

KENTUCKY KERNEL

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Governor announces budget cuts

By Rosalind Essig
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FRANKFORT — Gov. Steve Beshear unveiled his plan for handling the projected budget shortfall in Frankfort Thursday at a news conference, which included a 2 percent cut to higher education.

While most state departments will see 4 percent budget cuts, higher education will be cut 2 percent with the goal of keeping it from becoming more expensive, Beshear said. Higher education received a 6 percent cut in state funds last year.

"In return, I am asking our

university presidents to work with me ... to hold college tuition down," Beshear said.

Even after last year's cuts, Beshear said an "economic maelstrom" has contributed to a projected \$456.1 million budget shortfall that requires action.

The plan outlines taking \$178.9 million from the Rainy Day Fund, or Budget Reserve Trust Fund, in addition to cuts. Beshear's proposal focuses on a 70-cent increase in the cigarette tax and doubling the tax on other tobacco products, such as snuff.

These tax increases are expected to generate \$81.5 million for the 2009 fiscal year, Beshear said.

They are also expected to bring in \$143.9 million for the 2010 fiscal year that would be intended for replacing the Rainy Day Fund money.

Beshear said possible revenues from increasing the cigarette tax are expected to flatten out if an increase greater than 70 cents were imposed.

UK is already working on plans to manage the cuts, but there is still work to be done, said university spokesman Jimmy Stanton in an e-mail to the Kernel. No timeline has been established to announce those plans at this time.

UK President Lee Todd said he strongly supports the govern-

nor's plan.

"I believe the governor's approach to balancing the state's budget enables Kentucky to say as loudly as we can that education at all levels is our top priority," Todd said in an official statement. "In particular, I strongly support a substantial increase in the cigarette tax, which will help us to invest in education when times are good and find ways to protect our schools when times are tough."

State government will see a 4 percent cut across the board with some exceptions, including teachers' pensions and student financial aid.

Beshear said he will also ask

Beshear's savings plan

- \$147.1 million from spending cuts
- \$81.5 million from tobacco tax-related revenue
- \$178.9 million from Rainy Day Fund
- \$40.6 million from other areas
- \$8 million from furloughing state workers for three days

See Budget on page 8

5191 victim honored through UK program

By Katie Saltz
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When Larry Turner looked around UK's campus, he saw more than just students. He saw possibilities.

"He could always look at someone and see potential, particularly in young people," said Larry Turner's widow, Lois Turner.

Larry Turner was one of 49 victims of the Comair Flight 5191 plane crash in 2006. He was the former associate dean for extension in the UK College of Agriculture and director of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.



Turner

After his death, Lois Turner wanted to do something to commemorate her husband's life. She set up the Larry W. Turner Memorial Fund and met with College of Agriculture Dean Scott Smith to talk about her vision for honoring Larry.

The product of that vision was the Turner Leadership Academy in the UK College of Agriculture. The program allows undergraduates to develop or find their leadership skills in a self-guided program, said Lissa Pohl, program and outreach coordinator with the Center for Leadership Development.

"It is a place where undergrads can utilize all of the leadership experience they are already having," Pohl said. "And it allows those who never thought of themselves as leaders to develop into that."

Pohl said Tricia Dyk, director for the Center for Leadership Development, visited Purdue University and wanted to model a leadership program at UK after the one she saw there. Pohl said it made perfect sense to name the pro-

See Academy on page 8

Kappa Sigma house closes until at least Fall 2009

Staff Report

Another six-pack fraternity has been forced to close its doors.

UK ordered Kappa Sigma members to evacuate their fraternity house Thursday, fraternity president Roddy McCleary said. The house will be closed until at least Fall 2009.

Around 20 Kappa Sigma members had about seven hours to vacate the house, McCleary said. They will be allowed to re-enter through 10 p.m. the rest of the semester to gather belongings.

Campus officials conducted a fire inspection of the Hilltop Avenue house at around 4 p.m., McCleary said. The fraternity failed, which McCleary attributes to the age of the house, which is more than 50 years old. McCleary said the fraternity plans to comply with the university.

The men who lived in the house are now staying with fellow fraternity members, McCleary said. UK has offered members prorated dormitory rooms the rest of the semester and rooms at a regular rate next semester, he said.

On Thursday night, UK spokeswoman Kathy Johnson said no one was available for comment on the closing until Friday.

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6-year-old Sir Hawkins Wright sits on Santa's (undecided junior Matt Stroh) lap and tells him what he wants for Christmas Thursday night at the Alpha Omicron Pi and Sigma Alpha Epsilon Christmas party Thursday night.

PHOTO BY ZACH BRAKE | STAFF

Greeks share holiday spirit

By Sarah Eisenmenger
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Around 20 children were special guests at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house on Thursday night. But there was one guest they all wanted to see — Santa.

SAE and Alpha Omicron Pi hosted their annual Christmas party for children from William Wells Brown Elementary School.

Students from SAE and AOPi raised money to purchase gifts for students that had been picked by their teachers for good behavior. This year the fraternity and sorority were able to raise almost \$4,500.

"This party provides the children a Christmas that they never would have had," said William Emerson, the principal of William Wells Brown Elementary School. "The looks on their faces make it worth it."

It wasn't just the children who were grateful. Sylvia Lybys was emotional about the event, which her twins Marvelous and Marvin Davis were

See Christmas on page 8

Kaionah Cooper, 5, left, stands with junior finance Alpha Omicron Pi member Megan Eagan, right, waiting her turn to talk to Santa at the AOPi and SAE Christmas party Thursday night.



PHOTO BY KRISTIN SHERBARD | STAFF

Campus group aids family from Cameroon

By Austin Schmitt
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Equipped with his computer and not much else, Pierre Gnog came from Cameroon, Africa, to the United States looking for a job. With an engineering degree in hand, Gnog could not find work.

He found his way to Lexington. "I don't know how I got here, but I think it's God's will," Gnog said.

Gnog, his wife and five children were adopted by the Center for Community Outreach's Helping Hands program.

On Thursday night, they were given a Christmas party as part of the "CCO Big Give" modeled af-

ter "Oprah's Big Give" on TV last year. The Gnog family has been on campus three times.

Leslie Neeley, a broadcast journalism junior and student director of Helping Hands, wanted to adopt a family and found the Gnogs through her adviser's church.

"Pierre walked through the door at (Second Presbyterian Church) in June and attended a mass," said Laura Hatfield, the adviser for Helping Hands. "He said, 'There's a lot of white people here, but I think I will come back.'"

Hatfield knew at that moment they had found the perfect family for the program.

See Family on page 8



Jack Gnog, 3, plays with his Spiderman ball during the Center for Community Outreach's "Big Give" on Thursday night. Gnog, along with his three older brothers, received bicycles from the "Big Give."

PHOTO BY ALLIE GARZA | STAFF

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Horoscope

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 an 8 — You'll be tested repeatedly in the next few weeks. You're gaining status and that always seems to increase public scrutiny. Don't worry about a thing; you can handle it.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — It's almost harder to manage your money when there's a lot instead of a little. Temptations lurk around every turn. Don't let your natural compassion interfere with your common sense.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is an 8 — You're good at getting the whole story, and that's your assignment now. The others would like to know what's really going on, but they don't have the time to find out.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 6 — Everybody's in a hurry. Don't let them get you

ruffled. A lot of those people are not as well prepared as you are. Don't get all panicky about somebody else's problem.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — Your friends are enthusiastic, and you love them for that. Sometimes they come up with wonderful schemes. Don't let them get too extravagant with your money.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — Let people know what you can do for them, and what you can't. If your schedule is already full, don't take on anything else. They'll probably still like you if you refuse them, and if they don't, oh well!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — It seems like a good day to travel, but it isn't, really. There will be hassles and delays. If you must go, be very careful. If you can put off the trip, do that.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 6 — Some of these lessons will have to be learned the hard way. Pretend you have less than you have to spend.

Make a game of this. It doesn't have to be miserable.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is a 7 — Review your shopping lists and make a few modifications. Gather input from family and friends, but don't let them make up your mind. Gather more data first.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today is a 7 — People will have a terrible time making decisions. Don't wait for them to do it; you'll be standing there forever. Offer your opinion and get things moving.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today is an 8 — They say not to show unfinished work, and there's a good reason for that. You don't really need any constructive criticism yet. Save that for later.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is a 5 — If you've got a problem, call up an old friend and talk it over. You may be missing an obvious solution, due to your narrow perspective. Bring in another point of view.

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New Love, New Life

Vince Vaughn finds new life in relaxed relationship

Compared with his whirlwind romance with Jennifer Aniston, Vince Vaughn's relationship with Canadian real estate agent Kyla Weber, 29, "is totally different," says a source close to the actor. This time, the *Four Christmases* star, 38, was looking for something "easy, relaxed," says the pal. And a Weber friend adds, "Vince has visited Kyla in Calgary so they can spend as much time together as possible!"

41. "She's an easy baby." And when it comes to family planning, the Australia star, also 41, playfully looks to the heavens and says, "It's not up to me." When Kidman discovered she was pregnant while shooting Australia, she confided in director Baz Luhrmann and costar Hugh Jackman, both longtime friends of the actress. "She said, 'I'm pregnant,' and honestly she burst into tears, and so did I," re-

Amy and Blake: is it over?
 Blake Fielder-Civil, 26, recently revealed he won't return to Amy Winehouse, 25, when he leaves rehab on Dec. 30. "I have to let her go to save her life," he said, admitting that he introduced his wife to crack, heroin and self-mutilation. Says a Winehouse source, "He has truly been a terrible influence."



Jason's quiet wedding

Talk about hush-hush nuptials! My Name Is Earl star Jason Lee, 38, recently told Sydney's Sun Herald that he wed Australian model Ceren Alkac one month before they welcomed their daughter on August 10. (They have yet to release her name.) His rep tells us the duo "married in July '08 in California."

My Guy

Julianne Hough tells us she never had to look far for help while she recovered from her October appendectomy. "He was Mr. Nurse Betty," she says of country crooner Chuck Wicks, 29, whom she met this summer. Among his duties for the *Dancing With the Stars* hooper turned singer, 20: making mac and cheese. Has she returned the favor? "When she does," says Wicks, "I'll let you know how she is doing!"

ER's Parminder Nagra is expecting

Paging Dr. Mom! A rep for ER star Parminder Nagra confirms exclusively to us that the 33-year-old actress is expecting her first child with her beau of nearly seven years, James Stenson, 33, a British photographer, in early summer. (They did not disclose the baby's sex.) The expectant mother tells us, "We are thrilled and overjoyed at the prospect of becoming first-time parents."

Seal's romance moves

"He gave me a beautiful diamond bracelet one year, and he put it on while I was sleeping," Heidi Klum tells us of the best gift she's received from crooner hubby Seal, 45, who just released his covers album, *Soul*. The model, 35, makes sure to cherish every sweet gesture.

Their shared secret

"She's amazing," Nicole Kidman tells us of Sunday, her 5-month-old daughter with husband Keith Urban,

Shutterbug

Miley Cyrus, 16, revealed that she aspires to study photography and then called Annie Leibovitz, 59, who snapped racy shots of the star for April's Vanity Fair, "amazing and so talented."

Split

Ivana Trump, 59, filed for separation from her fourth husband, Rossano Rubicondi, 36, four months after their April wedding. He allegedly cheated on her with model Belen Rodriguez, 24, while he was competing on Italy's celebrity *Survivor*.

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PHOTO BY KRISTIN SHEKARD | STAFF

UK dance team senior Randi Bishop shows her school spirit inside Commonwealth Stadium. Bishop is a finalist for Athlon's spirit competition.

Spirited Selection

UK dance team senior voted as finalist for magazine contest

By Alex Risen
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In the mind of most, no one from Knoxville, Tenn., where Southeastern Conference and border state rival the University of Tennessee is located, would ever help a student from a UK.

But they are. A pack of Volunteers are helping a Cat win not only an SEC competition, but a national one.

UK varsity dance team senior Randi Bishop is a finalist for the Athlon Sports Spirit Sideline Contest. But being a finalist, one of 25 from across the six Bowl Championship Series conferences, isn't enough to garner the attention Bishop has received. It's the fact that she's winning.

Bishop's current success is thanks in part to her mother's efforts. Bishop's mother, Mary Bishop, asked all of her co-workers back home in Knoxville to vote for Randi as much as

possible, and it has definitely paid off.

"I'm excited that she's winning," Mary Bishop said. "I got everyone at my company to vote for her and that's unique because it isn't just UK fans voting for her."

The contest started with four preliminary rounds. The winner of each preliminary round advanced and now the top 25 finalists are competing for the honor of top spirit dancer or cheerleader in the country.

Randi Bishop doesn't just dance; she's a nursing major who has made the dean's list three of the six semesters she's been at UK.

"I've had some professors and advisers tell me it was impossible to do dance with nursing," she said. "But to me that's just more motivation to do it."

Her whole life has been motivation. Bishop's parents divorced when she was 11, and her father hasn't been very involved

since the split, Bishop said.

"She takes everything in stride," Mary Bishop said. "She just keeps going and adversity fuels her."

Randi Bishop started dancing when she was five. Her mother put her in a ballet class but the class didn't fit Bishop's personality; she was bored. It looked like dancing wouldn't be a part of Bishop's life. But one day, she came home and told her mother she planned on trying out for the Farragut Middle School dance team in seventh grade. Her mother had an intuition she wouldn't make the team.

"Randi was all arms and legs," Mary Bishop said. "She's always been athletic, but I didn't think she was very coordinated. But she made the team and has been so passionate about it ever since."

UK dance coach Kathy Quail thinks Bishop has developed a lot over the past four

years both as a dancer and as a person.

"She's come out of her shell and grown in so many ways," Quail said. "This award shows her senior leadership and her passion for dance and she deserves to win."

Senior leadership began with a Big Blue Madness debut her freshman year. Bishop's UK dance debut brought chills to her body.

"I stepped on the floor and saw all the blue," Bishop said. "I was really excited to represent the school and it motivates me every time I dance at games or competitions."

Bishop wants to continue her dancing experience after she graduates. She said some possibilities would include going to Nashville and getting a nursing job there so she could dance for the Tennessee Titans on the side or possibly be a dance coach.

See **Dancer** on page 4

Cats see a different shade of Crimson

By James Pennington
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Oh, how the times have changed. The last time the men's basketball team caught a glimpse of the Indiana basketball program, the scene was considerably different.

On Dec. 8, 2007, Indiana freshman guard Jordan Crawford — former UK guard Joe Crawford's younger brother — tallied 20 points in a 70-51 Hoosiers victory on Indiana's home court, Assembly Hall. At the time, Kelvin Sampson was the man at the helm of the Hoosiers.

A year later, Sampson no longer patrols the Indiana sideline — he resigned Feb. 23 after committing five major NCAA recruiting violations, according to an NCAA report.

The scandal's fallout had a wide impact on the Hoosiers. Of the 11 players on last year's squad, only two returned for this season. The Hoosiers lost nine players to graduation, early entry in the NBA or transfers — including Crawford's transfer to Xavier. The two returning players, senior forward Kyle Taber and sophomore guard Brett Finkelmeier, combined for just 30 points all last season.

The man chosen to rebuild the Hoosiers was then-Marquette head coach Tom Crean. UK fans should be somewhat familiar with Crean — his Marquette squad has knocked the Cats out of two of the last six NCAA tournaments. Although he has coached against UK before, Saturday will be Crean's first trip into Rupp Arena as a head coach.

"I think it's one of the great atmospheres in the country," Crean said. "They have passionate, year-round fans at Kentucky. Rupp Arena, like Assembly Hall, is a big part of the college basketball landscape."

The last time Indiana played at Rupp Arena, a 59-54 Cats victory on Dec. 9, 2006, Taber was on the Hoosiers' roster but did not play. However, the 24-253 Rupp Arena fans left an impression.

"It's a big, loud place," Taber said. "Everyone will be very excited."

The Hoosiers have struggled so far in 2008. Their 5-4 record includes close wins over IUPUI and Chattanooga, and blowout losses to Notre Dame, St. Joseph's and Wake Forest. The repercussions of Sampson's violations have forced Crean to compete with a roster typically over-classified by opponents.

"You have to play harder and you have to play smart," Taber said. "That's how we have to make up for the lack of talent. We play to win."

Although it typically takes a few years to rebuild a program, Crean is al-

See **Basketball** on page 4

Looking back on UK's Fall 2008 accomplishments



J.D. Williams
Kernel columnist

With fall semester coming to an end, it's time to take a look back on some of the most memorable moments and performers of the season. Without further ado, here's my top-10 list.

10. Women's cross country goes to nationals. After being shut out of the NCAA Championship for nearly two decades, the women's cross country team finally made it to the national meet for the first time since 1989.

9. Football receives All-Southeastern Conference nods. Despite a mediocre season, the coaches in the SEC awarded the Cats with more first team selections than UK received with last year's team, a squad that cracked the national top 10. Three players — punter Tim Masthay, cornerback Trevor Lindley and linebacker Micah Johnson — were named to the first team.

8. Sarah Rumely named

SEC Player of the Year. The junior setter has done nothing but collect hardware since joining the Cats. After being named Freshman of the Year two seasons ago, Rumely has collected the first Player of the Year award in UK history.

7. New jerseys are unveiled. In honor of Bill "Mr. Wildcat" Keightley, the men's basketball team unveiled a new jersey with a black "Mr. Wildcat" patch. Although you can't

replace a fan favorite on the sidelines since the days of Adolph Rupp, a constant reminder of him is a good start.

6. Men's soccer bounces back. After a bitter 7-10-2 season last year, the men's soccer team finished the year 12-4-5 and broke into the top-25 rankings. Barry Rice was the catalyst for the good season. He became the third All-American in UK history and a two-time Defensive Player of the Year.

5. Snowden continued to dominate. After winning SEC Freshman Diver of the Year awards last year, Jessie Snowden continued her strong performances to start the 2008-09 season. Snowden has left the pool with first place every night she has taken a dive.

4. Randall Cobb takes first snap. It was all cheers in Commonwealth Stadium when

See **Williams** on page 4

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UK head coach Rich Brooks speaks to his defense during a game this season. Brooks said his team is excited for their Jan. 2 bowl game.

Cats find charm in third straight bowl

By Kenny Cobblin
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"Marquee" wins against Middle Tennessee State and Arkansas, an uncertain offense and a limping defense have characterized UK's 2008 season, where another strong 4-0 start was turned into a disappointing finish.

After back-to-back trips to the Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowls, the Cats made subtle suggestions about going elsewhere. They got their wish, facing East Carolina on Jan. 2 in Memphis for the 50th anniversary of the AutoZone Liberty Bowl.

A lower-tier bowl game, a non-Bowl Championship Series conference opponent and injuries would give the impression that UK may not be as excited as they could be about going for a third straight bowl game for only the second time in school history. But UK head coach Rich Brooks says otherwise.

"We're excited to be in this game," Brooks said. "I do have a little bit of history with this game. It's a pleasure to be back, particularly on the 50th anniversary to face a team that had a great season this year and who played a great game in the Conference USA championship."

With six All-Southeastern Conference selections, the Cats seem to be taking on an opponent they should over-

power. But East Carolina made waves across the nation when, early this season, they upset Atlantic Coast Conference champion Virginia Tech and Big East power West Virginia in consecutive weeks. Those wins vaulted East Carolina into the top 25 momentarily before injuries piled up for the Pirates, leading to some defeats.

The Pirates rebounded to defeat Tulsa, winning the C-USA championship and building momentum into the January bowl matchup. East Carolina head coach Skip Holtz, son of former coach Lou Holtz, also ended any possible distraction to his team by withdrawing his name from consideration for the vacant Syracuse job.

And with the chance to knock off an SEC opponent, Holtz is well aware of the Pirates' third chance to make noise on national TV.

"It's huge," Holtz said. "You got the country watching. For us, it's an exposure opportunity. To have the opportunity to gain this exposure in a game with an SEC team against a school like UK is what our boys have grown up wanting to do. They played this game as kids in the backyard."

After being an underdog for most of the season, especially during conference play, the Cats find an unusual target on their backs. And despite what could be seen as a step down on the bowl ladder,

Brooks pointed to the Liberty Bowl's history to show that UK had, in fact, not settled for second-best.

"Just think, there have not been a lot of games around for 50 years," Brooks said. "It has a great history, great games, great coaches and great players. Anytime you talk about the 50th anniversary you're talking about something special."

With a month to heal, rest and focus, the Cats are hoping to rebound from unraveling at the end of the season. With one goal already accomplished — three straight bowl games — Brooks is ready to accomplish his next goal: winning three.

"If we're able to do that, it would be a great thing," he said.

Cobb named to All-SEC Freshman Team

Freshman quarterback Randall Cobb has been named to the Southeastern Conference All-Freshman team, the league office announced Thursday.

Cobb earned the honor at the quarterback position, but he has also seen playing time as a wide receiver and a punt returner. According to UK Athletics, Cobb is the only player in the nation to be listed as the starting quarterback and primary punt returner on the depth chart.

Cobb's status for UK's bowl game is listed as doubtful. He had surgery Dec. 2 to repair knee cartilage.

DANCER

Continued from page 3

"For someone who has never had technical training, I think she has done very well for herself," Mary Bishop said.

Mary Bishop tries to make at least two or three football games and two or three basketball games every year to see Randi dance.

"She didn't apply to UT after she saw UK's dance team and felt it would be a great opportunity to grow as a person and not have an extension

of high school," Mary Bishop said.

Voting for the Athlon Sports Spirit Sideline Contest continues through Dec. 12. Each person can vote up to twenty times per day and if done via a Facebook application, the candidate receives an extra 10 votes. With almost no time left in the competition, Mary Bishop is holding out hope that her daughter wins the competition.

"It's been just Randi and I for about ten years now and I'm glad she's done so well," Mary Bishop said. "She's never tried out for something and not made it."

BASKETBALL

Continued from page 3

ready looking forward to being at the forefront of a rivalry between two of college basketball's most prolific programs. He's just waiting for the times to keep changing.

"Billy Gillespie's teams are as well-prepared as any team I've ever faced," Crean said. "He runs a very solid program. As we get better and more experienced, we'll be a part of that great rivalry base like all other teams that Kentucky plays."

WILLIAMS

Continued from page 3

the freshman got his first action at quarterback during UK's second game of the season. He led the Cats to a 38-3 win over Norfolk State while completing 6-of-11 passes, one for a touchdown and running for two more scores.

3. **UK lands Orton.** Nothing gets people around here more excited than Final Fours. But a close second is sign-

ing the right players to get to the promise land. UK did that when Daniel Orton called a press conference at the downtown Hyatt on Oct. 12, two days after Midnight Madness, to sign with the Cats as fans watched on.

2. **Volleyball team streaks away.** In a midseason streak the Cats won 19 of 20 games as they went on to end the season 26-6. Their only loss during the streak came in a road game against Gainesville on Oct. 10. But 37 days later the Cats avenged their loss by beating the Gators in Memorial Coliseum. It

was the first win against Florida since 1990.

1. **Thrillers at Commonwealth.** A shoelace tackle against Middle Tennessee State and a fourth quarter comeback against Arkansas with half of Commonwealth Stadium already headed down Alumni Road saved UK's season. If UK had not won these games late in the fourth quarter, they'd be watching every bowl game on TV this winter break.

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- Please email Beth Atrip at batrip@uky.edu for an application and for more details regarding this FREE weight loss program for UK students!
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KERNEL EDITORIAL

Students must learn to budget after education report findings

A study by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education recently gave the state of Kentucky an "F" in affordability in its National Report Card on Higher Education, according to a Wednesday Kernel article.

The affordability study is measured based on the percentage of the household's income that goes to pay for higher education. Since Kentucky is one of the poorest states in the country, this grade doesn't come as much of a surprise. College is becoming increasingly harder to pay for, especially since tuition continues to rise each semester.

The state of the economy isn't helping things out either. Financial institutions like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, among others, have been constantly struggling, making it more difficult for students to get loans.

A higher number of people are choosing to attend college because of the stale economy, but when it is gradually harder to pay for, the whole process creates a vicious cycle of debt and disappointment.

With this increased demand in higher education, it is highly unlikely that the universities will decrease tuition rates, according to Pam Villarreal, senior policy analyst at the National Center for Policy Analysis.

"The problem with universities is that demand is so great there is no incentive to lower prices, no incentive to make college more affordable," she said.

Since grants and financial aid don't always cover the entire cost of college, and it doesn't look like tuition will lower any time soon, it is important for students to cut or lessening spending any way possible.

Try buying used textbooks next semester. They may not look as pretty as the ones marked "new" next to it, but you'll learn the same information—and save a few hundred dollars in the process. The highlighting and notes of previous students can sometimes be a blessing in disguise.

Another way to cut spending would be to not frequent the bars. Not drinking is probably not an option for many, but try having a small house party with some friends instead. That way, everyone can contribute a few dollars to the expenses. Those \$6 beers at the bar are sure to drain your wallet quickly. If you enjoy the bar scene, though, try finding the specials around town during the week.

If you pay your own bills, think about the electricity in everything you do. You don't really need the heat on 73, knock it down and put a sweatshirt on. One degree makes a difference.

Food is another way ease up on your bank account. It's not necessary to eat out every day—there are grocery stores for a reason. Also, do you really need that overpriced coffee from Starbucks? Making your own is surely a better option.

While costs keep increasing, look for any way to control your spending habits. Until prices start falling, two words should become your best friend: ramen noodles.

■ This Editorial was featured in the *Kansas City Star*

Tough challenges remain for U.S. in Afghanistan

While violence in Iraq has diminished to levels comparable to early 2004, violence in Afghanistan has intensified.

Given the considerable challenges involved, the Pentagon is right to plan on beefing up U.S. forces in Afghanistan in response to a request from the top ground commander, Gen. David McKiernan. But it's far too early to attempt talks with the Taliban, as some have suggested.

Under the Pentagon plan, more than 20,000 troops will be deployed to Afghanistan over the next year to 18 months. The additional forces will include four combat brigades and attack helicopter units, along with support and reconnaissance troops. More trainers will be deployed to help strengthen Afghan forces.

Currently, there are about 34,000 U.S. troops and 30,000 other foreign troops in Afghanistan.

This may be a less controversial war than the conflict in Iraq. But while the counterinsurgency goal is the same—protect the population—the job in Afghanistan is in many ways even more imposing.

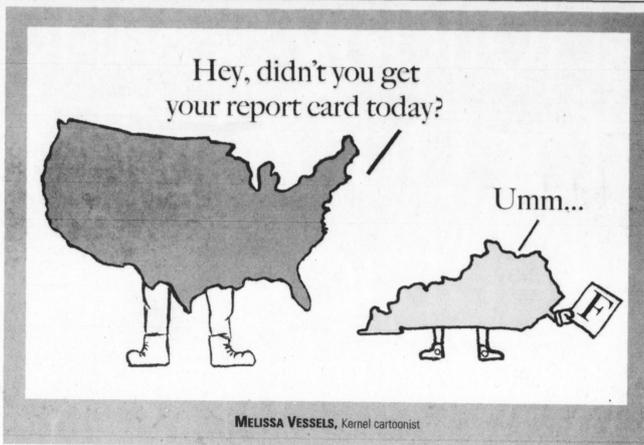
Afghanistan is larger than Iraq. The population is more numerous, but more widely dispersed. Many Afghans live in villages of only a few hundred people. The road network and basic infrastructure are more primitive than in Iraq. The mountainous terrain in Afghanistan is more formidable.

Taliban units can be re-supplied from safe havens in Pakistan. And Afghan forces, army and police—number only 150,000 while the comparable number in Iraq is 500,000.

Appropriately, U.S. troops are being told to prepare for a long fight in Afghanistan and not to expect victory in a single tour of duty.

In recent weeks, some policymakers have argued that talking to the Taliban might be worthwhile. Some insurgents, in this view, might be convinced to cease fighting. However, it would be best to put off any such effort until the position of the U.S.-led coalition is significantly stronger.

Currently, many Taliban see themselves on the winning side. They aren't likely to change until the coalition clearly gains the upper hand.



MELISSA VESSELS, Kernel cartoonist

UK should use national sustainability resource headquartered in Lexington

I am graduating this semester, and as we approach finals and I begin to anticipate the end of my time here, I find myself thinking about what things I can do to help advance healthy environmental practices at UK before I leave. The truth is that there isn't much I can do now, but I can introduce you to a tool that, if you have the good sense to use it, will help you in the coming semesters.



EMILY FOERSTER
Kernel columnist

UK is a member of a non-profit environmental organization called AASHE—the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education—a national organization whose headquarters are located in a yellow building on South Limestone near Second Street. While most Lexingtonians have never heard of AASHE, it is a humble environmental treasure, and something we should feel grateful to have in our state, not to mention our neighborhood. AASHE helps universities become more sustainable by providing points of contact so they can communicate and

collaborate to increase sustainability across the nation. They have an online resource center where AASHE members (a member is defined as anyone affiliated with a university that has an active membership) can find a variety of relevant information.

They also organize a conference every two years that brings together collegiate environmental activists from across the country to make contact and work together to advance sustainability. It was held this past October in North Carolina and had an extremely successful turnout.

It is exceptional that AASHE has chosen to place their headquarters in Lexington, because our state consistently ranks at, or near, the bottom of roughly all environmental lists.

Universities act as important role models for the communities in which they reside, and if our state's "flagship university" does not take on sustainability in a radical way, the state's environmental policies will not advance as quickly as they should to catch up with the leaders of the country.

It's true that we have some very impressive sustainability initiatives on our campus, (Wildcat Wheels and Dining Services, for example) but we have a long, long way to go, and we need the help of AASHE and other universities

to help us progress.

President Lee Todd pays lip service to sustainability, and in some small ways, I think he is doing a good job. But he has yet to acknowledge that there is no such thing as "clean coal technology"; he has yet to initiate any radical shifts in the way we power our campus. There are many available means of generating our power that do not involve coal or any other fossil fuel.

In a budget crisis like the one we currently face, energy conservation is a good way to save money for the university (so is refusing an astronomical bonus check). The initial costs may be greater, but energy-saving design pays for itself in a relatively short period of time, whereas non-sustainable design never pays for itself.

In short, UK needs help, because it clearly cannot fully rely on the administration for environmental leadership, and AASHE is ready to lend a hand. We already pay for our membership in the organization, so we should take advantage of that.

Good luck on finals, and remember to shut off your lights before you fall asleep studying—leaving them on wastes energy.

Emily Foerster is an English and Spanish senior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Todd's campus smoking ban is unnecessary, unfair

I am a non-smoker. I believe smoking is detrimental to one's health, yet I believe President Lee Todd's plan for a campus-wide smoking ban is asinine and discriminatory. I see no good reason for the ban, and I believe the initiative is not a movement to protect or advance the campus population, but a subtle enforcement of morality.

Let us consider the possible purpose for such an initiative. I propose four different arguments that could be posed for a campus-wide smoking ban.

First, there is the myth that the ban will create a cleaner campus, ridding the premises of cigarette butts. For this argument to hold true one must assume that as a result of the ban, smokers will entirely discontinue their use of tobacco on UK grounds.

This is obviously a pipe-dream. In fact, a ban will only rid the campus of cigarette butts, so as to not create a mixed message, yielding a higher quantity of butts produced by people who are not willing nor have the time to walk off

of campus for a cigarette. Second, there is the idea that the ban will preserve the health of non-smokers. This argument might hold water if it were targeted toward an indoor areas of campus. However, non-smokers can easily stay away from smokers outdoors, and the carcinogens in the open air due to automobiles far outweigh those created by second hand smoke.

Third, there is the idea that the ban will promote cessation of smoking thereby improving the health of smokers. If you understand anything about addiction, you realize that an addict cannot be forced to quit. An addict must first make the choice to quit on his own accord for any progress to be made in kicking the habit.

Fourth, the reason for this ban is to impose moral judgment upon smokers and limit their choice to smoke. More and more, smokers have become social pariahs, viewed as participating in an ugly and dirty act by the majority of

people in the United States. Though smoking may be terrible for one's health, smokers are being treated as second-class citizens only for the sake of a one-sided doctrine and a near-sighted perceived beauty. If this initiative is allowed to pass, we will be taking choices away from people for no apparent reason. We could just as easily impose a dress code or a ban on chewing gum stating that these things are unsightly and undesirable. Alas, these choices are not considered as ugly by our society as smoking and are therefore non-issues.

Finally, if you believe this ban to be beneficial, please ask yourself: "why?" Is there a good reason for the ban, or is it an act of discrimination? Todd was quoted by the Kernel as saying: "This could enhance campus life and student life." My question to Todd is, "What the hell does that mean?"

Nate Lannan
electrical and computer engineering junior

Private donors need to be swayed to give to those in need

I have a hard time believing Joe B. Hall Wildcat Lodge is in need of refurbishing, and would be surprised to find anyone who disagrees. I realize the school doesn't control where private gifts are directed, but an additional \$1.5 million seems like an unnecessarily extravagant amount of money to be spent on athletes' living accommodations.

Sure, sports hold a treasured place in the hearts of UK students, but what kind of message does this send to the rest of campus? It seems to say that athletes deserve special privileges that the

rest of us do not. Why are they any more important than members of other living/learning communities?

If UK is so dedicated to becoming a top-20 research school, perhaps more should be invested in the honors students. Instead, their living space was cut in half this year, with the closing of Boyd Hall—one of the oldest, non-air-conditioned dorms on campus.

Or take a look at the Fine Arts Building. UK has a wonderful and talented School of Music, but they do not have much of a building to show for it. It is outdated with some small class-

rooms and far too few practice rooms (where many of the pianos have broken keys and are out of tune). I'm sure they would appreciate gifts for "largely cosmetic improvements," just as much as the inhabitants of Wildcat Lodge.

Perhaps UK should take private gifts into consideration when budgeting how its own money is proportioned and spent. Shouldn't the needs of some students be placed above the privileges of others?

Megan Collins
international studies junior

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

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Career expert: In recessions, the skilled workers get jobs

By Rochelle Haliburton
rhaliburton@kynews.com

The declining economy may have college students worried about their futures, but national experts say some careers have a better outlook than others.

Professionals such as health care workers, utility workers, and primary and secondary educators are resistant to economic downturns, said career expert Laurence Shatkin, author of "150 Best Recession-Proof Jobs."

Shatkin said he used ratings made by an economist at the Department of Labor to identify a pool of 180 occupations, 150 of which he used to write the book.

"Most of the 180 occupations are resistant to economic downturns because they serve a basic human need that do not diminish when the economy slackens," Shatkin said in an e-mail to the Kernel.

On the Occupational Outlook Handbook Web site, produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, jobs listed as experiencing little growth or declines are journalism, farming and ranching, computer programming and working as an insurance agent.

Peter Schiff, co-author of last year's "Crash Proof: How to Profit From the Coming Economic Collapse," believes the employment landscape will experience dramatic changes in the future.

"I believe eventually people will decide not to go to college to pursue the less lucrative fields of employment in the service sector, such as accountants and lawyers," Schiff said. "Liberal arts will be a waste of time because students will graduate college with a degree but may still be looking for a job."

"Those who do decide to attend college will pursue

jobs such as self-employment, engineering, doctors, architecture, technology, geology and those jobs in the productive industries," Schiff said.

Shatkin suggests college students may want to consider a master's degree as a way of increasing their credentials. He also said college students don't necessarily have to prepare for a career that resists recession because even in hard times, the most skilled workers can find jobs.

"It's important to have more than just technical skills; people skills and communication skills can help you find work and keep your job when other people are out of work," Shatkin said.

Recession-proof jobs

Jobfox.com releases a regular list of the most recession-proof jobs. Below is a list of the top 10 recession-proof jobs in October, along with the median salary for each.

1. Sales Representative/ Business Development (\$55,000-\$95,000)
2. Account/ Customer Service (\$25,000-\$35,000)
3. Accounting Staff (\$35,000-\$45,000)
4. Counseling/Social Work (\$35,000-\$45,000)
5. Software Design/Development (\$75,000-\$85,000)
6. Administrative Assistant (\$25,000-\$35,000)
7. Networking/System Administration (\$55,000-\$65,000)
8. Nursing (\$35,000-\$45,000)
9. Mechanical Engineering (\$55,000-\$65,000)
10. Sales Executive (\$75,000-\$85,000)

ACADEMY

Continued from page 1

gram after Larry Turner.

"(Larry) was a pioneer in leadership in the College of Ag," Pohl said. "He was a model for the university."

The program has four main areas of leadership development: personal, interpersonal, organizational and community. Some of the workshop topics include ethical leadership, conflict management and cultural perspectives.

Whitney McKoy, a public service and leadership junior, is a member of the inaugural class for the Turner Leadership Academy. McKoy said her favorite experience with the program so far was an activity called herd dynamics.

"It was an excellent class where we had to guide horses using our leadership skills," McKoy said. "We had to develop a boundary with the horse."

McKoy never met Larry Turner, but she

has read a biography of him. The book, "Live Like Larry" was written by Denny Trease and published in September. As a gift to the inaugural class of the academy, Lois Turner gave each student a copy of the book.

McKoy said after reading the book, she saw how the Turner Leadership Academy was acting on Larry Turner's intentions to help everyone achieve their dreams.

"Every time he saw the opportunity to help someone become a better person, he took it and ran with it," she said. "He wanted to help people advance into different stages of their lives."

Kyle Williams, a public service and leadership junior, said he was attracted to the program because it is self-guided. The students each create a personal goal to achieve at the end of the four-semester program.

"You get to pick and choose the activities and workshops while earning a certificate," he said. "A lot of times we have such a rigorous plan as undergrads, but this is very self-guided."

Williams said he has been involved with 4-H since middle school, so he felt a strong

tie to Larry Turner, who as the former associate dean for extension, worked with 4-H regularly.

"The whole purpose is in Dr. Turner's honor, so helping to carry on his legacy is very rewarding as well," he said.

The Turner Leadership Academy is available to sophomores, juniors and seniors in the College of Agriculture or the Biosystems Engineering Program with at least four semesters left. Students must have a minimum of 30 credit hours completed and be in good academic standing.

The program currently has 17 students and 13 mentors, Pohl said. In the future, Lois Turner said she wants the academy to be a model for other universities.

"Hopefully TLA will be a premier leadership program in the country at some point," she said. "We hope it will bring students to the College of Agriculture at UK in hopes of participating in TLA."

"We are so grateful and so honored as we know Larry would be," Lois Turner said.

CHRISTMAS

Continued from page 1

invited to. Both Davis boys received bicycles and other gifts.

"All they did was tell us that we were coming to a party and asked us what the kids liked," Lybers said. "I never expected anything like this. It truly is a blessing."

SAE and AOPJ members broke up into groups, and each group spent \$227 on a certain child.

"Each child received anywhere from 10 to 15 presents and have 5 to 6 to save for Christmas morning under the tree, which is something new that we did this year," said Christina Budash, a middle school education senior and member of AOPJ.

Precious Brookins, who brought granddaughter Jadesyia Robinson, said she was in awe of the event. Robinson received a comforter, "Hannah Montana" clothing, "High School Musical" dolls and a "Hannah Montana" t-shirt, her favorite gift.

"It's a blessing from God to be here," Brookins said.

FAMILY

Continued from page 1

Gnog said Hatfield and Helping Hands have done a lot for his family, but mostly for his five children.

"I don't have time," Gnog said. "I don't have time to help the kids study. It is very helpful, very helpful."

The biggest help has been helping the children learn the English language, Gnog said. Since all the children spoke French, Helping Hands has supplied French tutors from UK to help them learn English.

"If they don't have language, they cannot go to school," Gnog said.

School is the most important thing Gnog wants for his children and the main reason he came to America.

"I am here because of my family, my children," Gnog said. "I want them to grow up in America, in American culture."

The children wanted bicycles for Christmas, Hatfield said, and Circle of Love made that possible. The four boys in the family all received bikes in the culminating event of Thursday night.

"It's a dream, but it's real," Gnog said. "I knew before that America was a land of opportunity. That's why I came here."

BUDGET

Continued from page 1

for the authority to use furloughs requiring state workers to take three unpaid days off - to avoid layoffs. Furloughs, expected to save \$8 million, would be required for every general fund employee at least, but may be across the board, he said.

Most of last year's reductions in state government were between 15 to 18 percent and were as high as 20 percent, Beshear said. He said he hopes to finalize a plan sometime in January and that action should be taken quickly and with prudence.

The governor will be taking his plan around the state and said informing Kentuckians about the scope of the problem is worth the cost of traveling. Beshear said the "fluid nature" of the crisis meant that ideas and teamwork were needed.

"Is this plan perfect and a final solution? Absolutely not," Beshear said.

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