

Students to rally at Capitol for funding

By Becky Hall
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

College students across Kentucky will gather in Frankfort on Wednesday to rally for more funding for higher education.

The theme of this year's rally, sponsored by the Kentucky Board of Student Body Presidents, is "Invest in us. Great minds. Great debt."

The theme is meant to draw attention to the many students who are in a financial pinch due to student loans and debt, said UK Student Government President Rachel Watts.

Of particular interest to the group is a proposed \$500 tax break for low-income families with children in college, she said. Watts said the presidents think the tax credit would help out those

who are hit hardest by tuition and fee increases.

"We are also interested in tax modernization as a possibility to fund higher education," she said. "We hope to point out to the legislature that funding for higher education is the Common-wealth."

Another aim is to remind legislators that, while they are concerned about

other issues, they need to invest in higher education as well, said Patti Johnson, student body president at Western Kentucky University.

"When they don't help us out, we're paying for it in the end," Johnson said. "The more students that graduate from college in Kentucky and then find jobs in Kentucky, the better we make the state of Kentucky." She said the goal is to

have 50 WKU students attend the rally.

Eastern Kentucky University hopes to take a full busload of 40 to 45 students to Frankfort, said Lance Melching, EKU's student body president.

"We want to heal higher education from cuts suffered in recent years," Melching said.

See Rally on page 2

Rally information

Buses will be leaving from the Student Center parking lot on Wednesday at noon and should return to campus at 3 p.m. The rally will be held at the Capitol Rotunda from 1 to 3:30 p.m. All those planning to attend should bring photo identification for access to the Capitol.

Visitors pay respects to UK benefactor

John Gaines, 76, donated funds for Newman Center, humanities, library

By Adam Sichko
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Several decades ago, William Scott was minding his own business in UK's Catholic Newman Center as he watched a sporting event on TV.

John Gaines — a fellow worshipper — plopped himself down on the floor next to Scott.

"I said, 'Are you Mr. Gaines?'" Scott remembered. "As he shook my hand, he said to me, 'My name is John...'"

"That shows what kind of person he was," Scott said.

Hundreds of people who knew Gaines, including Gov. Ernie Fletcher and his wife, Glenna, gathered for visitation hours last night at the Newman Center to express many of the same sentiments. Gaines — a prominent UK and Lexington benefactor — died Friday at the age of 76.

Gaines and his wife, Joan, worshipped at the Newman Center for more than 30 years, said Father Tom Farrell.

"I have always heard people say over and over again that he was illuminating to speak to because of his great intellect," Farrell said. "That says a great deal about him."

Thomas Clark, a former UK professor and Kentucky's historian laureate, said he felt privileged to know Gaines well enough to address him by his first name.

"He was a stalwart of this community," said the 101-year-old Clark. "It's hard to estimate how much good he did."

"He was a visionary, a man that every community needs," Clark said.

Gaines' "substantial support" for the WT Young Library had a direct impact on its creation and success, Clark said.

"Right from the outset,



Jackie Betts signs the guest book at John Gaines' visitation yesterday at the Gaines Center. Gaines was a prominent benefactor for UK and Lexington.

he wanted to put up that library," he said. "From that time on, he spoke with a very clear voice."

"The library owes a lot to John Gaines," Clark said. Raymond Betts, director emeritus of UK's Gaines Center for Humanities, also said he cherished his relationship with Gaines above all else.

"He was one of my most remarkable experiences at UK," said Betts, a history professor at UK from 1971-97. "I've met lots of good, nice people in my life, but

he was more than that. He was exceptional."

In the early 1980s, Betts wrote to 40 leaders in the horse industry, asking for support for his idea to create a humanities center at UK. Gaines — who founded the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington and created the Breeders' Cup series in horse racing — was the first one to write back, expressing interest in helping out.

"That was the first time anyone really wealthy gave money to something that didn't relate to his profes-

sion," Betts said. "I have him to thank for the Gaines Center."

"Whatever he supported, he did so wholeheartedly," Betts said.

Gaines donated \$500,000 to fund the center that bears his name. After it opened in 1985, Gaines remained interested in the program, said Jess Miller, an English and Spanish senior.

"He was excited about all the fellows," said Miller, who is a fellow, or under-

See Gaines on page 2

UK to contract vending services

No employees to be fired, director says

By Shannon Mason
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

UK is contracting out its snack vending machine service to provide more selection for students, UK dining officials said.

"The university is growing, and we want to provide better service to the students," said Jeff Demoss, director of dining services.

UK has contacted 13 vending companies to compete, said Bill Harris, director of purchasing. Proposals are due Feb. 25, and UK plans to award the contract in March.

Scott Henry, manager of the food storage warehouse and vending department, said the forms provided the number and location of each of the vending machines on campus, as well as other information to let the vending companies know the terms of the request.

"The vendor will purchase the machines that UK owns, so it seems that the vendor could assume the job immediately (after a deal is processed)," Harris said. UK will retain control of its Pepsi

drink machines.

An estimate for new vending prices is not available at this time. The contracting change will not affect any jobs at UK, Demoss said.

"That's the one promise I made, that no one would lose their job," he said.

Many of the employees currently working in vending have other skills, such as cooking and baking, and those skills will be put to use in improving the service of UK dining, Demoss said.

Switching to a different company will allow that company to bring in new machines with a wider range of products. These machines may also be able to accept the Plus Account as payment, Demoss said.

"The technology for new machines has surpassed us," he said.

Demoss also said that the reasons behind the switch are not financial.

"It's not to save money," he said. "It's to provide the students an increase in services."

E-mail
neus@kykernel.com

Glitch causes failure of U.S. missile system

By John Hendren
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON — For the second time in two months, a test of the national missile defense system has failed, Pentagon officials said Monday.

Military technicians believe the failure of the \$85 million test was due to a problem with ground support equipment, not with the interceptor missile itself. A preliminary assessment indicated that the fault occurred in the concrete underground silo, where a variety of common and widely used sensors perform safety and environmental monitoring.

The interceptor, located at the Ronald Reagan Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll in the central Pacific Ocean, was supposed to target a mock ballistic missile fired from Kodiak Island, Alaska. The target missile went as scheduled at 9:22 p.m. Alaska time Sunday, (1:22 a.m. EST Monday), but the interceptor failed to launch.

While the failure marked yet another delay for the program, defense officials expressed relief that the problem did not appear related to the interceptor. No date has been set for another test.

"The interceptor itself is

See Missile on page 2

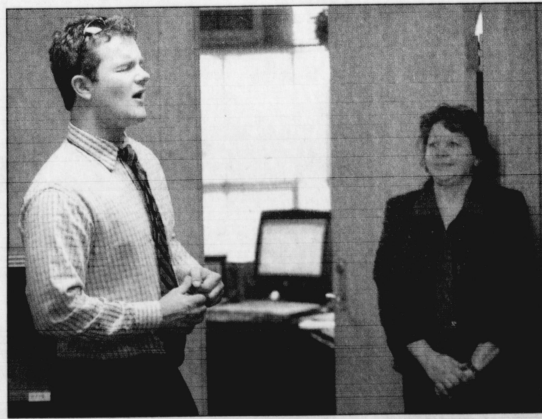


Showin' a Little Lovin'

LEFT: For Friends in the Student Center sold flowers for last-minute Valentine's shoppers.

RIGHT: Bill Yackey, a journalism junior, sings "In the Still of the Night" as a Valentine's telegram to Leisa Pickering, a cognitive disability consultant. It was part of Delta Kappa and Delta Sigma Phi.

HILLY SCHIFFER | STAFF





Visitors gather for John Gaines' visitation at the Newman Center yesterday. By 6:30 p.m., a line to visit his immediate family wrapped around a corner and up a ramp inside the Center.

Gaines

Continued from page 1

graduate, in the program. "He was supportive and curious about our lives, both within the Gaines Center and outside it, too. "He stayed in touch," Miller said. "He was not an absentee donor — he was very much present." Gaines' desire to help others and get involved was blind, said Wyovonna Pervis, who worked in Gaines' Lexington home for 27 years. "You didn't have to ask — he just gave," she said. "No matter the cost, he just did it, at any time."

Gaines also helped promote art on UK's campus. Aside from a \$250,000 donation to the UK Art Museum, Gaines gave a number of European paintings from his

collection to the Newman Center, which those attending the visitation hours were able to peruse.

"The donation of the artwork really brought (the Newman Center) to life," Farrell said of the 1973 gift from Gaines.

"This simple building structure serves as a great background for very sophisticated artwork from Europe."

A line to visit with Gaines' immediate family had already formed at 5:30 p.m., when visitation hours began. Less than one hour later, the line wrapped around a corner and up a ramp inside the Newman Center.

"It says that one person can make a difference," Farrell said. "He was truly a Renaissance man, a master in different fields."

After reaching his car in steady, measured steps, Clark said the size of the crowd



Wyovonna Purvis worked for John Gaines for 27 years.

spoke to Gaines' impact better than he could. "That's sealed and delivered," Clark said of Gaines' impact. "This community

knew a man of his caliber when it saw him."

E-mail: asichko@kykernel.com

Missile

Continued from page 1

fine and will be used for other tests," Rick Lehner, a spokesman for the Missile Defense Agency, said Monday. "We'll just keep trying, keep testing and hopefully we'll be able to do another interceptor test in the next few months, using the same interceptor."

Yet analysts said each setback diminishes credibility in the program at a time when the Bush administration must deal with the announcement last week, by North Korean leader Kim Jong Il that his country has nuclear weapons.

Supporters of the system, popularly known as "Star Wars," have envisioned it as

an answer to the threat of a missile attack from North Korea. "It's certainly embarrassing at a time when the administration has basically decided that its North Korea policy is missile defense. You don't get second chances in nuclear combat," said John Pike, director of Globalsecurity.org, a nonprofit defense analysis group. "I don't think these problems go to the core questions of do they have the right technology. ... But it does go to the central question of whether the political system is going to trust this thing or is it going to become an object of mirth and merriment."

Defense officials, however, considered Monday's failure less of a setback than the Dec. 15 launch, when the "kill vehicle" shut down without launching after sensors de-

tected a problem later determined to have been caused by a fault in the interceptor's software. That test — the first in two years — was the first to use the rocket proposed for the completed system.

In investigating that failure, technicians concluded that the software was too sensitive to minor errors in the way data flowed between the missile and a flight computer, and decreased the system's sensitivity to errors.

Delays in testing and implementation have forced the Bush administration to acknowledge that the system will not be operational early this year — a Bush campaign pledge. The administration had earlier sought to have a limited version of the system working by the end of last year.

"It's clear that the program is being pushed ahead

for political reasons regardless of its capability," said David Wright, a senior scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists. "It's as if Henry Ford started up his automobile production line and began selling cars without ever taking one for a test drive. This interceptor has never been tested in an intercept test. Yet the Pentagon has already put eight of them in silos and is building at least another dozen before even knowing if they work."

The interceptor is intended to be part of a multilayered system meant to protect the United States from missile attack. As envisioned, the system — proposed during the Reagan administration and brought to the forefront by Bush in 2001 — would rely on interceptors based at Vandenberg Air Force Base and Fort Greely, Alaska.

Rally

Continued from page 1

He said some goals of the rally are to ensure Kentucky schools aren't faced with tuition hikes, to secure jobs for university faculty and to keep up repairs and innovations on campus buildings.

Melching said he also hopes students take advantage of the opportunity to develop a relationship with their legislators, as well as become civic leaders.

Watts said student involvement will show legislators that students are interested in the issues.

"The rally will add a human face to the group of higher education," Watts

said. UK Student Government also plans on passing out legislator trading cards to students next week.

The cards will be blue and red to denote Democrat or Republican, and they will contain pictures of the state's legislators as well as their basic contact information, Watts said.

Watts said the cards are a unique way for students to get in touch with their legislators to ensure higher education stays on legislators' minds after the rally.

The presidents' association hopes to have 300 students at the rally, including 50 to 100 UK students, Watts said.

All faculty and staff are invited to attend as well.

E-mail: news@kykernel.com

Elderly flu vaccine may not be effective

By Thomas H. Maugh II
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Vaccinating the elderly against influenza is not as effective as researchers had previously believed, government researchers reported Monday.

Although previous studies have suggested that flu shots reduce mortality among the elderly, government researchers reported Monday. Although previous studies have suggested that flu shots reduce mortality among the elderly by 50 percent to 80 percent, a new study of three decades of mortality data indicates that widespread use of the vaccine had not been nearly that effective, and may not have reduced deaths among the elderly at all.

Because of uncertainties about the causes of death among the elderly and statistical vagaries, "we could not rule out some benefit from the vaccine, but it is less efficacious than we thought," said epidemiologist Lone Simonsen of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, who led the study, as reported in the Archives of Internal Medicine.

"And we only looked at deaths, not other complications."

During the period covered by the study, vaccination rates increased from 15 percent to 20 percent to about 65 percent.

A second study in the same journal, by researchers from the Netherlands, found that vaccination was highly effective for younger people, reducing deaths by 78 percent and hospitalizations for complications by 87 percent.

But researchers have long known that people older than 65 do not respond as well to the flu

vaccine — or to most other vaccines, for that matter.

Their immune systems are simply not as effective at generating antibodies against the virus as those of younger people.

Simonsen speculated that the protective effect of vaccination seen in previous studies reflected an unforeseen bias.

Several studies, she noted, have shown that the most seriously ill patients in hospitals and nursing homes did not receive the vaccine, while those who were healthier did.

When the sickest patients subsequently died, the statistics made it appear that the vaccine was successful at preventing deaths.

Immunizing the elderly should continue, Simonsen said. "We're not saying the vaccine should not be given to the elderly. Even at half the (protective) rate, it's better than nothing."

Like many other experts, however, Simonsen said the most effective way to protect the elderly was to vaccinate the people who work around them and to vaccinate most schoolchildren, who are the most prolific carriers of the disease.

Some studies have shown, in fact, that vaccinating more than 70 percent of schoolchildren would eliminate the need to vaccinate the elderly.

A spokesman for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Monday that it was unlikely the agency would change its vaccine recommendations based on only one study.

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Always use PC protection

In an age when hackers seem to be everywhere, the need to be safe online is more important than ever.

Online safety not only protects your own information, but it also protects anyone else who has a computer.

Scammers, for example, hack and take over computers, which they then use to send out scam e-mails and to obtain more e-mail addresses to send scams to. To keep yourself and others safe on the Internet, be absolutely sure that you have the following items installed on your computer, no matter what operating system you use.



Roger Chui
TECH COLUMNIST

Firewall

A firewall protects your computer from attackers by discarding data sent to and from your computer by sources that could be potentially harmful.

Every computer should have at least one firewall: a software firewall and possibly a hardware firewall.

Software firewalls such as ZoneAlarm (www.zonealarm.com), Norton Internet Security and McAfee Security Center run directly on the computer, much like a word processor or Web browser would. They provide protection against harmful applications as well as harmful software. However, because these firewalls are software, they are susceptible to software bugs.

A hardware firewall, such as a router or Internet gateway forms a barrier between separate networks: your computer's network and the Internet. Hardware firewalls offer much more reliable protection than software firewalls, but they do not offer application protection — meaning that if something finds its way onto your computer, the hardware firewall may not be able to catch it.

Antivirus

Antivirus programs are necessary to protect your

computer from viruses and other malicious code. If you need an antivirus program, UK offers a site license of McAfee VirusScan for free at download.uky.edu. Other well-known virus scan programs include Norton Antivirus and Panda AntiVirus. Always keep the real-time virus protection on, and either set the program to run a scan of your computer every week or run a scan yourself.

Spyware, adware protection

Adware is, by far, the most common problem I see with computers. It may come in the form of search toolbars, browsing companions and Internet casino games.

Once placed on your computer, spyware and adware will use your computer's resources to collect information on your habits and deliver pop-up ads to your screen. This often causes computers to act sluggish and freeze up.

Ad-aware and Spybot Search & Destroy are two excellent, free packages that will remedy any spyware or adware problems you may have. Ad-aware can be found at

www.lavasoftusa.com, and Spybot can be obtained at www.safer-networking.org. Run these programs as religiously as you run your antivirus scanner.

One more thing: Keep your computer updated. Do not delay in downloading and installing new operating system patches or new virus pattern files. Hackers update their playbooks daily, and it can be a struggle to keep up sometimes.

Is all of this sounding a bit overboard? Remember, the cardinal rule of the Internet is that you can't be too safe. Staying problem-free on the Internet helps more people than just you.

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'Cirque' show is a flight of fancy and fire

By Mark Swed
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LAS VEGAS — Money doesn't talk in this town. To look like a million bucks is not impressive, especially if you are a show. To look like \$200 million is more like it.

That is what "Ka," the latest extravaganza from Cirque du Soleil, is said to have cost (the official price tag is \$165 million). It opened at the MGM Grand last week, and it is spectacular, as any high roller with eyes and ears, \$150 for a ticket.

Indeed, this show, which is also said to need around \$1 million weekly to operate, may well be the most lavish production in the history of Western theater. And it will undoubtedly do that, namely draw people into the hotel.

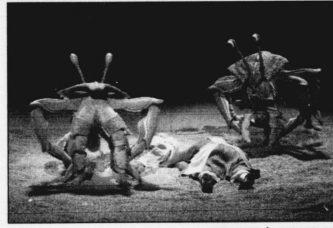
But "Ka" is meant to be more than a thrill-ride shill. The ambitions of Quebec's arty-circus-turned-empire are enormous. Conceived by the avant-garde Canadian director Robert Lepage, "Ka" attempts not only to redefine the Cirque du Soleil formula of daring acrobatics and sophisticated clownery presented in visually stunning and slightly mysterious settings, but also to redefine the possi-

bilities of theater itself. Superficially, "Ka" is the story of the Imperial Twins, masters of Chinese martial arts who are separated in a shipwreck, attacked by the Archers and Spearman, overcome the Wheel of Death, and lead a battle. If that sounds simple-minded, it is. The narrative, even with all its pretentious symbolism (ka, we are told, is the Egyptian concept of spiritual duality), operates in the way the narrative does in a porno film, as an excuse for the action.

But given the sheer extravagance of "Ka," even this simple story is not simple enough, and it hardly registers. What does register, and register in a big way, is the richly detailed world that the story evokes. Rich, in fact, barely begins to describe it.

A jungle scene, populated by fabulous insects and reptiles created by puppeteer Michael Curry and operated by amazing contortionists, and brought to life by acrobats swinging on ropes, is so entrancing that it gives magic in the relation to stage effects, new meaning.

Watching acrobats dangerously work the Wheel of Death, which looks like something artist Marcel Duchamp



JOHN FOSTER | LOS ANGELES TIMES
Contortionist crabs scuttle on a constructed beach in Cirque du Soleil's latest production, "Ka," showing at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

might have dreamed up after a particularly nasty nightmare, continues to haunt me. There is joy in much of the movement throughout "Ka," movement inspired by various traditions including Chinese opera and martial arts and Brazilian Capoeira. One thing after another amazes. Fire is a theme, its defiance as a force of illumination and destruction, and the stage is often brazenly aflame in what would appear in defiance of all fire laws. Another law defied, as is always the case with Cirque, is that of gravity. The cast is large and typically astonish-

ing, full of performers able to make the human body do what should be impossible. In the end, the scale of "Ka" does excite. It is a show meant to last 10 years, and it probably will.

But the scale of this grand spectacle is humanizing and dehumanizing. Amid the onslaught of technology, the eye hunts for anything less than perfect. Mine found it when an acrobat looked unsteady for a second or two jumping rope on the torturous Wheel of Death. Worried, I suddenly cared about nothing else on stage. There are some things that money can't buy.

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Tuesday 15 th	Wednesday 16 th	Thursday 17 th	Friday 18 th	Saturday 19 th	Sunday 20 th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK Green Thumb Meeting, 7:00 PM, Student Center, Room 106 UK Fencing Club Meeting, 8:00 PM, Buell Armory/Barker Hall UK Berean Bible Study, 8:00 PM, Student Center, Room 113 Baptist Student Union's English Conversation Class, 6:00 PM, 429 Columbia Ave LeFrist Student Union Meeting, 8:00 PM, Student Center 228 Baptist Student Unions presents "TNT," 7:30 PM, 429 Columbia Ave Sex in the 19th century City!, 4:00 PM, Niles Gallery, Little Fine Arts Library Alpha Phi Omega informational meeting, 5:30 PM, Student Center #359 Operation Motivation, 4:15 PM, Lexington Traditional Magnet School UK Anime Club Meeting, 6:00 PM, Center Theater, Student Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carter G. Woodson Lecture Series, 4:00 PM, 230 Student Center Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry, 5:30 PM Comedy Caravan, 8:00 PM, Cats Den WildWaterCats Pool Session, 9:00 PM, Lancaster Aquatic Center UK Water Ski Club, 9:00 PM, Commons Room 306A The Rock!, 9:00 PM, Baptist Student Center on Columbia Ave PK Judo Club practice, 5:00 PM, Alumni Gym Loft Emil Beaulieu w/ Irene Moon, 8:00 PM, Artspace, 161 North Mill Street Internment and Terror: The Japanese-Am. experience and threats to Nat'l security Lecture, 3:00 PM, Student Center, Center Theater Lavender Society Meeting, 7:30 PM, Student Center, Room 228 Cat's For Christ Meeting, 7:30 PM, Student Center, Room 230 Central KY FCA Meeting, 8:00 PM, Upstairs in the Commons Market Table Francaise, French conversation group, 3:00 PM, Student Center, Room 231 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baptist Student Union's Freshman Focus Group Meeting, 7:30 PM, 429 Columbia Ave The Japan in Japanese-American, 12:30 PM, Student Center, Center Theater CRU, 7:30 PM, Worsham Theater/ Student Center Wesley Foundation's Focus Worship Meeting, 7:30 PM, Student Center, Center Theater CSF Presents "Synergy," 8:00 PM, CSF Building, corner of Woodland and Columbia Moe. in Concert, 8:00 PM, Singletary Center for the Arts The Well, 7:00 PM, Student Center, Room 211 UK Fencing Club Meeting, 8:00 PM, Buell Armory/Barker Hall Film Documentary "The Murder of Emmett TIL," 3:30 PM, Student Center, Center Theater UK Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Meeting, 5:00 PM, Student Center, Room 205 UK Climbing Club, 7:00 PM, Johnson Center Climbing Wall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICF Dinner and Fellowship, 7:00 PM, St. Augustine Chapel, Rose ST. Salsa Class, 3:00 PM, Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Center, 124 Student Center International Talent Night, 7:00 PM, Memorial Hall Black History Gallery Reception, 5:00 PM, Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Center Goodnight Desdemona, (Good Morning Juliet), 8:00 PM, Guignol Theatre UK Hockey Vs. Cincinnati Bearcats, 12:00 AM, Lexington Ice Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goodnight Desdemona, (Good Morning Juliet), 8:00 PM, Guignol Theatre UK Women's Basketball vs. Mississippi State, 3:00 PM, Memorial Coliseum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Blind Boys of Alabama, 8:00 PM, Singletary Center for the Arts UK Women's Basketball vs. Mississippi State, 3:00 PM, Memorial Coliseum

Go Cats! Beat Mississippi State!



DUDLEY M. BROOKS | THE WASHINGTON POST
Kesha James, with daughters Khaliyah, 7, and Kiara, 1, in her Habitat for Humanity home in Alexandria, Va., works seven days a week to try to make ends meet.

Property taxes a burden for Habitat homeowners

By Annie Gowen
THE WASHINGTON POST

Kesha James remembers walking through the freshly painted rooms of her Habitat for Humanity house for the first time, making plans for the leather couch she would buy, and the piano and the canopied bed for her three little girls.

The couch remains a dream. The living room is in ruins because of a plumbing leak she can't afford to fix. She took a second job and works seven days a week but is still afraid she might lose her house.

Her modest mortgage isn't the problem; it's rising property taxes that keep her up at night. Her little house in Alexandria, Va., has more than doubled in value since it was built in 1999 and is now worth a half-million dollars, forcing her monthly house payment, which includes real estate taxes, up from \$515 to \$954 in the past 18 months — chiefly because of higher taxes.

"It's not fair. It doesn't make any sense," said James, 29, sitting at her cheerful kitchen table, her youngest daughter curled in her arms. "Alexandria is my home ... I don't want to leave."

Asked when her last day off was, she can't remember.

Rising property values across the region have put the squeeze on taxpayers, but the bite has been especially acute for owners of Habitat for Humanity homes in Northern Virginia.

At least a dozen of the 47 Habitat

homeowners in Northern Virginia pay more in property taxes and insurance than they do for their mortgages, according to Karen Cleveland, executive director of the Northern Virginia arm of the international nonprofit group that builds homes with volunteers and sells them to low-income buyers.

"The rising property taxes have truly made it almost impossible for them to stay in their homes," Cleveland said. "We're saying, 'Help us to make it appropriate so our homeowners are paying what is fair for them.'"

Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia argues Habitat homes shouldn't be assessed at market rates because deed restrictions prevent their owners from selling the homes for profit or getting home equity loans until the 20-year mortgages are paid. If Habitat homeowners sell their homes before 20 years are up, they must sell them back to Habitat for the amount they cost — \$80,000 to \$120,000 in most cases, Cleveland said.

Tax caps and programs such as a five-year tax abatement program for new Habitat owners in the District of Columbia have kept costs from rising as steeply in some areas. In Fairfax County, Va., assessors granted several appeals that resulted in a reduction of up to a 50 percent in some cases, Cleveland said.

But owners of eight properties in Arlington County, Va., have had values triple in the three years.

"To be honest with you, I'm a little concerned," said Ronnie Watson, 42,

who bought a cozy Arlington duplex in 2000 after he and his teenage son spent months in a homeless shelter and a rat-infested apartment. "We are living paycheck to paycheck."

He works overtime as a meter reader to pay basic bills, he said. Anything extra — such as his son's yearbook and high school graduation cap and gown — is a stretch. Watson is praying his house payment, up from \$363 to \$442 in recent months, won't top \$500.

"That's a whole lot to me," he said. Kesha James had never known a home until she and her new husband, Ian Roger James, 35, moved into their townhouse in 1999. They had poured more than 500 hours of "sweat equity" into the project alongside Habitat volunteers. They bought the house — then appraised at \$190,000 — with a zero-interest mortgage, for \$90,000.

But 18 months ago her house payments started rising fast, as home values in Northern Virginia exploded. James was working full time for a homeless advocacy group, making \$28,000 a year. She added Saturday and Sunday overnight shifts at a homeless shelter. School fell by the wayside.

Her husband started saying the house wasn't such a good idea. After another fight about money, he left last fall. She pays \$954 a month in house payment, \$483 going to taxes and insurance. Her payment is slated to increase another 30 percent in July.

"That's my house I helped build," she said. "I put my heart and soul into it, so I'm going to fight."

Lebanese official assassinated Monday

By Mohamad Bazzi
NEWDAY

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, a billionaire businessman-turned-politician who led Lebanon for 10 years and spearheaded the rebuilding of Beirut, was killed Monday in a massive bombing that destroyed his armored motorcade.

At least nine other people were killed and more than 100 injured in the explosion, which damaged several hotels and buildings along Beirut's Mediterranean waterfront.

The bombing left a scene of devastation reminiscent of Lebanon's 15-year civil war, which ended in 1990. Bloodied victims walked around in a daze, burning cars sent plumes of black smoke into the sky, broken glass and twisted metal lined the street, and rescue workers sifted through the rubble.

Throughout the day, ambulances and fire trucks crisscrossed the city with wailing sirens.

Hariri, 60, who had been Lebanon's most dominant political figure since the civil war ended, resigned in October to protest Syrian involvement in Lebanon.

His killing comes at a critical time for Syria, which has controlled thousands of troops here. The Syrian regime is under pressure from the United States and the United Nations to end its political and military dominance over its smaller neighbor.

Lebanese opposition leaders quickly blamed the assassination on Syria and its allies in the Lebanese government, but officials in Damascus denied any involvement. The only claim of responsibility came from a previously unknown Islamic militant group calling itself the "Victory and Holy War Organization in the Levant."

The group, which took responsibility in a videotaped broadcast on the Al-Jazeera satellite station, said it was retaliating for the recent killings and arrests of Islamic militants in Saudi Arabia. A young, bearded man wear-

ing a white turban read a statement on the tape, saying he would be carrying out a suicide attack against Hariri, whom he called an "agent of the tyrannical Saudi regime."

Hariri amassed his fortune in Saudi Arabia, where he lived for nearly 20 years and handled major construction projects for the ruling House of Saud. He held both Lebanese and Saudi citizenship. In 2003, Forbes magazine estimated his worth at \$3.8 billion.

If Hariri was killed by a militant group, it would mark a dramatic shift for Islamists who are trying to topple the Saudi regime. So far, offshoots of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network have not targeted Saudi supporters and economic interests outside the kingdom.

Monday night, Lebanese security officials said they raided an apartment in Beirut that belonged to the man on the tape, identified as Ahmed Abu Adas, 22, a Palestinian born in Lebanon to refugee parents. Officials did not find Abu Adas, but they confiscated computers, tapes and documents.

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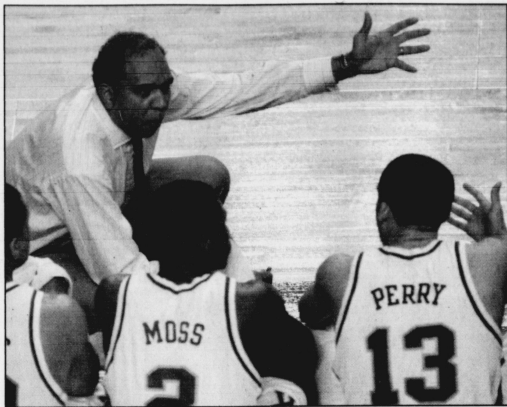
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Cats must hear wake-up call



UK head coach Tubby Smith tries to communicate with the UK bench during the Cats' 65-59 loss to Kansas Jan. 9 in Rupp Arena. Smith said his team is in "prime position to get beat" if the Cats don't regain their focus.

Following a lackluster win over an intramural team called Georgia, UK felt sick — literally.

The disappointing performance in the Cats' 60-51 win Saturday left UK junior guard Ravi Moss with a sinking feeling.

"It's just a bad feeling in your gut to know you didn't play well," Moss said.

The win, UK's 19th straight Southeastern Conference victory, seemed more like a loss, as the lowly Bulldogs out-rebounded and out-hustled the Cats throughout the game. With sluggish offense and mental mistakes, UK's underwhelming performance had everyone in the land of Blue looking for answers.

Lost in the questions and hand wringing is the fact the Cats remain 19-2 and now stand at No. 3 in both major polls.

"So what can you do to be a top team in this league?" said UK head Tubby Smith.

The answer, as it always seems to be with Smith, is defense.

The three may rain or clang, but the "D" stays the same.

For Smith's teams to succeed, defense must reign supreme. And for that defense to stifle, the Cats have to come ready to play — ready to play Smith's way.

Saturday's game gave Smith the perfect opportunity to reinforce that mentality.

"It definitely proves (Smith's) theory about playing the right way," Moss said of Saturday's game. "You play the right way, you have fun. If you play the wrong way, you don't have fun."

Smith made sure that message got across. As the Bulldogs trimmed a 21-point deficit to five in the second half Saturday, Smith did not rip off his jacket or stomp up and down the sidelines. He just sat, occasionally sending a piercing stare toward the bench.

The players understood completely. "Sometimes you're so mad, words can't express it; actions can't express it," said sophomore forward Bobby Perry. "(Smith) was in that state of mind. His face looked so angry, so fed up with what we're doing. We got the message."

The message should be clear — if UK wants to keep winning, they have to play serious basketball.

The Georgia game (and the post-game discussion Smith said "made them feel as low as they could feel") should have given the Cats a resounding wake-up call — you're not as good as you think you are.

UK's shiny new No. 3 ranking may distract — which is surprising, since No. 4 North Carolina has done far more — but the Cats need to stay focused on the here and now.

"I don't think we're capable of looking ahead past the next day," Smith said. "I really don't."

UK probably can afford to look past some teams — Georgia is one of those — but not South Carolina.

A hungry, desperate team, the Gamecocks will be ready tonight. UK must be, too.

"We're in prime position to get beat, if we don't improve from Saturday's performance," Smith said.

On Saturday, UK got a free wake-up call. If the Cats didn't get the message, the next one will cost much more.

E-mail: twiseman@kykernel.com



Tim Wiseman
SPORTS EDITOR

SEC Standings

	EAST	SEC	ALL
Kentucky	19-2	10-0	19-2
Florida	7-3	15-6	15-6
South Carolina	5-5	13-8	13-8
Vanderbilt	4-6	14-10	14-10
Tennessee	4-7	11-13	11-13
Georgia	1-10	7-14	7-14
Alabama	8-2	19-4	19-4
Louisiana State	6-4	13-8	13-8
Mississippi State	6-4	18-6	18-6
Arkansas	5-6	17-7	17-7
Auburn	3-7	12-11	12-11
Mississippi	3-8	12-12	12-12

Today's games
UK at South Carolina (ESPN), 9 p.m.

Wednesday's game
Mississippi at Florida, 7 p.m.
Georgia at Clemson, 7:30 p.m.
Arkansas at Alabama (UPN), 8 p.m.
Vanderbilt at Auburn, 8 p.m.
Louisiana State at Mississippi State (JPT), 8 p.m.

Saturday's games
SEC East-West Challenge
South Carolina at Alabama (JPT), 3 p.m.
Florida at Louisiana State (JPT), 3 p.m.
Auburn at Georgia, 4 p.m.
Arkansas at Mississippi (FSN), 5 p.m.
Tennessee at Vanderbilt (FSN), 7 p.m.
Mississippi State at UK (ESPN), 9 p.m.

SEC Statistical Leaders

Scoring	Rebounding
1. Anthony Robinson, Florida, 18.4 ppg	1. Lawrence Roberts, Miss. St., 11.1 rpg
2. Joney Douglas, Auburn, 17.8 ppg	2. Chuck Hayes, UK, 8.9 rpg
3. Kennedy Winston, Alabama, 17.2 ppg	3. Glen Davis, LSU, 8.9 rpg
4. Brandon Bass, LSU, 17.0 ppg	4. Jerome Davidson, Alabama, 8.8 rpg
5. Earnest Shelton, Alabama, 17.0 ppg	5. Brandon Bass, LSU, 8.4 rpg
6. Ravi Brewer, Arkansas, 16.3 ppg	
7. Lavi Skales, Georgia, 15.4 ppg	
8. Carlos Powell, South Carolina, 15.2 ppg	
9. Kellema Anzabilla, UK, 14.8 ppg	

Assists
1. Tack Minor, LSU, 5.4 apg
2. Gary Crow, Miss. St., 5.2 apg
3. Ronald Steele, Alabama, 5.0 apg
4. C.J. Watson, Alabama, 4.8 apg
5. Sam Young, Auburn, 4.6 apg

Blocks
1. Steven Hill, Arkansas, 2.3 bpg
2. Shaqari Alleyne, UK, 2.0 bpg
3. Chuck Davis, Alabama, 1.9 bpg

Steals
1. Ronnie Brewer, Arkansas, 2.9 spg
2. Rajon Rondo, UK, 2.5 spg
3. Sundatta Gaines, Georgia, 2.4 spg

Associated Press Top 25

Next game
1. Illinois, 25-0, Wed. at Penn St.
2. Kansas, 20-1, Sat. vs. Iowa St.
3. UK, 19-2, Tonight at USC
4. North Carolina, 20-3, Wed. vs. Virginia
5. Wake Forest, 21-3, Tues. at Miami
6. Boston College, 20-1, Wed. vs. Rutgers
7. Duke, 18-3, Thur. at Va. Tech
8. Oklahoma State, 19-3, Sat. vs. Texas Tech
9. Syracuse, 22-3, Sat. at BC
10. Arizona, 21-4, Thur. vs. Oregon
11. Michigan State, 17-4, Wed. vs. Minnesota
12. Louisville, 21-4, Thur. at Marquette
13. Gonzaga, 19-4, Thur. vs. San Diego
14. Utah, 21-3, Sat. at Air Force
15. Washington, 20-4, Sat. at Wash. St.
16. Alabama, 19-4, Thur. vs. Arkansas
17. Pittsburgh, 17-4, Sun. at Villanova
18. Connecticut, 15-6, Tonight at Prov.
19. Pacific, 20-2, Wed. vs. UCSB
20. Wisconsin, 16-6, Thur. vs. Michigan
21. Oklahoma, 17-6, Thur. vs. Nebraska
22. Maryland, 15-7, Thur. at N.C. State
23. UNC Charlotte, 17-4, Thur. vs. DePaul
24. Cincinnati, 18-6, Thur. vs. So. Miss.
25. Villanova, 14-6, Tonight vs. Bucknell

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Everyone is invited to attend a Higher Education Rally In the small rotunda of the State Capital Building in Frankfort

Wednesday, February 16th 1-1:30 pm

Buses will provide transportation from the Student Center at 11:45 am

Speakers include State Treasurer Miller, Secretary Greyson, Secretary Fox and students.

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IN OUR OPINION

UK meal plan hard to swallow

Last week, UK proposed a new meal plan in which students will purchase a certain amount of meals per semester rather than having a cash balance.

The plan has been touted as a way to give students more options.

It's really just a new way to fleece them.

The minimum option under the new plan would cost \$883 per semester, almost \$60 more than the current plan.

A trip through the buffet at Blazer Cafe or the Commons Market will cost a student about \$7, regardless of how much food he or she gets.

But students can get a meal for that much — and often for less — at the numerous restaurants around the UK campus.

And the food at those establishments is almost always better than what UK Dining has to offer.

Most of UK's benchmark schools use plans similar to the one UK has proposed, but ripping students off is not the way to become a top-20 school — even if others are doing it.

The solution to the problems posed by the new plan, however, is not to keep the current one.

Under the current plan, each student in UK housing must pay \$825 per semester for a meal plan,

which can be spent on low-quality food or overpriced items at campus convenience stores.

And any balance of over \$50 left on the meal card at the end of the semester can't be carried over to the next.

Students would be just as well off paying \$825 less per semester to UK Dining and having the extra money to spend on food they actually want to eat.

And that's exactly what we think should be done: Stop forcing students who live on campus to purchase meal plans.

If that means the end of UK Dining, so be it.

Private vendors could do the job of feeding students.

Competition would cause prices to go down — unlike in the current campus dining monopoly.

If parents of UK students want to ensure that their children have money that can only be spent on food, they can look into the private Off-Campus Meal Plan, which can be used at more than two dozen restaurants around campus.

But it is not UK's job to make students buy food.

And that's why the proposed meal plan is just as bad of an idea as the current one.

Neither the current nor the proposed meal plan gives students a fair deal.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Students can make a stand at Higher Education Rally

This Wednesday, students from across the Commonwealth of Kentucky will be gathering at the State Capitol Rotunda for the Higher Education Rally, themed "Invest in us."

The event will last from 1 to 1:45 p.m. and will include comments from Secretary of State Trey Grayson, State Treasurer Jonathan Miller and several students. Student Government will be providing buses from the Student Center parking lot that will leave at noon and return at 3 p.m. There will be free T-shirts, buttons, signs and information about how to contact your legislators personally. Students will need their driver's license.

Why should you care? This is your chance to actually do something about the tuition increases. You have the opportunity to let your legislators know that you need financial support from the state. Tuition is expected to increase by 14.5 percent next year, and by then, it will be too late to do anything about it.

There are no promises that holding a rally will lower our tuition, but if we do not go to Frankfort, we will be just another "group" lobbying for state support. This is our chance to put a face to higher education.

Don't have enough time? Everybody is busy this time of year, but this is only three hours of your time. If you have class, talk to your teachers and let them know what you are doing. More than likely, they will understand the importance of the issue, considering their salaries are on the table, and some may even give you extra credit for attending the rally.

Still not convinced? Whether or not you have the money to afford the tuition increases, we cannot afford to remain apathetic about the importance of higher education. This is our chance to show our passion and interest in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Besides, this is one of the few times you will be able to gather with students from other universities and stand for a cause that will last long after we graduate.

I hope all of you will strongly consider attending the Higher Education Rally tomorrow. Please call the Student Government Office at 257-3191 if you have any questions.

RACHEL WATTS
UK Student Government President

ONLINE POLL QUESTION

Is it worth the proposed tuition increase if it improves the overall quality of education at UK?

YES
NO

VOTE ONLINE AT WWW.KYKERNEL.COM



BRENT LENGEL, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Republicans pull trigger on judicial review

Republicans complained about "judicial activism" so much in the 2004 campaign, it'd be easy to think they just wanted to get rid of judicial review altogether.

And that's just what the immigration bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives last week aims to do.

The main purpose of the bill, the REAL ID Act of 2005 (H.R. 418), is to prohibit states from issuing driver's licenses to illegal migrants.

Another part, however, concerns the construction of a border fence near San Diego to prevent illegal immigrants from entering the United States through Tijuana. Laws to protect the environment and Native American burial grounds have stalled the project.

But to House Republicans, respect for the rule of law isn't nearly as important as building this fence.

And so section 102 of the bill reads, "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall have the authority to waive, and shall waive, all laws such Secretary, in such Secretary's sole discretion, determines necessary to ensure expeditious construction" of the fence.

It continues: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law (statutory or nonstatutory) ... no court shall have jurisdiction ... to hear any cause or claim arising from any action undertaken, or any decision made, by the Secretary of Homeland Security" with regard to the construction of the fence.

In other words, the secretary of homeland security is unbound by any law that interferes with the construction of the border fence — and the courts have no say about it.

What's especially frightening is the broadness of the waiver. The 1996 immigration law that the provision amends already contained waivers for the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. Rather than finding out what other laws were hindering the construction of the fence and waiving them specifically, the authors of the bill simply decided to give an inordinate amount of power to the secretary of homeland security.

This sets a dangerous precedent: The rule of law and checks and balances are foundations of American democracy, put in place to prevent the federal government from becoming a tyranny. Congress should treat the rule of law with respect, not disdain.

Republicans should be careful to set such a precedent. The GOP may think it has cap-

tured a permanent majority of Americans, but realignments are inevitable. Democrats are watching, and when they regain a Congressional majority — whether it takes two years or 20 — Republicans will regret deciding that the majority party need not be bound by rule of law.

In an interesting final note on the immigration bill, Republicans also revealed their hypocrisy on gun rights. The bill requires that states collect certain information about driver's licenses and store them in state motor databases. This, however, is just the "minimum" states can do — they can collect whatever other information they please in such databases.

Rep. Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas, asked that the bill include instructions that prevent states from using these databases to collect information about gun ownership. One would think Republicans, who have long opposed gun registration, would have assented.

But they didn't. Almost every Republican in the House voted against the motion, and so it failed. Remember that when the GOP tries to pose as the party that supports gun rights. And remember this bill when they claim to respect the rule of law.

Brenton Kenkel is a philosophy and political science freshman. His column appears every Tuesday. E-mail bkenkel@kykernel.com.

Immigrant family makes heroic choice

Most illegal immigrants leave the country kicking and screaming, holding on to U.S. soil for dear life.

Forget the law. They need to live, to work, to survive. They would rather break our country's laws than leave her borders.

One Argentine family here in Lexington has decided to be the exception.

Once unwilling to go, this illegal family just purchased four tickets to fly back to their country. They are willing to give up the good life in order to obey the law. Their story sets an example for the other 8 million illegal immigrants living in the United States and presents a mindset we rarely see.

They did not enter the United States illegally. Angel, his wife and their two children have visas — all that was required by the law back in 2000 when they first came.

They came so that Angel could find a better job, make more money and give his children security in life. He lost three houses to a corrupt system in Argentina and did not want to take the risk again. With the promise of a job in Columbus, Ohio, he packed up his family and left the Southern Hemisphere.

For the past five years, the family has enjoyed wealth it never knew in Argentina. Now living in Lexington, they have a duplex, two vehicles, the

latest electronics and a Yorkshire Terrier. They vacation in Miami and Niagara Falls. There is even enough to send home to help relatives and friends in Argentina. Life here is good and comfortable.

But their comfort is illegal. After Sept. 11, 2001, immigration laws tightened, and the family was supposed to be checked and balanced. Lawyers promised citizenship when laws relaxed again. But the laws do not look like they will change anytime soon. Even President Bush's give-a-worker program has little chance of surviving. The family has waited long enough — too long, they realize. They do not want to remain illegally anymore.

They are now selling all their belongings and preparing to leave behind economic security, perhaps forever. The economy back home is no better than when they left. Argentina's recent economic collapse has led to a 20 percent unemployment rate and economic uncertainty in almost every sector of life.

It's goodbye to the American lifestyle. No more leaving the front doors open. No more keeping the cars unlocked. By returning from the United States, they are even bigger targets for theft.

Angel will make 1,200 pesos a month at his new job. That is equivalent to about \$600 — thousands less than what he makes here. His oldest daughter will work to help support the family.

Sure, it would be easy to stay. There is little danger of getting caught and being forced to leave.

They could probably stay forever. But they want to obey the law. They want to do what is right.

Our laws and system of government are what make the country a good place to live.

To break them is to destroy that system. Illegal immigrants want the benefits of this society but refuse to adopt the laws for themselves. And this behavior is widely accepted — by lawyers, by citizens and, often, by myself.

As the family boards the plane for Argentina, there will be tears and sad goodbyes. It is not the stark image of agents ripping away a child from his mother or unlocking a crate full of illegal aliens, only to force them back home.

Their departure is calm and quiet. But it is powerful, because it is right. And they have chosen it for themselves.

The cost of doing what is right often does not make economic sense, especially for illegal immigrants living here in the states.

But this Argentine family is willing to pay the price.

I will miss them. But I thank them for having the strength to obey the law when it would be easier to break it — for deciding to do what even their own countrymen and other illegal immigrants will not.

I thank them for giving up their comfort to serve the laws of this country.

Keren Henderson is a journalism senior. E-mail khenderson@kykernel.com.

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Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Andrew Martin or Assistant Opinions Editor Ben Roberts.

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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.

With Georgia on mind, Cats eager to rebound



JONATHAN PALMER | STAFF

UK senior forward Chuck Hayes dives to fight Georgia's Dave Bliss for a rebound in the Cats' 60-51 win Saturday in Rupp Arena. The Bulldogs out-rebounded UK 37-29, the third time UK has been out-rebounded in its last four games.

By Chris Fisher
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

When UK travels to Columbia, S.C., tonight for a Southeastern Conference rematch with the Gamecocks, each team will enter the contest with an entirely different set of motives.

The Cats (19-2,10-0 SEC), coming off an uninspiring 60-51 win over the undermanned Georgia Bulldogs on Saturday, look to continue their quest for an undefeated SEC regular season and a possible No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

UK head coach Tubby Smith said he hopes his team learned its lesson from Saturday and can regain its focus and intensity.

"I'm sure we did learn a valuable lesson from that (Saturday)," Smith said. "The game is never over, and you have to play with a level of intensity and passion every time you go on the court. We're coming off of a very poor performance. We're anxious to prove we're better than we were on Saturday."

The Gamecocks (13-8, 5-5 SEC), who dropped a 74-71 home decision to Auburn Saturday, look to add a marquee victory to their NCAA tournament resume. Sophomore forward Bobby Perry said a home win over the No. 3 Cats would do just that.

"They get a big win here, and it helps their NCAA chances," Perry said. "They're going to come out prepared, and it would be a huge win for them."

In order to do that, the Cats must do a better job on

the glass. USC will start four forwards tonight and has the athletes to compete at both ends of the floor.

The Cats, who rank fourth in the SEC in rebounding margin, have been out-rebounded in four of their last six games. UK, which held a 44-18 advantage on the glass versus Georgia in Athens, was out-rebounded Saturday 37-29.

"One of the things we've been working hard on is our rebounding," Smith said. "We've been struggling rebounding the ball. You've got to put a body on them because they're very athletic and quick to the ball. We've got to do a better job of finding people and boxing them out."

The Gamecocks provided a stiff test for the Cats during their first meeting, shooting 54 percent and becoming the lone UK opponent in the last two seasons, a span of 53 games, to shoot better than 50 percent, in a 79-75 loss in Rupp Arena last month. "USC is led by senior Carlos Powell, averaging 15.2 points and 6.6 rebounds per game, who has drawn comparisons to former Cat and fellow southpaw Erik Daniels for crafty moves around the basket. Powell torched the Cats for 13 first-half points last month."

Since that Jan. 5 game, the Gamecocks have gone 5-4 in SEC play. But Perry said the Gamecocks are much better than their 13-8 record indicates.

"They apply hard ball pressure; they trap after the first pass," Perry said. "They press it up the court, really

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Series Record: UK leads, 25-5

No. 3 Kentucky Wildcats (19-2)

Probable Starters	PPG	RPG
G Rajon Rondo	8.5	3.0*
G Patrick Sparks	11.3	4.3*
F Kaleem Adebukole	14.1	4.7
F Chuck Hayes	11.0	8.7
C Randolph Morris	8.3	3.7

South Carolina Gamecocks (14-5)

Probable Starters	PPG	RPG
G Tre' Kelley	10.0	3.3*
F Carlos Powell	15.2	6.6
F Tarence Kirtley	9.5	3.6
F Brandon Wallace	6.0	4.5
F Ronaldo Balkman	6.5	4.9

* Denotes assists per game

pushing in. They're one of the fastest teams in the league and really get up and down the court with very athletic players."

The Cats also look to capture their 15th consecutive 20-win season, dating back to the 1990-91 season, and their 50th overall. But senior forward Chuck Hayes said the Cats are just eager to rid themselves of the lingering aftereffects of Saturday's subpar performance.

"They say you're only as good as your last game, and our last game we didn't play too well," Hayes said. "Now we have an opportunity to regroup and change our identity a little bit. There's no better way than to go down to South Carolina and get a win against a good team."

E-mail
cfisher@kykernel.com

SPORTS BRIEFS

Rifle scores a season-high
MURRAY, Ky. — At the NCAA Qualifying Sectional at Murray State, the UK rifle team delivered a season-high performance Sunday. All the Cats can do now is wait.

The Cats fired a 2304 smallbore score and season-high 2329 air rifle score at the 10-team event. The air rifle tally was good enough for third at the venue while the smallbore score ranked second. UK now awaits results from around the country as it hopes to be among the top eight scores in each event nationally to qualify for the NCAA Championships in March.

"We came out and gave it

all we had," said UK head coach Harry Mullins. "I thought we had a great week leading up to this and everybody shot as well as we could have hoped. I'm so proud of this team's effort today."

In air rifle, the Cats had three shooters register scores higher than 580. Chris Boggs paced the team with a 586 while Vicki Goss and Amy Sowash each had a 582. Ray Geyer, who had been the team's top air rifle shooter all year, turned in a 579.

Boggs also added a personal-best 587 smallbore performance. He was competing as an individual and his score, which ranked second best at the sectional, will

likely earn him a competing spot at the national championship. Geyer's 581 smallbore tally was the highest score counted toward the team total.

"We left some points on the board with Boggs, but that's the way it goes," Mullins said. "I couldn't be happier with the way everyone shot. It's exciting to know that we have everyone but one shooter from this team coming back next year."

UK returns to action in two weeks at the Great American Rifle Conference championships at Oxford, Miss.

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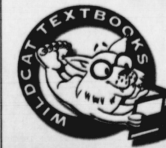
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