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Faculty, students: UK lacks enthusiasm for primaries

By Rebecca Sweeney
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Ohio State University's campus is buzzing with excitement of today's presidential primary, as many colleges have since state primaries began tallying votes. But students and faculty at UK have not been seeing the same enthusiasm for the presidential race.

Unlike other larger states like Ohio and Texas, which both host primaries today, Kentucky is not a battleground state where candidates spend millions of dollars on campaigns, which makes it difficult to get students interested in

the race, said Mark Pefley, a political science professor.

"Campaigns are emotional frenzies, and it's hard to get worked up being a spectator sitting on the sidelines," Pefley said.

Kentucky's primary is not until May 20. The late date, when UK students will already be on summer break, makes it difficult to promote discussion and political involvement on campus, said Robert Kahne, president of UK College Democrats.

"To combat student apathy, I think the primary should be moved up," said Kahne, a political science and economics junior.

Despite a lack of campus enthusiasm, this year's race will greatly affect the future and presents two directions America can go in the Iraq war. Students should care as much as everyone else for these reasons, Kahne said.

UK's political culture is decent, but many students do not get involved because no candidate has visited UK's campus or made Kentucky a priority in their campaign, Kahne said.

Campaigns from both parties have visited Ohio Wesleyan University, a campus of 1,850 students, said Matt Greene, a political science and economics junior at the university and communications director for the Ohio College

Democrats State Federation.

"Once leaders get together and create an atmosphere that is almost contagious, the apathetic students will get swept up in it," Greene said. "They will see the fun that you are having and get swept up by the energy."

The state's primary today has made Ohio State University a recent hot spot for campaign visits, said Tobey Steinman, a computer information systems senior at OSU. A debate between Democratic candidates Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama was also held at the University of Texas at Austin campus last month.

Candidates from both parties seem

more interested in the college-age voters this year than in past elections, and Steinman said what is most important is not which candidate to vote for, but getting people to vote.

The significance of their vote and what it means if they do not vote is something that Kendra Stewart, a presidential politics professor at Eastern Kentucky, said students are unaware of.

"We should all try to be thoughtful and contribute to the process," said Stewart, who traveled with 22 students from her class to work for the Democratic

See **Primaries** on page 3

MUSIC AFTER DARK



Dave Barnes plays for a crowd that gathered in the Singletary Center for the AFTERdark concert last night.

BRITNEY MCINTOSH | STAFF



ON THE WEB

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Audio slideshow from the concert



Dave Barnes, with drummer Josh Robinson, performed at the AFTERdark concert last night held in the Singletary Center.

KRISTIN SHERRARD | STAFF

Musician Dave Barnes and rapper Tedashii performed last night at the Singletary Center as a part of AFTERdark: One night. One campus. One movement. AFTERdark combines a concert by various Christian artists and a presentation by Joe White, founder of Kanakuk, Haiti,

which operates 19 schools and an orphanage in Haiti. More than 150,000 college students from across the country have attended the

AFTERdark events. In one night, they aim to convey their message of hope and make an impact at each campus they visit.

Council expects to hear hotel plan for downtown

By Rebecca Sweeney
rsweeney@kykernel.com

The skyline of downtown Lexington may be set to change after a presentation at today's city council work session.

Second district city councilman Tom Blues said he expects, but is not certain, that plans will be presented for a 40-plus story hotel on the Rosenberg Block.

Harold Tate, president and executive director of the Lexington Downtown Development Authority — whom Blues expected to present the plans — was not available for comment.

The buildings in the Rosenberg Block — between the corners of West Main and South Upper streets and West Vine and South Limestone streets — are currently home to bars and music venues, including The Dame.

See **Development** on page 3

SG may adopt more flexible voting rules

By Katie Saltz
ksaltz@kykernel.com

Students could be given more freedom in the way they vote for Student Government senators-at-large if the Senate approves an amendment to the constitution. The Internal Affairs Committee reviewed the amendment at a meeting yesterday afternoon, which proposed senators-at-large would be elected by a cumulative voting method that would give students 15 votes to freely allocate among the candidates.

Currently students can vote for 15 candidates and can only vote for each candidate once. Cumulative voting would allow students to vote 15 times in any way they chose.

For example, a student could give all 15 votes to one candidate or give five votes to three candidates, said Tom Rauf, chairman of the committee and sponsor of the legislation.

The committee unanimously voted the amendment to the full Senate, which meets tomorrow night. Since it is a constitutional amendment, it must pass the full Senate twice.

Cumulative voting would serve to give representatives from small organizations on campus a better chance of being elected to the Senate, Rauf said.

"Cumulative voting is used in the corporate world mostly, and the idea is for minority shareholders to have a say in what's going on," Rauf said.

This amendment would not go into effect for the upcoming SG spring elections.

Senators are usually nominated on the ticket of a presidential candidate, but a cumulative voting system could change that and allow candidates to run without

See **SG** on page 3

Architecture senior wins national contest

By Jennifer Miles
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Students might have seen him on the court during last week's basketball game against Ole Miss.

But Danny Ruberg does not play basketball. He was recognized by President Lee Todd and his wife, Patsy, for winning the 2007 American Institute of Architecture Students' Pediatric Outpatient Rehabilitation Center Design Competition.

He was one of 80 people nationally to enter the contest to design a pediatric center for kids who were

going through rehabilitation. Ruberg, an architecture senior in UK's four-year architecture program, said he tried to make the center as comfortable as possible for children.

"I tried to design it so that for a little while they could forget that they were receiving treatment," he said.

The competitors were required to use products from Kawneer Company Inc., which sponsored the contest with the American Institute of Architecture Students.

Ruberg said his design is unique because it saves a significant amount of energy by integrating

light-weight panels, called Panelite, into the company's thermal window systems.

"The tubular honeycomb core of Panelite offers excellent shading performance and provides an aesthetic orange color," he said. "It also achieves a lower solar heat gain coefficient."

Ruberg's faculty adviser, Melody Farris Jackson, said Ruberg worked extremely hard on the design, which was an independent study project during fall semester.

Ruberg found out about the contest through his role as president of

See **Ruberg** on page 3



Architecture senior Danny Ruberg's winning design for the 2007 American Institute of Architecture Students' Pediatric Outpatient Rehabilitation Center Design Competition.

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Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black

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

Aries (March 21 - April 19) Today is a 7 — Your friends are always eager to provide support and good advice. They're so eager, it may be hard to maintain any privacy. Be patient with them; they mean well.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Today is a 7 — There's something you've always wanted to do, but you were afraid to try. Put in your application again. It's still tough, but now possible.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) Today is a 7 — You're really tempted to jump the fence and take off for greener pastures. Do get out and enjoy the scenery. Don't burn any bridges.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Today is a 7 — You're growing impatient regarding a financial matter, but that won't help. Go over the numbers carefully, even if there are lots of them.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Today is a 7 — You don't always have to be the leader. Sometimes you can relax and let somebody else take care of you. This is one of those occasions.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Today is an 8 — You're exceptionally brilliant now in a workplace setting. There's more coming in every moment, because people like what you do.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Today is an 8 — They say when you do what you love, the money will follow. In this case, doing what you love could lead to a raise in your status. It's a double win.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Today is a 6 — Everybody's got an opinion, and you get to hear them all. Listen patiently, but don't let them decide

how to spend your money.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Today is a 7 — It never hurts to have a carefully constructed plan. This is especially true if you're on a limited budget. Pretend you are if you aren't.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Today is a 7 — Pay attention to what you're doing on a shopping spree. By using your brains and staying cool, you'll get more for your money. And you'll get less that you don't need.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Today is an 8 — You're especially charming now, and brilliant by anyone's standards. Celebrate by getting yourself something you've always wanted.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Today is a 7 — You're doing a lot of thinking in your private time. Don't have it turn into worries. Help yourself get motivated to do something you've been resisting.

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OWEN & KATE DATING AGAIN

THE DISH

Repeat romance? 8 months after their bad breakup, a recovering Wilson rekindles his flame with Hudson

By Joey Bartolomeo

After a suicide attempt last August, Owen Wilson has been given a second chance at life — and, it seems, love.

The morning of Feb. 23, the actor was seen driving his silver Toyota Prius away from the home in L.A.'s Pacific Palisades of Kate Hudson, his onetime girlfriend. She returned the favor five hours later, spending a little more than an hour with him at his newly built Malibu, Calif., house.

According to several sources, the actress broke off her yearlong liaison with her You, Me and Dupree costar last spring after it became clear to Hudson that Wilson's partying took priority over their relationship.

But now that Wilson is healthy — he was a presenter at the Feb. 24 Academy Awards — he and Hudson may be rebuilding their romance.

"They are hooking up," a Wilson insider tells Us. A Hudson source concurs: "They have definitely been talking, hanging out and, yes, hooking up."

Wilson's rep had no com-

ment, while a lawyer for Hudson tells Us any such claim is "false."

Reconnecting

The fact that the pair are even speaking — let alone doing anything else — is a significant development.

After Wilson, 39, was hospitalized, Hudson, 28, reached out by phone, but according to a Wilson associate, her contact was limited by his protective younger brother, Luke, 36.

"Luke thought it best to limit what Owen spoke to in the beginning," says the pal. "They have been talking since a few months after the suicide attempt, when he was better."

When they finally reconnected, the Drillbit Taylor star apologized to Hudson, who lent her support, both in private ("She was a caring friend," recalls the Hudson source) and public.

"Owen is such a lovely person, and I love him dearly," the actress said in the January issue of Vogue. "And I wish him beautiful things — health and everything that he desires in life."

What Their Future Holds

Still, neither star wishes to settle down. Hudson's main focus is her son, Ryder, 4 (dad is her ex-husband, Chris Robinson; her relationship with Owen played a part in their 2006 split).

But the actress — who will star opposite Dane Cook in the September comedy My Best Friend's Girl — is also enjoying the single life. One rumored fling: Justin Timberlake.

As for Wilson — who starts shooting the comedy Marley & Me with Jennifer Aniston in Miami on March 10 — the actor isn't looking for something serious either.

"He's not there yet, even though he does love Kate," says the insider. Right now, "it's sort of makeup sex."

The Other Man?

Reports of Hudson and Justin Timberlake getting cozy have been around since January 2007.

And even though the singer, 27, has been seeing Jessica Biel, 26, for about that long, multiple sources now confirm to Us that he and Hudson have been more than just friends at times.

"It's not constant, and very casual," reveals a Hudson insider.

Reps for both deny any hooking up and some pals insist the relationship is strictly platonic.

Says a source close to Timberlake, "He is very much in love with Jessica."

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Danny Ruberg, an architecture senior, won a contest to design a pediatric center for kids going through rehabilitation. Ruberg was one of 80 to enter the contest and the only UK student who entered.



BRITNEY MCINTOSH STAFF

RUBERG

Continued from page 1

the UK chapter of AIAS, and Jackson said he was the only UK student to enter.

He won \$2,500 for his design, which he plans to save. UK's AIAS chapter will also receive a \$500 grant.

It was the first design contest Ruberg had entered, he said. He has also entered a student memorial design competition at UK but has not yet heard the results.

Ruberg currently interns at James N. Gray Company, a design-build company based in Lexington. After graduation he plans to take a year or two off and work at an architecture firm before going to graduate school.

PRIMARIES

Continued from page 1

Party at the South Carolina primary. "If students ever want to be taken seriously and have a voice, they have to start by voting."

With classes on Election Day and deadlines for absentee ballots, many students do not vote, said Thomas Roberts, UK College Republicans chairman and a political science and economics senior.

"There are several issues that people like to complain about, but if you ask them if they vote, they say no," he said.

Policies that will be decided by our next president, such as the Iraq war, civil rights, healthcare, tax reform and social security, will deeply impact the future of students, said Richard Fording, a political science professor.

"While the simple act of voting may not impact the election very much, getting involved in a more significant way can impact many more votes. Remember Florida?" Fording said, referring to the 2000 election when President George Bush won despite losing the national popular vote. "Five-hundred more votes and, arguably, the Iraq war never happens."

SG

Continued from page 1

being aligned with a specific candidate, said Sen. Noah Meeks. The system could bring in different ideas and a group of senators that would hold the SG president accountable, he said.

"I think it would bring more intellectual diversity (to the Senate)," Meeks said. "And the president would have to work harder."

Senate accountability was the subject of another amendment discussed by the committee yesterday. The legislation would require the Senate to write an act every year outlining the behavioral and job expectations of the senators during their time in office.

The amendment, which was also unanimously recommended to the full Senate, would serve as a contract with very specific guidelines that senators would sign, said Tyler Montell, senate President and lone presidential candidate for the spring.

"We're not mandating people's be-

havior but we are saying this is what we expect of you and what the student body expects of you," Montell said. "We're getting away from the adage that senators don't really do anything."

The act would be valid the entire year the senators are in office and would expire on the first meeting of the newly elected Senate, when new senators would pass its own act by the second full meeting of the fall semester. The Committee on Committees would handle violations of the act and the Impachment and Censure Committee would have the authority to remove senators for failing to adhere to the guidelines.

This act is not in response to poor participation from senators, Montell said, but is instead a way of keeping SG members accountable and a way of being more specific about the expectations of the job.

"This is not because we think senators don't do anything," he said. "This is a way of making the things we do more visible, and saying we understand we're held to a higher standard, and we're going to go a step beyond that."

DEVELOPMENT

Continued from page 1

Mia's and Buster's. Tom Martin, chairman of the Downtown Entertainment Taskforce previously told the Kernel he expected the buildings to be demolished.

For students on campus, the block is a cultural center. Touring bands often make a point to stop at The Dame, something that shows Lexington's ability to rival Louisville and Cincinnati for music, said WRFL music director Ainsley Wagener. Buster's gives local artists who might not be invited to The Dame a chance to build a fan base, she said.

"I have heard rumors that those businesses will be moved, but it's still

such a disappointing plan of action," said Wagener, a pre-interior design sophomore. "I keep hoping this city will put more of an emphasis on culture, sustainability and the arts, but this is a direct hit."

Melynda Milburn, aide to councilwoman Linda Gorton, said council members were told "the presentation is about a major downtown development that will be proposed."

Milburn said none of the council members knew anything definite beyond that. But Blues said the plan he expects to hear would probably result in debate.

"This is a huge project, bound to be extremely controversial," he said.

The council work session will be held today at 3 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Government Building, 200 E. Main St.

NEWS BRIEF

Forum to collect questions for SG voter guide

A UK organization is calling on students to help create a Voter Guide for this year's Student Government elections. The UK chapter of Kentuckians for the Commonwealth will hold a question-drafting session tonight at 8 in room 106 of the Student Center.

KFTC will ask the candidates running for president, vice president and senators-at-large students' questions, and use the answers to create a guide that the organization's members will distribute on campus. Students who have suggestions but cannot make it to tonight's forum can e-mail questions to Katie Goldley at KPGold2@uky.edu.

replies to the e-mails it receives and will continue to try to inform people who do not know the rumor is false. Blanton said the administration can only send out so many e-mails.

"We receive about a thousand e-mails a day, and we try to respond to all of them," Blanton said. "The more the truth circulates, the more we hope it slows down."

Since then, several media outlets, including local newspapers in Kentucky and across the United States, The New York Times and BBC News, have reported on the rumor.

Despite the attempts to reassure critics that the Holocaust will stay in the curriculum, many still have animosity toward Muslim students on campus, said Muslim Student Association President Yahya Ahmed. The Muslim Student Association is also trying to reassure those people that Muslims would have no part in attempting to protest the class.

"The class has been going on for 30 years and nobody's going to stop it," Ahmed said. "Those who think Muslims would don't know any better, and if they just did a little research they would know."

UK can't derail Holocaust rumor train

By Calvin Hobson
news@kykernel.com

UK has earned international attention because of a false rumor that has simply refused to disappear.

The e-mail rumor claimed that UK stopped offering a Holocaust class because it offended the Muslim population.

The e-mails referred to the United Kingdom, but when that became shortened to UK, readers mistook it for the university, said UK spokesman Jay Blanton. That led some of the public to send a chain of messages to the UK ad-

ministration even though history professor Jeremy D. Popkin teaches History 323: The Holocaust, as part of university's Judaic Studies Program.

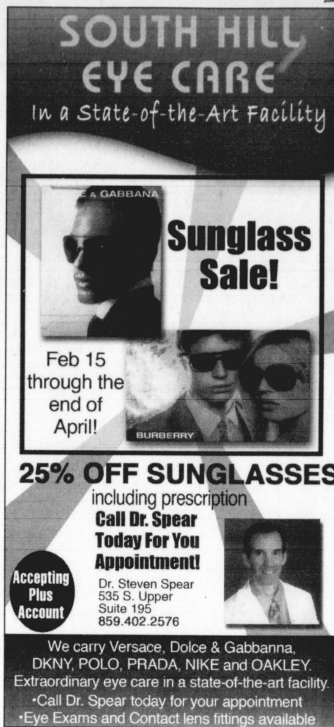
The rumors started around April 2007, Blanton said, and began to pick up around November, which led to the university sending out a news release in an effort to dispel the claims.

Because of easy access to the Internet, the rumor has become so widespread that no matter how much UK tries to debunk the message, the allegations remain, Blanton said. Although UK has sent

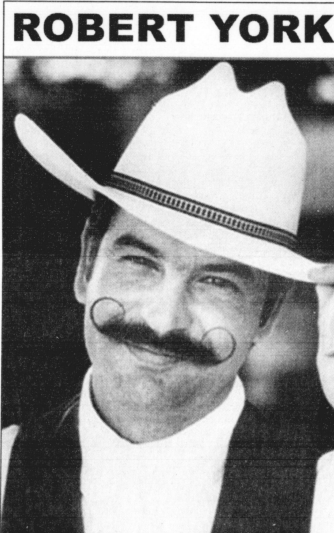
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Tuesday 4 th	Wednesday 5 th	Thursday 6 th	Friday 7 th	Saturday 8 th	Sunday 9 th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Bangladesh Cyclone Reception, 6:00 PM, University of Kentucky E.S. Good Barn Conference Center, 1451 University Dr., Lexington, KY, 40506. •Preparing Aspiring Wildcats Meeting, 7:30 PM, Hardyman Building •The Inner Eye: Folk Art of India, 12:00 AM, Rose St & Euclid Ave •Ad Club Meeting, 8:00 AM, Niles Gallery of Fine Arts Library •WildCat Career Link demo session, 12:00 PM, B&E, room 125 •Volunteering at the Carnegie Center, 3:00 PM, Carnegie Center •Miniature Worlds: Art of India, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts •Robert C. May Photography Endowment Lecture Series, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •CCO-Volunteer At God's Pantry, 3:30 PM, God's Pantry, Networking 101, 3:00 PM, Raymond Bldg. Room 112 •Volunteering at the Carnegie Center, 3:00 PM, Carnegie Center •MAVARUK MAN HOUR - Friend, Sister, Victim, 8:00 PM, VIP Center (basement of Frazer Hall) •Volunteer w/ Beaumont Buddies, 4:00 PM, Beaumont Middle School •Comedy Caravan, 8:00 PM, UK Student Center Cats Den •Miniature Worlds: Art of India, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts •Art at Noon, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum •Learn to Knit, 7:00 PM, Student Center Rm 228 •The Inner Eye: Folk Art of India, 12:00 AM, Rose St & Euclid Ave •CCO-Young At Heart Meeting, 5:00 PM, Student Center •Robert C. May Photography Endowment Lecture Series, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Robert C. May Photography Endowment Lecture Series, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts •CCO-Volunteer at Hope Center, 5:00 PM, Hope Center •CCO Board of Directors Meeting, 5:00 PM, 106 Student Center •The Inner Eye: Folk Art of India, 12:00 AM, Rose St & Euclid Ave •Miniature Worlds: Art of India, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts •Open Mic Night, 8:00 PM, UK Student Center Cats Den •Cru. Weekly Worship Meeting, 7:30 PM, Center Theater in the Student Center •Volunteering at the Carnegie Center, 3:00 PM, Carnegie Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Inner Eye: Folk Art of India, 12:00 AM, Rose St & Euclid Ave •Miniature Worlds: Art of India, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts •Free Play All Day!, 9:00 AM, UK Student Center Cats Den •The Inner Eye: Folk Art of India, 12:00 AM, Rose St & Euclid Ave •CCO-Volunteer at Hope Center, 5:00 PM, Hope Center •Volunteering at the Carnegie Center, 3:00 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM, Carnegie Center •Miniature Worlds: Art of India, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts •The Inner Eye: Folk Art of India, 12:00 AM, Rose St & Euclid Ave •Volunteering at the Carnegie Center, 10:00 AM, Carnegie Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Transcendental Meditation and Maharishi Ayurvedic: Ancient Knowledge from the Vedic Tradition of India with Modern Benefits for Everyday Life., 2:00 PM, UK Art Museum •Miniature Worlds: Art of India, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts •The Inner Eye: Folk Art of India, 12:00 AM, Rose St & Euclid Ave

Students disagree on God's existence, asked to look inside themselves

By Megan Neff
news@kykernel.com

Christians, Muslims and atheists debated the existence of God for more than two hours last night in the Student Center, and ultimately reached no conclusive answer.

It is necessary to search for solid rock beneath many layers to build a sturdy foundation for belief, said Ben Hornback, a panelist and Campus Crusade for Christ member who said he built his religious belief upon principles he sees in civil engineering.

But Adam Leedy, one of the panelists who represented an atheist point of view, countered the beliefs of Hornback and others with problems he saw with the existence of God.

"The ideal of God takes away from the glory of the human race," said Leedy, vice president of UK SHFTT (society for humanistic, intellectual and free thought). "I live every day trying to make it better than the last."

Many audience members brought up current issues and introduced statistics relating to the modern view of religion and atheism. One person was asked what the panel thought about a nation where moral

objectivism is imposed on someone else.

"Such a society is a shame," said Yahya Ahmed, the Muslim Student Association president, who represented Islam.

Parts of the discussion became heated as the audience of a couple hundred people and panelists disagreed on certain issues. Allegiance to one belief system was shown with clapping, while points of discord were met with murmurs and interjections.

That kind of reaction is inevitable, many of the panelists said. In such a charged topic, it is difficult to ignore personal biases. Despite the charged atmosphere, discussions like this are still important to campus, said psychology sophomore Loren Hill.

"I don't think it's easy to hold a discussion about the existence of God," Hill said. "But for people who want to know more about what they believe, these kinds of discussions are important."

So the search for the answer remains ongoing. Ahmed suggested that individuals look inside themselves for an answer.

"My advice is to seek the truth," he said. "The truth that reaches out and speaks to you. That's the best that I can do."

In race for '08, voters split on global warming cost

By Peter Hecht
McClatchy Newspapers

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — In this former industrial town built on grime, grit and California crude, Republican voter Bob Engel sees the past and the future.

Engel & Gray Inc., which Engel runs with his older brother Carl, provides labor and construction services for Santa Maria's oil fields — the working remnants of a petroleum town that in the late 1950s once numbered 1.75 oil wells.

Now, Santa Maria is known as much for new subdivisions and bountiful coastal California wine vineyards. And Engel's family has diversified, opening Harvest Blend Compost to renourish soil at former oil exploration sites and transform residential and agricultural "green waste" into eco-friendly compost.

"We've had a very balanced thought process," Engel says. That's why he is torn on the presidential candidates and the environment and what to do about global warming blamed for climate change.

Engel, an undecided voter, is uncomfortable with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's self-proclaimed California crusade against global warming and by the state's decision to sue the Bush administration for blocking California's effort to impose the nation's first greenhouse gas emission limits for cars and light trucks. He's willing to make environmental changes that make sense for his company but doesn't want California businesses to bear an unfair burden.

Along the lower Central Coast, an environmental consciousness was born and a debate over America's petroleum use was triggered back in 1969 when 35 miles of beaches were

soiled by a massive oil slick from an ocean rig off Santa Barbara.

Today, from Santa Barbara to San Luis Obispo, the discussion is reinvigorated. As the Feb. 5 California presidential primary approaches, voters are tuning in as candidates debate reliance on fossil fuels and embrace or dismiss climatologists' warnings about melting polar ices, disrupted weather patterns and related environmental threats.

In Santa Maria, Engel agrees with statements by Republican candidate and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani that America shouldn't "distort our whole economy and our life" on global warming. He agrees with former Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson, who says it makes no sense for America to make economic sacrifices if China and India don't.

"I'm worried we might be going too crazy and we have to have a balanced approach as far as global warming," Engel says. "We have all kinds of air regulations being passed in California, and we're putting the state at a severe competitive disadvantage."

To the north in Arroyo Grande, where Gail Roberts pours a fine pinot noir in the tasting room at the Laetitia Vineyard & Winery, she also wonders if global warming is "over-hyped" by politics. Yet she says there should be no taking chances.

The Laetitia Vineyard is already experimenting by planting a new wine grape — a Spanish tempranillo — because "our summers are getting hotter here," she says, and it can grow in warmer climates.

Roberts says she supports Illinois Sen. Barack Obama for president, seeing him as an inspiring figure who can spur

change in environmental policy after eight years of President Bush and Republicans in Washington, D.C., "shackled by the energy industry."

She favors the move by Republican Schwarzenegger, who in 2006 signed California's landmark Assembly Bill 32. It pledged to use market incentives to entice industrial polluters to clean up in order to curb the state's greenhouse gases by 25 percent — to 1990 levels — by 2020 and by 80 percent by 2050.

The California policy has since become a mantra for virtually all Democratic presidential candidates and one Republican — Arizona Sen. John McCain. The state of a former Democratic candidate, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, joined in California's lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency over auto emission standards.

But in downtown San Luis Obispo, where Morgan Matus, 22, was stocking locally produced olive oil at the We Olive store, no candidate has come close to what she says must be done.

Matus, readying for a career in working to protect the planet, graduated from Pitzer College in environmental studies and received a grant to study environmental ethics in Norway. A registered independent, she won't say who she will vote for. But she says it will be someone in the Democratic primary.

"That 80 percent reduction (in emissions) is not fast enough," says Matus, who believes global warming is the most important issue for the candidates. "I care about terrorism. And you can worry about immigration. But all of these problems are subordinate if we're going to be under 20 feet of water."



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Brown pelican, once threatened by DDT, removed from endangered list in Gulf states

By Meshha Satyanarayanan
McClatchy Newspapers

BILOXI, Miss. — The recovery of the brown pelican, a common sight along the Coast, has prompted the federal government to end its status as endangered along the Gulf of Mexico. The bird's decline was blamed in part on the pesticide DDT, which the federal government banned in the early 1970s.

The bird is a symbol of state beaches, and its recovery is a testament to conservation efforts, said Dave Ruple, manager of the Department of Marine Resources' Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, an area frequented by the large bird.

"Delisting is a good thing. It reflects a consciousness that the Endangered Species Act has been successful," he said.

The bird was declared endangered in 1970 under the precursor of the Endangered Species Act of 1972. In her book, Silent Spring, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Rachel Carson de-

scribed how DDT weakened the eggs of large predatory birds such as the bald eagle, the peregrine falcon and the brown pelican. Since the DDT ban, all these birds have rebounded, and the bald eagle and the peregrine falcon have been delisted.

In the last 20 years, said Mark LaSalle, director of the Pascagoula River Audubon Center, he's watched the brown pelican rebound to the point where it is now common to see them resting on pylons, gliding through the sky and diving for fish.

"I'm not surprised it's come to this," he said. "Delisting is not a bad thing if it's for the right reasons."

Catch-and-release programs in Florida and Louisiana, as well as habitat conservation efforts in Texas, Mexico and Central and South America, fueled recovery efforts. It comes after the successful delisting of brown pelican populations in Alabama, Florida and along the Atlantic Coast. There are now 620,000 brown pelicans throughout the Western Hemisphere, according to the Interior Department.

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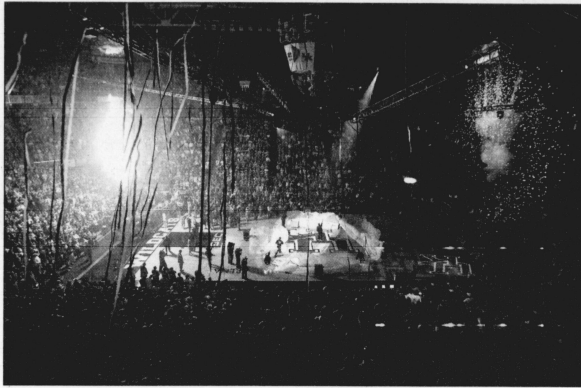
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STADIUM RATER: RUPP ARENA



Fireworks explode as fans cheer for the introduction of head coach Billy Gillispie at this year's Big Blue Madness celebration. **ED MATTHEWS | STAFF**

Rupp Arena a spectacular big-game venue

By Matthew George
mgeorge@kykernel.com

This the fourth installment of a special feature rating UK's stadiums, arenas and athletic facilities that house varsity sporting events from a fan's perspective. Ratings are based on a scale of one to five tickets, with five being the best. The overall rating is not an average, and all opinions are strictly those of Matthew George, assistant sports editor for the Kernel. The Stadium Rater will run periodically throughout the school year.

Overall



The men's basketball season has been a true rags-to-riches story this season, especially at home. The Cats suffered embarrassing non-conference losses to Gardner-Webb and San Diego, but have since rebounded and are undefeated in the conference when playing in their home arena. With only one home game remaining before the Southeastern Conference Tournament, a Senior Day matchup against Florida, the Stadium Rater takes a look at Rupp Arena to try and unveil what has been behind UK's home turnaround. Though tickets can be hard to come by, the stadium provides one of the most spectacular big-game atmospheres in college sports and is worthy of the highest score the Stadium Rater has given any venue this year.

History

What can be said here about Rupp Arena that hasn't already echoed in the annals of college basketball history? Since its debut in 1976, Rupp has become one of the most storied basketball venues that sports has ever known, thanks in large part to the man the facility is named after: former head coach Adolph Rupp. The Baron, who ranks third with 876 all-time wins, fathered UK basketball into the national power it is today. And his house has hosted three national championship teams, a plethora of conference champions and too many memorable moments to even begin to count. The legacy of the legendary players, coaches and teams that once roamed Rupp Arena still haunt opponents who visit one of college basketball's most hallowed halls.

Seating



One of the great mysteries in UK athletics is known only by the Rupp Arena ushers working on game days: Where are you putting all of these fans? With a capacity of 23,000 people, a significant number by itself, the Cats seemingly average more than that capacity every year. Even last year, considered a disappointing season by many compared with typical UK standards, the team averaged 23,421 fans at home games. The squad has led the nation in attendance 18 times, and in 10 of the last 11 seasons. But there is no mystery about where the students are. Occupying one of the endzone sections, the eRUPTION Zone is a wall of blue and white clad fanatics hell bent on distraction. And though some students are left in the upper arena, there really is no bad vantage point in the building. Rupp gives a huge number of fans a good view of great basketball.

Atmosphere

No matter how many games the football team wins and no matter how successful the other sports at the university become, UK fans will always love basketball most. Period. For more than 30 years, Rupp Arena has provided one of the most spectacular big-game atmospheres in the sports world. But keeping Rupp Arena from a perfect score in atmosphere are two key words: big game. UK fans have become so familiar with basketball over the years that it seems a sense of complacency has set in. Often, in non-marquee games, fans sit back and wait to be entertained. The eRUPTION Zone still houses some of the most raucous crazies to flock to the hardwood. But only a portion of students are allowed in the lower arena. The rest are stuffed near the rafters in the upper deck. Maybe bringing the students closer to the floor could help provide that big-game atmosphere even in the more small-time games.

Playing surface



In a ceremony prior to tip-off of the Louisville game on Dec. 29, 2001, the Court at Rupp Arena was named "Cawood's Court" in honor of Cawood Ledford, the beloved "Voice of the Wildcats" for 39 seasons. Ledford passed away in September of 2001 after a long bout with cancer, and the court was renamed to serve as a memorial to the man that had dedicated a life of service to UK's basketball program. And my what a memorial it has been. Sporting an oversized UK logo at midcourt and a logo honoring Ledford only feet away from where he broadcast for so many years, the playing surface in Rupp Arena is one of the most aesthetically appealing in college hoops. And, as previously mentioned in the Memorial Coliseum review, any floor that can be kept pristine by dust mops and 10-year-old towel boys deserves a high rating.

Game-day availability



UK basketball is not just the biggest ticket in the town — it's the biggest ticket in the entire state. Which means if you are not a student or a season-ticket holder, admissions can be a little difficult to come by. But it is not impossible. Student tickets are distributed through a live lottery system. The lottery can be a pain to sit through, but rarely do students who are willing to stick the process out walk away empty handed. Though Rupp Arena is not located directly on campus, its location on High Street is not so far off that it is outside reasonable walking distance. And for commuting fans, parking is a non-issue. Rupp Arena offers its own parking lot and the surrounding blocks transform into event parking on game days.

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Applications may be picked up in Room 026 Journalism Building and must be returned by 3 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2008.

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Out-of-staters find home away from home in softball teammates

By Bobby Reagan
bregan@kykarnal.com

One of the hardest things for students attending an out-of-state school to endure is being hundreds of miles away from their families. But the non-Kentucky members of the UK softball team have found a new family since their arrival in Lexington — their teammates.

"At first the transition is weird because I was so used to being around my family and all of a sudden I wasn't seeing them anymore," said sophomore Molly Johnson, a utility player from Tucson, Ariz. "I started seeing my teammates more and more, and in a way they started to become my family."

Megan Yocke, a freshman catcher and infielder from Sunnyvale, Calif., agreed with Johnson. She said she first realized how close she had grown to her teammates when she returned to UK after a visit home to see her mother while she was sick.

"When I came back and had my teammates waiting for me, I knew I made the right decision," Yocke said of playing softball for UK. "That convinced me that no matter how far away I was, I had a family."

Ashley Dimklich, a senior first baseman from San Marino, Calif., said having the support of her teammates made Kentucky feel like home ever since her freshman year.

"My family is my biggest support system, but the team is the greatest group of girls around, and I couldn't ask for an easier transition," Dimklich said. "There were some rough days earlier in my career, but my teammates were always there to get me through it, and I've loved Kentucky since then."

There is not a player on UK's team who hails from the Lexington area. Only five members of the Cats' 16-player roster are from the Commonwealth. The squad features three players from Arizona, two from California, and players from Oregon, Alabama, Texas, Ohio and New York.

But the diverse group has formed a family-like bond during its time on the field together.

Yocke said the support of her teammates' parents during games has helped her adapt to playing away from her own family for the first time.

"Even though I never met the other parents, they all knew my name and supported me," Yocke said. "It reminded me of coming to UK for the first time and my

teammates supporting me, it just makes the transition easier."

Most of the out-of-staters, especially those from the west coast, agreed the toughest transition to playing in Lexington was learning to play in cold weather. Dimklich said that while she enjoys the different seasons, playing at the tail end of winter has its downsides.

"I love being able to have all different seasons, but I absolutely hate playing in 30-degree weather," Dimklich said. "Even after four years, I'm still not that used to it."

While she might not be used to the cold weather, Dimklich hit the first home run of her four-year career in the Chattanooga Frost Classic during a 10-4 victory over Marshall on Saturday.

The trio has also had to adapt to living and playing in the city of Lexington. Dimklich said southern hospitality was something she found very different.

"The people in Kentucky are much nicer," Dimklich said. "Walking around in the city you'll have people come up to you and say hello, while back in California I felt you just got dirty looks."

Despite battling the cold weather, being away from their families and the culture shock of life in Kentucky, the tight-knit group is off to a 9-7 start, and the team is currently riding a seven-game winning streak.

The Cats host Valparaiso University and Longwood University in the Frostbite Classic at the UK Softball Complex this weekend, but will first look to extend that winning streak tomorrow with a 5 p.m. showdown against archrival Louisville.



Freshman catcher Megan Yocke, of California, swings at a pitch against Toledo. ED MATTHEWS | STAFF

Yankees' new boss looks like the old Steinbrenner

By David Whittley
The Orlando Sentinel

TAMPA, Fla. — A semi-regular from Seinfeld appeared to be sitting in the owner's box Sunday at Steinbrenner Field.

That character used to wave his arms a lot, talk more than he listened and once called Babe Ruth "nothing more than a fat old man with little-girl legs." Then he got up from his desk and revealed he was wearing Lou Gehrig's pants.

George Steinbrenner's face was never actually seen on the show, just as it has all but faded from the Yankees' scene.

Now it's time to meet the new face, same as the old face.

Hank Steinbrenner looks like his father did when he was 50. He hasn't fired a manager yet, but spring training is only one game off.

What Steinbrenner has done is spout off. In Sunday's New York Times "Play" magazine, he let loose

on the Red Sox Nation.

"What a bunch of (expletive) that is," Steinbrenner said. "That was a creation of the Red Sox and ESPN, which is filled with Red Sox fans."

"Go anywhere in America and you won't see Red Sox hats and jackets, you'll see Yankee hats and jackets. This is a Yankee country."

Young Hankenstein is wrong about one thing. Go anywhere in America and you'll see Boston hats and jackets.

Most Americans under 15 can barely remember the last time New York won a World Series. It was eight years ago. The Yankees have had longer dry spells, but they never had to endure two Boston titles along the way.

All this has made Yankees-Red Sox the best rivalry in pro sports, almost by default. NFL teams don't stay good long enough to qualify. The Spurs win every other NBA title and nobody outside the Alamo gets worked up.

But mention "Red Sox" or "Yankees" and the names induce everything from gushing to projectile vomiting. Steinbrenner may not actually fire a secretary every time Boston wins, but he seems capable. That's good for the rivalry, sports and ESPN, which treats every Sox-Yanks telecast as if it's the Oscars.

Now we have a steady entry for the Best Blusterer category. That had been lacking the past few years as King George's health declined.

The 77-year-old is still spotted around Steinbrenner Field but is shielded from interviews. This is the first season the franchise has officially been in the hands of his four children. Nobody knows how that will work out, but it's obvious that Hank is in charge of baseball operations.

He's the one who ushered out the beloved Joe Torre. Then he responded to the criticism the way his old man would have.

"Where was Joe's career in '95 when my dad hired him?" Hank said.

"My dad was crucified for hiring him."

Like dad, he wanted to trade away promising prospects for a star. Johan Santana. Apparently brother Hal, the calm one who would never wear Gehrig's pants, nixed that move. However the family dynamic evolves, at least we know there's a semi-loose cannon at the top.

"We need something like that," said Mike Johnson.

Mike is a 14-year-old from Sarasota who was at Sunday's game. He's had a certain feeling about the Red Sox since he was 2. "I hate them," Johnson said.

Red Sox owner John Henry said he's sending Steinbrenner an honorary membership to the Red Sox Nation. The Yankees' owner said he'll give it to fans and let them decide what to do with it.

George would be proud, and the rest of us can rejoice.

Not only does the new Boss look like the old one. He's acting like him.

SPORTS BRIEF

UK names new defensive backs coach

Chris Thurmond, a coaching veteran with experience in the Southeastern Conference and the Big 12 Conference, has been named the new defensive backs coach for the UK football team, head coach Rich Brooks announced yesterday.

"I'm excited to get a coach that has as much experience and success in his background as Chris has," Brooks said. "The SEC coaching experience and performance of the defenses where he coached made it easy for me to make this decision. He is highly recommended from people I respect."

Thurmond comes to UK after stints at Houston, Texas A&M, Alabama, Tulsa, East Carolina, Texas Christian and Oklahoma. He coached cornerbacks and was the recruiting coordinator at Houston the past two seasons, where he helped the Cougars advance to the 2006 Liberty Bowl and the 2007 Texas Bowl.

"I'm excited about being a member of this staff," Thurmond said. "I always had great respect for coach Brooks and the type of football his teams have always played. I look forward to working with these players and hope to keep building on the success that coach Brooks and the staff have created."

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