

# KENTUCKY KERNEL

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## Political groups debate local, national issues

By Blair Thomas  
news@kykernel.com

The fall semester debate between the UK College Republicans and College Democrats drew a larger crowd than most of the panelists expected.

"I am impressed by the overwhelming turnout tonight," said College Democrats president Richard Becker, a political science sophomore. "We don't often have this attendance at an issue-based program on campus, especially on a good TV night."

The debate included discussion of the war in Iraq, Iran's nuclear weapons,

illegal immigration and UK's adoption of a domestic partner benefits program. The College Republicans supported the war in Iraq and the course of the Bush administration.

"The sole goal of our government should be to root out terrorists, both foreign and domestic wherever they are," said College Republicans executive director Matthew Ballard. "Whether it is fighting drug wars in Central America, or bringing down terrorists in Asia and the Middle East, it is important that we stay the course our leaders have chosen. We are winning

this war."

The Democrats had different viewpoints on the future of the war.

"We need to get back to realizing this country's goals for this war," said the Democrats' historian, Mike Richardson, a political science senior. "If you ask five different people their opinions on why we are in Iraq, you will get five different answers. This reflects the conflict this country is facing."

They also addressed the nuclear weapon issue in Iran.

The Democrats suggested using a

"carrot and stick approach" or offensive and defensive negotiations in handling Iran.

"We need a military that is well-equipped to handle this, but we also need to focus on legitimate negotiations with the international community," Richardson said.

The College Republicans agreed that the international community should be consulted.

"The U.S. is not the only country in this world who thinks Iran shouldn't have nuclear weapons," Ballard said. "We need to talk to Russia who is a key

ally of Iran."

The panel also discussed domestic policy, specifically regarding the 12 million illegal immigrants that are living in the United States.

The Republicans suggested removing illegal aliens and increasing security at the national borders.

"We need stronger border control not only to keep out illegal immigrants but to help protect this nation from terrorists," Ballard said. "If you are illegal, you should be sent back, and it is right for you to be treated as a criminal

See Debate on page 3

## Peace Corps to recruit volunteers on campus

By Juliann Vachon  
news@kykernel.com

Serving in the Peace Corps was an empowering adventure for one UK graduate student.

"When you finish your service, you have the sense of 'I can do anything in this world, if I put my mind to it,'" said Michael Geneve, who served in Mozambique from 2003 to 2005 as an English teacher for eighth, ninth and tenth graders.

Other students can find out how to have their own adventures at an information session put on by Peace Corps recruiters tonight at 6 in the Stuckert Career Center.

Peace Corps recruiter Mark Kittrell said individuals of all academic backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Applicants should have a background in an area of work and either a degree or extensive experience that relates to that background when applying for a volunteer position.

In addition to experience, applicants should have strong leadership skills, be comfortable in unstructured environments, show cultural sensitivity, and be interested in service first and geographical location second, Kittrell said.

Volunteers serve a 27-month commitment in one of seven broad areas: education, business, community development, health, information technology, agriculture or environment. Within these broad areas are 40 different types of jobs.

Health care is provided during the 27-month period, and volunteers receive a monthly stipend to cover housing, food and incidentals. Volunteers also receive \$6,075 upon returning to the United States and enhanced hiring status for federal government jobs for one year following the completion, Kittrell said.

Founded in 1981, the Peace Corps is a government agency.  
See Corps on page 3

## Local groups raise domestic violence awareness

By Alice Haymond  
news@kykernel.com

Two organizations joined forces this week to make the Lexington and UK communities more aware of domestic violence.

UK Women's Place and the Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program are passing out information on domestic violence this week in front of Patterson Office Tower as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Women's Place volunteers had planned on performing skits portraying domestic violence while they distributed this information, but when the cold weather discouraged an audience from gathering yesterday, the skits did not take place as planned, said Krista King, an English senior and Women's Place volunteer.

However, UK's Channel 50 will be showcasing these skits this Thursday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 6 p.m. UK students perform in five skits that show what domestic violence is like.

Some of the violence depicted is more common and not always recognized as abuse, said

See Violence on page 3

## Famous cyclist among panelists discussing tobacco, cancer in Ky.



PHOTOS BY ALLIE GARZA | STAFF

Michael Bousama, II, M.D., director of the Lung Transplant Program at Jewish Hospital in Louisville, asks the President's Cancer Panel a question yesterday in the W.T. Young Library. After viewing different presentations from the panel members, audience members were invited to comment or ask questions for the panel.

By Katie Saltz  
news@kykernel.com

Students crowded around the auditorium in W.T. Young Library yesterday afternoon hoping to catch a glimpse of Lance Armstrong.

The seven-time Tour de France winner was on campus as part of the President's Cancer Panel, which discussed problems stemming from tobacco use in the United States.

Physicians, scientists and local mayors gathered to present research and ideas on how to stop the use of tobacco and how to prevent tobacco-related deaths.

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the nation, said Corrine Husten, director of the Centers for Disease Control Office on Smoking and Health.

"(About) 440,000 people die each year due to tobacco," Husten said. "It affects every organ in the body."

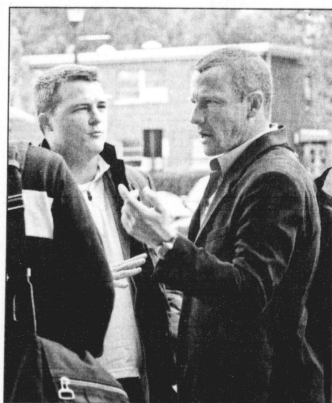
The promotion of smoke-free environments is one of the main preventive measures that should be taken, the panelists said.

Mayor Everette Varney of Georgetown, spoke about how his city became smoke-free in October 2005.

"I didn't think (the legislation) had a prayer because we are in the middle of tobacco country," Varney said. "But all children deserve to grow up in a smoke-free environment."

The issue went to the Georgetown city council, and Varney broke a tie with a vote to enact a smoking ban. Georgetown now prohibits smoking in all enclosed public places and outdoor seating areas.

See Panel on page 3



Lance Armstrong arrives at the W.T. Young Library yesterday morning as part of the President's Cancer Panel. The panel discussion was one of four meetings that are taking place around the country. The panel is focused on preventing cancer by promoting healthy lifestyles.

## School of Management ranks 5th in nation

By Autumn Harbison  
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UK's School of Management is one of the top five in the nation, according to the Association for Information Systems.

Part of the Gatton College of Business and Economics, the school ranked fifth in information systems research productivity in a study published this month by the association.

"We are greatly honored to be identified among the world's top research universities in the field of information systems," said Dr. Clyde Holsapple, a professor and area coordinator for decision science and information systems, in a UK news release.

Holsapple attributed the high ranking to the hard work of faculty and students, and the support of administrators. Students in the School of Management are also proud of the ranking their department earned.

"It's an honor to be a part of such a highly regarded program," said Autumn Jones, a decision science and information systems senior. "I only wish more people knew the importance of specialization in this area."

Jones went on to say that her education in UK's information systems program would benefit her in the future.

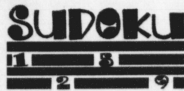
The criterion used in the study included the output-per-researcher published in information

systems journals from 2001-2005.

Decision science and information systems research examines how to increase productivity in the corporate world by creating quicker and more effective decision-making.

Two of UK's benchmark universities, the University of California-Los Angeles and the University of Minnesota, were also in the association's top five.

The Gatton College also ranked among the top 20 institutions worldwide for doctoral programs with the most graduates published in information systems journals during the same period. In this ranking UK, tied with the University of Southern California and Harvard Business College.



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By Linda C. Black

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

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** Today is a 7 — Whenever you find yourself money ahead, your first and strongest inclination is to buy all the stuff you've been wanting for years. Don't do that this time, OK? Save up for a rainy day.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** Today is a 7 — Once you decide what you want to accomplish, the rest is relatively easy. You won't care if you run into resistance; you'll plow right on over.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21)** Today is a 5 — Necessity is the mother of

invention, as you may remember. So don't panic. You're about to think of something that will solve the problem.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22)** Today is a 10 — Don't be afraid of things that seem too good to be true. You can get used to having more of that in your life.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** Today is a 6 — Consult the family about what they want, and how to proceed. Some of their suggestions are silly but some will work quite well.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Today is an 8 — You're on the right trail, but not everything you try produces results. Don't give up, and file your claim just as soon as you know where to dig.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** Today is a 5 — Great riches can be yours, so let it happen. Do a good job and you'll be well rewarded for your efforts.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** Today is a 9 — What would you do to bene-

fit the most people, if you could? Make a list, and get started.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** Today is a 6 — Life's not fair, but what does that have to do with the price of tea? If you're behind schedule, it's your own fault, so don't complain about it.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Today is an 8 — The team you've put together is a money-making machine. Don't give them everything — make them go out and earn it. They'll love you for it later.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** Today is a 5 — You're calm, even though you're venturing out beyond reality as other people know it. In other words, you're in the groove.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** Today — as you take on more responsibility. Does that seem strange? It's perfectly natural.

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**THE DISH**

**An Italian wedding for Tom and Katie?**

Has Katie Holmes become a bridezilla? Sources tell Hot Stuff that the actress, who had been planning an intimate California wedding with fiance Tom Cruise for October, recently changed the date — and location.

The couple of 18 months (parents to daughter, Suri, 6 months) now plan to wed in November somewhere in Italy. Adds a source close to the duo, "They were hoping to make it a few weeks earlier, but Katie and Tom both want everything to be right. They needed more time." (Asked to confirm the switch, Cruise's rep, Arnold Robinson, coyly tells Us, "I'm not denying that date or location.")

The source also confirms that Holmes and pal Victoria "Posh Spice" Beckham, 32, jetted from Paris (where the two hit Fashion Week) to the top-secret wedding location to make final preparations on Oct. 7. By Oct. 14, Holmes, 27, had joined Cruise, 44, back in L.A., where the pair smooched while watching a soccer game of Cruise's daughter Isabella.

"You could tell Katie had just come back from far away," says an observer. "Tom could not take his eyes off her."

**Pamela Anderson trying for another kid**

Pam Anderson began filming the new comedy *Blonde and Blonder* this month in Vancouver. But a source close to the bombshell tells Hot Stuff she and husband of nearly three months Kid Rock, 35, are work-

ing on a more important production: a baby. "Pam and Kid have talked about it for a long time," says the insider. "Kid wanted to get back with Pam partly because of this, but she didn't know he wanted a child. They are trying really hard right now."

One person from whom they most likely won't be receiving a nursery gift? Anderson's ex-husband, Tommy Lee, 44. A pal of the rocker says Lee (with whom Anderson, 39, has two sons: Brandon, 10, and Dylan, 8) "wanted to have a daughter with Pam and reconcile when she left for Europe and got married. That is why Tommy is so upset." (Reps for Anderson, Rock and Lee all had no comment.)

**Tori and Dean's reality pitch**

Tori Spelling's potential new career: innkeeper. A Spelling source says she and new husband Dean McDermott are pitching a reality show where she takes her \$800,000 inheritance (which she received from her father, Aaron, who died in June) "and invests it in a bed-and-breakfast, where they live and rent rooms to tourists."

The insider adds that Spelling, 33, four months pregnant with their first child, and McDermott, 40, are looking at property in Temecula, Calif. A rep for Spelling tells Us, "They are pitching a reality show, but we will not comment on any of the details."

**The sex tape: Screech**

talks

He has the perfect name for a porn star, but Dustin Diamond (Screech from the 1990s series *Saved by the Bell*) tells Hot Stuff he wasn't looking for a second career when he filmed himself having sex with two women four years ago.

"I'm not an adult actor," he says. "I did something stupid in private." Now the Milwaukee resident, 29, is sharing that moment in a 40-minute sex tape to be released in November. Diamond — who's dating his manager, Jennifer Misner, 30 — says he and some pals each made sex tapes as a joke. But someone (he claims he doesn't know who) leaked his. At first, he threatened to sue, but instead he has agreed to take a cut of the profits. "I thought, I can spend a fortune fighting this or I can try to make a fortune," he tells Us. And Diamond, who is also releasing a comedy CD in November, doesn't sound very regretful. He tells Us, "Let's just say, if I were a small man, it would be worse."

**Kevin and Nicky: Inside the split**

Nicky Hilton and Kevin Connolly have called it quits. Hot Stuff reports exclusively, "They're no longer a couple," a Hilton rep confirms. A close pal of the heiress, 23, says she "dumped" the Entourage star, 32, on Oct. 16 after she suspected he'd cheated. Connolly's rep couldn't be reached.

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## DEBATE

Continued from page 1

because it is a crime to unlawfully enter this country."

Both sides agreed that a guest-worker program should be implemented for illegal immigrants who are working in America and contributing to the economy.

"It is important that we work out a bill of some kind that allows those illegal immigrants who are positively helping the economy to stay for a set number of years and get in the back of the line for citizenship," said Hunter Palmer, a College Democrats member.

The panelists also addressed domestic partner benefits at UK.

"We (the Republicans) do not support the implementation of domestic partner benefits," said College Republicans executive officer Derek Hall, a political science senior. "We believe that homosexuality is a

choice, and both homosexual and heterosexual relationships outside of marriage should not receive recognition or these type of benefits."

The Democrats said the benefits were necessary as a matter of citizen rights.

"I am glad that homosexuality is growing in acceptance, because we all need equal rights," said College Democrats vice president Robert Kahne. "The Republicans suggest separating this group, but I say we tried 'separate but equal' once, and it didn't work out."

After answering seven questions in the formatted debate, over ten students lined up to ask the panelists their own questions addressing health care and Bush's No Child Left Behind Act.

"Unfortunately due to time, we can only address three of your questions," Miller said. "But the active role in politics that you illustrate is encouraging and something that should be mimicked by all students."

## PANEL

Continued from page 1

Other Kentucky cities, including Morehead, Louisville, Paducah, Ashland, Elizabethtown and Lexington, have also enacted smoking bans.

Lexington Mayor Teresa Isaac commented on the success of the smoking ban in Fayette County, saying that the number of businesses found in violation of the law has dropped to 3 percent.

Kyoung Lee, an assistant professor of preventive medicine and environmental health at UK, discussed the importance of eliminating second-hand smoke in public areas. Second-hand smoke contains 4,000 chemicals and 50 known carcinogens, Lee said.

"Second-hand smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death in the United

States," Lee said. "Over half the U.S. population is exposed."

Lee quoted the U.S. surgeon general as saying, "The simple separation of smokers and non-smokers within the same air space may reduce, but does not eliminate, the exposure of non-smokers to environmental tobacco smoke."

Lee reinforced the idea that only 100 percent smoke-free policies protect nonsmokers.

"Any kind of exemption, and the smoke-free law is not effective," Lee said.

The panel also discussed the growing use of smokeless tobacco products, the relationship between smoking and socioeconomic status, and the myths of low-tar and light cigarettes.

Armstrong closed the panel's discussion on a note of personal experience.

"It is our job as cancer survivors to lobby and to say that this is not fair, and we demand a change."

## CORPS

Continued from page 1

ment agency that sends volunteers to 70 different countries to serve in a wide variety of jobs. Currently, 18 UK graduates are serving in the Peace Corps. Kittrell said previous informational sessions at UK have drawn large turnouts, and he expects the same for today's session.

Kittrell said he served in Mindanao as a business adviser for youth development from 2001 to 2003.

According to Kittrell, the Peace Corps has expanded its services over the years to address more issues faced by developing countries.

"So many people are familiar with the Peace Corps of the '50s and '60s," Kittrell said. "We still have community service programs and grassroots-type developments, but as time has passed, we have been trying to meet the needs of countries in many different areas."

Geneve said his Peace Corps application process lasted about a year, and students interested in the program must have patience if they're serious about apply-

# Water damages bathroom, three dorm rooms in Boyd

STAFF REPORT

Five Boyd Hall residents were relocated to other dorm rooms on campus when their rooms were damaged by water from a pipe that burst in a bathroom, said UK Spokesman Jay Blanton.

Around 7:30 a.m. yesterday, a female student who was on crutches because of a recent foot surgery leaned against the sink in a private bathroom, tearing it from the wall and causing a hot water pipe to burst, Blanton said.

The student did not immediately notice the water, but saw it after taking a shower, Blanton said, adding that the water probably ran for about 20 minutes before it was noticed.

The water caused damage in the bathroom and in three rooms on the second floor, one of which was occupied by this student, Blanton said.

Three students were relocated to other rooms in Boyd, one student was moved to Keeneland and the other was moved to Baldwin, Blanton said. All five students received \$20 on their Plus Accounts from the university.

The water was turned off in Boyd and Jewell halls for a few hours, but was back by about noon, Blanton said.

## VIOLENCE

Continued from page 1

Alecia Fields, a pre-medicine and psychology freshman and Women's Place volunteer.

Fields said she hopes that, in viewing these skits, students who may be experiencing abuse will recognize it.

Diane Fleet, the assistant director of Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program, agreed.

"We want to bring these private scenarios to a public setting so that people can begin to identify and discuss the undercurrent of violence and power and control tactics that occur in Kentucky homes," Fleet said.

Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program also has information tables set up downtown in the courthouse plaza.

In addition, flags are on display this week in Phoenix Park to represent the 1 in 3 women who are victims of domestic violence.

"This goes beyond religion and politics," King said. "Everyone has important women in their lives, and it's important to think about these women when you look at statistics like this."

On Friday, supporters of women who have been convicted of killing their abusers are gathering to rally in Frankfort. These women often receive harsher sentences than other murderers, Fleet said.

"We want to create a space for people to start discussion," Fleet said. Fleet also encourages people to wear purple ribbons in an effort to endorse Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

ing.

Geneve said one of the most rewarding aspects of the program was seeing the direct impact he had on the lives of the children he taught and the community he served.

"At the end of two years, 50 kids who had never spoken English in their lives were able to sit and speak English with me," Geneve said.

Though UK does not have its own Peace Corps recruiter, program information is available at the Study Abroad library, said Kay Roberts, UK's International Affairs program coordinator and

community liaison.

Roberts served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador from 1982 to 1984 and said students can also come to her for information on the program and application process.

Peace Corps recruiters will also be available to answer questions and provide information today at the Education Abroad Fair, which takes place along the walkway to W.T. Young Library from Rose Street, or, in the case of severe weather, in the Student Center Grand Ballroom, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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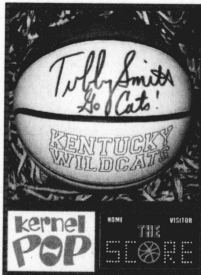
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The Campus Calendar is produced by the Office of Student Activities, Leadership & Involvement. Registered Student Orgs. and UK Dept. can submit information for FREE online ONE WEEK PRIOR to the MONDAY information is to appear. Call 252-8867 for more information.

Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baptist Campus Ministry - TNT - Tuesday Nights Together, 7:30 PM, Baptist Student Center - 429 Columbia Ave.</li> <li>Cheap Seat Tuesdays Presents: Monster House - ONLY \$1, 8:00 PM, Worsham Theatre (Student Center)</li> <li>Phi Upsilon Omicron: Iota Chapter, 5:00 PM, Erikson Hall Room 128</li> <li>UK Students for Life Meeting, 8:00 PM, 115 Student Center</li> <li>BINGO, 7:00 PM, STUDENT CENTER CATS DEN</li> <li>BIO 425 Seminar, 10:00 AM</li> <li>Introduction to Desktop Linux, 6:15 PM, RGAN 203</li> <li>Education Abroad Annual Fair, 10:30 AM, Walkway to Young Library from Rose Street</li> <li>Alpha Phi Omega, 6:30 PM, 359 Student Center</li> <li>SOCIETY OF TELECOM SCHOLARS MEETING, 5:00 PM, Maggie Room, Graham Building</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>University Christian Fellowship, 8:00 PM, 230 Student Center</li> <li>La Table Francaise, 3:30 PM, 357 Student Center</li> <li>Wildwater Cats Roll Session, 9:00 PM, Lancaster Aquatic Center</li> <li>Beatnik Ball Series Presents: SEXUAL DISASTER QUARTET II, 8:00 PM, Student Center Ballroom</li> <li>Tutoring at Bryan Station Middle, 4:00 PM, Bryan Station Middle</li> <li>LECI: Food for Body and Soul, 5:05 PM, St. Augustine's Chapel on Rose Street.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>POP in to SCORE with the Kernel, 11:00 AM, Student Center Patio &amp; Cats Den</li> <li>Murder Mystery Theatre, 7:00 PM, Student Center Grand Ballroom</li> <li>Feminist Alliance Meeting, 7:30 PM, Commonwealth House of the Gaines Center on Maxwell St.</li> <li>Non Traditional Student Organization meeting, 7:25 PM, Pazzo's</li> <li>David Lynch Weekend, 10:00 PM, Center Theater in the Student Center</li> <li>Interviews, Site Visits and Salary Negotiating, 3:30 PM, James W. Stuckert Career Center 408 Rose Street</li> <li>Synergy, 8:00 PM, Christian Student Fellowship Building</li> <li>Freshman Focus - Baptist Campus Ministry, 7:30 PM, Baptist Student Center - 429 Columbia Avenue</li> <li>DanceBlue All Committee Meeting, 5:30 PM, 230 Student Center</li> <li>Family Fun and Learning Nights, 4:30 PM, The Carnegie Center of Lexington</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David Lynch Weekend, 10:00 PM, Worsham Theater in the Student Center</li> <li>Poetry Slam!, 7:05 PM, Cats Den</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>THE SINGLE STRANGEST/SCARIEST NIGHT IN U.K.'S HISTORY!! 9:00 PM, Cats Den</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UK Ultimate Frisbee Organization, 10:00 PM, Intramural Fields</li> </ul>

GO CATS!

# OPINIONS

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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.

## Leave domestic-partner decisions to university

Extending employee benefits to domestic partners might not be so feasible after all for UK — that is, if State Rep. Stan Lee, R-Lexington, has his way.

This September, UK's Board of Trustees launched a committee to evaluate the feasibility of domestic partner benefits. UK's Staff Senate subsequently approved the move in a 55-25 vote in favor of asking the board for the benefits.

But last week, Lee filed a bill for the 2007 legislative session that would make it illegal for Kentucky's public universities to offer benefits to domestic partners. The bill would include all state universities, community colleges and technical schools, and it would apply to both heterosexual and homosexual partners who are not married.

Lee told the Kernel last week that it would be morally irresponsible for universities to offer domestic partner benefits.

### KERNEL EDITORIAL

"Another reason is these are institutions of higher learning and to teach this to college students undermines the value of marriage," Lee said. "Like it or not, this country was founded on the values of marriage."

With the recent passage of a state constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, Lee said it would be wrong to push the issue at a state institution funded with tax dollars.

"We should all answer to the citizens of the state, the taxpayers," he added. "It looks like things are going forward in a direction the citizens don't want."

But Rep. Kathy Stein, D-Lexington, correctly pointed out an error in Lee's thinking. Domestic partner benefits would be paid for by employees, not taxpayers.

"The employees will be paying for whatever person is added to their policy, and we all

know in insurance that the more people added, the bigger the pool, the better it is for all the risk takers," Stein told the Kernel.

Regardless of the source of the funds for the program, what's at issue here is UK's willingness to be competitive in the academic world. The University of Louisville and many other colleges already offer benefits to domestic partners of employees. If UK aims to attract and keep the best professors, its benefits packages should be as good as those offered by other universities.

As Stein pointed out, the state legislature does not need to be in the business of micromanaging the state's public universities at every level. That's why UK and

other colleges have boards of trustees.

It's unfortunate that in this day and age, state legislators would seek to deprive homosexual employees of the same benefits received by their heterosexual

**State Rep. Stan Lee has proposed a law to prevent UK from offering domestic partner benefits. But his discriminatory agenda is no excuse for the state to micromanage the school**

colleagues. That's what this issue boils down to — the unfounded fear of a rampant gay agenda that would eventually destroy the institution of marriage.

That's not what the domestic partner benefits issue is about. UK and U of L are not trying to promote same-sex marriage by providing equal benefits for equal work. They're trying to bring

the best and brightest faculty and staff to their institutions, regardless of sexual orientation. It's too bad Rep. Lee can't recognize that.

## To prevent electoral nightmares, come to voter forum Nov. 1

So I'm flipping through my theater-in-the-round TV channels when all of a sudden I see the UK's president doing a



**BUCK RYAN**  
Guest Columnist

perp walk, holding hand-doffs over her face. I click the virtual-reality button and I'm walking alongside an assistant attorney general as he answers reporters' questions on the charges.

"What do you mean by violations of 'House Bill 17'?" a reporter for CitizenBlog asks.

"We have evidence that UK has not achieved top-20 public research university status, and someone will have to pay," the assistant AG says. Then I glance down to the front page of the New York Times and see the headline: "Lexington, Ky., finally gets its zoo." The subhead for the expose explains all the white elephants created a decade earlier for the World Equestrian Games.

And there's no relief in the local paper. A metro section headline blares: "Flooding exposes middle school stonewall scandal." Apparently inattention to storm-water infrastructure led to a flood of a middle school that turned up syringes being used by an overzealous middle school football coach.

The year is 2020, and welcome to my nightmare. My, oh my, if we could only have seen this coming in the election of 2006, we wouldn't be in this mess. But wait, wake up! We still have time. The election is not until Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Yes, you too can make intelligent choices at the polls to decide the issues and elect the leaders that we'll need in order to avert nightmares and propel our community to greatness. That is, if you can navigate the largest and most complicated ballot in our history.

You, the poor voter, will be confronted with more choices on Nov. 7 than any of your ancestors, and if that isn't challenge enough, you'll be making those choices with a computer mouse. Unless you voted in the primary election in May, you'll be going high-tech civically for the first time.

Don't worry, help is on the way. You are cordially invited to "The Ballot That Ate Fayette County: A Citizen Kentucky Forum for Undecided Voters," a civic information fair and roundtable discussion, which will begin at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 1, on UK's Student Center Patio.

We'll be open for civic business for two hours, but if you have only two minutes, you'll have time to pick up a voters guide and listen to a few comments. The event is the 12th community forum organized by the Citizen Kentucky Project — designed to enhance civic life with a focus on college students — since 2001 when the first public deliberation was turned into a Kentucky Education Television program, "Citizen Kentucky: Democracy and the Media."

The voters guide is being produced by a freshman Discovery Seminar Program class, which has

been researching issues and candidates, particularly those affecting the Town and Gown Community. One important epiphany for the 18-year-olds was that the Gown (UK's campus) is only a 15-minute walk away from the Town (city hall, or the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Building).

These teens' civic literacy is in the 98th percentile, I'm sure. For example, they know that either Mayor Teresa Isaac or attorney Jim Newberry will end up at council meetings sitting next to a new vice mayor, the largest vote-getter among the top three candidates for council-at-large seats. They have learned that the six candidates (George Brown, incumbent Chuck Ellinger II, Linda Gordon, Jim Gray, Steve Kay and Sandy Shafer) vying for the three spots are extremely qualified and there is a possible scenario in which we could end up with an all-male local government.

They also know that the 170-word yes-or-no question about the water company's future could end up on a linguistics final exam; they even know what two of those words ("eminent domain") mean.

Among the questions they are pondering:

"How can a mayor help UK achieve its goal of becoming a top-20 public research university?" And: "How would such status make Lexington a better place to live?"

"How can we prepare to impress the world (or at least the expected 500,000 folks) for the 2010 World Equestrian Games?" And: "How can we continue to benefit from changes in years to come — and not be left holding the bag?"

"Can issues like sewers and storm-water runoff ever move from obscurity to front-page news in a mayoral election campaign without tragedy?"

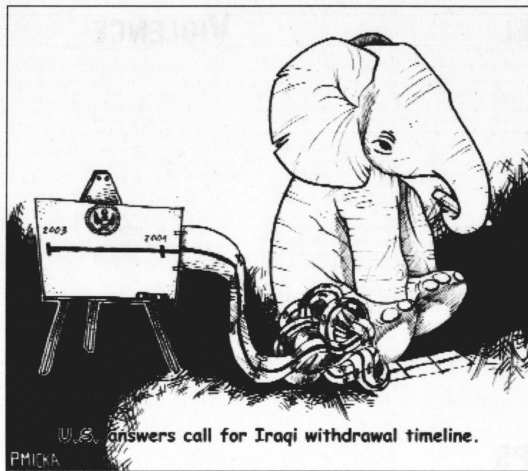
"What role, if any, can a mayor and urban county government play in improving education?"

Of course, you're welcome to bring your own questions on Nov. 1. Voting wisely the following Tuesday is the best nightmare prevention. As Thomas Jefferson said, "Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government."

Buck Ryan is director of the Citizen Kentucky Project of UK's Scripps Howard First Amendment Center. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

### If you go:

"The Ballot That Ate Fayette County: A Citizen Kentucky Forum for Undecided Voters," a two-hour civic information fair and roundtable discussion, will begin at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1, on the University of Kentucky Student Center Patio. For more information, e-mail Buck Ryan at bucryan@uky.edu.



U.S. answers call for Iraqi withdrawal timeline.

PATRICK MICKA, Kernel cartoonist

## Domestic partner benefits long overdue at UK

When I heard that UK was finally planning to implement domestic partner



**TARA BONISTALL**  
Kernel Columnist

benefits, I was thrilled. Finally, our university was crawling out from behind the prehistoric rock we generally hide behind.

Not for long, though. Much like other social progress our university has made in the past four years, roadblocks were quickly thrown up by intolerant individuals.

According to an Oct. 18 Kernel article, "Local rep. files bill to block partner benefits," Rep. Stan Lee, R-Lexington, has filed a bill that will attempt to block UK's benefits progress. Lee said this move by UK will undermine the establishment of marriage — a claim that I think is both extreme and absurd.

Whether you support gay marriage or same-sex unions in general, disallowing domestic partner benefits is discrimination against UK employees. I had a female professor who had a "partner" — a man she had been with for more than 20 years. He could not receive her insurance benefits, however, because they were not legally married. What about this relationship differs from what Rep. Lee seems to think is a proper marriage — the fact that they did not go stand

before a judge or minister to declare their commitment to each other?

Lee declared that this agenda is obviously not focused on the family. In fact, I believe that providing domestic partner benefits focuses more on the family than Lee's retrogressive views on marriage do. Truly "focusing" on families would reveal many variations on the mom/dad/2,2 children/white picket fence model. Without recognizing that reality, any discussion starts from a place of half-truths.

Rep. Kathy Stein, D-Lexington, who criticized Lee's actions last week, is on the right track. She recognized that Lee is generally a smart man, and judging by his voting record from last session, I would generally agree with her. In this situation however, his facts are wrong. As Stein pointed out, our taxpayer dollars will not be used to pay for domestic partner benefits.

When the University of Louisville made the decision to extend domestic partner benefits, it was commended statewide for its efforts to end discrimination and expand benefits to all faculty members and their families, regardless of life choice. As Stein suggested, Lee is merely using the UK situation to further a homophobic agenda that should be both unwanted and unacceptable here.

If UK truly aspires to be "top 20" by 2020, it needs to pick up the pace and catch up with more progressive universities. It did not surprise me in the least that many of the nation's flagship universities already provide

benefits for domestic partners in the least. If UK wants to bring (and keep) the best and the brightest faculty members to our university, then we need to make it worth their while — regardless of what domestic configuration they choose.

UK doesn't discriminate against gay or unmarried professors in its hiring practices, nor should we. Why discriminate, then, when offering benefits — a policy that may actually backfire for the university? This does not portray a very LGBT-friendly campus community, and could discourage gay professors or LGBT allies from taking jobs with UK.

Will providing domestic partner benefits really undermine the institute of marriage in Kentucky? I have seen no evidence to support this theory.

Will providing domestic partner benefits encourage homosexuality, or encourage heterosexual individuals to disregard marriage? Lee offered no proof this would be the case.

The University Staff Senate voted overwhelmingly to approve these benefits — and they are the voices that should be listened to. Lee is completely out of line calling this decision "morally irresponsible." He needs to stop promoting a moral agenda that is not even applicable in this context, and instead focus on the individuals, couples and families who will benefit from this expanded program.

Tara Bonistall is a social work and psychology senior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

### Submissions

Send a guest-column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Wes Blevins. Please limit letters to 350 words or fewer. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions.

E-mail: [opinions@kykernel.com](mailto:opinions@kykernel.com)

### Columnists needed

The Kernel is looking for new columnists to write for the Opinions page on a regular basis. Columnists of all interests will be considered, but The Kernel especially seeks those who have an interest in campus and local issues.

Contact Wes Blevins at [opinions@kykernel.com](mailto:opinions@kykernel.com)



# SPORTS

Jonathan Smith  
Sports Editor  
Phone: 257-1915  
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## Lyons roars about Miss. St.

### Chatty wide out has a lot to say about UK's chances against Mississippi State

By Jonathan Smith  
jsmith@kykernel.com

First, there was Randy Moss with rants about his teammates and local traffic enforcement.

Then Terrell Owens sounded off about his quarterback and his contract.

Dicky Lyons Jr. became the latest in a long line of mouthy wide receivers to not mince his words when he spoke about Mississippi State yesterday during head coach Rich Brooks' weekly news conference.

"Got to have it, want to have it, should have it, and I think we are going to have it," Lyons said. "I don't see us losing to this team."

Lyons' candor could be used as bulletin-board material for the Bulldogs, but they probably don't need much motivation.

MSU is winless in the Southeastern Conference, and only has two victories on the season. One of those wins came against Division I-AA Jacksonville State.

With a record like that, it's no surprise Lyons feels the way he does going into the game.

"Coach Brooks was saying that it's still a good team, blah, blah, blah and all that, you know, getting us worried about having another fluke game," Lyons said. "I feel that we're better than that team."

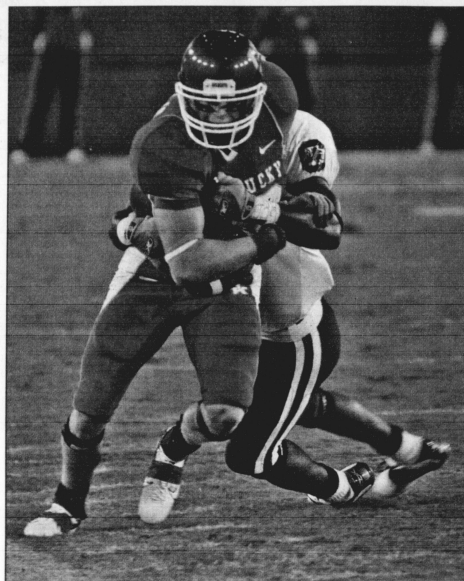
The fluke Lyons referred to was UK's 49-0 loss to Louisiana State last Saturday.

Brooks called it the team's "worst game of the year, clearly." The Cats allowed 546 yards of total offense and were shut out for the first time since a season-opening loss to Louisville in 2004.

"One bad game is different from six bad games last year, you know," Lyons said. "So now that we're all playing good games, we just think this is a fluke, not just all the same old things as last week."

Lyons is so confident that his team is going to win in Starkville this weekend — the Cats are winless on the road this season and haven't won a road game since last year at Vanderbilt — that the trip should be worthwhile for everyone that travels.

"I feel that we can get backups in," Lyons said. "That's what I feel personally. I want to play that good of a game. Just like LSU did to us, I want to do it to them."



ANDREW HUGHES | STAFF

UK sophomore wide receiver Dicky Lyons Jr. tries to break a tackle against South Carolina on Oct. 7. Lyons and the Cats travel to Mississippi State this Saturday. "Got to have it, want to have it, should have it and I think we're going to have it," Lyons said about MSU. "I don't see us losing to this

### Schuler's UK career over

Linebacker Joe Schuler will not play for UK again after he suffered his third concussion of the season against LSU, Brooks said.

"It just didn't make a lot of sense for him to continue," Brooks said. "His concussions were coming easier, and they were more severe. There is no permanent damage at this point, but nobody can tell anybody with a concussion whether the next one will do that type of damage."

"I think that is a very wise decision," Schuler will remain with the team throughout the season — and possibly help during the spring — but he will not practice or play. He will participate in UK's senior

day activities Nov. 18 against Louisiana-Monroe.

Schuler started 10 games in his career and had 92 tackles and one fumble recovery.

Running back Rafael Little will not play against Mississippi State. Little did not play against LSU and is still experiencing pain and swelling in his knee, Brooks said. Little will be evaluated next week in hopes of playing against Georgia, Brooks said.

Defensive linemen Lamar Mills and Myron Pryor played sparingly against LSU because of injuries but are improving, Brooks said. Mills, who has a shoulder injury and Pryor, who has an injured elbow, could be back to normal in time for the Mississippi State game, Brooks said.

## UK players, coaches make no bones about importance of beating lowly Bulldogs

Some days, talking to Rich Brooks and his football team can be like talking to the undertaker.

Some days, you can pry, joke, needle, pick or make any other sort of desperate plea for a good quote or at least something more insightful than "We'll take it one game at a time" — and you get nothing.

Some days, players and coaches tell you something like: "(Insert coach here) has a great team, despite their record. Coach (name here) is a football mastermind. (School here) will play hard. The (nickname here) won't ever give up."

Monday was not one of those days. The UK players who spoke with the media at the team's weekly news conference each stressed the importance of Saturday's game against awful Mississippi State. Make that sickeningly awful Mississippi State. Actually, it's more like put-a-paper-bag-over-your-head-and-don't-cut-out-holes-for-the-eyes awful Mississippi State.

In short, the Bulldogs are bad. And the Cats know it.

"We're chalking it up as a 'W,'" said wide receiver Dicky Lyons Jr. "We feel if we're going to a bowl game, we've got to win this week."

So there it is. The proclamation we've been waiting for all year. In a season of "must-wins," this is the first real one. Mississippi State has won two games, and one of them was against Jacksonville State. Aside from last Saturday's 27-24 loss to worse-than-you-think Georgia, MSU has not been close in Southeastern Conference games. The Bulldogs have lost by 34, 31 and 15. They have been shut out twice.

They stink. And the Cats know it. "Our fans are probably thinking 'If (UK) wants to go to a bowl game, (we've) got to win this game,'" said linebacker Johnny Williams. "And that's how we feel too."

Come Saturday afternoon, in a game that might set organized football back to the days of the leather helmet and wool jersey, UK will have to find a way to win in one of the least imposing stadiums in the conference. The Cats can't afford a loss this bad this late in the season. Lose Saturday, and the season goes down the tubes — along with Rich Brooks. Win Saturday, and it sets up a potential November to Remember with three straight winnable home games.

All the Cats have to do is beat a bad

team. And they know it.

"We have to grow up and make progress," said defensive end Jeremy Jarmon. "There's pressure every week, but there's (more) pressure now. We know this is a game we have to win."

Mississippi State coach Sylvester Croom — who has been about as successful in Starkville as "From Justin to Kelly" was at the box office — is the only coach in the league under more heat than Brooks. He called out the team's fans earlier this year, and had to rush to apologize.

His team is dreadful. And while Brooks surely knows that, he stopped short of saying it. But he did offer an arithmetic lesson.

"We have five games left, and we have to win three (to go to a bowl)," Brooks said. "If we don't win, we'll have four left, and we'll have to win three. So if you're in beginning math, it makes a lot of sense that this is an important game."

Maybe if Brooks gets fired he can teach Math 109 next year. But it digress. The bottom line is that the players and the coaches understand the importance of the game in achieving their postseason goal.

Call them cocky, or call them confident. But on Saturday afternoon, if we're not calling them winners, call the undertaker.



CHRIS DELOTTEL  
Kernel columnist

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Call for Abstracts

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The event is organized by Murray State's Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Activity (URSA) office, and will feature the works of over 200 Kentucky university undergraduates. One student from each university will be selected to give an oral presentation in the Capitol Rotunda on his/her project.

Visit the Posters-at-the-Capitol website at the following link for registration materials and/or to view examples of abstracts from previous years:  
<http://campus.murraystate.edu/ur/urrsa/>

**ABSTRACT DEADLINE: October 25, 2006.**  
**EVENT HELD: February 15, 2007.**  
**QUESTIONS: (270) 869-3192 or [urrsa@murraystate.edu](mailto:urrsa@murraystate.edu) with questions.**

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