

# KENTUCKY KERNEL

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## Trustees to vote on partner benefits

By Juliann Vachon  
jvachon@kykernel.com

UK's Board of Trustees is set to vote tomorrow on whether to offer domestic partner benefits to same-sex couples and unmarried opposite-sex couples and their children.

The domestic partner benefits recommendation is part of a larger benefits package on the board's agenda.

The board's Human Resource Committee will discuss the proposal at its meeting at 9:45 a.m. in the boardroom on the 18th floor of the Patterson Office Tower before it goes before the full board at 1 p.m. in the same location.

A committee commissioned by President Lee Todd issued a report outlining the feasibility of implementing domestic partner benefits at UK. The domestic partner benefits committee is one of five ad-hoc committees formed to develop proposals based on the results of a 2005-06 work-life survey of UK faculty and staff, said staff trustee Russ Williams.

Health insurance coverage is one part of the benefits package.

The proposed domestic partner benefits would affect about 204 opposite-sex couples and about 68 same-sex couples if approved, according to the committee's report.

The average estimated annual cost for the health coverage benefits is about \$633,000. About \$253,000 would be paid from UK's undesignated general funds, one-third of which comes from tuition, according to the report. The remaining \$380,000 would come from other sources, including grants, contracts, athletics and hospital revenues.

While many UK employees have expressed interest in domestic partner benefits, the issue is still debated among state legislators.

State Sen. Vernie McGaha (R-Russell Springs) presented a bill that would ban state agencies from extending health benefits to domestic partners in the General Assembly's most recent session. The Senate approved the bill, but it died in a House committee vote.

Williams hopes the other faces of the benefits package are not overlooked because of the controversial nature of the proposed partner benefits, he said.

Many of Williams' constituents have expressed support for the proposal, and he expects the board will approve the benefits package tomorrow, he said.

"I don't see any reason why this won't pass," Williams said.

The majority of the faculty is also in favor of domestic partner benefits, said faculty trustee Jeff Decker.

Health insurance coverage is only part of the benefits package under consideration.

The committee's other recommendations are:

- Build two on-site child care centers for faculty and staff that would accommodate about 150 children each.

- Create professional development and advancement opportunities for staff through a career development center including counselors, a financial incentive to earn a GED and a computer loan program.

- Expand UK's current Employee Education Program, which offers reduced tuition rates, to include the spouses and dependents of UK faculty and staff.

- Add a staff position and offer additional resources to UK's work-life office, which develops and supports initiatives aimed at enhancing employee satisfaction along with improving workplace effectiveness and productivity.

While the board will not receive the proposed budget for the 2007-08 academic year until its next meeting in June, it will discuss the financial impact of all of the work-life proposals at its full meeting tomorrow, Williams said.

## DOCUMENTING TRAGEDY



PHOTOS BY ED MATTHEWS | STAFF

Flowers sit on a wall in front of a memorial on the Virginia Tech campus Saturday. Thousands of people visited the campus over the last week to show support and mourn the victims of last Monday's shooting.

## Students take banner to Va. Tech

By Jill Laster  
jlaster@kykernel.com

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Less than 48 hours after they began planning their trip, five UK students stood silently on a hill overlooking the site of the worst mass shooting in American history.

The group made the five-hour drive to Virginia Tech Friday with two goals in mind: to make a documentary on the massacre that left 33 people dead and hang a memorial banner signed by UK students.

In the documentary, the students hope to create a report different from those they saw in the national media. They want to let subjects tell their stories without interruptions from reporters.

"We looked to connect with subjects," said sociology senior Alise Marshall. "There were no harsh boundaries (like), 'I'm the interviewer; you're the interviewee.'"

The students walked around campus recording footage and taking pictures of the memorials set up at Virginia Tech's Drillfield and at Norris Hall, the building where 30 of the victims were killed.



Integrated strategic communications junior Naitore Kigora takes down the banner signed by UK students to show support for Virginia Tech Friday afternoon. Kigora and four other UK students drove to Blacksburg, Va., over the weekend to deliver the banner to Virginia Tech students and to film a documentary.

On Friday, the group hoped to get a few people to speak on camera but were uncomfortable walking up to grieving strangers and asking them for comments.

"People are in a reflective state, and you don't want to impose on that," said Naitore Kigora, an integrated strategic communications junior.

The five began their first interviews with a few Virginia Tech students sitting on campus with signs that said, "Have frustration? Have questions? Have doubts? I will listen." The UK students asked them if they wanted to speak on camera, and three of the people with signs

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## Alltech donates funds to research

By Alice Haymond  
ahaymond@kykernel.com

Alltech Inc., expanded its partnership with UK on Friday by presenting the university with \$900,000 for a new animal research project in the College of Agriculture.

The money will fund student research on animal nutrigenomics, which uses genetic information to anticipate health concerns and to pinpoint the most appropriate diet for animals.

"It's a new tool, a tool that you and I will consider an everyday tool in five years," said Pearce Lyons, Alltech founder and president.

Over the last 22 years, Alltech has collaborated with UK on many occasions, providing over \$1 million in funding for research, supporting publications and graduate theses, said Nancy Cox, the associate dean of research in the College of Agriculture.

This particular project is the first of its kind in which a company has partnered with a university to further animal health research, she said.

"This is an opportunity to show we're open to working with the industry. We have to lower our ivy walls, get out there and get our hands dirty."

LEE TODD  
UK president

"We look forward to doing some exciting things and showing the uniqueness that we have," said UK President Lee Todd.

The partnership not only provides funding for UK graduate students, but it also exposes them to the commercial side of scientific research and gives them access to cutting-edge scientific discoveries, Todd said. It gives UK a chance to show that science, technology, engineering and mathematics education is going to have a more prominent role in Kentucky, he said.

"This is an opportunity to show we're open to working with the industry," Todd said. "We have to lower our ivy walls, get out there and get our hands dirty."

The project includes the construction of a laboratory building at Alltech specifically geared toward animal nutrigenomics, which graduate students working on the research will have access to.

For Alltech, an international company that is sponsoring the World Equestrian Games in Lexington in 2010, acquiring the research through UK is a win-win situation, Lyons said. It makes sense because it helps UK on its road to becoming a top-20 university, and it gives Alltech's research more credibility.

"We do research to push out the boundaries of knowledge," Lyons said. "But at the end of the day, research is done for the benefit of mankind, and research has to be funded."

"The industry must recognize and respect the university," he said. "There's no point in Alltech doing research by itself. The university gives it credibility ... we're going forward, and we're going forward together."



ALLIE GARZA | STAFF  
Ross Zirkle's unfinished pieces during a memorial service Friday in Memorial Hall. Zirkle died March 12 after a long battle with cancer.

Art studio students and faculty work to complete one of art professor Ross Zirkle's unfinished pieces during a memorial service Friday in Memorial Hall. Zirkle died March 12 after a long battle with cancer.

## Community remembers art professor

By Jesse Montana McCoy  
jmccoy@kykernel.com

Ross Zirkle once told his friend and former student Derrick Riley. "If I happen to die young, I would want someone to finish what I started."

Zirkle, 52, an associate professor in UK's art department, died March 12 after a long battle with cancer, but his former students carried out his wishes at a memorial held in his honor Friday in Memorial Hall.

Riley, an adjunct professor of printmaking, and several other students worked on two of Zirkle's pieces on stage during the memorial and presented them as they finished.

"What better way to have a memorial for Ross than to turn Memorial Hall into a print shop?" Riley said.

Flowers and a framed portrait of Zirkle took center stage as friends, colleagues and students filed in to listen and share memories of Zirkle. Art Department Chair Ben Withers opened the memorial after a collection of Zirkle's favorite songs was played.

"Ross had a way of making us all feel unique and important," Withers said.

All of the speakers said Zirkle took great concern in helping each of his students. Zirkle seemed to soak up energy from his classroom and return it to all

those he was teaching, Withers said.

Kristina Bogdanov, who finished graduate school in ceramics in 2006, was a teaching assistant for one of Zirkle's drawing classes.

Bogdanov, a Serbia native, explained that in her culture there are two forms of death: physical and metaphysical.

"He's gone physically but will always be here metaphysically," Bogdanov said. "He'll never die in our memory."

Many people spoke of Zirkle's peacefulness and patience.

Gerry Ferstman, a fellow printmaking professor and a friend of Zirkle, said Zirkle

See Zirkle on page 8

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## LOVE LIVES

### the DISH

#### Tori & Dean -- Bye-bye, Baby Weight

"We have become even more connected," Tori Spelling says of her marriage a month after she and Dean McDermott, 40, welcomed their son, Liam. "Now we're such a unit." Exhibit A: The couple of nearly a year teamed up to trim down with a jogging date in Beverly Hills April 10. Meanwhile, she's proud to say her baby's been gaining. "He's grown out of his newborn outfit, which made me kind of sad," says the star, 33. "But it's good." As is the fact that they won't have to leave him at home when they go back to work on their reality show, Tori & Dean: Inn Love. "It's great because we can have Liam with us on-set," she says. "We're so lucky!"

kissing, too." The PDA continued back in L.A. two days later, when Simpson accompanied Wentz to the T-Mobile Sidekick Launch Party, where Fall Out Boy performed. "She rested her head on his shoulder as she hung out with him and his hand backstage," an insider tells Us. When the rockers (who began touring in May) hit the stage, adds the source, "she cheered him." Sounds like Simpson has a fan in Wentz too: That night, when asked how things were going with the singer, he told Us, "Great!"

surprise." Dancing With the Stars' Samantha Harris, 33, tells Us of finding out the gender of the baby she and her financial wholesaler hubby, Michael Harris, expect this fall. But that doesn't mean they delayed decorating the nursery in their new L.A. home. "We painted it periwinkle so it could go with boy colors like chocolate... and girl colors like pink!"

#### Josh & Fergie: Going to the Chapel

Josh Duhamel and Fergie might have been counting their blessings during mass at St. Martin of Tours church in L.A. April 15. Not only are they enjoying career highs - Las Vegas star Duhamel, 34, hits the big screen in Transformers (out July 4) and Fergie's CD, The Dutchess, has gone platinum - but the couple also recently purchased a \$4.875 million, eight-bedroom home. "Josh has been doing a lot of work on it," says a source. The singer, 32, meanwhile, is off to host MTV's Australia Video Music Awards 2007 on April 29. So how do the busy duo stay connected? Reveals the source. "They cook, hang out at home and watch American Idol."

#### Christy & Ed's Family Balance

Christy Turlington tells Us that when she and Ed Burns, 39, get a rare night away from the kids, they hit the movies. "To go to the theater and sort of indulge on our own is a big deal," says the supermodel, 38. And when it comes to time with daughter Grace, 3, and son Finn, 14 months, she's like any mom with two little ones. "If I can do one-on-one time with either of them and just watch them, it's a beautiful thing," she says. "But normally, I'm kind of torn between the two of them!"

#### Ashlee & Pete's High-Flying Romance

The skies were more than friendly on April 11 for on-again couple Ashlee - Simpson and Pete Wentz. As they boarded a red-eye flight from L.A. to NYC (where Simpson hosted the opening party for Runway nightclub on April 12), the singer, 22, and Fall Out Boy bassist, 27, were "holding hands and nuzzling each other's necks," a fellow passenger tells Us. "There was

#### DWTS Host Samantha's Baby Prep!

"We're going to let it be a

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## The tent is down... Let the Patio Party Begin



### HOROSCOPES

By Linda C. Black  
To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** Today is a 5 — Anticipate resistance and don't be dismayed when you get it. Try to look at the situation from the other point of view. Doing that will help you with planning.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** Today is an 8 — Don't tell anybody what you're doing until you can show solid evidence. Prove your hypothesis beyond a shadow of a doubt.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21)** Today is an 8 — Don't make pleasing your friends your top priority. This time, it's OK to keep the big chunk of candy for yourself.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22)** Today is a 7 — You feel strongly about lots of things that you don't mention in public. This is not necessarily bad. Instead, it's a good skill to practice.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** Today is a 7 — Soon you'll be asked for an exact accounting of the funds for which you're responsible. Do you already have that? If not, get busy counting.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Today is an 8 — Be a good listener for a friend who's having trouble getting through. He or she can't speak freely always, but he or she can, to you.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** Today is an 8 — Take on more authority, even if you're worried about whether or not you can make the right choices. It'll be good exercise.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** Today is an 8 — Grasp the opportunity to get more authority. This is an as-

signment you'll handle well. You're the right person for the job.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** Today is a 7 — Be practical about your objectives. Don't only figure out where you want to go, also figure out how you'll get there.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Today is an 8 — Discuss your plans for the future, including your next shopping spree. This time, you and your sweetheart may cheerfully agree to agree.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** Today is a 7 — A highly structured person, whom you admire very much, will be glad to tell you what to do. But you're the one with the facts. Provide them, or make the decision.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** Today is a 5 — Don't take any risks you can avoid, under these conditions. Don't buy any lottery tickets, either. Your odds of winning are low.

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**DOCUMENTARY**

Continued from page 1

agreed to.  
 "We made sure that the person we went up to, we were just talking straight-up like, 'Hey, we're from UK, and we're coming here to support you, and we're shooting it,'" said marketing sophomore Patrick Nally, the trip's organizer.

The five said they also wanted to speak to those personally connected to the massacre. On Friday night, the group visited the mosque of one of the victims, Waleed Shaalan, and talked to his friends, including Ahmed Sidky.

Sidky met the group again the next day and described his friend's death, sometimes smiling and sometimes near tears. He pieced together his account of Shaalan's final minutes from news sources.

As the gunman, Seung-Hui Cho, searched the room for anyone still alive, Shaalan laid beside another student who was playing dead, Sidky said. When Cho approached them, Shaalan distracted the shooter to save the other student.

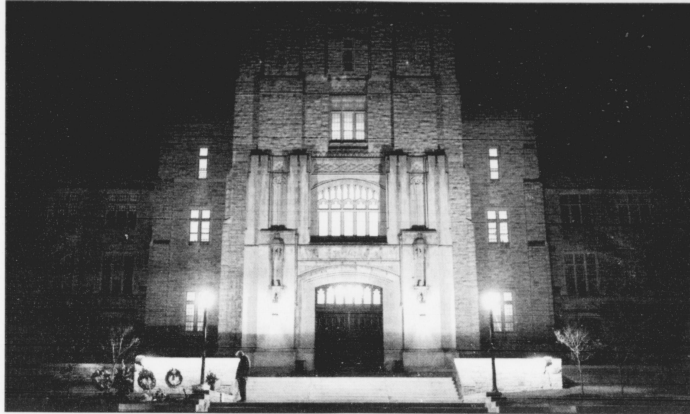
"I'm proud of him," Sidky said. "He's a hero, and it takes a lot to do something like that."

Because all of Shaalan's family lives in Egypt, members of the mosque were called to identify Shaalan. A police officer brought pictures of two of the three victims that had not been identified, but neither of them was Shaalan, Sidky said.

Then, he said, the mosque members gave the officer a picture of Shaalan to see if he was the third victim.

"I think that was the hardest moment for me when he looked at me and nodded," Sidky said. "I think a lot of people just lost it, myself included."

As Sidky spoke, the group of five UK students gathered around him taking pictures, recording video and asking questions. Kiogora said she was



A man stands solemnly at a memorial outside Burruss Hall on Virginia Tech's campus Friday night in Blacksburg, Va. Burruss Hall sits next to Norris Hall, where 30 people were killed in a shooting last week.

in tears listening to Sidky.  
 "It just gave me a whole new light on their perspective, just knowing those details," Kiogora said.

"You can just look at a poster from a place you didn't even know existed and see that people care," Hubbard said.

After hanging the poster, the UK students interviewed people in the student center and took a tour of campus before making their way back to the Drillfield.

At 5 p.m., as the group prepared to leave, a student-organized picnic on the Drillfield began yards away from the circle of pictures, candles and flowers for the victims. The crowd of students, faculty and community members divided into lines to wait for ice cream, pizza and other food as music

visitors and grieving students came in was emotionally draining for Hubbard, but the posters, flowers and e-mails from all over the world helped a little, he said.  
 "It's something I'll remember the most," she said.  
 The group returned to the Virginia Tech campus Saturday to record more footage and deliver the poster that had been hanging outside UK's Student Center. They hung the banner, which had about 250 signatures, inside the Virginia Tech student center alongside other signed posters from around the country.

"It's been everything from Girl Scouts bringing in cookies to people bringing in flowers," said Justin Hubbard, a junior at Virginia Tech who works at the student center.

Working the last week as

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Virginia Tech doctoral student Ahmed Sidky, left, tells the story of his friend Waleed Shaalan who was killed in Monday's shootings at Virginia Tech to marketing sophomore Patrick Nally and integrated strategic communications junior Naitore Kiogora Saturday in Blacksburg, Va.

by the Beatles and the Dave Matthews Band played over the field. "It's a celebration of life, you know?" said journalism

and agricultural biotechnology junior Whitney Waters, who works for the Kernel as a photographer. "They're going to be OK."

The five split up and drifted through the crowd, eating and reflecting on their experience. After a while, they came together and talked about whether they needed to interview more people before leaving. Nally and Yahya Ahmed, a biology and Arabic and Islamic studies junior, began moving through the crowd looking for people to speak with.

"At times I felt very connected emotionally, but at times I felt like people are waiting for me back home ... waiting for us to bring this back," Nally said later that night. "At times I was standing there just wanting to look at a candle burn or look at a picture of Ryan Clark (one of the victims) ... but there were times where I knew I had to get out the camera and focus on this."

On the way back to UK, the five stopped to eat in West Virginia, where they talked about their trip, including the shape the documentary is taking.

"I think there's going to be a lot of themes that start popping up that we didn't even notice when we were filming," Ahmed said.

The five will be editing the footage this week. Nally said he hopes the organizations that helped sponsor the trip, including Student Government and Women's Place, will also help present the documentary.

Although the five have not yet determined the film's storyline, they said they hope it will be done before this weekend so students can see what the group took from the experience before school ends.

"I don't think the documentary has one central theme right now. It's the story of life. The theme, it's life," Marshall said. "One minute you're laughing, the next minute you're sobbing, crying. I mean, that's life."

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# SPORTS

Jonathan Smith  
Sports Editor  
Phone: 257-1915  
E-mail: jsmith@kykernel.com

BLUE 65, WHITE 50



PHOTOS BY KEITH SMILEY | STAFF

UK defensive lineman Myron Pryor pressures quarterback Andre Woodson during Saturday's Blue/White Spring Game at Commonwealth Stadium. The defense was tough on Woodson, as they intercepted him twice.

## Blue rallies past White in Spring game

By Travis Waldron  
twaldron@kykernel.com

As the sun beat down on Commonwealth Stadium for Saturday's Blue/White Spring Game, several UK players stood at midfield with their eyes glued to one of the stadium's big screens, which showed video of UK's Music City Bowl win over Clemson.

Almost immediately after the video showed one of the most memorable plays of that game — punter Tim Masthay's fake punt and pass to safety Marcus McClinton — the coaching staff emerged from the stadium tunnel onto the field.

At the first sound of a whistle, the players went back to the warm-ups and drills of spring practice, the monumental win a good memory from the past but not the main focus of the day.

And that's exactly how head coach Rich Brooks wanted it.

"Now we have to move forward, and we can't move forward while looking back," Brooks said. "The Music City Bowl becomes a thing of the past and now we have to think about ... opening up the coming season."

UK's Blue team (offense) earned the victory, defeating the White team (defense) 65-50 in front of 5,000 fans.

Because of injury problems, the scrimmage was formatted to pit the offense against the defense, leading to the inflated score.

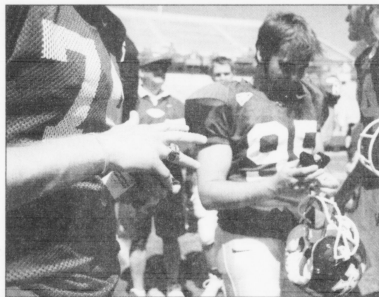
Though the defense led for much of the scrimmage, quarterback Andre Woodson brought the Blue team back for the victory with a 14-play, 68-yard drive that ended with Maurice Grinter's one-yard touchdown run. The touchdown gave the Blue a 54-50 lead that it didn't relinquish.

Woodson finished the game 17-for-28 for 245 yards and two touchdowns, leading an offensive attack that racked up 530 yards on 20 possessions.

Even though the offense earned the victory, Brooks said he was pleased with both teams.

"The scrimmage went pretty well," Brooks said. "I think people could see athletic plays being made on both sides of the ball."

One aspect that Brooks wasn't completely pleased with was the play of sophomore-to-be quarterbacks Will Fidler and Mike Hartline, who are competing to be Woodson's backup. Fidler went 4-for-13 for 35 yards and threw two interceptions. Hartline was 14-for-23 for 100 yards and threw an eight-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Terrence Jones on the game's final



UK sophomore-to-be punter Chris Collins looks at his Music City Bowl championship ring that the team received after Saturday's annual Blue/White Spring Game.

play. "The consistency I've been looking for from either one of those at this point is not there," Brooks said. "The ability to make plays, you could see it at times, and at other times, they looked like freshmen."

Much of UK's success in 2006 came from big plays on both offense and defense. If the spring game was any indication, the 2007 Cats will do the same.

Two of Woodson's first three passes were picked off by cornerback Trevarid Lindley. Each pick earned the defense six points, giving the White an early 12-0 lead.

"We ran wrong routes that caused interceptions," offensive coordinator Joker Phillips said. "The second one the receiver didn't go up and fight for the ball. Those were on us."

But Woodson rebounded quickly, hitting wide receiver Keenan Burton with a 55-yard strike on the Blue's fourth possession. Three plays later, running back Tony Dixon scored from three yards out.

Dixon led the Cats with 59 yards on 11 carries and scored one touchdown. Two offensive possessions after that, Woodson found running back Rafael Little behind the defense for a 48-yard touchdown pass that gave the Blue a 23-21 lead, its first of the game.

Little beat McClinton on the score, but the safety later got revenge.

McClinton picked off Fidler late in the first half, broke a tackle and went 79 yards to earn 10 points for a defensive touchdown. The score gave the White a 43-28 lead.

Plays like McClinton's interception are exactly what UK needs to be successful in

2007, Brooks said.

"I hate that (the interceptions) on offense, but I love it on defense," Brooks said. "If we hadn't done that last year on defense we wouldn't be distributing Music City Bowl champion rings after practice."

Even with the new ring on his finger, Burton said he wasn't thinking about anything the Cats did in 2006.

"We're ready to accomplish more things than we accomplished last year," Burton said. "A lot of people better realize that what happened last year is last year. Now we've got to strive and do better this year."

### Players injured in game

UK escaped the scrimmage with only one serious injury. Defensive end Josh Minton went down with just minutes left in the game with a knee injury, but Brooks said the staff wouldn't know the extent of the injury until Minton has an MRI this week.

Running backs Antoine Brown and Alfonso Smith and defensive back Shomari Moore both suffered minor injuries during the scrimmage. Smith and Moore both sprained an ankle, while Brown tweaked his knee.

Brooks announced after the scrimmage that offensive lineman Zach Hennis has given up football because of a shoulder injury. Hennis had two surgeries on the same shoulder in high school and another after coming to UK. He injured the shoulder again in spring practice and came to the decision that it was time to leave the team. Brooks said that Hennis would remain in school at UK on a medical scholarship.

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**Your wages and benefits need a  
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I'm a staff veteran of fourteen years. I currently work in the Radiology Department at the UK Hospital, after working over twelve years on the main campus. I will continue to speak out against the consecutive low staff raises and inadequate healthcare funding in the Top 20 Business Plan.

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Administration, Faculty,  
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Online primary voting begins Wednesday, April 18th-May 2nd  
Vote with your UK employee ID# from your pay stub, start from the UK Home page, click Faculty & Staff, and then click on Staff Senate. Find the UK Board of Trustees candidates.  
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# OPINIONS

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The Opinions page provides a forum for the exchange of ideas. Unlike news stories, the Kernel's original 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.

## SG Senate needs more action, fewer resolutions

KERNEL EDITORIAL

This year's Student Government Senate wrapped up its session on April 11, and as next year's senators prepare for their finals, they should also look back on the closing year for ideas on how to improve the Senate and its role on campus.

For the past two years, the Senate has spent plenty of time looking inward, debating and reconsidering its own structure and regulations. In particular, the Senate approved a restructuring of its committees this year, expanding the number of committees, their scope and the number of senators involved.

The Committee on Committees and the Appropriations and Revenue Committee survived as standing committees, but the Operations and Evaluations Committee was cut to make room for more specific and to make professional students. In its place, the Graduate and Professional Student Affairs Committee, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, and the Internal

Affairs Committee were formed. The restructuring should mean more legislation that benefits students, both undergraduate and graduate. With more senators — which means more students represented — on more committees, and with committees to study more than just SG itself and give money to student organizations, the Senate is poised to take more action next year than it has in the past. The Senate has also continued revising its constitution this year, slimming it down so that it only defines the government's structure and moving miscellaneous such as limit on campaign posters into statutes. Internal changes such as these are crucial in keeping the Senate efficient and effective. But next year's senators can't simply continue examining the Senate itself — restructuring cre-

ates the potential for action, but the Senate does not directly benefit students or the campus unless it makes use of the new opportunities.

Next year's Senate must strive to do more with its meeting times by striving to always debate legislation and resolutions that have meaning on campus and that SG can implement. Too often, SG Senate meetings are spent passing non-binding resolutions that are easily ignored by university officials.

SG senators and officials have a great deal of resources available to them and therefore have the potential to influence campus policies. With a budget of more than \$400,000 — gathered from student fees — and access to top university officials, senators should be able to find plenty of projects they can conceptualize and actually implement, instead of passing a resolution asking someone else to implement it. There is some benefit to passing non-binding

resolutions, as they do help increase awareness and discussion on topics that many students might be unaware of. When the Senate passed a resolution condemning the Board of Trustees for modifying its agenda-posting policy, SG used its influence to take a stand on the issue and inform students that the practice was unacceptable.

But a mere resolution is hardly enough sometimes. When university officials didn't heed the resolution, SG should have pressed the issue further, perhaps starting a campaign to actively inform students and have them protest the policy. If an issue is worth passing a resolution for, it should be worth following up on and pushing for its implementation.

Thanks to the efforts of this year's senators, the SG Senate is now structured well enough to serve students effectively. Next year, senators need to turn down the introspection and turn up the action.

## Tragedies show campus gun bans don't work

Last week's massacre at Virginia Tech represents the latest — albeit by far the most deadly — in a disturbing trend of school and college campus shootings in the United States in recent years. Inevitably, following such an event, discussion leads to what can be done to prevent such incidents from happening in the first place.



WES BLEVIS  
Kernel columnist

Perhaps it would be of service to policymakers to look at what some of these shootings have had in common. In 1991, a physics doctoral student at the University of Iowa killed five people within his department before turning the gun on himself. Two middle-school students murdered four students and a teacher in Jonesboro, Ark., in 1998. And in April 1999, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold shot and killed 13 people at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., before both committed suicide.

One common link between these shootings and last week's is that all were committed by gunmen within gun-free zones. These gun-free ordinances, designed ostensibly to protect students, faculty and staff from such tragedies, instead have the unintended effect of leaving victims helpless in the face of rampaging assailants.

Two states, Oregon and Utah, allow concealed-weapon permit holders to carry guns on campuses, though Utah's state legislature passed a bill earlier this year to allow students to opt out of sharing a dorm with students who own guns. "Arming everybody is not the answer, and disarming everybody isn't entirely possible, so you have to look for other solutions," said Michael Young said in a Salt Lake Tribune article. One of the solutions that should receive consideration is the elimination of gun-free zones at schools and college campuses.

There are multiple instances of law-abiding citizens acting to stop crimes in progress with legally-carried concealed firearms. From bank and restaurant robberies to muggings and home invasions, Americans use their guns every day in instances of self-defense. In 2002, two students at the Appalachian School of Law in Grundy, Va., subdued a gunman after he had

killed three people and wounded three others. The two students heard gunshots and went to their cars to retrieve their personal firearms. They then approached and arrested the gunman until police arrived.

Clearly, a concealed-carry permit is not for everyone, and those who are given the permits must undergo thorough criminal and drug background checks, as well as attend an 8-hour course on gun safety and laws concerning use of force. They must also pass a shooting test by hitting a full-size silhouette with 11 out of 20 rounds.

No one can approximate the circumstances of the next campus shooting spree. But what is for certain is that students will stand a better chance of survival if some of their responsible peers are given the ability to fight back against the gunman. If a student or faculty member at Virginia Tech had been armed, he or she might have been able to stop the murderer before he returned to campus to kill an additional 30 innocent people.

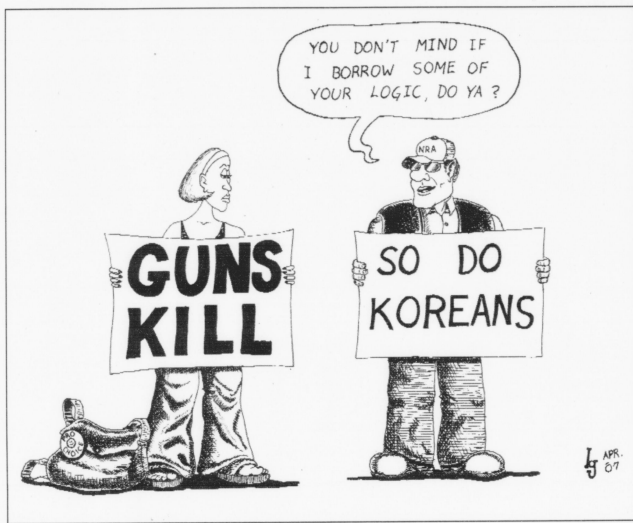
Following last week's tragedy, the inevitable gun-control debate is still beginning to brew. In an editorial the day after the massacre, The New York Times, while admitting that "it is premature to draw too many lessons from this tragedy," proposes a fix for the problem of campus killings.

"What is needed, urgently," the Times' editorial board writes, "is stronger controls over the lethal weapons that cause such wasteful carnage and such unbearable loss." There you have it. Seung-Hui Cho isn't the cause of the Virginia Tech's tragedy — his guns are.

What's ironic is that members of a profession that holds the First Amendment so dear are perfectly willing to disregard Americans' Second Amendment rights. Criminals, by definition, do not obey the law — so what's suddenly going to make them obey new laws regarding gun control? The logic in gun control advocates' position in this case is simply not there.

Rather than eliminating or restricting gun ownership, specifically regarding handguns, it is logical to advocate the increased presence of firearms on college campuses. Gun-free zones have been proven time and time again to fail the students they are designed to protect. It's time for campus and state policymakers to give students the ability to defend themselves against those who would do them harm.

Wes Blevis is a journalism senior. E-mail: wblevis@kykernel.com.



BRIAN GOODLEY, Kernel cartoonist

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Editorial about clock resolution was unfair to SG officials

In response to the editorial regarding the Student Government clock resolution, I feel that some things need to be clarified.

On Feb. 9, members of SG met with university officials to investigate why many clocks on campus are not functioning properly and get some answers.

We were told the clocks were not functioning properly due to back-up generators on campus having trouble providing enough electricity to power the clocks. When asked what could be done to fix the broken clocks, we were delighted to hear that the university had already found a solution. In fact, they had already purchased a new clock system; the only problem was that they still have to purchase the clocks for their system.

It was planned to use money normally allocated to cover the general maintenance and repairs of clocks from the old system to purchase the new clocks.

What critics must realize is that the new clock system was a solution formulated by university officials, not members of the Student Government. Student Government asked why other cheaper alternatives, such as digital clocks or solar power, were not going to be used. We were informed that those alternatives were not cheaper because digital clocks use more electricity and solar power was not currently available to the university.

I felt the editorial unfairly suggested SG is committed to spending \$100,000 on a solution to fix the faulty clocks. What the clock resolution should have communicated was that SG is concerned about the current clock system, has met with university officials, and feels that UK administrators should be aware of the current situation and try to find a feasible, fiscally responsible means for addressing the situation.

Richie Holmes  
SG executive cabinet member

### Brown should have been more inclusive in e-mail about massacre

I certainly share the sentiments in Student Government President Jonah Brown's e-mail to UK students about their peers at Virginia Tech — but as the student leader of a large, cosmopolitan institution, Brown should probably consult the campus diversity officer before offering religious quotations from a single religion to the whole university community.

Many of the paying customers here are just as devout and just as devastated about the Virginia Tech tragedy as the religious majority is but would be better served by comforting non-sectarian words.

I can imagine a certain sector of the Christian community rolling its eyes at "typical liberal P.C. thinking," but in fact the converse of this attitude often ignores or intentionally abuses minority Christian sensitivities, if not the believers themselves, in other societies.

We're supposed to be different — and, besides, I've never understood what's so wrong with correctness, political or otherwise.

Promoting diversity is one of the stated principles of our university. We should be especially careful to be inclusive in this case, since the perpetrators both at Virginia Tech and earlier at Columbine listed feelings of exclusion and isolation among the chief reasons for their attacks.

Glen White  
Staff senator

### Don't support bans on guns until you know the facts

I am writing in response to Jennifer Lewis' April 19 letter to the editor. While I appreciate Lewis' respectful disagreement with Kyle Martin, I have to say that the facts just don't support her faulty reasoning. Lewis argues that guns should be harder to obtain, that gun handling should be left to the police, that guns create a feeling that people are "entitled to kill whom they see fit," and that guns are not "needed to protect us from someone who feels the need to kill innocent victims."

These arguments just don't hold up to the realities of legal gun ownership in America. The ideas that guns should be harder to obtain and that the handling of weapons should be left to the police just don't make sense. The job of the police is not to protect us by stopping criminals in the middle of committing crimes; their job is to investigate and arrest after the fact. An armed, law-abiding citizen is a much greater deterrent to criminals; according to the National Rifle Association's Web site, states that have laws that provide for citizens to be legally armed have "22% lower total violent crime, 30% lower murder, 46% lower robbery, and 12% lower aggravated assault" than those without.

As for guns causing people to want to kill, it should be made clear that citizens who legally carry concealed are among some of the most law-abiding individuals in our country. The U.S. government doesn't issue concealed-carry weapons permits to felons. In fact, there is a minimum amount of training required on proper use of firearms, laws regarding when a weapon can be drawn defensively, and firearm safety before such a permit can be issued. In most instances of crime prevention, a weapon isn't even drawn — just the presence of the weapon makes a crime less likely to occur.

Am I saying that gun laws in this nation are perfect? Not at all. Seung-Hui was declared a danger by a judge, and he shouldn't have been able to legally purchase weapons (which he did). However that does not mean that law-abiding, mentally stable citizens should have a harder time obtaining weapons for self-defense. Making guns harder to get for law-abiding individuals will only put more power in the hands of criminals, and make us easier targets for twisted individuals such as Seung-Hui.

Joshua Bales  
Psychology senior

### Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Wes Blevis. 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

### Weekly Poll Question

Do you think Jonah Brown did a good job as this school year's Student Government president?

Vote online and view previous poll results at [www.kykernel.com](http://www.kykernel.com)



LITTLE KENTUCKY DERBY



Several Lexington residents stood in their front yards Saturday morning waving at hot air balloons as they passed by.

The balloons were flying as part of the Little Kentucky Derby, a prelude to the Kentucky Derby, sponsored by UK's Student Activities Board.

As a part of the Derby, a balloon glow and a balloon race were planned for Friday and Saturday. Balloonists from across Kentucky came out to participate in the races.

The object of the balloon race was to start two to three miles from a target located near the Arboretum. Once nearing the target, teams were supposed to throw a beanbag from the basket of the balloon. The balloon team landing its beanbag closest to the target won.

None of the balloonists was able to reach the target because the wind pushed most of them in the opposite direction.

Because a single winner was not declared, the prize money was split equally among the teams.

CHRISTINA LAYTON



PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA LAYTON | STAFF  
Top: A balloon flies over Lexington early Saturday morning as part of the Little Kentucky Derby Balloon Race, sponsored by Student Activities Board.

Above: Mike Wade, right, his wife, Pat, and team member Amy Jack, inflate their balloon before the hot air balloon race Saturday. The event, part of the Little Kentucky Derby, invited balloonists from across Kentucky to race toward a target near the UK Arboretum from any starting point within a two- to three-mile radius.

Hot air balloons glow from their burners as the sun sets Friday night during the Little Kentucky Derby's Balloon Glow.

ELLIOTT HESS STAFF



ZIRKLE

Continued from page 1

was "one of the most peaceful people (he has) ever known."

Erin McAnallen, a 2006 art studio graduate, said Zirkle had the "patience of Methuselah." Jack Cochran, an art graduate student who will finish his bachelor's of fine arts degree this year, was a student of Zirkle's. Cochran is deaf but said that didn't matter to Zirkle.

"He could communicate with anyone," Cochran said. Zirkle even learned some sign language to help communicate with Cochran.

Arturo Alonzo Sandoval, professor of art, said he missed his friend dearly and that Zirkle's presence is still with him.

"I saw the most glorious teacher (in Zirkle)," Sandoval said. "I saw someone who gave so much to everyone, including me."

Suzanne Gonzales, Zirkle's long-time girlfriend and a model for many of his drawing classes, was the last speaker for the memorial.

Zirkle used to tell a story to his classes that reflected his idea of being free and following his own path, Gonzales said. Zirkle wanted to remain that way throughout his life, she said.

"He continued to (follow his own path)," Gonzales said.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT -

STUDENT INSURANCE INFORMATION

University Health Service, in conjunction with The Graduate School, Office of International Affairs, student representation and other UK departments recently concluded the Request for Proposal process to select a NEW student health insurance vendor. The Chickering Group, an Aetna Company, was awarded a contract to begin in Fall 2007. With more than 25 years in the student insurance marketplace, The Chickering Group offers a sound reputation and record of service.

UK's contract with the current carrier will end on August 25th, 2007. Chickering is well-versed in the changeover process and the University expects this to be a straightforward one. The University Health Service will work closely with the Graduate School and Office of International Affairs to ensure a smooth transition for both new enrollees and students currently enrolled in the 06-07 student insurance plan. Mechanisms will be in place to handle existing and new claims, member information, and students participating in a continuation plan.

With 2007-2008 premiums lower than 2006-2007, the new student health insurance plan begins August 26th and will include significant enhancements:

- 100% coverage of negotiated charge for both inpatient and outpatient services at UK Hospital and UK Clinic
- Deductible waived for services at UK Hospital, Kentucky Clinic, and University Health Service
- Vision Benefits included at no extra cost
- New prescription card with co-pay at time of purchase at the Kentucky Clinic Pharmacy
- Prescription benefit increased from \$800 to \$1,000 at the Kentucky Clinic Pharmacy
- Outpatient Miscellaneous Benefit increased from \$1,000 to \$2,500 per illness or injury per year
- Home Health Care Benefit added
- Addition of Women's Health Benefit
- Addition of Immunization Benefit for Students
- Expanded benefits for educational exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens

Specifics about these and other plan changes, frequently asked questions regarding the transition, and enrollment details will be available online after July 1, 2007 at [www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/UHS](http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/UHS) or [www.chickering.com](http://www.chickering.com)

Note: Students who have pre-registered for fall classes will be mailed a 2007-2008 Student Insurance Plan pamphlet by Chickering in July.

More information about The Chickering Group can be found at [www.chickering.com](http://www.chickering.com).



Disinsurance 2007-08 Chickering info re transition for students

**recycle the kernel.**

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**April 25<sup>th</sup> 4:00-7:00pm**

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- Table & Easel Presentations & demonstrations
- Oral Presentations & Vocal performances

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