

THE Kentucky Kernel



Monday, January 23, 2006

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Colorado shares diversity ideas at UK

Top UK officials hear suggestions on improving hiring practices

By Sean Rose
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

UK looked to the University of Colorado for ideas on improving campus diversity in a meeting Friday that outlined strategies for recruiting and retaining women and minorities.

In an effort to take a cue from other schools, about 46 UK officials, including President Lee Todd, deans, and senior administration involved with the President's Commission on Women and the President's Commission on Diversity met with two representatives from Colorado.

Dorothy Brockopp, a faculty member and chairwoman of the women's commission,

said she was very happy with the turnout because one of the goals of the meeting was "to get senior administration to hear some different ideas and then to put a plan together for what we can do at this university."

"If we're going to enhance diversity, the president plays a very important role," Brockopp said.

Carmen Williams, assistant vice president for diversity at the University of Colorado, said having Todd and other UK officials in attendance

made a difference.

"Leadership has the power to make change," Williams said. "Faculty doesn't. (Leadership) makes the decisions."

Gwendolyn Hill, director of diversity and inclusion for the University of Colorado School of Medicine, also saw the importance of a high turnout from high-ranking officials.

"Key people were here, and that's critical because you need support from the leadership," Hill said.

Hill said the presentation was based off experiences at the University of Colorado and the visit was a trade-off of ideas.

"We've tried some new strategies at the University of Colorado to recruit and retain minority faculty and women faculty," Hill said. "That's really in a nutshell what we were talking about: How do you do that?"

See Diversity on page 3

UK hospital expansion on schedule

Limestone Street parking garage construction to start next month

By Shannon Mason
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

By the end of next month, the progress in UK's extensive hospital expansion project could be quite visible on an around campus — including construction on a major campus artery.

Construction crews have completed two-thirds of the demolition required to start building UK HealthCare's new parking garage, putting the hospital expansion right on schedule, said Dr. Michael Karpf, executive vice president of health affairs at UK.

Another major part of the plan — although further down the road — is closing Rose Street from Donovan Hall to South Limestone Street. Virginia Avenue will be extended through campus to meet Huguleet Avenue.

"We are totally on schedule right now," Karpf said. "We are right on the money with our schedule."

Karpf said a fence is getting ready to go up on the corner of South Limestone and Conn Terrace, in preparation for the construction of the new parking garage. Bids are now being accepted for the parking garage, and construction is scheduled to begin in the third or fourth week of February, he said.

A new parking garage is the first step in phase 1 of UK HealthCare's hospital expansion plan. A 250-bed patient care facility will be built where the hospital's parking garage currently stands.

The new parking garage is slated to be finished between January and March of 2007. Construction of the new patient care facility will begin after the old garage is torn down, and that facility is expected to be finished in 2010.

Phase 1A is projected to cost \$450 million. The three-phase project, which is slated to be finished by 2020, also aims to build a new critical-care facility and an ambulance facility

See Hospital on page 3

Cats cash clutch 3-pointers, top South Carolina

By Josh Sullivan
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Just when it looked like the UK men's basketball team was on the verge of making dubious history, 3-point prayers from Patrick Sparks and Rajon Rondo were answered.

After Tarence Kinsey sank a pair of free throws to put South Carolina up by two, Sparks pushed the ball into the frontcourt,

then suddenly rose up from the 'K' on the UK mid-court logo and nailed a three-pointer eight seconds into the shot clock to give the Cats a 77-76 lead with half a minute to go.

"I'm just glad it went in," head coach Tubby Smith said of the long-range bomb, which was Sparks' only bucket of the second half after sinking a trio of 3-pointers in the first. "Nobody draws up a shot like that, but he had been shooting well."

After two more free throws from center Antoine Tisby put the Gamecocks up by one, the Cats had nine seconds to avoid dropping their first three Southeastern Conference home games of the season for the first time ever.

"No secret who was going to get the ball," said South Carolina head

coach Dave Odom of the Cats' final possession.

The plan was for Rondo to get to the rim, but as he drove into the paint, the Gamecock defense collapsed toward the basket and forced him back outside. Rondo raced to the left side of the three-point arc, created some daylight with a crossover dribble and nailed the game-winner with 1.4 seconds for an 80-78 victory.

"I was nervous. When I saw him go out, I wondered what he was doing. He just broke free and let loose."

Joe Crawford, UK sophomore guard, on teammate Rajon Rondo's game-winning 3-pointer Saturday

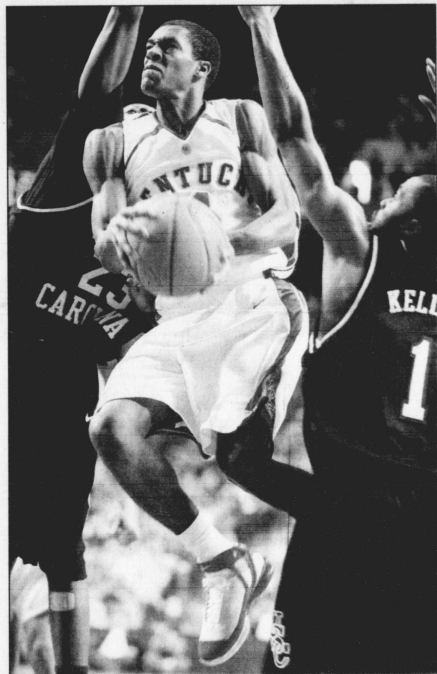
"When I saw him go out, I wondered what he was doing. He just broke free and let it loose."

The 3-pointer was Rondo's second since the Cats beat Ohio on Dec. 30. He had badly missed two wide-open treys from the corner early in the first half Saturday, air-balling the first and barely grazing the rim with the second.

But despite Rondo's early troubles from long range, the Cats (12-6, 2-2 SEC) were on fire from the field for the second

See Cats on page 3

UK 80, SOUTH CAROLINA 78



KETH SMILEY | STAFF

UK sophomore guard Rajon Rondo splits South Carolina defenders Dwayne Day and Tre' Kelley while going for a layup on Saturday. Rondo had nine points in the game, including the 3-pointer that won the game for UK with 1.4 seconds remaining.

"I just knew coming out of the timeout I wanted to take the shot," Rondo said.



NILLY SCHIFFER | STAFF

UK senior guard Patrick Sparks drives against South Carolina senior guard Tarence Kinsey during UK's 80-78 win on Saturday. Sparks finished with 14 points, including a 29-foot 3-pointer in the game's final minute.

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Cats' comeback late corrects columnist error

When we are out — in class, a bar, the confessional booth, anywhere — Kernel staffers often are asked questions about the topics they cover.

When the topic in question is UK basketball, those lucky staffers get the harangues of every expert out there who knows what the general problem with the team is and how it can be fixed.

Earlier this season, according to the barstool point guards, it was low-post threats and Tubby Smith. Then, it was the lack of a floor leader and Tubby Smith. Then, it was cold shooting and Tubby Smith.

Then, in the weeks following the Kansas debacle, it was how the team did

See Johnson on page 3



Chris Johnson
SPORTS EDITOR

BOOK REVIEW

Max's drunken memoirs a guilty pleasure

By Doug Scott and Ian Corley
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

A self-described heathen, Tucker Max claims to "get excessively drunk at inappropriate times, disregard social norms, indulge every whim, ignore the consequences of my actions, mock idiots and posers, sleep with more women than is safe or reasonable, and just generally act like a raging d---head."

"But, I do contribute to humanity in one very important way: I share my adventures with the world."

Take your most insane, depraved and debauched nights, roll them into one tale of savagery unequalled in eloquence, and they might count as a footnote in the annals of Tucker Max. Max's recently released book, "I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell," is a definitive collection of some of his best work from his ridiculously popular Web site and new vignettes to keep longtime fans laughing.

Max's work is the closest thing to entertaining that's been written in years. Granted, he's no Hunter S. Thompson, but unlike so many others before him, he never claimed to be. And in this we find why Max is so appealing: He's a true original, a complete outlaw who lives the events we can only imagine and retells them in a fashion that would make any 40-year-old sales clerk at Best Buy feel like an arrogant, sarcastic and overconfident kid again with no goals but reckless abandon and bedlam.

But Max still works. A workday for Max, however, is not unlike one of your most cherished vacation days.

"Honestly, a typical day is not a whole lot different than a college student," Max said in an interview with The Kernel. "I wake up whenever I feel like. I check my message board, I'll put up some new threads, answer e-mail. I'll go to the gym, hang out with my dogs, hook up with some

See Max on page 2

Newsroom: 257-1915

Max

Continued from page 1

girl. Whatever."

Success does indeed build upon itself, however, and burgeoning fame comes with a price.

"The last six months have been so busy, it's been like a real job," Max said. "I haven't quite had my tipping point, though not included in 'I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell'."

A Lexington native, Max attended Lafayette High School before spending his last two years of high school at Blair Academy in New Jersey. From there, he attended the University of Chicago for his undergraduate degree.

"It's the nerdiest (school)," he said. "I was the coolest guy at the school, and I shouldn't be the coolest guy. And this was when I was 19, and I was an idiot when I was 19," Max said. "I was one of the top-5 best-looking guys at the school."

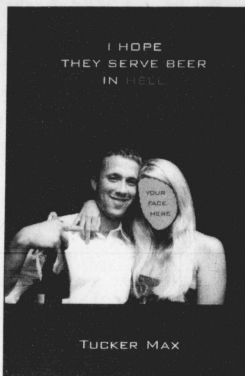
After graduation, Max attended Duke Law School on a full-ride scholarship. His tenure would become the genesis for the lifestyle that has earned him so much fame and disdain.

"We had the best f---ing time. Law school was so f---ing easy I never went to class. I didn't buy my books; it was a f---ing joke," said Max, who spent six weeks of one semester living in Cancun, Mexico, while still enrolled in classes. "Law school is way easier than undergrad."

Max graduated from Duke in 2001 and began his Web site (www.tucker-max.com) that he conceptualized as a date application page but quickly became an archive of depravity and a platform from which Max has leaped into the world of publishing.

Though popular for years, Max's worldwide fame was something more akin to serendipitous fate than calculated marketing strategy and by "serendipitous fate," one means being involved in a classic First Amendment lawsuit.

Katy Johnson, crowned 1999 Miss Vermont, filed an injunction in response to a story Max posted on his Web site (which is still available, though not included in "I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell").



The jacket cover of Tucker Max's latest book, which recently made the New York Times' bestseller list.

Hell"). In it, Max chronicles a ridiculously debauched weekend and also writes about Johnson's ensuing lewd behavior.

Johnson sued Max under a Florida law stating that two individuals who possess "private person" legal status may not disclose mutually private information in the public realm. Max was eventually vindicated on grounds that neither he nor Miss Johnson are classified as such; on the contrary, Max said, they are very much public figures.

"That was the best thing that ever happened to me,"

Max said. "When she sued me, that was New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Newsweek, the Associated Press, every f---ing newspaper. The Lexington Herald-Leader covered that."

"I went from relatively anonymous Internet writer to f---ing everywhere," Max said. "It was awesome. You can't buy that publicity. And the best part is, I was right. Everything I wrote about her, right or wrong, was true."

In fact, Max prides himself on the veracity of his stories, which often crash into the walled minds of skeptics.

"With some of my stories, I'll take artistic license — I'll change a timeline or something like that to make the story flow better. But every story is true," Max said.

"I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell" isn't for the faint of heart. The short memoirs Max writes are real life times 10, and real life itself is a problem for most people.

Don't just accept it as funny, half-hearted pulp literature and walk away, either; the book is superbly written and the comedy expertly executed.

The epic tale of "The Foxfield Weekend," for instance, takes a great risk at being written in a bizarre, hazy chronological time log. By the end of it, however, one couldn't imagine it being done in any other form, or by anyone else, any better. Max knows how to write as well as he knows how to party just shy of human sacrifice.

Reckless, alcoholic, unapologetic and completely unabashed, Max will at once test your conscience and make your sphincter rupture from laughter. And to his detractors, it seems Max is laughing last; "I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell" just entered the New York Times bestseller list.

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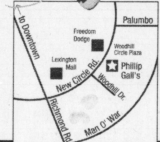


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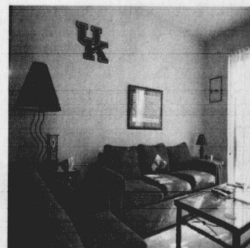
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IN OUR OPINION

Alito qualified, should be confirmed

Newspaper endorsements inevitably ring arrogant in the minds of the majority of readers. But today bear with us; at the risk of sounding unbearably pompous, we've printed this to remind readers—some of whom honestly may not realize just how important the Supreme Court is to America. Sadly, it's not always something taught during middle or high school. Most of the time, we struggle just to keep our eyes open during the unit on the judicial system.

Too bad—because the Supreme Court, in particular, is fascinating. The nine justices who sit on the U.S. Supreme Court hold the fate of the country in their conference chambers. These judges hand down decisions with immense legal, social and moral implications. With the death of Chief Justice William Rehnquist last year and crucial swing-vote Sandra Day O'Connor's impending retirement, President George W. Bush has an opportunity to nominate more than one justice to the bench, effectively leading the court in a decidedly conservative direction.

Like it or not, this is the president's constitutional prerogative—he did win the election, after all. Bush's first nominee, Judge John Roberts Jr., replaced Rehnquist as chief justice with nothing short of the proverbial red carpet rolled out for him; 78 out of 100 members of the Senate voted to confirm him.

Judge Samuel Alito, the nominee in line to replace O'Connor, has an undoubtedly rockier path ahead this week, thanks to the firestorm surrounding his unclear stance on Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

Because Roe concerns issues that may well come before the

Supreme Court, it would be inappropriate for me to comment directly on it," he wrote in a response to questions submitted by six Senate Democrats during his five-day confirmation hearing last week.

This is an acceptable reply. For all the media's blather about how Alito's confirmation would herald the end of Roe v. Wade, it's highly unlikely that any justice will reverse that decision. The outraged social backlash alone would negate any positive feedback from anti-abortion supporters.

Instead of snaring the nominee in a circular debate about personal ethics, Alito's qualifications and history as a fair-minded, conscientious judge should be considered.

The Princeton graduate and Yale Law School alum has held prominent positions in the legal arena during his 30 years of experience. He was Assistant to Solicitor General Rex Lee for four years, during which he argued 12 cases in front of the Supreme Court for the federal government.

Alito served as deputy assistant to Attorney General Edwin Meese for two years. He was the United States attorney for New Jersey. Since 1990, he has been a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

And throughout his career, Alito has been lauded as thoughtful judge who interprets the law, not one who imposes his personal beliefs on others.

Senate Democrats would do well to keep their veneer of professionalism in place this week and confirm Alito. At this point, staging a filibuster—especially in light of the president's acknowledgement of his inadequate choice in the Harriet Miers debacle—would simply be a petty power play. Alito deserves the Roberts treatment—he should be confirmed.

Students must be active in Party Plan decision

Thanks are in order for several groups of people following last week's Town and Gown Commission meeting regarding the Lexington Area Party Plan.

First, to the commission for recognizing that the plan needs revising, and listening to the concerns and opinions of residents and students. Furthermore, to students who attended the meeting and talked to the commission about the problems they see with the plan.

Students should also be sure to attend the commission's next meeting on Feb. 15, where the group will try to hammer out changes to the city ordinance. The commission is currently seeking feedback on the plan, and student input is critical.

One change we hope is obvious is the need to fine the offenders —

not the property. Currently, new tenants can move into a residence that has Party Plan violations hanging over it — meaning the new residents, who had nothing to do with breaking the rules of the Party Plan, are being punished for others' actions.

We also hope it quickly becomes clear for 11th District Councilman Richard Moloney how racially insensitive his remark was that "many of my constituents are Hispanic and they also fall under the Party Plan's jurisdiction." He said this to illustrate that the plan doesn't target UK students; instead, all this illustrates is a general ignorance of those same Hispanics who live in his district and are, apparently, unfairly affected by this city ordinance.

UK needs to acknowledge racist past to erase the stigma of 1966

Guest Column: Alan Aja, SG President, 1996-97

In the spring of 1997, while serving as the student representative on UK's Board of Trustees, I rode an elevator to the top of Patterson Office Tower to a private meeting amid buzzing and whispers that usually coincide with rumors. UK had just lost Rick Pittino to the NBA, and the replacement would be an African-American man from the University of Georgia named Tubby Smith.

Honored to be a representative on the board during this crucial turning point in UK history, I celebrated Tubby's blackness. Given UK's history of blatant and institutionalized racism, from academics to athletics, the institution had taken a turn for the better, so we thought.

However, as I sat among the UK elite, the message conveyed to me was: "let's downplay the race issue; he's the best person for the job, period." That Tubby Smith was the most qualified person for the position went without saying, but what Smith overcame to achieve such an esteemed position of leadership is a telling feat itself, especially in a national collegiate athletic system led, dominated and mostly consumed by whites (while unabashedly exploiting young people of color).

I recall a well-intentioned trustee convey-

ing the message that we were color-blind at UK, which I found hard to swallow as I looked around at the overwhelmingly all-white male board. Some posed the argument that a black coach's presence would serve as a role model to minority students, players and local Lexington urban youth whom for so long had seen so few like them in visible leadership positions. In this context, we asked, why can't "race" matter?

Life chances have brought me to Brooklyn, N.Y., where I finished a graduate degree and teach part-time at a local college. During the college basketball season, I often throw on Kentucky apparel and head to any local pubs or restaurants to watch and yell at the television. I often come across former frat boys who support opposing teams. "Kentucky sucks!" is the usual phrase I hear. "Scoreboard!" I give in and usually repeat if UK has taken a comfortable lead, having learned the chant during the few away games I attended during my collegiate years.

This past weekend, a fellow Kentucky-New York transplant brought to my attention the most recent Kentucky-centered debate. The film "Glory Road" was about to open nationwide, and the issues of race and Kentucky basketball were at the center of discussion once again. The Jan. 13 Kernel shared its views about the film's depiction of the 1966 NCAA Championship game. In the editorial, the Kernel admitted that coach Adolph Rupp did not

hold progressive views toward integration, but then suggested that there is no significant proof he was a racist. Furthermore, the tournament championship was not about race, but instead was just an "underdog's tale."

Once again, an institutional body is given a chance to set the record straight, perhaps even apologize on behalf of students for UK's past mistakes, but instead chose to play the same politics of denial some university officials played when Tubby Smith first came on board. It is true that it could have been any other all-white team losing to Texas Western, and that segregation was widespread and not endemic to UK's basketball program.

However, this possibility does not absolve UK's participation in a system of racial apartheid. To suggest that Rupp may not have been a racist but admit that he supported a system that segregates people based on ascriptive traits makes him, by default, a racist!

Today, many of us like to believe that we have socially and economically "progressed" since the boycotts, church meetings, marches and eventual re-distributive policies introduced during and after the civil rights movement. Seeing a few faces of color here and there makes many of us feel that we've moved forward, often alleviating any guilt of our actions of the past.

The reality is that we continue to perpetuate and live segregated lives while limiting blacks to roles (such as athletes and entertain-

ers) that won't interfere with white power and privilege. We've rolled back most of the measures needed to even begin full economic and social integration, with affirmative action on its last breath and an immigration policy arguably designed to exploit vulnerable immigrants while adversely impacting the lives of blacks and poor minorities in the job marketplace.

While it is true that past and present minority leaders of various U.S. institutions like Tubby Smith and many others worked their way into their respective positions like anyone else, the racial-ethnic barriers they overcame must not be muzzled and instead be seen as significant parts of their achievements. To be a color-blind nation we must first be color-sighted. Likewise, to argue that the historic moment in College Park, Md., in 1966 was just a game and had little to do with race and segregation is equally representative of American society's consistent refusal to try and understand the issue of historical and present institutionalized racism altogether. By first admitting to our racist practices rather than indulging in the feel-better politics of denial is one of the foremost steps we must take toward social and economic inclusion.

Alan Aja is a 1997 UK alumnus, and former SG president. He is an Adjunct Professor in Puerto Rican & Latino Studies at Brooklyn College City University of New York. Email: alanaja@yahoo.com



BRAD STURGEON, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fletcher doesn't belong in Rupp

For those who attended UK's game against South Carolina, you might have noticed that a usual face was absent. Gov. Ernie Fletcher.

Was the governor too embarrassed to come to UK after this weeks budget address? Did President Todd not invite Gov. Fletcher to sit with him in the sixth row at Rupp? Hopefully, President Todd doesn't invite the governor to any more basketball games until Fletcher stops short-changing UK and post-secondary education.

Governor, increase your budget request for UK and post-secondary education. Gov. Fletcher, when we go to the polls in 2007, we will remember that you were the reason that UK raised tuition this year. Education is an investment that Kentucky can't afford to forgo any longer.

THOMAS A. RAUF
UK College of Law

Scott is correct, but offensive

I share in Doug Scott's view that intelligent design theory does not belong in a science classroom. Aside from any other concerns, its basic principles are founded in religion. Therefore, it is properly relegated to other forums.

However, I feel that Mr. Scott has exceeded the boundaries of polite debate in his column by referring to the theory as "flawed design" and "divine science project in-progress." The fact that humans are not granted all imaginable abilities does not lead to the conclusion that the universe was not the product of an intelligent design. Given the often-imperfect nature of humans, it is no doubt a wise choice that our capabilities are, although impressive, also severely limited. After all, power corrupts, and the power humans have been granted has enough potential for abuse that one has to wonder why we should suppose that it was fallacy or foolishness not to grant us additional abilities.

Regardless, Mr. Scott has disgraced himself by resorting to derogatory slurs of the theory he opposes. The article's thesis is that intelligent design does not belong in the science classroom. Logic, not name-calling, is the proper tool to advance the thesis. His comments as to the intelligence of the theory itself are totally irrelevant, serving no purpose but to inflame tempers and ultimately dilute what might otherwise have been a logical argument.

JONATHAN WILBY
UK College of Law

Evolution is a theory too

I am a "Neo-Conservative Fundamentalist Protestant," at least that is what Mr. Doug Scott felt compelled to call me in his column on intelligent design. He also felt the need to call the Christians of America a "devious evil," simply because we hold different beliefs from him.

The central argument should have been about whether or not intelligent design should be taught in schools; instead, Mr. Scott took the liberty of denouncing the fundamental beliefs of Christians, saying that God's designing of the world was flawed, a "divine science project."

I was outraged at these insensitive comments. Besides the obvious anti-religious sentiments that Mr. Scott has, he also has a misguided belief about evolution. To him, intelligent design is an idea thought up by people who "refuse to accept scientific fact." Let me enlighten you by telling you that evolution is a theory! It has not been scientifically proven, ever.

There are no facts in this debate, just one theory against another. I won't debate Christianity here simply because it is not part of the argument. I remain strong in my presuppositions; God did create the earth. I wouldn't dare say that I knew how or how long because not only is it not my place but also because, to me it doesn't matter. But there are two sides to every coin and you can't teach just one side.

MEGAN VAZMINA
political science & journalism sophomore

Submissions

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

E-MAIL opinions@kykernel.com

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

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

Columnists Needed

The Kernel is looking for new columnists to write for the Opinions page on a regular basis.

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IN OUR OPINION

Alito qualified, should be confirmed

Newspaper endorsements inevitably ring arrogant in the minds of the majority of readers. But today, bear with us: at the risk of sounding overbearingly pompous, we've printed this to remind readers—some of whom honestly may not realize just how important the Supreme Court is to America. Sadly, it's not always something taught during middle or high school. Most of the time, we struggle just to keep our eyes open during the unit on the judicial system.

Too bad—because the Supreme Court, in particular, is fascinating. The nine justices who sit on the U.S. Supreme Court hold the fate of the country in their conference chambers. These judges hand down decisions with immense legal, social and moral implications.

With the death of Chief Justice William Rehnquist last year and crucial swing-vote Sandra Day O'Connor's impending retirement, President George W. Bush has an opportunity to nominate more than one justice to the bench, effectively leading the court in a decidedly conservative direction.

Like it or not, this is the president's constitutional prerogative—he did win the election, after all. Bush's first nominee, Judge John Roberts Jr., replaced Rehnquist as chief justice with nothing short of the proverbial red carpet rolled out for him; 78 out of 100 members of the Senate voted to confirm him.

Judge Samuel Alito, the nominee in line to replace O'Connor, has an undoubtedly rockier path ahead this week, thanks to the firestorm surrounding his unclear stance on Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

"Because Roe concerns issues that may well come before the

Supreme Court, it would be inappropriate for me to comment directly on it," he wrote in a response to questions submitted by six Senate Democrats during his five-day confirmation hearing last week.

This is an acceptable reply. For all the media's blather about how Alito's qualifications would herald the end of Roe v. Wade, it's highly unlikely that any justice will reverse that decision. The outraged social backlash alone would negate any positive feedback from anti-abortion supporters.

Instead of snaring the nominee in a circular debate about personal ethics, Alito's qualifications and history as a fair-minded, conscientious judge should be considered.

The Princeton graduate and Yale Law School alum has held prominent positions in the legal arena during his 30 years of experience. He was Assistant to Solicitor General Rex Lee for four years, during which he argued 12 cases in front of the Supreme Court for the federal government.

Alito served as deputy assistant to Attorney General Edwin Meese for two years. He was the United States attorney for New Jersey. Since 1990, he has been a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

And throughout his career, Alito has been lauded as thoughtful judge who interprets the law, not one who imposes his personal beliefs on others. Senate Democrats would do well to keep their veneer of professionalism in place this week and confirm Alito. At this point, staging a filibuster—especially in light of the president's acknowledgment of his inadequate choice in the Harriet Miers debacle—would simply be a petty power play.

Alito understands the Roberts treatment—he should be confirmed.

Students must be active in Party Plan decision

Thanks are in order for several groups of people following last week's Town and Gown Commission meeting regarding the Lexington Area Party Plan.

First, to the commission for recognizing that the plan needs revising, and listening to the concerns and opinions of residents and students. Furthermore, to students who attended the meeting and talked to the commission about the problems they see with the plan.

Students should also be sure to attend the commission's next meeting on Feb. 15, where the group will try to hammer out changes to the city ordinance. The commission is currently seeking feedback on the plan, and student input is critical.

One change we hope is obvious is the need to fine the offenders —

not the property. Currently, new tenants can move into a residence that has Party Plan violations hanging over it — meaning the new residents, who had nothing to do with breaking the rules of the Party Plan, are being punished for others' actions.

We also hope it quickly becomes clear for 11th District Councilman Richard Money how racially insensitive his remark was that "many of my constituents are Hispanic and they also fall under the Party Plan's jurisdiction." He said this to illustrate that the plan doesn't target UK students; instead, all this illustrates is a general ignorance of those same Hispanics who live in his district and are, apparently, unfairly affected by this city ordinance.

UK needs to acknowledge racist past to erase the stigma of 1966

Guest Column: Alan Aja, SG President, 1996-97

In the spring of 1997, while serving as the student representative on UK's Board of Trustees, I rode an elevator to the top of Patterson Office Tower to a private meeting amid buzzing and whispers that usually coincide with rumors. UK had just lost Rick Pitino to the NBA, and the replacement would be an African-American man from the University of Georgia named Tubby Smith.

Honored to be a representative on the board during this crucial turning point in UK history, I celebrated Tubby's blackness. Given UK's history of blatant and institutionalized racism, from academics to athletics, the institution had taken a turn for the better, so we thought.

However, as I sat among the UK elite, the message conveyed to me was: "let's downplay the race issue; he's the best person for the job, period." That Tubby Smith was the most qualified person for the position went without saying, but what Smith overcame to achieve such an esteemed position of leadership is a telling feat itself, especially in a national collegiate athletic system led, dominated and mostly consumed by whites (while unabashedly exploiting young people of color).

I recall a well-intentioned trustee convey-

ing the message that we were color-blind at UK, which I found hard to swallow as I looked around at the overwhelmingly all-white male board. Some posed the argument that a black coach's presence would serve as a role model to minority students, players and local Lexington urban youth whom for so long had seen so few like them in visible leadership positions. In this context, we asked, why can't "race" matter?

Life chances have brought me to Brooklyn, N.Y., where I finished a graduate degree and teach part-time at a local college. During the college basketball season, I often throw on Kentucky apparel and head to any local pubs or restaurants to watch and yell at the television. I often come across former frat boys who support opposing teams. "Kentucky sucks!" is the usual phrase I hear. "Scoreboard!" I give in and usually repeat if UK has taken a comfortable lead, having learned the chant during the few away games I attended during my collegiate years.

This past weekend, a fellow Kentucky-New York transplant brought to my attention the most recent Kentucky-centered debate. The film "Glory Road" was about to open nationwide, and the issues of race and Kentucky basketball were at the center of discussion once again. The Jan. 13 Kernel shared its views about the film's depiction of the 1966 NCAA Championship game. In the editorial, the Kernel admitted that coach Adolph Rupp did not

hold progressive views toward integration, but then suggested that there is no significant proof he was a racist. Furthermore, the tournament championship was not about race, but instead was just an "underdog's tale."

Once again, an institutional body is given a chance to set the record straight, perhaps even apologize on behalf of students for UK's past mistakes, but instead chose to play the same politics of denial some university officials played when Tubby Smith first came on board. It is true that it could have been any other all-white team losing to Texas Western, and that segregation was widespread and not endemic to UK's basketball program.

However, this possibility does not absolve UK's participation in a system of racial apartheid. To suggest that Rupp may not have been a racist but admit that he supported a system that segregates people based on ascriptive traits makes him, by default, a racist!

Today, many of us like to believe that we have socially and economically "progressed" since the boycotts, church meetings, marches and eventual re-distributive policies introduced during and after the civil rights movement. Seeing a few faces of color here and there makes many of us feel that we've moved forward, often alleviating any guilt of our actions of the past.

The reality is that we continue to perpetuate and live segregated lives while limiting blacks to roles (such as athletes and entertain-

ers) that won't interfere with white power and privilege. We've rolled back most of the measures needed to even begin full economic and social integration, with affirmative action on its last breath and an immigration policy arguably designed to exploit vulnerable immigrants while adversely impacting the lives of blacks and poor minorities in the job marketplace.

While it is true that past and present minority leaders of various U.S. institutions like Tubby Smith and many others worked their way into their respective positions like anyone else, the racial-ethnic barriers they overcame must not be muzzled and instead be seen as significant parts of their achievements. To be a color-blind nation we must first be color-sighted. Likewise, to argue that the historic moment in College Park, Md., in 1966 was just a game and had little to do with race and segregation is equally representative of American society's consistent refusal to try and understand the issue of historical and present institutionalized racism altogether. By first admitting to our racist practices rather than indulging in the feel-better politics of denial is one of the foremost steps we must take toward social and economic inclusion.

Alan Aja is a 1997 UK alumnus, and former SG president. He is an Adjunct Professor in Puerto Rican & Latino Studies at Brooklyn College-City University of New York. Email alanaja@yahoo.com



BRAD STURGEON, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fletcher doesn't belong in Rupp

For those who attended UK's game against South Carolina, you might have noticed that a usual face was absent. Gov. Ernie Fletcher.

Was the governor too embarrassed to come to UK after this week's budget address? Did President Todd not invite Gov. Fletcher to sit with him in the sixth row at Rupp? Hopefully, President Todd doesn't invite the governor to any more basketball games until Fletcher stops short-changing UK and post-secondary education.

Governor, increase your budget request for UK and post-secondary education. Gov. Fletcher, when we and the polls in 2007, we will remember that you were the reason that UK raised tuition this year. Education is an investment that Kentucky can't afford to forgo any longer.

THOMAS A. RAUF
UK College of Law

Scott is correct, but offensive

I share in Doug Scott's view that intelligent design theory does not belong in a science classroom. Aside from any other concerns, its basic principles are founded in religion. Therefore, it is properly relegated to other forums.

However, I feel that Mr. Scott has exceeded the boundaries of polite debate in his column by referring to the theory as "flawed design" and "divine science project in-progress." The fact that humans are not granted all imaginable abilities does not lead to the conclusion that the universe was not the product of an intelligent design. Given the often-imperfect nature of humans, it is no doubt a wise choice that our capabilities are, although impressive, also severely limited. After all, power corrupts, and the power humans have been granted has enough potential for abuse that one has to wonder why we should suppose that it was fallacy or foolishness not to grant us additional abilities.

Regardless, Mr. Scott has disgraced himself by resorting to derogatory slurs of the theory he opposes. The article's thesis is that intelligent design does not belong in the science classroom. Logic, not name-calling, is the proper tool to advance the thesis. His comments as to the intelligence of the theory itself are totally irrelevant, serving no purpose but to inflame tempers and ultimately dilute what might otherwise have been a logical argument.

JONATHAN MILBY
UK College of Law

Evolution is a theory too

I am a "Neo-Conservative Fundamentalist Protestant," at least that is what Mr. Doug Scott felt compelled to call me in his column on intelligent design. He also felt the need to call the Christians of America a "devious evil," simply because we hold different beliefs from him.

The central argument should have been about whether or not intelligent design should be taught in schools; instead, Mr. Scott took the liberty of denouncing the fundamental beliefs of Christians, saying that God's designing of the world was flawed, a "divine science project."

I was outraged at these insensitive comments. Besides the obvious anti-religious sentiments that Mr. Scott has, he also has a misguided belief about evolution. To him, intelligent design is an idea thought up by people who "refuse to accept scientific fact." Let me enlighten you by telling you that evolution is a theory! It has not been scientifically proven, ever.

There are no facts in this debate, just one theory against another. I won't debate Christianity here simply because it is not part of the argument. I remain strong in my presuppositions: God did create the earth. I wouldn't dare say that I knew how or how long because not only is it not my place but also because, to me it doesn't matter. But there are two sides to every coin and you can't teach just one side.

MEGAN VAZINA
political science & journalism sophomore

Submissions

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

E-MAIL opinions@kykernel.com

Note to Readers

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

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

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

Columnists Needed

The Kernel is looking for new columnists to write for the Opinions page on a regular basis.

Columnists of all interests will be considered, but The Kernel especially seeks those who have an interest in campus and local issues.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com if you are interested.

Cool Cats continue to impress under new coach

By Laura Nelligan
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The honeymoon continued over the weekend for new Cool Cats head coach Rob Docherty.

The team ran its record to 3-1 since its semester-break coaching change by sweeping Tennessee this weekend, 10-4 on Friday night and 9-5 Saturday.

Saturday night, newcomer Chris Protenic scored two goals in the second period and one in the third to complete a hat trick.

With four penalties under his belt, and the chance of being kicked out of the game, sophomore forward Kevin McQuaid netted two goals to help the Cool Cats win by four.

When the team entered the locker room after the first period with a 3-0 lead, it looked like the game might be no contest at all. But by the

team's own admission, the Cool Cats got a little overconfident and let the Vols come back.

"This team has a tendency to get pulled away from their game that way, and we have in the past," Docherty said. "I told them that the only way we're going to beat teams is to play all 60 minutes and to quit letting teams back in the game."

Protenic said it's going to take a little time to break the habit, but the Cool Cats (14-12-2) are trying hard.

"We're kind of a new team this semester, so you can't switch right away," Protenic said. "It's gonna take a little time developing good habits to get back in flow to play a complete game."

In the third period, the Vols made a comeback, scoring three goals in five minutes. But a fight between Protenic and a Tennessee player

helped rekindle the fire for UK.

"You go on streaks, and sometimes, you're down a little bit," McQuaid said. "Chris's fight pumped us up."

McQuaid said the spar made an immediate difference.

"The next shift, my line went out and scored a goal," McQuaid said. "And the shift after that, (Trevor) Reihling put one in. It definitely pumped us up."

Despite the fact that Tennessee isn't one of the toughest opponents they've played this season, the Cool Cats said they learned a little bit about themselves this weekend.

"You learn about your own maturity," Protenic said. "If you are a good, consistent and solid team, you're going to play the exact same all the time."

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Tennis holds own against ranked foes

By Chris Miles
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Last week, UK men's tennis coach Dennis Emery called the Southeastern Conference "clearly" the best conference in the nation.

Emery's Cats experienced the truth behind that proclamation first-hand as they hosted the SEC's Indoor Championship over the weekend.

UK, ranked No. 21 in the nation, had seven players in the tournament and advanced three to the round of 16 in singles play, as well as two duos into the quarterfinal round of doubles. But that's where the tournament ended for UK.

"We had a good tournament," Emery said. "It's always great early in the year to see how we stack up against the best teams."

The SEC has four teams in the nation's top 10, with Florida and Georgia at Nos. 2 and 3, respectively. Four more SEC teams are in the top 25.

"I think we had a good start to this half of the season," said Nate Emge, who is ranked No. 43 in the nation. "We have a lot of young guys and I think we competed well. But we have a long way to go before we can compete against the best teams out there."

The tournament might not have had a winning outcome for UK, but the team still saw it as a learning experience.

"It definitely helps to see how we can compete with the other SEC guys," Alex Hume, ranked No. 61, said. "It definitely helps you to develop," he said. "Every time you play, you have a chance to move up in the rankings."

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cmiles@kykernel.com

singles and was also part of one of the groups to make it to the quarterfinals of doubles action.

"UK overall did a really great job," Hume said. "We got a lot of guys advanced to the next rounds."

Emery said the tournament gave the Cats crucial experience.

"Everyone in the conference and at this tournament is really good," Emery said. "It gets very intense. We played well against the competition. We have some players that have really developed."

Emge agreed that the competition was good for UK.



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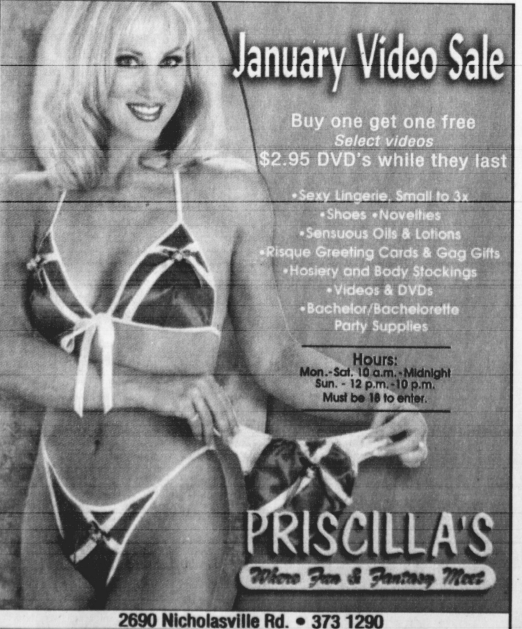
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