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PHOTOS BY BRAD LUTTRELL | STAFF
Nikolai, 9, and Chloe, 5, play with their dad, Ben Wagener, before he takes them to class with him in the Business and Economics Building. Wagener says if he doesn't let his kids burn off some energy, they can't sit still during his class.

31-year-old student balances studies and family in the classroom

By Brad Luttrell
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Sitting down to study, Ben Wagener pulls out his calculator, calculus book, a hardback about medieval adventures and two Ziploc bags of dry cereal.

Most days when Wagener reviews for class he only brings his reading and a folder with his notes. But on days when Fayette County Public Schools aren't in session, his backpack is filled with coloring books, snacks and stuffed animals to help entertain his children.

Two hours before his next class, 31-year-old Wagener sits in the Business and Economics Building's lobby, somewhat glancing over his reading for accounting. But mostly he answers questions from his 5-year-old daughter, Chloe, about the alphabet and makes his 9-year-old son, Nikolai, laugh with what he and his sister

thought was a poor sketch of their pet Beta Fish.

"It's one of the few moments I get to spend with my kids," Wagener said.

While working toward a business degree, Wagener is taking 12 credit hours and working about 33 hours a week in the presses at the Lexington Herald-Leader. He usually gets two to four hours of sleep a night — and even less time with his children.

"On work days I get to spend about an hour and 15 minutes total (with the kids)," Wagener said. "(I get) the hour in the morning when we're rushing to get dressed and the fifteen minutes when they get back from day care before I get to work."

But a manic schedule, unhealthy sleep habits and minimal time with his kids doesn't discourage Wagener. They are the reason he wears himself thin. He isn't able to spend the time



Ben Wagener holds his daughter, Chloe, while listening to his teacher go over calculus homework in the Chemistry and Physics Building on April 4.

he would like with his kids — but he hopes his degree will help him better support his family and ensure his children the chance to earn their own in the future.

Nikolai and Chloe both attend public school and Wagener's other daughter Kalea, 2, goes to Cherish

The Child Day Care. Both third grader Nikolai and Chloe, who is enrolled in a pre-school program with UK, were on Spring Break during the first week of April.

Knowing an absence from his classes wouldn't be excused, Wagener

See **Wagener** on page 5

Students trek to Tenn. for refugee awareness

By Autumn Harbison
news@kykernel.com

Instead of celebrating the end of the semester or filling their weekend with books and notes, some UK students will be building a shelter out of cardboard and eating saltine crackers.

Students and members of the Lexington community will be displacing themselves to Nashville Saturday in conjunction with the student-run Invisible Children organization. The goal of the event is that participants will get a sense of the hardships displaced children face in Northern Uganda.

The event, "Displace Me," will give Americans an opportunity to respond to the situation in Uganda.

"We're showing America the magnitude of what these people have been enduring for ten years."

MARY RICHIE
geography senior

Mary Richie, a geography senior who has been heavily involved in organizing the local trip to Nashville. "Even if you think you don't have much, someone else has less."

Participants on the overnight event are asked to bring water, saltines, a sleeping bag and enough cardboard to build a shelter the size of a tent. They will be asked to give up the food and water, which will be redistributed later in the event. People who have lived in Ugandan displacement camps will give testimonials throughout the event.

About 100 people from Lexington are expected to travel to Nashville, and at least 50 of those are UK students, Richie said. The group will assemble at 9 a.m. Saturday behind Memorial Coliseum to travel to Nashville where they will meet up with groups from other Kentucky universities.

As of Wednesday, nearly 2,700 people had signed up to participate in Displace Me at Nashville alone with almost 60,000 scheduled to participate nationwide, according to the official Displace Me Web site. Last year, the number of people signed up doubled the day of the event.

Many students have been reluctant to participate with finals coming up, Richie said.

"Our biggest struggle has been that this is the week before finals," Richie said. "We want people to experience what it's like for the child-

See **Displace** on page 5

UK surpasses \$1 billion fundraising goal

STAFF REPORT

UK passed its \$1 billion dollar capital fundraising mark less than nine years after the start of the campaign and with nine months remaining in the scheduled time.

"I think this accomplishment shows the nation something a lot of us have known for a long time: the University of Kentucky has great friends," said UK President Lee Todd in a press release. "I am very proud of the work that has been done for us to reach this monumental mark, but I am most proud of what these dollars mean to the Commonwealth of Kentucky."

The campaign has accumulated \$1,022 billion. A majority of the individual donations — \$235 million worth — came in amounts between \$100,000 and \$500,000, according to a news release.

The campaign will continue for the remaining nine months "because we still face significant needs, particularly in the areas of undergraduate scholarships and public service efforts," Richie said in a release.

He added that UK is the first university to reach a \$1 billion goal in its first capital campaign.

'Remember the Titans' coach hopes to inspire black Ky. high schoolers

By J.D. Williams
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When Herman Boone walked into T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Va. as the head football coach for the first time in 1971, he made himself vulnerable to the tensions of being the first black coach in a newly integrated school system.

Now, 36 years later, he will walk into Lexington's Heritage Hall as a motivator and the keynote speaker in the 22nd annual Black Achievers banquet.

"Boone will express the message we are trying to get across to the students," said Freddie Brown, executive director of the Black Achievers' Lexington branch. "That message is raising the bar in excellence and overcoming."

Boone's story became popular in

2000 after the release of the film "Remember the Titans." Boone took over as head coach at T.C. Williams after the school integrated, replacing Bill Yoast, a popular white coach.

Tomorrow he will tell his story, and try to offer hope to high school seniors preparing for college.

"He had a great deal of prejudice, and (dealt with) being seen as inferior while being a coach," Brown said. "But he overcame and got people to work together to accomplish their goal."

Lisa Brown, the director of student and multicultural affairs in the School of Journalism and Telecommunications,

has not seen the movie that made Boone a household name, but she is still excited about hearing him speak.

"Coach Boone is going to be phenomenal and his story is going to inspire our youth," she said.

Lisa Brown also was a Black Achiever while in high school and is still active with the program. She serves on the board of directors for Black Achievers and said UK has a significant role in the program.

"UK supports Black Achievers by giving money that is used for scholarship such as the William C. Parker scholarship," she said.

Boone's agent, Michael Rosenberg, says that his client speaks almost once a week at various functions across the nation.

"He usually speaks to colleges, corporations and a lot of non-profit organizations," Rosenberg said. "He really runs the gamut."

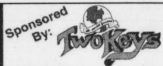
The banquet is open to the public. Tickets for the event are \$75 per person or \$750 for a table. To purchase tickets or for more information about the banquet the public can contact Jennifer Stubbfield at 859-226-0393.

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



Horoscopes

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

Aries (March 21-April 19) Today is a 9 — You're getting into the difficult part of the project, but don't complain. This is the work you've been trained to do, and you'll profit well by it.
Taurus (April 20-May 20) Today is a 6 — A loved one may not understand why you don't want to take the risk. Your intuition is good if you're feeling a gamble now leads to a loss.
Gemini (May 21-June 21) Today is a 6 — You'll get your best ideas in your own private space. Now's a great time to find a way to work out of your own home. You'll be lot

more productive, and happier.
Cancer (June 22-July 22) Today is a 6 — Friends are good for emotional support, and some good ideas. Not everything they suggest will work, however. Use your own common sense.
Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Today is a 6 — The good news is that you're making money. The bad news is that a dear friend or loved one wants to help you spend it. Resist the sweet temptation. Don't gamble yet, either.
Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is an 8 — There'll be a few things you want to change about your living arrangements. This is perfectly normal. Your life is a work in progress.
Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today is a 5 — Cleaning up takes precedence now. Get rid of stuff you don't need. Make enough room for a new project to develop, the first of the week.
Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today is a 6 — Before you leave the job ear-

ly, make sure you have what's coming due. If you pick up the tab tonight, expect to find hidden expenses.
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is an 8 — You're making a good impression and could get a nice promotion. Don't hold out for more money yet. That will come later.
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today is a 7 — You may not get far away from home this weekend, but you can take a practice run to a place you'll enjoy immensely. Don't just sit around.
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today is a 5 — Conditions are good for investing in real estate, if you have the cash. If not, well, maybe next time. Instead, start saving up.
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is a 6 — New situations often lead to new problems. Such is the case now. Work out a compromise or two, to avoid meltdowns.

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the DISH

By Jessica Mehalic

On the night of April 13, Prince William behaved like any newly single 24-year-old with places to party and money to burn. Accompanied by several male friends and his royal security team, the second in line to the English throne hit London hot spot Mahiki shortly after 11 p.m. Waiting for them at their private table were six magnums of Dom Perignon at almost \$400 a pop. "William seemed well up for a wild night out," a Mahiki club source tells us. "His friends were in a rowdy mood, patting him on the back and calling him a 'ledge' [short for "legend"] after he did three shots in a row." When the prince wasn't regaling his pals with stories and toasting to "good times and new memories," he was text-messaging on his phone or doing the robot dance on top of his chair. Racking up a nearly \$10,000 bar tab, the lively group decided to call it a night at 3:30 a.m. As for William, "he was struggling to stand up," the club source tells us.

Meanwhile, William's former girlfriend, Kate Middleton, opted to remain more low-key, knowing the news would break several hours later that the couple of four years had split the previous weekend. According to U.K.'s Sunday Mirror, the woman who Britons and Americans alike were certain was going to be the next queen of England smiled but refused to comment as she left her parents' Berkshire home with her younger and only sister Philippa on April 14. Still, the happy face was probably for show. "It's been a huge surprise

ROYAL DISENGAGEMENT

After four years, Prince William can't commit to Kate Middleton, dashing her hopes of one day becoming queen

to everyone," a Middleton insider says of the breakup. "Their friends and family are shocked." Alas, the relationship wasn't destined for the altar. "Kate wanted an assurance that there was going to be a future for them, and William wasn't ready to give that," says the Middleton source. "His family advised him not to rush into things, and so in the end, he couldn't give her what she wanted." Not totally unexpected considering William once said, "I don't want to get married until I'm at least 28 or maybe 30."

"Babykins" (his pet name for her). "Kate never felt like William put her in first place," says the former classmate. The prince was even a no-show on her January 9 birthday and has been spotted partying at nightclubs in Bournemouth, near the training camp, with his Army pals until 4 a.m.

Like Father, Like Son?

Still, William's breakup with Middleton ("the first love of William's life," as one of Princess Diana's best friends, Lana Marks, tells us) may be a case of history repeating itself. Growing up, Charles, 58, was romantically associated with many, though it was Camilla Shand, the duchess of Cornwall and now his second wife, who supposedly captured his heart. Tired of waiting for a marriage proposal, Shand married English military officer Andrew Parker Bowles in 1973, and Charles got hitched to 29-year-old Lady Diana Spencer (12 years his junior) eight years later.

Chance of Reunion


In true British fashion, both William and Middleton have stayed tight-lipped on the demise of their relationship. "They will remain friends, 100 percent," the St. Andrews alumnus tells us, adding, "Could the two ever get back together? I wouldn't rule out reconciliation in the future," confides the schoolmate. "Every-one used to talk about how they were the perfect couple. I can't see their love or chemistry totally disappearing."


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HOME VISITOR

THE GAME

He comes home at night at 8 after working out, and he's so exhausted. He just wants to take a shower and eat dinner, but he'd have all these text messages to reply to."

— Deanne Patchen, mother of Matthew Patchen, who is considered the top offensive line prospect in the nation, on text messaging

What can't Brown do for the Cats?

Whether he's at bat, guarding a base or in the outfield, Mike Brown has found success as a junior college transfer

By Jordan Bishop
sports@kykernel.com

It isn't stroking fastballs to right field or flashing his versatile glove that most excites Mike Brown. It's the moments before the game he spends checking head coach John Cohen's scorecard.

He often has no idea what to expect — and he has no problem with that. "If I can help my team out in right field or in second base, I'll do it," Brown said. "It is a lot better winning and being uncomfortable in a position than losing and feeling good about it."

The Cats are winning — with a 28-12-1 record — and Brown has a lot to do with that. In 41 games, Brown leads the team with a .411 average and .528 on base percentage, and he is second in hits with 58 as the Cats head into a three-game series against Georgia tonight.

While his offense continues to produce, Brown is also playing right field. Or left field. Or second base. And sometimes he's a designated hitter and other times, a pinch hitter.

As good as Brown's season has been so far, getting there has taken him a long way.

Coming out of high school in Davis, Calif., Brown, who is naturally a second baseman, was too short at 5-foot-9 inches to receive any Division-I offers. Brown said that he was better at football than baseball, but his love was baseball.

So he went to one of the only places that wanted him: Cuesta Junior College in San Luis Obispo, Calif. During his two years there, he led the Panthers in

seven offensive categories.

After that, he was given the chance to play at UK, the only Southeastern Conference school to offer him a scholarship. But when he came to UK, Brown had to sit behind All-American second baseman John Shelby.

At-bats and playing time were rare for Brown during that time. Shelby finished his career with 18 home runs, and he was a 5th round selection by the Chicago White Sox.

But Brown didn't get discouraged. Instead, he waited patiently and never complained about his role on the team.

"It's part of life," Brown said. "You are going to have some struggles in your life, and I'm certainly no different. I knew I would get my chance here, and I just wanted to make the most of it."

When his opportunity for playing time arrived, Brown focused on the season and the obstacles he still had to face.

He has earned playing time thanks to his hard-nosed play and defensive versatility.

Brown has started 35 games for the Cats in a variety of roles, and he embraces his role as a utility player.

"Utility players are definitely starting to get a lot of respect," Brown said. "There is certainly a need and a call for them, but I'm just happy to be out there on the field, really."

Being a utility player keeps Brown on his toes, and there isn't a position he wouldn't play outside of catcher, he said.

His teammates appreciate him for his willingness to do whatever is needed.

See Brown on page 4



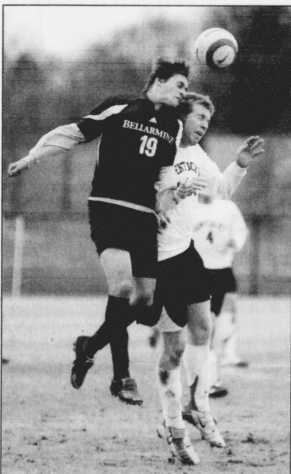
Senior utility player, a junior-college transfer from San Luis Obispo, Calif., has notched a .411 average and .528 base percentage in 41 games. He has played a variety of positions and now starts for the Cats.

ED MATTHEWS STAFF

Soccer team springs back into action

UK has something to prove after last season's tournament snub

By Chris Miles
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ELIOTT HESS / STAFF

UK defender Nathan Marks vies for control of the ball in an April 12 scrimmage against Bellarmine. The team has used the spring training to work on individual technique.

The men's soccer team has more motivation than ever heading into its spring training.

The team was shocked when, despite finishing the regular season ranked No. 13, it was omitted from the NCAA Tournament.

"We got screwed last year," said junior defender Nathan Marks. "And we're using that to our advantage."

Looking to prove to the nation that UK did in fact belong in the NCAA tournament last year, junior defender Andrew Alexander said that he and the Cats have practiced harder than ever before. The team has played six friendly matches against regional teams, and they are working harder on the practice field and in the weight room, Alexander said.

To add to the tough workouts has been a spring that has seen heavy rain, snow and ice.

"We're walking past the football team as they're going into Nutter (Fieldhouse) and we're walking out into the cold," Alexander said. "We're a pretty determined team."

Over the past few weeks, the team has reassessed how to de-

velop as a team. The Cats have lost most of last season's offensive firepower in forward Riley O'Neill and attacking midfielder Michael D'Agostino. The players combined scored 23 goals last season.

"Some of the younger guys will now need to step up," Marks said. "It'll be tough to replace them."

O'Neill led the team and Conference USA in scoring, and he set a school record with 17 goals last season. He now plays professionally in Germany.

"The first question mark for the team, and rightfully so, will be who will be replacing Riley," Collins said.

All the team's attacking players are young, but there is still enough experience to create scoring threats for the Cats, Collins said. To make up for a deficiency on the offensive side, the team has focused more on its defense.

"We've really made strides with our back four," Collins said of Alexander, Marks and sophomores-to-be Barry Rice and Matt Weiler. "Our defense is really only getting better."

The experience of the defense will be the foundation of the team this season, Collins

said.

Not only will the back four defenders be effective for the Cats, but the two goalies — sophomore-to-be Dan Williams, who started the season for UK last year, and junior-to-be Matt Troop, who ended the season in the box for the Cats — are competing for the starting position.

"Every single day they both battle for the top spot," Alexander said.

Another unknown for the Cats next season is junior forward Michael Strong.

Strong was arrested Feb. 4 on rape charges and was suspended from the team indefinitely. On Tuesday the charges were dropped, but Collins said Strong's future has yet to be determined.

Strong played in 21 games last season and had four goals and two assists.

"He's definitely a loss," Alexander said. "But you're more concerned about him personally than what will happen to the team. Hopefully he'll find a spot on the field again."

With a sense of redemption as the theme for the upcoming season, Collins said that he thinks his team will be motivated and ready.

But it won't be easy.

"I think any season is hard," Collins said. "There are no easy games ever. We need to show up and play well every game."

SPORTS TRIVIA

Jackie Robinson

- 1) In how many World Series did Jackie Robinson participate with the Brooklyn Dodgers?
- 2) When Major League Baseball commissioner Bud Selig retired Jackie Robinson's No. 42 forever during Robinson's 50th anniversary in 1997, which two players were allowed to keep the number on their jerseys?
- 3) Where was Jackie Robinson born?
- 4) In what year was Jackie Robinson inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame?
- 5) What Academy Award-winning actor is planning to produce a new movie on Jackie Robinson?

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

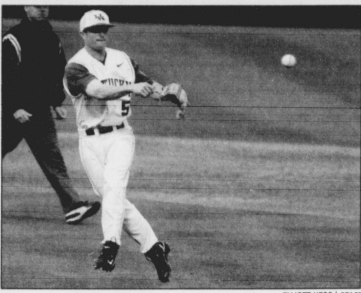


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ELLIOTT HESS | STAFF
Mike Brown throws to first base during UK's 9-6 loss to Morehead State on April 18. Brown has played both as a baseman and in the outfield.

BROWN

Continued from Page 1

ed. "Having Mike's leadership and hard-will definitely rubs off on our team," said junior infielder Ryan Wilkes. "He treats every practice situation like it's a game, and he really lifts all of our spirits up."

One more reason Brown has had to make adjustments this season is injuries. Junior outfielder Collin Cowgill has been sidelined since the beginning of the season with a wrist injury.

That forced Brown to help out in left and right field, where he has made 21 starts.

"I wouldn't say Mike replaced Collin," head coach John Cohen said. "He just stepped up his game to help us do good things."

In Wednesday's game against Louisville, Brown started at designated hitter for only the fourth time this season, and he went 2-for-3 with a home run in helping the Cats to a 9-5.

In those four games at designated hitter, Brown is 8-for-14 with 10 runs scored and two RBIs. Although Cohen said Brown isn't the typical DH, it was just another example of him taking up a new role for the team.

"Mike is just one of those guys that does whatever it takes to win games," Cohen said. "He steals bases when you need him to. He gets hits when you need him to. And he gets walks when you need him to."

"Michael is such an over-achiever, a tremendous competitor and he does everything as hard he can."

Nigerian-born Louisville star Okoye will be in NFL at 19 — with a degree

By Alan Schmadke
The Orlando Sentinel

All his life, Louisville defensive tackle Amobi Okoye felt like a perfect fit.

Friends were friends, teammates were teammates and he always felt a part of the crowd. It didn't matter that he was younger than everybody else. He was smart and, eventually, he was big.

"I've never really seen myself as being younger than everybody else," Okoye said. "I've always seen myself in the grade I'm at."

He's in the big-boy grade now. Come Saturday, he'll be in the NFL.

At age 19. Yep, 19. "I can't imagine getting through school, getting through college, at 19," said James Harris, Jacksonville's vice president for player personnel and a former NFL starting quarterback.

There's no more "getting" for Okoye. He has. By switching his major from biology to psychology, he secured a course load to be able to graduate early from Louisville. He finished his degree in less than four years before Louisville's trip to the Orange Bowl after the 2006 season.

Since then, he has come to realize all too clearly he was no ordinary college student-athlete, beyond even an issue of age. Okoye's combination of size, speed and experience makes him a coveted prospect. Not only is he projected as an early first-day pick in this weekend's draft, some draft boards have him as the top defensive tackle on the board.

Never mind he can't legally sip champagne to celebrate. If Okoye is picked Saturday, he'll be the second-youngest man taken since the NFL merger in 1970, older (by one day) than Florida A&M's Jamie Nails when he was selected in 1997.

Okoye doesn't play — or act — young. His unusual maturity in someone so young has been refreshing for more than one NFL executive who talked to him over the past four months. Just don't look for the league to back away from keeping college players in school until after their third seasons.

"He's more the exception than the rule," Arizona General Manager Rod Graves said. "There are some guys who can play early, but I think that number is very limited."

Detroit Coach Rod Marinelli considers him a solid addition for a 3-4 defense. Okoye has a low center of gravity, a big plus in rushing the passer, and absorbs double-teams, freeing up linebackers.

"His ability says that he is ready to compete," Harris said. "He plays with strength, leverage. There's no reason to think that he's not ready."

There's a good reason Okoye felt comfortable with all the world around him being older: It's always been that way.

Okoye was born in Nigeria, and his mother was a school principal. When his mom couldn't find someone trustworthy to watch her son, she started taking him to work. Not surprisingly, he found his way to a classroom. He was 2.

A decade later, his family moved to Huntsville, Ala. School administrators looked at his birth certificate and consented to let him into the eighth grade (he had skipped sixth grade). Okoye

bailed; he already had passed the eighth grade.

A principal gave him a two-week tryout as a ninth-grader and — voila! — he started high school at age 12.

At Louisville — Okoye picked the Cardinals over Harvard because of football — then-Cardinals Coach Bobby Petrino said he wouldn't play his 16-year-old defensive lineman until he was ready to shave. A week later, the coach bought the player a razor. "I knew he was serious, but deep inside he wanted me to play," Okoye said. "I went out there and proved myself, and he went and got me a razor."

The transition from high school to college was made easier by his size: He grew to 6 feet 2 and 317 pounds.

Okoye, a friend of but no relation to former Kansas City Chiefs running back Christian Okoye (nicknamed "Nigerian Nightmare" because of his punishing running style), was the Big East's defensive player of the year as a senior. It came about, Petrino said, because he agreed to drop weight, improve his conditioning and stay on the field for longer periods of time. He shed 12 pounds (to 305) but lost none of his power.

"He can hold his ground at the point of attack," said Tennessee offensive lineman Arron Sears, who went head-to-head with Okoye at the Senior Bowl. "He'll be able to hold his ground (in the NFL)."

"The first thing that really will help Amobi is that he is very intelligent," said Petrino, now the coach of the Atlanta Falcons. "He is a real student of the game, so he understands blocking schemes. He knows how to attack pass protection. ... The thing you don't know is how much bigger he is going to continue to get. We asked him to drop weight so he would be quicker and play more snaps."

Elias Sports Bureau figures show that the youngest person picked in the NFL draft since the merger was Nails a decade ago, at 19 years, 321 days old. Saturday, Okoye will be 19 years, 322 days.

A record still is available, though: If Okoye plays in any of the first three games of the 2007 season, he'll become the youngest player to appear in an NFL game since the merger.

All of this, though, belabors a point not even Okoye cares about. He's over it.

"It got to a point where I got tired of everybody asking," he said. "(But) I've come to realize it is my story. It's my life."

Despite his youth and despite his level of success, Okoye is comfortable with the NFL's age limits. Former Ohio State running back Maurice Clarett sued the NFL over its rules and lost in federal court. Interestingly, Okoye is younger now than Clarett would've been had he been allowed into the draft as a sophomore. Okoye espouses schoolwork.

"I think those (age) rules are good," he said. "Every kid who has a chance and ability to go to college should go. I think college is a life-changing experience. ... You get to find yourself. I'm still finding myself out. I really think everybody should go to college if you have the chance and opportunity."

Besides, Okoye is already planning to go back to college, to grad school. This time he wants to attend Harvard.

In Cambridge, Mass., he might not be the youngest person in his class. But he likely would be the biggest.

SPORTS BRIEFS

NCAA bans text messages to recruits

New UK men's basketball head coach Billy Gillispie might have to rethink his recruiting tactics.

Yesterday, the NCAA Division I Board of Directors approved a proposal that eliminates the use of text messaging when coaches look to recruit prospective student-athletes. The ban of text messaging will begin Aug. 1 and could be revised in early 2008.

The NCAA said the ban was important because it stops NCAA recruiting policy abuses and erases a loophole in the policy that states coaches cannot initiate phone calls with recruiting prospects. The NCAA said that one of the primary abuses of this policy were text messages from coaches saying "call me" to recruits.

After being announced as the head coach of UK, Gillispie said that he sends about 8,000 text messages a month to prospects.

Laser eye surgery helps LSU receiver gain focus

AKRON, Ohio — Not long after LSU receiver Dwayne Bowe finds his NFL home, his agent might be scanning the Yellow Pages for laser eye surgery centers.

Not because Bowe needs the procedure, but because it helped elevate him into a possible first-round pick, and he would seem to be the perfect pitcher.

Until last July, Bowe struggled to play football wearing contacts. He was known for being fearless going across the middle, but the hard hits that he absorbed often jarred the lenses loose. Until he could get to the sideline, he couldn't see the ball.

Then last summer, Bowe decided on the surgery and was immediately glad he did.

"I can see the white lines, the grids. I can see the NCAA sign and everything," he said.

NFL Draft analysts said Bowe made big strides after the procedure. Bowe emerged as quarterback JaMarcus Russell's go-to guy and finished the season with 65 catches for 990 yards and 12 touchdowns, a dramatic improvement from his 41 receptions for 710 yards and nine touchdowns as a junior.

In October, ESPN's Mel Kiper Jr. considered Bowe a third-round prospect, now he lists him as the third-best receiver behind Calvin Johnson of Georgia Tech and Ted Ginn Jr. of Ohio State.

— Marla Ridenour, Akron Beacon Journal

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WAGENER

Continued from Page 1

found himself with few options of what to do with his children. "Spring Break was bad, we didn't have nobody to drop them off with," Wagener said. "Everybody we know was going out of town."

His wife, Michelle Wagener, works full time at the UK Faculty Care Dental Clinic as a dental assistant and can't help during the day. Their only other option is Wagener's uncle, who lives in Versailles and cares for his three grandchildren.

"I know everybody else has their kids," Wagener said. "I'm not going to drop off two more."

Wagener has brought his children with him to class nine times this year. Seven of the days were during spring break and snow days, and the other two were because his children were sick.

"(With) day cares, basically, if they're running a fever over a certain temperature, they can't be there," Wagener said. "If they're not gonna be there, then where they gonna be? What am I gonna do?"

When these situations come up, it's not a hard decision. This is about the entire family, not just his degree, Wagener said.

"Family has to be important," he said. "I'm doing this to better myself and provide for them."

Wagener calls himself a "nontraditional, nontraditional student." He joined the Air Force out of high school, and shortly after met Airman Michelle Waller.

"The words out of my supervisor's mouth were, 'Don't talk to Airman Wagener,'" said

his now wife. "So of course, what do I do? I go talk to him. We were engaged in six weeks and married in four months."

Wagener and his wife spent the next 10 years living in two countries, three states and a U.S. territory while having three children. After the birth of their third child, Kalea, Wagener's enlistment was up. He learned that if he stayed in the Air Force he would spend the next year in a desert.

"I had a six-month-old," Wagener said. "She wouldn't have known who I was when I came back."

"We got out."

But the transfer to civilian life wasn't easy. "We flew into Chicago, I spent four days with my dad and then we jumped in the truck and headed to Lexington with a phone book in hand," Wagener said.

The family decided on Lexington as a compromise between living in the North and the South. Wagener found a job as a dental lab technician but it didn't last very long — he was replaced by two younger students willing to work for less. He found himself drawing unemployment for six months while he applied to nearly 40 jobs, looking for almost anything to bring home a pay check.

"I talked to every dental lab in town," Wagener said. "I applied for human resource manager at Toys-R-Us and to do the mortgage at the bank."

He received nearly the same response to each one.

"Everything was either A, you're overqualified, or B, you don't have a bachelor's," Wagener said. "So we fixed the B."

Wagener said he was qualified for the jobs he was applying



PHOTOS BY BRAD LUTTRELL | STAFF

Ben Wagener studies in the Business and Economics Building, while his daughter Chloe stretches across the table to ask him a question and his son, Nikolai, reads a book.

for because of training with the Air Force. The only thing stopping him was his lack of a college degree.

But the final factor on Wagener's decision to earn a degree was Nikolai, Chloe and Kalea. He needs a diploma so he can pay for his children to get theirs.

"I got three kids to put through school when they're ready so I need a job that pays so I can save money for that," Wagener said.

Wagener wants to get his master's in personal finance and be finished with school. But his wife isn't sure she ever wants to stop taking classes or learning.

"To me, it's like a way of life. If I don't take classes it doesn't feel right," Michelle Wagener said. "When I do finish my bachelor's, I think I'll take classes for fun. I've always wanted to learn."

Whether the kids are in a classroom or not, the Wageners believe in instilling the value of education in their children. They

try to teach them, even if it means taking time from their own studying to help their kids.

"(When studying) I'm there the whole time with them, but if I'm not there half of the time mentally then they're not getting what they need," Wagener said. "I'm playing student and teacher."

Any day he brings his children to campus, he comes as early as he does when he studies alone.

Despite the challenges of raising three kids, earning an income and trying to get a degree, Wagener still remembers to set aside moments to pay attention to what's important.

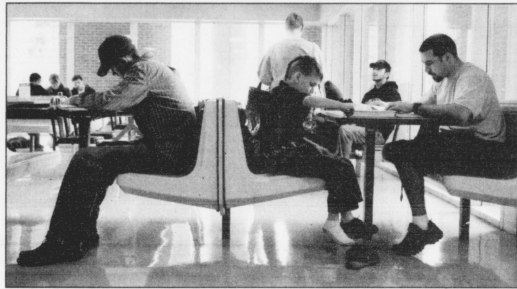
During his calculus class, Wagener sits a few rows from the front of Room 253 in the Chemistry and Physics Building with about 20 other students. Just like all the other students, he takes notes and listens to the professor and copies down the homework answers from the board.

From the row in front of him, Chloe turns around and puts her chin on his desk — a definite sign of her boredom. He looks up from his notes and makes a puffed face. She smiles.

The professor pays the two no mind and keeps teaching. Some of the students glance over and smile, others act as though they don't even notice. Chloe climbs through the back of her chair, onto the floor and up to Wagener's lap, where she clings to his neck.

Wagener keeps writing, and Chloe sits on his knee for the rest of class.

"I want (my children) to see how hard we are doing it," Wagener said. "My wife does on-line classes, and I'm at school all day and working all night. I tell them all the time, they're going to school first, before they do anything else."



Ben Wagener, far right, a nontraditional student, studies in the Business and Economics Building on April 4. His son and daughter were on Spring Break that week and had to come to class with Wagener for three days.

DISPLACE

Continued on Page 1

children in Uganda. If you have to study, come and study by candlelight."

Michael Dilly, a business freshman working with the Invisible Children group, said he got involved with this cause after seeing the documentary that started the movement. He encouraged other students to get involved as well.

"It just takes a little time and willingness to do it, he said. "I could be spending my time with friends or taking a day off. I really want to help."

Richie said her motto is that compassion without action is meaningless.

"People think it is impossible to change things so they give up and stop caring," she said. "One person is able to make a change. I have faith in people that they can do that."

More information on Saturday's Displace Me event is available at an event Web site (myspace.com/ilexingtonky) or by contacting the local Invisible Children group at ukinvisiblechildren@yahoo.com or displacemeuk@gmail.com.

Democratic candidates gang up on Bush, war

By Steven Thomma
MCCLEATHY NEWSPAPERS

ORANGEBURG, S.C. — Candidates for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination eyed each other pointedly — even warily — Thursday in their first face-to-face debate, a session that offered little likelihood of dramatically shaking up the young campaign.

The eight candidates differed sharply with President Bush, particularly on Iraq, but seldom with one another. The format did not allow them to directly challenge each other — and few did.

Rather, they mostly agreed in their desire to get U.S. troops out of Iraq, to expand health care to the uninsured while controlling costs for those with insurance, to support abortion rights without qualification, and to bar access to guns for the mentally ill like the gunman who killed 32 at Virginia Tech.

Absent direct challenges — or any pronounced gaffes — the debate probably did nothing to fundamentally change the shape of the contest with Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York, Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois and former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina leading in the polls and the rest trailing well behind.

Campaign aides said afterward that they saw little in the debate that would dramatically

alter the political landscape — though each predictably said that his or her own candidate did very well.

Mark Penn, senior strategist to the Clinton campaign, said it was too early to expect direct attacks that would turn off voters just getting to know the candidates. "Now is not the time for sharp exchanges," he said.

The debate was the first of a fast-developing campaign in a party desperate to pick a winner who can retake the White House from the Republicans in November 2008 — an eagerness underscored by the thousands who have gathered for unusually early rallies, and the tens of thousands writing checks to finance campaigns.

Sponsored by the South Carolina Democratic Party, the 90-minute debate was moderated by NBC newsmen Brian Williams on the campus of South Carolina State University.

Iraq dominated the early questioning, coming just hours after the Senate voted to mandate the withdrawal of U.S. troops starting in October. All four sitting senators running for the nomination voted for the ordered withdrawal.

All candidates said they supported troop removal. Obama stressed that he was proud to have opposed the war from the start when he was a state senator.

Two candidates refused to say whether they agreed with the

recent assertion by Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., the Senate majority leader, that the Iraq war is "lost."

Clinton sidestepped the issue but said she was "proud" of Reid's leadership. Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware also refused to comment on Reid's assertion. "This is not a game show," he said.

Despite their opposition to the war, none of the candidates would join fellow candidate Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio in urging impeachment of Vice President Dick Cheney.

On health care, all propose finding ways to cover the nation's 47 million uninsured while controlling costs. They differed on the need to raise taxes to pay for their proposals.

Edwards said he would raise taxes on those making more than \$200,000 to finance his proposed coverage of the uninsured. Clinton said she would not add any new spending — presumably meaning she would not add new taxes. Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico flatly ruled out raising taxes.

Several candidates including Biden, Clinton and Richardson also said they want to curb access to guns by the mentally ill in the wake of the Virginia Tech massacre.

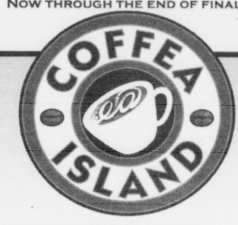
But Richardson cautioned against going too far to regulate guns. "I'm a Westerner," he said. "The Second Amendment is precious in the West."

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Wig party to raise money for cancer

By Melissa Scott
news@kykernel.com

Wigs and charity will come together this weekend for chemotherapy patients.

Wig Out Inc. will host their third annual Wig Out Party Saturday at 540 E. Second St. at 8 p.m.

The Wig Out Party is a fundraiser that helps raise money for the purchase of wigs for local chemotherapy patients who are undergoing treatment and have lost their hair.

"Every one stands around in crazy wigs," said Greg Feeney, president of Wig Out Inc. "Besides raising money, it is just a fun and uplifting time."

Tickets for the party are \$40 in advance or \$50 at the door. Those who come without a wig will be required to pay an additional \$50 fee.

The first party was started by friends of Ninfa Floyd to show their support for her fight against cancer.

"She (Ninfa) was right in the throws of her chemotherapy, just when she was losing all of her hair and we decided that we wanted to help,"

Feeney said.

A group of about 60 of her friends got together and decided to have a party where everyone would wear outrageous wigs. Floyd loved it and it was decided to make it an annual event.

"The simple gesture of wearing a wig provided much joy and laughter at the first Wig Out Party," Feeney said in a press release. "The support to Ninfa was overwhelming and all who know her witnessed the difference it made in her fight."

Wig Out continues to grow each year. The first year there were 60 people and last year there were upwards of 250. This year there has been a limit of 300 people who can attend.

"Even though there is a limit on the amount we will sell to the party, we have set our target at \$10,000," Feeney said.

This year's MC will be former jockey and cancer survivor, Patricia Cooksey. Music for the Wig Out Party will be provided by the band 2 Cool.

Donations may be made to Wig Out Inc., 808 Oak Hill Dr., Lexington, Ky. 40505.

Architecture students exhibit work reflecting Ky. history and future

By Ali Cicceri
news@kykernel.com

Some architecture students will be displaying their work with a touch of Kentucky's past and its future this weekend.

Three studios make up the exhibits which include "The Reclamation of a Bourbon Warehouse," "The Creation of a Winery" and a furniture display called "Tectonic Blues."

The exhibit runs today from 6 to 10 p.m. and tomorrow from 4 to 8 p.m. at the J. E. Pepper Warehouse located at 1200 Manchester St.

Hilary Bryon, whose third-year students worked on the winery display, said student work has had a local impact on future design.

"Architectural student work seems to have had an influence on future development in Lexington in the past and so

the attendees (of the exhibit) might be seeing a vision of the future," Bryon said.

Heiner Schnoedt's fourth-year class focused on reclaiming a bourbon warehouse and said the space provided an opportunity to build on the past.

"The powerful exhibition space embraces Lexington's past and the student projects speculate on a possible future," said Schnoedt, also the main organizer of the event.

Schnoedt said fellow students might be interested to see how their own generation envisions an environment fit for Kentucky's future.

The semester-long projects will be displayed after having been reviewed by their professors.

"I'm so excited, we don't get many opportunities to show off," said third year architecture student Samantha Wenger. "Usually our final re-

views are in some hallway and no one really sees our work."

Wenger and her fellow studio members worked with the idea of wineries. Each of the ten students participating each took their own twist on the concept, said fourth-year student Beth Hunter.


"A lot of people think that architecture is just walls and buildings," she said.

The furniture studio, led by professor Leonard Wujcik, will also be displaying their pieces.

"There's so much freedom of design with furniture," Hunter said.

More information is available at the School of Architecture's Web site at (www.uky.edu/Design).

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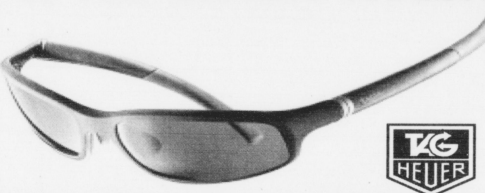

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Black colleges slow to divest from Sudan

By Michelle S. Keller
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO — Though the movement to divest from Sudan has swept U.S. colleges and universities, historically black colleges have remained on the sidelines of the issue — until recently.

In recent months, Hampton and Howard Universities divested fully from companies that do business with the African nation, where violence has claimed more than 200,000 lives in the Darfur region.

The decision by two of the nation's most well-known black universities was widely applauded. But their late entrance into the divestment movement, which began at Harvard University in 2004, raises questions about why historically black colleges have been slow to respond to what the U.S. government has deemed genocide in Darfur.

"It unfortunately has not been on the radar screen for many," said Hampton President William R. Harvey. Hampton started the divestment process in July.

African-Americans traditionally have been a reliable lobby for humanitarian and political causes in Africa. But some alumni and university officials say most of the colleges are less likely to divest because they have smaller endowments than their white counterparts.

"Howard University can afford to do it because its endowment is among leading endowments in the country," said Ron Walters, professor of political science at the University of Maryland in College Park. Walters helped spearhead the U.S. anti-apartheid movement in the late 1970s.

But, "you can't ask Fisk University to join the divestment movement when the state of their economic situation is so bad," Walters said. "Those movements are reserved for universities that have the money, that have the valid alternatives. Most of them can afford to follow a social investment strategy."

Fisk University, in Nashville, has about 800 undergraduate students and an endowment of roughly \$7.5 million, a

spokesman said. By comparison, Howard, sometimes referred to as the "Black Harvard," has an endowment of just under \$424 million. Harvard has nearly \$29 billion, according to the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

Though Walters says many historically black colleges can't afford to divest, Maryland's Bowie State University, with a \$4 million endowment, has severed financial ties with companies that do business in Sudan.

Some believe that the divestment movement itself has been strategic in its selection of schools to target.

The Sudan Divestment Task Force "chose schools with large endowments whose divestiture in Sudan would have a greater impact. Schools like Harvard, the California university system, Yale and so on," said Emmet Bradbury, associate professor of philosophy at Chicago State University.

Bradbury believes historically and predominantly black campuses are not part of the Sudan divestment movement "because the movement has yet to come to them," he said.

Conservative climates on campus also have hampered student activism, alumni and scholars said.

Many of the schools were established by religious institutions such as the Southern Baptist or the United Methodist Church, entrenching conservative attitudes on the campuses. Most also are in the South.

"Most of these administrations report to Southern state legislatures," said Martha Biondi, associate professor of African-American studies at Northwestern University. "That produces a very conservative culture among the administrators."

During the civil rights movement, schools in the South that heavily depended on state and federal funding feared being closed if they participated in protests, said Charles Henry, a professor of African-American studies at the University of California at Berkeley.

During the war protests of the late 1960s, students on historically black

campuses were more vulnerable to violence from authorities, Biondi said. "The state and local law-enforcement agencies were more likely to invade those campuses."

These conservative attitudes have persisted. Two years ago, Hampton threatened to expel seven students for handing out leaflets — including information on HIV/AIDS, the crisis in Sudan and the war in Iraq — in the school center. The Virginia school defended its actions, saying students had not distributed the leaflets in accordance with school code. But several people accused administrators of trying to squelch student activism.

"Usually these schools are 25 to 30 years behind other institutions" in terms of their progressive attitudes, said J. Anthony Clark, a Chicago attorney who graduated from Hampton in 1978. "They tend to be much more conservative than people think."

Mercer University to dial in cell phone plan

By Jennifer Burk
MCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

MACON, Ga. — Mercer University students who don't feel safe on a nighttime walk through campus soon will have the option of setting an alarm to notify campus police if they don't reach their destination.

That's just one of the features included in a new cell phone plan designed specifically for Mercer students.

Starting this fall, all Mercer freshmen — officials anticipate about 620 of them — will be enrolled in the cell phone plan, said Terry Whittum, senior vice president for enrollment management. Current students may decide if they wish to purchase a plan, but they are not required to.

Mercer is one of a growing number of universities that offer students a cell phone plan with admission. Georgia Gwinnett College also plans to offer the technology in the fall.

The Mercer cell phone plan, which is supported by Rave Wireless and Sprint Nextel, will allow campus administrators to better communicate with students.

"Even with the land lines in (the residence halls), there was always the issue of being able to communicate with our students," Whittum said.

Now with just a few strokes of a keypad, a text message may be sent instantly to all Mercer cell phones, allowing administrators to alert students of potentially dangerous situations, such as hazardous weather, Whittum said.

The phones also will give Mercer officials the capability to alert the university community in the event of a tragedy like the recent one at Virginia Tech, said Mickey Belote, Mercer's associate vice president for information technology. However, the cell phone plan has been in the works for about nine months and was not developed as a result of the shootings, he said.

Freshmen probably will pay a \$180 to \$190 fee each semester for the base plan, which they automatically will be enrolled in, Belote said. The exact cost still is being finalized, he said.

A base phone is provided free of charge, but upgraded phones, such as a RAZR or Treo will be available for a cost.

Students also may choose to upgrade their plans to get additional minutes.

Among its features, the phone offers Global Positioning System technology that will allow students to track the progress of the trolley from downtown Macon to Mercer. Although students may activate the GPS to notify campus police of their whereabouts, federal regulations prevent the university from tracking students, Belote said.

Students may use the phones to access their e-mail as well as the university's course management system, which allows students to check grades and assignments.

Sprint Nextel will ensure Mercer's Macon and Atlanta campuses have the infrastructure to guarantee coverage, he said.

With the addition of cell phones, land lines most likely will be turned off in residence halls, although a student may request them to be turned on, Belote said. "Our goal is to ensure that we have effective communications between 100 percent of our students," he said.

Cell phones seemed to be a logical step because most students on campus rely on them for communication, he said.

In fall 2004, nine in 10 college students owned a cell phone, according to Student Monitor, a market research company.

Each year, a new freshman class will be entered into the cell phone program, so in four years, almost all students should have one.

However, Belote admitted that cell phones are not infallible and only are effective communication tools if students actually carry the phones with them.

College Endowments

Until recently, historically black campuses have not been a big part of the movement to divest from Sudan. Many of them have small endowments and do not have the flexibility to be more selective with their investments.

Endowment figures for fiscal year 2005

TOP THREE
Harvard University, \$28.82 billion
Yale University, \$17.95 billion
Stanford University, \$14.08 billion

Historically black colleges

Howard University, \$423.9 million
Spelman College, \$291.6 million
Hampton Univ., \$217.5 million
Morehouse College, \$121.0 million
Fisk University, \$7.5 million
Bowie State Univ., \$4.0 million

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The Opinions page provides a forum for the exchange of ideas. Unlike news stories, the Kernel's unsigned editorials represent the views of a majority of the editorial board. Letters to the editor, columns, cartoons and other features on the Opinions page reflect the views of their authors and not necessarily those of The Kernel.

Board decisions on agendas, benefits right for UK

The UK Board of Trustees made two steps in the right direction on Tuesday when it approved domestic partner benefits and reversed an earlier board decision to withhold meeting agendas until just a few hours before the monthly Trustees meeting.

Both will help advance the university and make it an easier institution to work with.

Earlier this year, university officials devised a plan to post board agendas only four hours before the meetings are held, as opposed to the original four day lead. This four-hour policy limited the public's knowledge of meetings and thus hindered its ability to organize it wanted to contribute to discussions on issues. The

KERNEL EDITORIAL

new decision releases the agenda 24 hours before the meeting.

"Some of us were uncomfortable with that four-hour lead and wanted a change in policy," said Staff Trustee Russ Williams in Wednesday's Kernel. "You know, I represent 10,000 people here, and sometimes they have opinions on what the board is going to do, and we need some time to be able to hear from them."

The three trustees from UK's faculty and staff met Friday with board chairman James Hardymon to talk about their concerns on the late agenda posting. Posting the board's agenda on Monday morning (the board meets

Tuesdays) is an improvement, Williams said.

But it's not enough time.

Using the earlier argument that four hours is not enough to learn about information in the board's agenda and that it would not be enough time to organize resistance to any policies brought up in the agendas, the 24-hour policy is much the same. With only a full day to get a hold of the Trustees agenda, go through it and organize any opposition, the public finds itself in much the same situation as it was in with the four hour policy.

Hardymon said that the issue of changing the agenda time further is closed and will no longer be debated. Until the original policy is restored,

though, we believe the issue should remain up for debate.

Another issue that will surely continue to be debated, though, is the board's 14-2 approval of domestic partner benefits.

Under the new provision, UK will offer health care benefits to same-sex couples and unmarried opposite-sex couples beginning July 1.

Board members said in Tuesday's Kernel that the decision was to make to ensure UK is competitive in the university job market. Currently, only one other school in the state — the University of Louisville — offers domestic partner benefits.

"What we are providing is just access to benefits," UK General Counsel

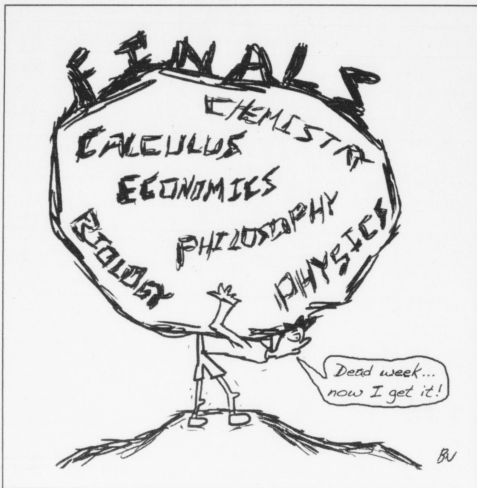
Barbara Jones said. "It doesn't establish any type of relationship."

UK will undoubtedly continue to receive criticism for the decision, and legislation aimed at eliminating the benefits will most likely be filed once again during the next Kentucky General Assembly.

But the board's decision has made the right decision and sent a message that all staff and faculty members at UK should be treated equally.

Both policies passed by the board on Tuesday advance the university and help it become a more competitive university.

But there is still work to be done.



BRETT NOLAN, Kernel cartoonist

OUTsource, benefits not what Ky. public wants

This week, UK decided to declare to the state just how homosexual-friendly they are. The opening of the OUTSource center on campus and the approval of a package of benefits, which included domestic partnership benefits,



MEGAN VAZMINA
Kernel columnist

shows that this university does have an agenda. Let's start with the OUTSource center. This secret, undercover mission has been in the works for two years, first with the mysterious construction near the women's restroom in the Student Center and then an empty room.

No one would give any answers; no one knew what was going on. Sure, there were rumors circulating; and in the end, those rumors ended up being accurate. UK was getting a gay resource center. I apologize for misspeaking; it's a gay, lesbian, transgender, queer, questioning and ally resource center.

According to the Kernel article, the results of the UK's 2005 Campus Climate Survey showed that there were negative remarks made more often about gays and lesbians than women or blacks. I understand the need to make people feel welcome, but not at the price of the taxpayers of this state. The Internet is littered with sites that could help these people. They could be anonymous if they want or as open about their identity as they feel comfortable. They do not need an office on campus.

Next is the package of benefits that the UK Board of Trustees approved recently, which is now most noted for the domestic partner benefits. Many will be quick to point out that it ben-

efits non-same-sex couples as well, which is true. The point is that the university has taken upon itself the authority to award its faculty and staff benefits they shouldn't have.

Let's take a journey back in time — to 2004 and the presidential election. On the ballot here in Kentucky was a constitutional amendment that made it illegal to recognize same-sex marriages. It passed by a 75 percent margin. The exact wording is as follows:

"Only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Kentucky. A legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized."

Maybe I'm wrong, but I think included in the term "legal status" are benefits that are awarded to married people. The majority of Kentucky did not want to recognize same-sex couples; they did not want them to receive the same benefits as opposite-sex couples. UK has no authority as a public university to provide benefits that the rest of the state deemed illegal.

Similarly, if the citizens of this state were opposed to the idea of the legal status of same-sex couples, it could be argued that they would not want to fund a resource center for students who are active in that lifestyle or even questioning their sexual or gender status.

I won't deny that this is also a moral issue. I am against the lifestyles of gay, lesbians, transgenders and queers. I will never say that it is alright to mock these people, ridicule them or harass them in any way. That is completely wrong.

But I shouldn't have to use my tax payers money to provide these people with information about the lifestyle.

Megan Vazmina is a journalism junior.
E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

Note to Readers

Unsigned editorials reflect the views of the Kernel Editorial Board. They are written independently of the Kernel's news coverage. Columns, letters and cartoons reflect the views of their authors.

Weekly Poll Question

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

Vote online at www.kykernel.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NRA protects the rights of law-abiding Americans

For years the National Rifle Association has lobbied for the support of right that any law-abiding citizen can choose to exercise — the right to keep and bear arms. By showing respect for gun lobbyists, Congress is showing great respect for the American public by working to defend rights of the public. And yes, as Paul Whiteley wrote in his April 26 letter to the editor, the NRA does pride itself on furthering a gun agenda because it is one of the few national bodies to defend these specific rights and therefore has increased responsibility to do so.

Aside from our country's heritage, guns (including assault rifles) are lawfully used in hunting, sporting and defense of self and others. Making a parallel, as Whiteley attempted, between a nuclear weapon and a gun is ludicrous. Nuclear weapons can only be used to serve one purpose — destroying on an enormous scale. It is simply illogical to compare the sporting and defensive use of guns with the mass scale, destructive capabilities of nuclear weapons.

There is one thing you are right about, Mr. Whiteley, and that is God does not approve of obsession with guns. In fact, God does not approve of our obsession with anything but the pursuit of Him. And as I strive to live this, I do pray that this country stays the home of the free and protects my right to something I safely enjoy.

on religion, politics or any other personal beliefs should not be supported and maintained by the university." That leads to conclusions such as, "The university should not support any buildings which are used by such organizations." So, there goes the Student Center. I hope that is not an outcome Brantley is willing to accept.

Along the same lines, she also states that she doesn't want to pay thousands of dollars for "some... resource center that I will never personally have a use for." Perhaps she should make use of OUTSource. Maybe her overall views would change were she to interact with some GLBTQQA students. However, if utility is the issue, then she shouldn't have to pay tuition toward things like new computers for the engineering building or renovations to the Reynolds Building, things which she will probably never make use of because she is a Spanish undergraduate student. However, were everyone given his or her option of paying for only things they use, UK would be even more of a mess.

I hope Brantley expresses a minority view of the OUTSource center, because it is excellent and much-needed addition to our campus.

Elisabeth Fitzpatrick
philosophy senior

Christians need to stand against domestic partner benefits

The steps that the University of Kentucky has taken in voting to allow there to be benefits for homosexual partners of any employee of the university is outrageous and ethically wrong.

The more and more I examine this issue, I find that tolerance brings acceptance. I am not saying I don't have the same Christ-like love for homosexuals, but I refuse to stand down and let our Christian standards, our country was based on, fall to the wayside. This attempt to open the back door to homosexual marriage is wrong, and the University of Kentucky has no business in pushing this kind of legislation.

Also, one of the main reasons UK gave for this decision was to attract and retain more faculty and staff, but the majority of high-rated faculty and staff are not homosexual. The research I have done shows that the majority of the faculty and staff at other schools are heterosexuals and have families. This is just another stunt, by the university to up our rating on homosexual minority opportunities.

As a Christian, I find that the morals and ethics of our university are being flushed down the toilet every day. I refuse to stand back anymore. This is getting out of hand, and it's unacceptable for our university to use this to get a higher rating. Whatever happened to ethical business standards? We should not ditch our standards to get to the goal, no matter how bad we want it.

If our university president or the Board of Trustees call themselves "Christians" then how can they live with themselves knowing that he or she has went against the ethical standard of the Bible (1 Cor. 6:9). Homosexuality is not natural in the New Testament or Old Testament, nor did God intend for people to be homosexual.

Homosexuality is not a lifestyle; it's a choice. Some of you might disagree with me on this. If homosexuality is normal then, what good comes from being homosexual? You do not get babies from homosexual lifestyles. Therefore, homosexual lifestyles were not meant to be normal. Also, why are there risks of AIDS for homosexuals who engage in sexual activity?

I also am a little disappointed to know that we are quick to provide a homosexual center for students in such as location, but yet we do not allow a center in such a prime location for a Christian group or another minority group. This is an act of unequal rights, against other groups at the University of Kentucky.

I call for there to be overwhelming disapproval for this act by our Board of Trustees and President. Christians, if there is any time to stand, now is the time. This also is for any other group that knows that homosexuality is wrong — it is time to stand in disapproval of this decision by our University Leadership (or lack thereof).

I am not calling for retaliation or any other violent crimes, but I am calling everyone to write university leaders, community leaders and state leaders.

Chris Vaughn
Community communications and leadership development sophomore

Cartoons unfair in comparing guns to abortion

In the last week, the Kernel has featured two cartoons that attempt to provide humor by way of identifying a pro-gun control stance and a pro-choice stance as logically mutually exclusive. The irony that the cartoonists are looking for here is in the assumption that it is hypocritical to hold both of these leanings.

In reality, most idiots know that the issues — both very complex — are decided based on completely different logic. The issue of abortion involves an individual woman's right to choose what happens within her own body. Even the simple circumstance of geography here makes you have to think a little harder, doesn't it? The issue of whether anyone should be allowed to bring a weapon capable of ending one or many indisputably human lives to any place they want is quite another one.

The idea expressed in one of them, in which an NRA member responds to a pro-choice woman's sign that says, "Guns kill people" with one that says, "So do Koreans," is just as preposterous. It points to how quickly and easily Americans are willing to develop a racist bent, as soon as they think that they have an excuse for it. Nevermind the fact that most people who gun others down in this way, especially in school shootings, are white men; and the Virginia Tech murderer names two of them as "martyrs" in his press package. Clearly, his Korean lineage didn't have much to do with his actions.

I have noticed the frequency with which you fill the space on your Opinions page usually reserved for a cartoon with an advertisement for cartoonists. I know you're hard up, but the cartoons you've been running lately are not just ignorant offensive and misleading. They're also not funny. Maybe just hold out a little longer for one where the irony actually holds up.

Kathryn Hogg
English and gender and women's studies senior

OUTsource a valuable addition to UK's campus

In the April 24 edition of the Kernel, I stumbled across a letter to the editor by Emily Brantley that troubled me. She seems to argue that the OUTSource center should not have come into being. I have a couple objections to points in her argument.

The first point is in response to her statement: "Last time I checked, there was no such place for heterosexual students." This is because the campus at large appears to be heterosexual and so assumes heterosexuality in most things. This leads to ostracizing and isolation of homosexual students. A resource center such as OUTSource helps GLBTQQA students find others like themselves, which helps them to deal with the aforementioned feelings. Second, she argues, "Organizations based

Senate approves Iraq war funding, timetable

By Renee Schoof

MCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — Congress concluded round one of its historic showdown with President Bush on Thursday with the Senate's passage of legislation that requires that troops start coming home by Oct. 1.

Maneuvering over the next round was already under way.

The 51-46 approval, like the close vote in the House of Representatives on Wednesday, was far short of the two-thirds majority needed to override the veto that Bush has promised. Democrats now will try to rewrite the \$124 billion spending bill, which provides the money Bush requested for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan plus extra military funding.

Majority Whip Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., said Congress will send the spending bill to Bush early next week. The goal, he said, is to craft a new spending bill in May — "but trust me, it's not easy."

Troop withdrawal timelines will drop out of the new bill after the veto, but Democrats want the revised spending bill to pressure the Iraqi government to end the factional violence that has killed tens of

thousands of civilians and displaced hundreds of thousands more. Democrats also are expected to press for withdrawal in other bills in May and June.

After the vote, White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said Bush repeated his veto promise Thursday. More time is needed for the U.S. troop escalation now under way, she said. "What the president has asked for is for the Congress to give — and to the American people to give — this plan a chance to work," she said.

In the debate over the Democrats' plan to change strategy in Iraq, senators split largely along party lines in their views about the enemy in Iraq. Only two Republicans, Gordon Smith of Oregon and Chuck Hagel of Nebraska, voted for the measure. Democrats voted for the bill. Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., who supports the president's war plans, voted against it, along with most Republicans.

Republicans said terrorists would declare victory if a withdrawal began, and Democrats said the terrorist threat would decrease once U.S. forces left.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said a withdrawal would be "a mandate for defeat that al-Qaida desperately wants."

Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., argued that "opponents of the president's efforts to win the battle against terrorists should not be permitted to hijack" the war-funding bill.

Democrats said U.S. forces were caught in a civil war and that their bill left the military with the flexibility to keep its forces in the region to attack terrorists.

Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., a Vietnam veteran and former Navy secretary, said that al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden wasn't in Iraq and that his extreme Islamist network had opposed Saddam Hussein's secular regime.

"There will be very little motivation for al-Qaida to continue in Iraq once we have left," Webb said. "Not only that but the Iraqis themselves are quite capable of standing up to al-Qaida without our help. They don't want al-Qaida in Iraq. That's why they're cooperating with our forces in Anbar province right now."

In the emotional atmosphere of the debate, Republicans have accused Democrats of defeatism and surrender, Webb said. "The question becomes, defeat by whom? Surrender to whom?" Webb said. "We won this war four years ago. The question is when we end the occupation."

Classified continued from page 8

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