Columbia Ave The American Red Cross Disaster Relief 2005, 8:00 PM, Kennelard Barn UK Lambda, 7:30 PM, Room 231, Student Center UK Climbing Club, 7:00 PM, Johnson Center UK Fencing Club Meeting, 8:00 PM, Buell Army/Barker Hall UK Phi Alpha Delta Pre-law Meeting, 5:00 PM, Student Center, Room 202 UKI, 7:30 PM, Worsham Theatre Student Center Arts & Sciences Geek Week, 12:00 PM, campus venue Einstein & Beyond Lecture Series, 7:00 PM, Memorial Hall Attacks on the Rule of Law in America, 7:00 PM, Room A, Lexington Public Library, Main Street CKU, 7:30 PM, Worsham Theatre Student Center West Berlin Blues: Mr. Lehmann, 4:00 PM, Student Center Theatre CSP Presents "Synergy", 8:00 PM, CSP Building, corner of Woodland and Columbia Tutoring Iner City North, 6:30 PM, Phillips Memorial Why Time is Relative - Albert Einstein's Amazing Year, 3:00 PM, Room 206 Student Center Wesley Foundation's Focus Worship Meeting, 7:30 PM, Student Center Theatre | Friday Night Live, 7:00 PM, Cat's Den Student March Against AIDS in DC, 7:00 PM, Washington DC ICF Dinner and Fellowship, 7:00 PM, St. Augustine Chapel, Rose St. Physics Spectacular, 6:30 PM, Chemistry/Physics Building Room 155 Salsa Class, 3:00 PM, Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Center, 124 Student Center Chinese Folk Dance Company, 6:00 PM, Singletary Center for the Arts Chemical Reaction Attraction!, 7:15 PM, Chemistry/Physics Building Room 139 Goodnight Desdemona, (Good Morning Juliet), 8:00 PM, Guignol Theatre Russell Gunn, 8:00 PM, Memorial Hall | Goodnight Desdemona, (Good Morning Juliet), 8:00 PM, Guignol Theatre UK Hockey vs. Indiana, 12:00 AM, Lexington Ice Center | UK Women's Basketball vs. Arkansas, 2:00 PM, Memorial Coliseum Goodnight Desdemona, (Good Morning Juliet), 2:00 PM, Guignol Theatre |

Vitale

Continued from page 1

affection for the bald hoops legend with T-shirts declaring "I love Dickie V." The posters say the same, as do the fans.

"The kids have kept me so young," Vitale says. "I'm 65, and I act about 12."

With the ESPN crew, he's no different. He places his arm around his co-workers and treats them like his best friend.

"Dick is a very personal, upbeat, positive person," says Ray Tipton, ESPN's producer for Saturday night basketball games. "He's not afraid to let the character trait show everywhere he goes."

"It rubs off on people. It's genuine."

"That's why the majority of fans adore him."

"Kids can know they can take time to come up to me, and I'm not going to blow them away," Vitale says.

Fans line up to get his autograph and have their picture taken with him. Vitale always obliges.

"He's a college basketball icon," says Patrick Barker, a geology junior.

Vitale autographs a picture of him interviewing Rick Pitino in Barker's Kentucky Basketball Yearbook. Even though there were already 60 autographs in it, Vitale's stands out from the rest.

"It was a nice addition to my book," Barker says.

On one end of the court, UK junior forward Keleena Azubuike swishes shot after shot as he warms up with a friend, and no one says a word.

On the other end, Vitale is the main attraction.

"A lot of my partners say, 'They treat you like a rock star, man,'" Vitale says.

Passing the rock

Vitale's work on the microphone is minuscule. What he's really proud of is his charity work.

Working with the Jimmy V Foundation has become a calling for Vitale.

Recently, Vitale led a pledge drive seeking \$1 million for the cancer research foundation named after the late Jim Valvano, the North Carolina State coach and broadcaster who died of cancer in 1983.

The V Foundation asked 20 donors for \$50,000 each. With Vitale's influence, sports personalities from Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski to ESPN studio host John Saunders emptied their pockets.

"I like to use my name in a positive way," Vitale says.

Now that the foundation reached its goal, they still



Left: ESPN announcer Dick Vitale signs an autograph for Elvis lookalike Rick Cothern, of Bowling Green, Saturday night outside Rupp Arena in the Lexington Civic Center.
Below: Vitale chats with UK junior forward Keleena Azubuike before the Cats' game against Mississippi State.

JONATHAN PALMER | STAFF



seek more help, Vitale says. Contributors can donate online at jimmyv.org.

Vitale helps with any cause that comes his way. It's hard for him to say no, Nessler says.

For the past 14 years, Nessler has hosted the Brad Nessler Golf Tournament in St. Charles, Minn., to raise money for cancer research. The charity event is named after Nessler's father, who died 15 years ago.

Each year Vitale shows up.

"It's unbelievable what he does in the community," Nessler says.

Then there are the Boys and Girls Clubs. Vitale is so beloved by them that they built a statue of him outside one of the Sarasota, Fla., facilities.

Last summer Vitale called up many of his friends in the coaching community to help raise \$1 million.

"Tubby Smith played a big part of that," Vitale recalls.

Through Jerry Healy, owner of McDonald's restaurants in Lexington, Vitale recruited Smith.

"It's the cause, not necessarily the person," Smith

says. "I have some friends up here who know him, and that helped. Jerry Healy was the biggest factor."

Dropping a few names

Every couple of minutes you hear the name of a famous college coach.

"He drops names," says Tom Leach, UK's football and basketball radio announcer.

Mike Krzyzewski, Tubby Smith, Bobby Knight, Rick Pitino.

These coaches' names are used extensively in Vitale's vocabulary.

But not as much the terms he invented:

Dipsy-doo dunk-a-roo. Diaper dandy. Cupcake city, baby.

"With all of his phrases, he has made the game a lot more fun," says UK junior guard Ravi Moss, a broadcast journalism student.

Last Tuesday, Vitale dropped by the Cincinnati Reds spring-training complex in Sarasota. Reds center fielder Ken Griffey Jr. asked him, "When will you lose that enthusiasm?"

Vitale's response: "Hopefully, never."
He needs the crowd's energy to feed his anxiety and

Vitale Info

• Born: June 9, 1939, in East Rutherford, N.J.

• Personal: Wife, Lorraine; two daughters, Terri and Sherri

• Education: Masters degree in education from William Paterson College in Wayne, N.J., and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Seton Hall

• Resides: Lakewood Ranch, Fla.

• TV career: Broadcasted ESPN's first-ever college basketball game (Wisconsin at DePaul) in the 1979-80 season

• Coaching career: Head coach, Garfield (N.J.) High School, 1963-64; head coach, East Rutherford High School, 1964-1970; assistant coach, Rutgers University, 1970-72; head coach, University of Detroit, 1973-77; head coach, Detroit Pistons, 1978-79

energy.

"I feel if I lose that little edge," Vitale says, "the party's over."

E-mail

jpatterson@kykernel.com

Leading UK is senior John Holmes, who is tied for 12th overall with a score of 148 (70-78).

Baseball adds game

In a new addition to its schedule, the UK baseball team (2-1) will host Cumberland College at 3 p.m. Wednesday.

The game is the team's home opener and admission will be free to all. UK will host a three-game series against Buffalo that begins at 3 p.m. Friday.

Hayes earns honor

UK senior forward Chuck

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Women's golf stays in 11th

MIAMI LAKES, Fla. — After 36 holes, the UK women's golf team remains in 11th place at the Papa John's Collegiate Golf Tournament.

Freshman Beth Feltz shot a team-low 76 and jumped 13 places in the standings to complete the second day of play tied for 36th. Leading UK is freshman Elizabeth Dotson, who is tied for 31st at 156 (77-79) after 36 holes.

Men's golf falls to eighth

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — After two rounds, the UK men's golf team stands tied for eighth place at the Mercedes-Benz Collegiate Championship at Sawgrass Country Club.

The Cats slipped two spots after firing a second-round score of 25-over-par 308 to give them a two-day total of 601. 13 strokes behind Alabama. The Tide lead the 17-team field with a 12-over-par 588.

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TECHCHECK | not just for geeks

Open sources of fun

Imagine a digital utopia in which you can download free, effective and widely used programs created by users.

Imagine a free Internet browser that doesn't open the door to a cornucopia of adware and spyware.

Let's not stop there. Think about the possibility of a free operating system as good as, if not better than, Microsoft Windows.

Now, take a deep breath. These titillating pieces of technology are known as open-source applications. The open-source mantra dictates, as noted on opensource.org, that a program must have a free redistribution license and allow users access to the source code of the program.

Of course, you're probably befuddled as to what "redistribution license," "source code" and "befuddled" mean, so let me explain.

A free redistribution license allows for the program to be packaged with other programs and be free from royalties or other fees.

The source code of a program, usually kept under wraps in the interest of intellectual property rights, is essentially what makes the program work. But when a source code is public, users can tweak it and turn the program into something all their own.

Netscape Communications declared on Jan. 23, 1998, that its Web browser, Netscape Communicator, would be available free of charge and that the source code for the browser

would be made public. This gave rise to one of the most interesting and popular open-source experiments in recent years, the Mozilla browser project.

Mozilla Firefox is one of the most amazing browsers I've ever used in my long history of Internet use. I haven't had a problem with any spyware or adware problems that plagued me when I used Internet Explorer, since I switched to Firefox. Furthermore, Firefox uses a tabbed browsing system, allowing you to have several pages open in a single browser window.

It's so amazing, in fact, that I've abandoned and now curse Internet Explorer. Apparently, a lot of other people feel the same way; after just over two months, mozilla.org notes more than 19 million downloads.

Although Microsoft's Internet Explorer is still the dominant force in the market, its influence is slowly waning. According to C-net's news.com, Microsoft's share of the browser market slipped from a high of 95.5 percent in June to 90.3 percent in January.

Another shot across the bow of proprietary software has come in the form of Open Office. As the name implies, it's a fully functional office suite not unlike Microsoft Office.

Not only can you write, read and save Word files with it, but you can also create PowerPoint presentations and spreadsheets.

When I first stumbled on Open Office, I couldn't believe it. Why pay hundreds of dollars for risk pirating a copy of MS Office when you can get a free, legal and fully functioning copy of a program that not only does the same thing but also creates the same file types?

The open-source revolution doesn't stop with small programs like browsers and office

Open Source Links

- www.mozilla.org
- www.Opensource.org
- www.slax.org
- www.opensource.org

suites, however. Most commonly used to run servers, the Linux operating system is the Unix-based, open-source answer to both Macintosh's OS-X and Microsoft's Windows. Developed under the GNU General Public License, Linux looks, feels and behaves like a full-fledged operating system.

Despite being a great OS and a really interesting project, Linux still takes some computer skill to tweak it into being a Windows "replacement." But, if you're interested, try using a live-CD distribution like Slax, which allows you to run the entire Linux OS off a CD upon boot up — no install, no potential destruction of your beloved PC.

Not unlike Firefox, Linux is making huge gains on the proprietary software world, and its implications are huge.

On Jan. 31, the government of Brazil decided to switch 300,000 government computers from Windows to Linux. This was apparently of some concern to Microsoft, as Bill Gates immediately requested an audience with Brazil's president.

Open-source programs are entering a veritable renaissance, so get in on it while you can and contribute if you're able. It really can't hurt to at least check all of this stuff out. I also implore the university's IT guys to look at some open-source options; in light of the impending tuition hike, why not try to save every dollar you can?

E-mail
features@kykernel.com



Ian Conley
TECH COLUMNIST

Author to discuss rap and race issues

By Ashley Graves
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Hip-hop's beats and rhythms resonate loudly in the dance halls and boom boxes of American youth.

But hip-hop has also become one of the keys to understanding race in contemporary society. Among those who use hip-hop as a starting point to explore racial issues is Bakari Kitwana, the author of *Why White Kids Love Hip-Hop*.

Kitwana will speak tonight on the nature of race relations among young people and the role that hip-hop plays in their lives, along with his thoughts on civil rights and hip-hop.

The Student Activities Board will present the non-ticketed event at 8 p.m. in the Washburn Theater to bring students together and inform them of other prominent African-American leaders in U.S. society during Black History Month.

"Our goal was to bring an open discussion on race to UK," said Molly Glauber, director of multicultural affairs for SAB. "People put up barriers when we have so much in common."

Why White Kids Love Hip-Hop explores Americans' preconceptions about race and level of comfort with black people.

Kitwana is also the author of *The Hip-Hop Generation: Young Blacks and the Crisis in African American Culture* and

The Rap on Gangsta Rap.

Glauber said Kitwana's talk "is a way to see how far our generation and UK itself have progressed with racial issues and how much more we still need to work for equality."

William Turner, vice president for university initiatives and associate provost for multicultural affairs, said he feels strongly about equality at UK. He has provided support and encouragement as a mentor for SAB to bring the event to campus.

Kitwana has been acknowledged as an expert on youth culture and hip-hop politics and activism by The New York Times, the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, Salon.com, USA Today, CNN and "The O'Reilly Factor."

He was also the executive editor of *The Source*, a magazine of hip-hop music, culture and politics; he is still a freelance writer for the magazine.

He now writes a weekly column, "Do the Knowledge," for the Cleveland Plain Dealer on hip-hop and youth culture.

While Kitwana has explored the influence of music on teenagers for years, his writings have appeared in *The Source*, *Savvy*, *The Village Voice* and *the Progressive*, and on BET.com.

"Kitwana will not only bring an educational event to campus, but also provide an opportunity to discuss current

Why White Kids Love Hip-Hop

When: 8 p.m. tonight
Where: Washburn Theater in the Student Center
How Much: Free

race issues on campus with a prominent figure and students," said Megan Towse, director of quality control for SAB. "It will allow students to explore other cultures besides their own and confront the uncomfortable, avoided subject of race."

Kitwana has also spoken about hip-hop at other colleges, such as Harvard University, Columbia University, Vassar College, Hamilton College and the University of Rochester.

He teaches a course called "The Politics of the Hip-Hop Generation" in the political science department at Kent State University.

Kitwana is a consultant on hip-hop for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

"It comes up in so many issues, and it shouldn't," said Amy Lee, a business management senior. "The lecture will allow students to express their views and see how they relate to an expert's."

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Coming soon: Story of a swing state

By John Horn
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Documentary filmmakers James Stern and Adam Del Deo traveled to Ohio last November in search of a specific election story. When the presidential voting was completed, they ended up with a very different movie.

Stern and Del Deo, both of whom voted for Sen. John F. Kerry, initially traveled to the battleground state to document how thousands of Republican poll watchers would challenge Ohio voters.

"I was outraged" by the poll challengers, says Stern, whose producing credits include "Michael Jordan to the Max" and both the upcoming drama "Proof" and basketball documentary "The Year of the Yao."

When the imagined drama of Kerry supporters be-

ing barred from voting didn't materialize, Stern and Del Deo decided not to leave Ohio. Instead, almost overnight, they shifted the focus of "Ohio: An American Vote," dispatching camera crews to record all aspects of the campaign push in the election's most important state.

"This can show people how the process works," Stern says. "Ohio is great. And for our good fortune, it turned out defining the election."

Ohio's Election Day was filled with drama.

It wasn't simply that Bush's Ohio margin was narrow — about 118,000 votes of more than 5.6 million ballots cast. Some voters had to wait

in lines as long as 10 hours to cast ballots, and a "computer glitch" recorded an extra 3,893 Bush votes in a precinct with just 638 votes cast. Republicans complained that voter registrars affiliated with the Democratic Party conducted phony voters, using names such as Mary Pop-pins and Dick Tra-

still who's going to come out of this documentary looking better or worse," Stern says.

"What's astonishing, and also heartbreaking, is how much people care," Stern says. "But in the caring, does democracy undermine itself? True believers on either side of the election, believe the ends justify the means."

James Stern (film maker, on observing the election in Ohio). "I have no idea still who's going to come out of this documentary looking better or worse," Stern says. "What's astonishing, and also heartbreaking, is how much people care," Stern says. "But in the caring, does democracy undermine itself? True believers on either side of the election, believe the ends justify the means."

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IN OUR OPINION

On-campus housing gives residents life



To see how UK measures up against other schools in terms of residence life, one must go to the most important judges — the students.

And in the eyes of students, the UK Office of Residence Life is doing a good job within its halls.

As UK attempts to elevate its programs to top-20 status, that feedback is a positive sign in an area where clear-cut comparisons are difficult to find.

Judging UK against its benchmarks in this area is difficult, since one cannot simply compile statistics to stand side-by-side.

Currently, UK has 155 resident advisers and 19 hall directors. There are 40 resident students to every RA.

These numbers will change as new dorms open this fall, and these numbers offer little when trying to see how UK stands with its

benchmarks, since each school has different situations on campus.

The only way to judge is to listen to what students say here and at other campuses around the country.

Residence Life is doing just that, and it is trying to put the right changes into action.

Last year, Residence Life took part in a national survey through the Association of College and University Housing Officers International, said Jim Wims, director of Residence Life.

Wims said the survey helps measure UK against its benchmarks in terms of residence hall staff, the environment in the hall, relationships to fellow residents, services available, etc.

According to Wims, UK ranks "favorably" with its benchmarks in most areas except two — dining services and facilities.

Those were the areas where students said UK needed to make improvements, and Wims said he recognizes those areas where his department can do more.

"We know our facilities are dated," he said. "We know we need to improve our dining services, so we are working on that."

He pointed to the construction of the new dorms on North and South Campus and to the ongoing work to improve dining services as examples of their efforts to make improvements on campus.

Students, however, gave UK its highest

marks for the personal connections and interactions students enjoyed in campus housing, Wims said.

Wims said students ranked those interactions as "the top predictor" for a successful experience in on-campus living, and students said UK excelled in creating a positive environment for those interactions to occur.

To continue that success, Wims said UK has created Learning-Living Communities, such as the Honors Program Community in Boyd and Patterson Halls and the Interfaith Community in Blanding II. Wims said others would be created for the new dorms, such as an Arts Community and a Global Village Community on North Campus.

These are proactive, productive steps to promoting a positive on-campus experience.

UK has found a way to make life inside its walls enjoyable for students, and now it must find ways to make sure students have that same positive experience when they step outside their room.

UK Residence Life has provided students with a satisfactory living environment by almost every measure.



MATT CAREY, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Condemnation violates property rights

The unraveling saga of the city's condemnation of Kentucky-American Water continues to illustrate the bitter political division of the present time on a local level.



Andrew Martin
KERNEL COLUMNIST

Those opposed to condemnation seemed to have victory within their grasp after last November's election, but the current stalemate in city hall has given pro-condemnation activists another chance to cultivate support for their cause.

And a number of those activists have done just that, expressing their consternation at those opposing condemnation. What could possibly be their motive, aside from being corporate apologists?

The contention is that government use of eminent-domain power should be reserved for instances where it is absolutely necessary. Taking land for public use should be done only in instances where a community would be deprived of a vital government service, e.g., a road or utility not already in place.

Some condemnation supporters contend that eminent domain should be used whenever the public decides it wants particular property and the owner is unwilling to sell. Well, the city's municipal ordinance says that the power of eminent domain "for any public purpose (are) subject to such limitations and exceptions as are, or hereafter may be, prescribed by the Constitution and general laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky."

The state and federal constitutions are pretty vague. Neither document defines "property" or "public use." Since neither is defined, it is up to the judiciary to arbitrarily interpret the meanings of those phrases, and they should define both narrowly.

Operating a municipal utility is certainly within the scope of public use. However, taking a corporation's land, facilities, equipment and other assets against its will is a usurpation of power.

Giving government — whether federal, state or local — such power to confiscate property can lead to grave breaches of constitutional liberties.

What's even more questionable is the city's ability to condemn a company that serves customers outside its jurisdiction. Kentucky-American Water serves counties outside of Fayette County. It's never been my understanding that a local government could condemn private property outside its own area of jurisdiction.

Other egregious abuses of eminent domain have been attempted across the country. Many involve local governments attempting to condemn private neighborhoods and sell them to real-estate developers who can improve area property values.

Various city officials across the country claim that selling property to private developers is actually a "public use" because the increased property value brings more wealth (and tax dollars) to the locality.

Local officials and activists here have hinted that city ownership of the water company could result in extra tax revenue, revealing the ulterior motive behind condemnation.

Taking private property to rake in more public tax dollars is clearly a repugnant violation of property rights. Even if taking the tax dollars benefits the city coffers, basic rights cannot be violated as a means to that end.

But condemnation supporters defend their goal by saying the takeover is necessary to protect consumers against a corporation that has a monopoly, as with any public utility.

The argument would be more convincing if it weren't for the Kentucky Parks and Services Commission, which

has to approve any rate increases that Kentucky-American would propose and provides oversight to ensure quality water and service.

If the city bought the utility, it would not be subject to KPSC oversight. In fact, the city could use its newfound monopoly to raise water rates whenever local officials wanted more tax revenues.

Again, Kentucky-American serves counties outside of Fayette County, over which the Urban County Government has no jurisdiction. So citizens in surrounding counties would be paying utilities to another city.

The city has no business getting itself into what would be another inefficient business venture. Day-to-day management would have to be contracted to a private management firm, and relying on such an agency to run the company seems to acknowledge that fact that the city lacks expertise needed to run the utility efficiently. So such action would implicitly say, "We like free enterprise if we can have the profits."

And the notion expressed by Mayor Teresa Isaac that Kentucky-American Water owes the local government and should give it tributes in the form of Jacobson Park and Lakeside Golf Course as well as paying the city's legal fees resulting from condemnation is absurd. What's more, she wants Kentucky-American to legally agree to give the city first dibs on the company should it be up for sale in the future. Her actions demonstrate a repressive disregard for private property rights.

A free society relies heavily on the vigilant protection of private property rights. The local condemnation is just one of many government encroachments against such rights currently in progress.

Those who realize this and oppose the local condemnation effort do so rightfully.

Andrew Martin is a journalism and political science junior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

Proposed legislation secures voting rights for disenfranchised

Politicians from both parties often bemoan low voter turnout and the increase of contested elections in the United States. Their stance on the voting reform legislation recently introduced in the House and Senate will be a perfect barometer of their integrity.



Brenton Kenkel
KERNEL COLUMNIST

Though irregularities did not mar the 2004 election, it nevertheless highlighted some of the problems and inequities in our current system.

Many urban voters had to wait for hours to vote, while those in the suburbs barely saw lines. Standards for counting provisional ballots were hazy, and ballots were thrown out on minor technicalities.

Voters in some states simply had to trust that what they entered into touch-screen machines would be counted, even if there was no paper trail.

And it's hard to muster up such faith when the CEO of Diebold, a company that makes voting machines, said he was "committed to helping Ohio deliver its electoral votes to the president." Or when the co-chair of the Bush-Cheney campaign there also happens to be the person in charge of certifying the vote — Ohio secretary of state Ken Blackwell.

The Count Every Vote Act of 2005 would fix these problems. It would mandate that electronic ballots leave a voter-certified paper trail, in order to prevent fraud and make recounts as accurate as possible. It would also prohibit those who make voting machines and certify votes from certain political activities.

These fixes would work to the benefit of all voters, and politicians would be hard-pressed to find an excuse — aside from sheer self-interested fear of electoral transparency — not to support them.

The bill also contains provisions to boost voter turnout. Election Day would become a federal holiday, and same-day registration, which has brought many newcomers to the political process in states that have already enacted it, would be available in all states.

Again, there is little reason to oppose such measures, especially for those who claim to want to boost turnout.

In a measure that will certainly be controversial and saddled with racial fears, the bill would allow ex-felons — who have already done their time and re-entered society — to vote again.

Republicans will claim that the restoration of suffrage for ex-felons is a political move purely to benefit Democrats. But what's fair is fair, regardless of whom it may benefit — and no one's preventing the GOP from going for the ex-felon vote.

The provisions of this act will clearly benefit all Americans. But there's a major roadblock to the bill's passage: It was sponsored by Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y.

Republicans will be able to vote down these sane reforms while shielding their disdain for open democracy in a veneer of Hillary-hate.

They will claim this is merely the first step in Clinton's 2008 campaign — which she has yet to announce, just like her 2004 campaign, which existed only in the mind of Rush Limbaugh.

Even if Clinton's motive for sponsoring the bill is political self-interest, that doesn't change the fact that this legislation will benefit all Americans.

And maybe in 2008, when Republicans are depending on the paper trail to show that John McCain edged out Clinton in Wisconsin, they'll be thankful for it.

Brenton Kenkel is a philosophy and political science freshman. His column appears every Tuesday. E-mail bkenkel@kykernel.com.

ONLINE POLL QUESTION

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Cartoonist Needed

The Kernel is looking for students interested in submitting editorial cartoons for the Opinions page. Anyone who is interested should call Opinions Editor Andrew Martin or Assistant Opinions Editor Ben Roberts at 257-9115. Work can also be submitted to the e-mail address below for consideration.

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Note to readers

The Opinions page provides a forum for the exchange of ideas.

Unlike news stories, the Kernel's unsigned editorials represent the views of a majority of the editorial board.

Letters to the editor, columns, cartoons and other features on the Opinions page reflect the views of their authors and not necessarily those of the Kernel.

Rondo steals spotlight

By Ben Roberts
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Whether it's a behind-the-back pass in traffic, a steal-and-spin move in the open court, or a ball-handling demonstration that stretches the entire floor and ends with an off-balance layup, Rajon Rondo knows how to electrify the Rupp Arena crowd.

And UK's Southeastern Conference opponents must be getting sick of it.

The freshman guard started his SEC career by dishing out a then-career-high five assists in a 79-75 win over South Carolina to open conference play. His career-high 18 points and barrage of second-half layups sunk Vanderbilt one week later. And Rondo's eight steals Saturday, seven of which came in the second half, led to a 94-78 dismantling of Mississippi State.

"The whole crowd feeds off his energy," said senior forward Chuck Hayes. "He gets in the passing lanes, and he's so quick. He steals the ball with a flair, and that attracts the fans and us."

Rondo gave UK fans plenty of opportunities to rise to their feet Saturday. It seemed that every time a Bulldog player attempted to pass the ball across the open court, the UK freshman was there.

Rondo's eight steals led to several easy baskets for the Cats and tied the single-game record of former point guard and UK career steal leader Wayne Turner.

"He did a great job finishing once he got the ball," said Mississippi State head coach Rick Stansbury. "He made those turnovers turn into points, whether he scored them or whether he created a play for somebody else."

Coming out of high school, Rondo was recognized more for his offense — he once dished out 31 assists in a single game and averaged 21 points and 12 assists per game for perennial prep powerhouse Oak Hill Academy — but his defense is what's carrying the freshman a reputation in the SEC.

Rondo's 63 steals this season already ranks as the 12th highest of any UK player; and



JONATHAN PALMER | STAFF

UK freshman guard Rajon Rondo tied a school record with his eight steals against Mississippi State Saturday. He has 63 steals this season.

he still has four regular season games and the entire post-season to break Turner's single-season record of 79. Turner had just 40 steals in 35 games in his first year with the Cats.

Hayes said earlier this year that he's never seen a freshman progress as much as Rondo has.

"He is learning and maturing every day," he said. "I didn't get to see him play in high school, but he has picked up Coach Smith's defense better than any freshman I've seen."

While Smith and Hayes have constantly praised Rondo for his "basketball IQ"

throughout the season, some of his other teammates put the focus on his physical attributes.

"He's just blessed," said junior guard Ravi Moss. "He's got long arms, huge hands, and he's quick as lightning. He's been blessed by God."

And though he's already seen Rondo do just about everything imaginable this season, Moss said he expects the freshman to come up with something new every time he steps on the court.

"He's unbelievable," Moss said. "He amazes me in a different way every game."

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