

# KENTUCKY KERNEL

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## Todd to announce scholarship program to Trustees

By Juliann Vachon  
jvachon@kykernel.com

An announcement regarding scholarship and financial aid, along with proposed tuition increases, are on the agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting this afternoon.

President Lee Todd will announce a multi-tiered approach that will look at a number of initiatives dealing with scholarship and financial aid in his report to the board, according to UK spokesman Jay Blanton.

"President Todd will present a broad-based plan that looks at affordability, greater access and transfer stu-

dents coming from community colleges," Blanton said.

Todd's announcement comes just weeks after the University of Louisville unveiled a new program, the first of its kind in Kentucky, designed to make college attainable for students from low-income families.

The Cardinal Covenant will provide eligible students living 150 percent or more below the federal poverty line with the full cost of tuition, room, board and books until they graduate.

Students who apply must be Kentucky residents, meet U of L admission standards, be accepted as degree-seeking freshman, complete a free applica-

tion for federal student aid and meet Pell Grant eligibility. In addition, students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better, be a full-time student and graduate in five years.

The program was modeled after the University of North Carolina's Carolina Covenant program, which began in 2003.

U of L Assistant Provost for Enrollment Services Boyd Bradshaw said U of L hopes to enroll about 150 students in the program this fall at a first-year cost of about \$250,000.

Bradshaw said the university is excited to invest in a program to help the 22.6 percent of Kentucky families liv-

ing 150 percent or more below the federal poverty line fund their education.

Bradshaw also said he was pleased to hear UK was making plans to address the issues of affordability and access for students.

"We are hoping that other schools will look at what U of L has done and put similar programs in place," Bradshaw said. "This is all about everyone pitching in and making college affordable for students in Kentucky."

The BOT will also vote on the proposed maximum nine percent tuition increase as set by the Council on Post-secondary Education.

If the proposal is approved, lower-

division in-state students will pay \$293 more a semester, totaling \$3,548. Upper-division in-state students will pay \$302 more a semester, totaling \$3,651.

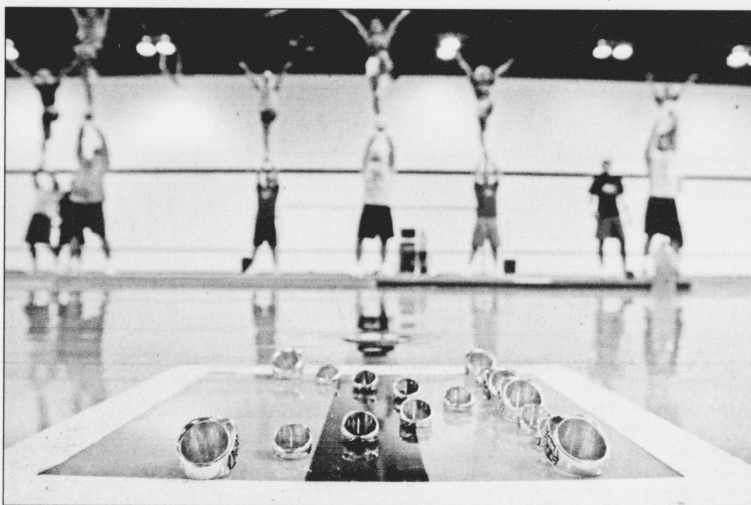
BOT staff representative Russ Williams said he does not expect the tuition vote to be controversial.

"The amount that is being recommended is consistent with the business plan and the general assembly mandate," Williams said.

The BOT will also vote on increasing room and board rates. If approved, students will pay \$2879.50 per semester for an air-conditioned dorm and the minimum seven meal-a-week meal plan, up \$125.50 from this year.

## TOP OF THE PYRAMID

UK's cheerleading team has outworked the competition to lead the country in national titles



UK cheerleaders place their past championship rings in the shape of a "K" during practices, a tradition that keeps them focused on their goal of winning another national championship. The Cats have won 15 national titles since 1985 and hoped to win another this year but placed third after a fall in the finale of their routine.

PHOTOS BY ANDREW HUGGINS | STAFF

By Chris Miles  
cmiles@kykernel.com

Bright smiles, for the UK cheerleading team, are like the perfect jump shot in basketball. The squad is built around it.

But senior cheerleader Billie Sue Roe was having a bad game.

"I didn't want the others to know I was upset," Roe said. "It was hard to focus, and I didn't want to screw up the routine."

The news couldn't have come at a worse time. In less than a week the team would be heading to Orlando, Fla., for the 2007 Universal Cheerleading Association National Championship. Roe and the squad were going over the final details of a complex routine that, if executed successfully, could win the Cats their 16th national championship.

"His condition really worried me," Roe said. "But shortly thereafter he got better."

She wasn't the only one having problems. Others on the team were battling injuries that could possibly keep them from participating in the tournament.

"You have to push through," said junior Jeremy Lumpkin, who was nursing a hurt shoulder made worse every time he held a girl up. "You have to suck it up."

That mentality is what has made the squad winners.

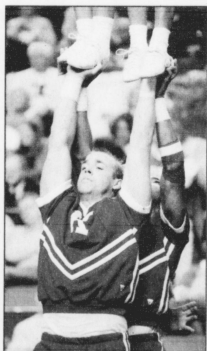
Since 1985, the Cats have won 15 national titles, including eight straight from 1995 to 2002 and three in a row since 2004. In 2003, UK placed what they felt was a disappointing second.

"You don't see a lot of others doing what we do," said head coach Jomo Thompson. "We have a lot of tradition here. The best of the best come here. The results, then, are great."

Thompson said that in every UCA Championship, UK looks to be on the cutting edge of cheerleading.

"We always push the envelope in terms of what has never been done," Thompson

See **Cheer** on page 6



Jeremy Lumpkin helps hold two cheerleaders during a performance of the team's 2007 Universal Cheerleading Association nationals routine during half-time of the Auburn basketball game. Lumpkin competed in the championship despite an injured shoulder.

## Hospital seeks construction expansion

By Shannon Mason  
smason@kykernel.com

Plans for a new, more advanced and larger hospital at the University of Kentucky just got a little bigger.

UK HealthCare officials are seeking approval to add 192 additional patient beds to the plans for the new Chandler Medical Center.

Dr. Michael Karpf, executive vice president for health affairs at UK, presented the request to apply for a state certificate of need to the University Hospital Committee of the Board of Trustees last night.

The Hospital Committee passed the request unanimously and the full Board of Trustees is set to vote on the issue today at its regularly scheduled meeting.

If the BOT approves the request, hospital officials will apply for state approval.

"It is our expectation (that they will approve it)," said UK

spokesman Jay Blanton.

"Dr. Karpf has spent a lot of time keeping the committee and the full board up to date,"

"It's very important to him," Blanton

said, adding that UK HealthCare plays a large part in UK achieving top-20 status as a public research university.

Blanton said the BOT was "comfortable and familiar" with the hospital plans.

The new beds are needed to meet the hospital's growth, Karpf said.

"We thought we would grow at five percent (per year), but we grew at 10 percent," Karpf said.

UK HealthCare officials expect to see 26,200 patients treated at UK this year. This is a 37 percent increase over the 2003 fiscal year, according to a news release.

Karpf said the current hospital is running at about 85 percent capacity.

"We're maxed out," he said.

Karpf said the state recently lifted a cap on applications for certificates of need.

"(To apply) hospitals have to be 75 per-

cent full."

See **Hospital** on page 3

### If you go

**What:** Community meeting discussing the UK HealthCare expansion

**When:** Tonight at 6  
**Where:** Rm. 317, Wethington Building on South Limestone Street

## Scorsone: partner benefits should be up to schools

By Alice Haymond  
ahaymond@kykernel.com

State Sen. Ernesto Scorsone said the debate about domestic partner benefits should be left up to the universities and not Kentucky's legislature last night at a UK College Democrats meeting.

Although Scorsone, D-Lexington, personally agrees with domestic partner benefits, it is not an issue he wants to bring before the Kentucky legislature.

"My opinion is a different take than that of (Rep.) Stan Lee who's saying the legislature should ban

universities from doing it," he said. "Actually, my position is that we should butt out."

"If I take my hat off as a legislator, it (domestic partner benefits) is obviously the smart thing to do."

Domestic partner benefits for employees, such as health care, are being considered at UK. The University of Louisville implemented them at the start of the year. Lee, R-Lexington, has proposed a bill to ban domestic partner benefits at public universities across the state.

"I would not give it a lot of chance," Scorsone said of Lee's bill. "Nobody in the Republican

leadership thought it was a good idea."

Scorsone said most of the argument behind the ban on domestic partner benefits is simply a fear of gay people, which he thinks may be difficult for students to understand.

"With the older crowd, it's a little different," he said. "Homophobia is a lot stronger."

When students who support domestic partner benefits asked him why he would not push those rights in the senate, Scorsone said it wouldn't do any good to fight for the issue before Kentucky's legislature.

"As a gay man," he said, "I can tell you I agree with you 100

See **Scorsone** on page 6

## UK discovers stem cell gene

By Shannon Mason  
smason@kykernel.com

UK researchers are the first to find a gene that regulates the growth of adult stem cells — in mice, at least.

Dr. Gary Van Zant, a UK professor of medicine and researcher in the hematology oncology department, said the next step with his latest study is to take the results "from the bench top to the bed side; that is, from the laboratory bench to the patient's bed side."

During the study, Van Zant and his colleagues genetically mapped a stem cell gene and its protein, Latexin, which regulates the size of adult stem cell populations.

"Latexin is a negative regulator," Van Zant said. This means that it



Dr. Yung Liang, a research associate in Dr. Gary Van Zant's lab in the Markey Cancer Center, examines a petri dish containing cloned bacteria cells yesterday.

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## THE DISH

### After four years, Barrymore parts with her rocker beau

Drew Barrymore is living the Fab life no more. Hot Stuff has learned the star, 31, has given Strokes drummer Fabrizio Moretti, 26, the boot. "Drew said they needed time off," a source close to the actress tells Us. Confirms a Moretti pal, "Fab is now living back in his old apartment." The pair—who hooked up in April 2002—seemed a good match on the surface, friends say. "Drew has always had a taste for subculture," Barrymore pal Courtney Love tells Us. But they had suffered some rocky times. Tongues wagged when she skipped the February 2005 nuptials of Strokes frontman Julian Casablancas; months later, the duo got in a public tiff in Santa Monica, California. In fact, "she broke up with him twice before this," says a Barrymore insider. At issue? Clashing personalities. "He's younger, and she's more worldly," says a source of Barrymore. "He doesn't like the Hollywood stuff. He doesn't get her friends." But don't count them out just yet, adds the source: "This is exactly what happened last time they took a break." Reps for both declined to comment.

Tea Leaf in L.A. "She had a huge smile on her face," says an eyewitness. "When they left, they put their arms around each other." Moving fast? Maybe. This was at least the fourth outing in a week for the pair, who exchanged numbers in Miami Beach over New Year's weekend, and then met up in L.A. days later for a trip to Moore's recording studio (where she played tracks from her next CD). And what about Moore's ex Wilmer Valderrama, with whom she hung out during her New Year's trip? "Even though she was with Wilmer in Miami, she and DJ made plans," says a source close to Goldstein. "They are seeing where it goes." (Goldstein's rep had no comment. Moore's rep doesn't comment on her personal life.)

in 2003). A rep for the magazine says, "We don't favor one actress over the other."

### America's Secret Identity

Is Ugly Betty going undercover? A source says America Ferrera, 22, used the name Jennifer when listing a "shabby chic" desk for \$100 on Craigslist.org. But while arranging a pickup, she slipped by saying, "This is America," on a voice-mail message; Ferrera hung up as soon as she realized her mistake. Says the source, "She called back later as Jennifer."

### Milo & Adrian: True Heroes

Talk about life imitating art. While driving in L.A. January 7, Heroes costars Adrian Pasdar, 41, and Milo Ventimiglia, 29, helped two female motorists whose car was stuck in the middle of the street. "People were honking," says a source. "So they pulled over, pushed the girls' car to the side and asked if they needed AAA." No super-powers required!

### Mary-Kate Has Role Cut

So much for her big closeup. According to a source, Mary-Kate Olsen, 20, was "reduced to being an extra" in the upcoming Factory Girl. Says the insider, "She had two scenes with lines, but they cut them to focus on the movie's Oscar hopeful, Sienna Miller." (Olsen's rep tells Us, "It was a creative decision.")

### Jennifer Hudson In Vogue

From Dreamgirl to... cover girl? Hot Stuff has learned that on January 5, Golden Globe nominee Jennifer Hudson, 25, posed for photographer Annie Leibovitz at the Apollo Theater in Harlem for a Vogue photo shoot. One insider says, "She may even end up on the cover." (A rep for Vogue confirms the shoot took place for the March issue, but says the cover hasn't been decided.) It's yet another accolade for Hudson—and is unlikely to please her Dream-girls costar (and rumored rival) Beyoncé Knowles, 25, who, a source says, has long coveted the cover of Vogue (though she appeared in a four-page feature

### Mandy & DJ A.M. — Dating!

New year, new love! Mandy Moore, 22, and Adam "DJ A.M." Goldstein, 33, got cozy January 6 at a Coffee Bean &

## LIVE PATIO MUSIC

## THE WORLD FAMOUS TWO KEYS Tavern

## UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP



By Linda C. Black

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

**Aries (March 21 – April 19)** Today is a 7 — Postpone an outing until later tonight or tomorrow. The nervousness you feel is your internal warning system going off.

**Taurus (April 20 – May 20)** Today is a 5 — There's a new opportunity coming soon. You'll find out about it through the grapevine, or on a bulletin board at your corner market. Be watching for it.

**Gemini (May 21 – June 21)** Today is a 6 — Be patient a little while longer. Consult with your friends before taking action. One of them has

part of the answer you're seeking. You have the other part.

**Cancer (June 22 – July 22)** Today is a 7 — Stay where you are until you get your marching orders. A situation that looks impossible isn't, except from your perspective.

**Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)** Today is an 8 — Keep watching and you should be able to tell when conditions change. It'll be like a breath of fresh air, dispelling the confusion.

**Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)** Today is a 7 — Listen to people's opinions, and treat them with respect. Be paying really close attention, however, to the bottom line.

**Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)** Today is an 8 — You're coming up with lots of ideas, but some of them won't work. Try to figure out which are which before you have very much invested.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)** Today is a 7 — Make plans with a very imaginative person, to accomplish more using less. Conserve, recycle

and come up with a couple of new ideas.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)** Today is a 6 — You've suffered enough humiliation. Schedule a time-out. Go get an infusion of unconditional love.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)** Today is an 8 — Be very careful again today. New information is confusing. You'll understand much better tomorrow. Wait until then to make comments.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)** Today is a 7 — You're getting into the phase where you have a definite advantage. That goes along with your birthday. Congratulations, on both.

**Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20)** Today is an 8 — Continue to do what you said you would, on time and with enthusiasm. You're finally going to start seeing the money flow in your direction.

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# HOSPITAL

Continued from page 1

cent occupied and meet a number of other criteria," Karpf said. "We fulfill all that criteria."

The new hospital is part of phase one in UK's hospital expansion plan. A new parking garage is being built on South

Limestone Street and the new hospital will be built where the hospital's current parking garage stands.

If the extra 192 beds are approved, two additional stories will need to be added to plans for two six-story bed towers to accommodate the increase.

The new hospital is set to open in 2011. Phase 1A of the expansion, which includes building the new parking

garage and hospital, is projected to cost \$450 million.

The three-phase project, which should be completed by 2020, also aims to build a new critical-care facility and an ambulance facility.

UK HealthCare officials will provide community members with an update on the expansion tonight at 6 in room 317 of the Werthington Building on South Limestone Street. Karpf said students are

welcome to attend the meeting. He said the meetings are mainly for neighborhood groups, which are organized and a "political force."

UK HealthCare officials have hosted several community meetings and anywhere from a couple to about 10 people attend, he said.

"We like to offer an opportunity to ask questions," Karpf said.

## Student Health Advisory Council (SHAC) Meeting Thurs Jan 25, 6:30 pm University Health Service

Agenda: Eating Disorders Awareness Week  
Social Responsibility Awareness  
Student Insurance Update



<http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/USHSHAC.htm>

To promote the quality & delivery of healthcare at the University Health Service for students at UK

## Kroger grant pays for cancer patient computers

By Chris Weis  
news@kykernel.com

Patients at the University of Kentucky's Markey Cancer Center can expect to be more comfortable and better educated in future visits thanks to a grant from The Kroger Co. Mid-South Division.

The Markey Cancer Center will use a \$50,000 grant from the company to establish Patient Education Centers that Craig Rogers, director of cancer services at Markey, said will make the center more patient- and family-friendly.

Rogers described the Patient Education Centers as kiosks that will be equipped with computers, literature, brochures, 3-D models and more.

The goal of the kiosks will be to help visitors better understand their hospital stays by providing current and credible cancer information ranging from treatments to coping methods, he said.

"People who are diagnosed with cancer tend to be information seekers," said Judi Dunn, patient education center manager at the UK Chandler Hospital.

Dunn, who directs the hospital's Health Information Library, will oversee the implementation of the Patient Education Centers in Markey waiting rooms.

The Patient Education Center project will be an extension of the Health Information Library, Rogers said.

The computers will help people manage disruptive hospital stays by acting as both educational tools and diversionary activities, Rogers said. People will be able to access the Internet and check their e-mail, he said.

"(Family members and visitors) still have lives going on, so they appreciate the ability to use a computer," Dunn said.

Tim McGurk, manager of customer relations of Kroger's Mid-South Division, said the grant came from a nationwide fundraiser by The Kroger Co. in October. All of the

2,400 U.S. stores helped in raising \$2 million toward the research and treatment of breast cancer.

The Mid-South division researched local agencies that supported breast cancer and other related diseases and chose the UK Markey Cancer Center, McGurk said.

"We were impressed by what we learned about the Markey Cancer Center, the staff, the sheer number of people they help and the quality of help they provide," McGurk said.

The decision to use the grant for the establishment of the kiosks was an agreement between Kroger and the Markey Cancer Center, McGurk said.

"(The kiosks) should provide patients and families with answers to the many questions they have," McGurk said.

Rogers said he hopes to have the first Patient Education Center set up by mid-spring.

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## Swing dancing goes downtown with new event

By Ellie Fairbanks  
efairbanks@kykernel.com

When Mike Richardson got married, he made his wife one promise that he was determined not to break.

"I told her I'd learn to dance," said Richardson, the staff adviser to the UK Swing Dance Club. "Since I didn't keep my promises of becoming a professional athlete or a millionaire, I thought the least I could do was keep one of them."

To help others learn to dance, Richardson, along with second year pharmacy student and Swing Dance Club President Amanda Beckman, has organized the first "Swingin' at Main Street Live." The event takes place tonight at 8 at Main Street Live, 367 E. Main St.

"We're really excited about this event," Richardson said. "We hope that it's the beginning of a really great collaboration between our club and

Main Street Live."

Main Street Live, formerly known as Avivo, is a location for a swing dance, Richardson said.

"We thought this would be a really good swing dancing

down to someone that people know."

Richardson said. "They (Main Street Live) have a really great dance floor on the second floor, and we're happy to get a chance to try it out."

The Swing Dance Club has had swing dances and offered swing dance lessons regularly throughout the school year, Richardson said.

Lessons are available for beginners or intermediate

dancers at the Tates Creek Recreational Ballroom, at 1400 Gainesway Dr., on Mondays at 8:15 p.m. and 9 p.m. "Swingin' at Main Street Live" will start with a beginner swing dance lesson from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

In 45 minutes to an hour, you can learn basic steps and get the "low," Richardson said. "If you know right from left and you can count, then you can swing dance."

Richardson said he thinks it is important that weekly lessons are available so that people are not afraid to learn to dance.

"The hard part of learning to dance is giving it a try," Richardson said. "Guys don't

ever want to look stupid, but it's actually a lot of fun when you learn. We're just trying to get people interested and on the floor."

Main Street Live is usually a 21-and-up bar, but the club has made an exception for the swing dance. Anyone 18 and older can get in, but those who wish to drink alcohol will receive a wristband as identification.

"We told them (Main Street Live) that swing dancers don't drink a lot, but we all still thought it'd be a good opportunity and a good venue," Richardson said.

Richardson said he thinks that even though the event is in the middle of the week, it should not discourage students from coming.

"This is a completely stress-free event," Richardson said. "It's up-tempo, good fun that can be had in an exciting and inexpensive way."

### If you go

**What:** Swingin' at Main Street Live  
**When:** Tonight, lessons start at 8, dance starts at 9  
**Where:** Main Street Live, 367 Main St.  
**Cost:** \$7 and open to the public

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Where: Student Center Cats Den

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The Campus Calendar is produced by the Office of Student Activities, Leadership & Involvement. Registered Student Orgs. and UK Dept. can submit information for FREE online ONE WEEK PRIOR to the MONDAY information is to appear. Call 257-8867 for more information.

| Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>  | Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>   | Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>  | Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>   | Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>   | Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>   |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yates Elementary School Tutoring, 4:00 PM, Yates Elementary School</li> <li>• Swing Dance Lessons, 8:00, Tates Creek Recreation Ctr Ballroom</li> <li>• Solar Car Team Meeting, 7:00 PM, DVT Engineering Building</li> <li>• FUEL, 6:30 PM, 508 Columbia Avenue (UKWF)</li> <li>• College Democrats Meeting, 7:30 PM, 211 Student Center</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TEAM TRIVIA!, 7:00 PM, Student Center Cats Den</li> <li>• UK Students for Life Meeting, 8:00 PM, 115 Student Center</li> <li>• Students Taking Action Globally (STAG) Meeting, 5:15 PM, 211 Student Center</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University Christian Fellowship, 8:00 PM, 230 Student Center</li> <li>• Comedy Caravan with Ryan Hamilton, 8:00 PM, Student Center Cats Den</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voting Machines: Does Your Vote Count?, 7:00 PM, Temple Adath Israel, 124 N. Ashland Avenue, Lexington</li> <li>• Mars Attacks! (SC Film Series), 10:00 PM, Center Theater (Student Center)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alien (SC Film Series), 10:00 PM, Center Theater (Student Center)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UK Ultimate Frisbee Organization, 12/17/06, 10:00 PM, Intramural Fields</li> </ul> |



# OPINIONS

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The Opinions page provides a forum for the exchange of ideas. Unlike news stories, The Kernel's assigned editorialists 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.

## KERNEL EDITORIALS

### Tuition increase shouldn't be met with silence

There should be a sigh of relief from the UK student population in response to the news that tuition will only increase by nine percent in 2007-2008.

But instead of a sigh, there seems to be only silence from the students.

After four straight years of double digit tuition increases, the nine percent cap on tuition this time round is a great tool that, on paper, would help ease the financial burden on students of UK's mandated top-20 status and place the responsibility in the hands of state legislators. In-state tuition will increase from \$3,349 to \$3,651 per semester while out-of-state tuition for a semester will increase from \$7,078 to \$7,547, and, despite a still large increase, UK students will no longer shoulder as much of the funding for big projects like new facilities or staff salary increases. The source for UK's financial needs will thus fall on the state legislators who mandated top-20 status in the first place.

But apparently no one affected by the tuition increase has noticed.

The students — the group most directly affected by both ends of UK's Top 20 Business Plan, as they both pay for and receive its benefits — don't seem to even know what is happening to them or their school.

A week ago, UK administrators held an open forum and invited students and others to discuss the nine-percent tuition increase and how it would affect UK and its students. The forum presented unanswered questions of the planned increase including why the tuition increase is capped and what that means for the university. Less than 12 people were in the audience at the forum, according to a Kernel article on Wednesday. UK officials weren't surprised.

UK Provost Kumble Subbaswamy said in the Kernel that the low turnout was probable because the increase being discussed was only nine percent, unlike last year's 12 percent increase, and students aren't as concerned as last year.

But even in previous years, students haven't shown much concern.

On March 9, 2006, a rally for increased legislative funding for state universities at the capitol in Frankfort drew 200 students from colleges and universities across the state. Only five students were on scene to represent UK, the state's flagship university — and the one that has been tagged to become a top-20 university by the state — according to a Kernel article last year. Scratch, the school's mascot, was also there.

"This is a ridiculous turnout," said then-Student Government Chief of Staff Robb Hopkins in the Kernel article. "Maybe it's that everybody's too busy or maybe it's that nobody cares."

More and more it does seem like no student cares where their money is going. The nine percent tuition cap is a good idea to help alleviate the growing burden of tuition on students, and will hopefully force legislators to fully fund UK's Top 20 Business Plan.

But legislators might not be inclined to provide the funding needed to relieve students of the tuition burden if senators and representatives get the impression that students don't care how much their education costs. With the poor attendance of last year's rally and last week's forum, legislators could very well be getting that message.

We should be proud that UK isn't content to slugsidly shrug along as a mediocre school and has set goals for itself that will strengthen its reputation and improve the education that it offers.

As the university pushes to meet state expectations, there should be a strong voice from the students that are being served as to whether the school and the state are making the right decisions. Student voice can be positive or negative, but it must be there.

Students should take advantage of school-sponsored forums to understand where the money they are paying is actually going. UK and state officials inevitably make decisions that students disagree with, but without a voice from the student body, they will never know. Tuition is an issue that affects all students — more than a dozen should care enough to speak up.



**WES BLEVINS**  
Kernel columnist



TONY FISHER, Kernel cartoonist

### Super Bowl matchup should be about records, not race

When Lovie Smith's Chicago Bears beat the New Orleans Saints on Sunday, and when Tony Dungy's Indianapolis Colts defeated the New England Patriots, the two men became the first black head coaches to advance to the Super Bowl in the game's 41-year history.

And it didn't take long for the media to take notice. Not one minute after Colts quarterback Peyton Manning took a knee to seal the AFC Championship, CBS' Jim Nantz gushed over the fact that not one, but two African-American coaches have finally made it to the nation's grandest sporting event. And get this — one of them is going to win!

And as of yesterday afternoon, every major sports Web site featured a column on the momentous occasion. ESPN's John Clayton wrote, "The NFL has been waiting 41 years for the first African-American head coach to patrol the sidelines at a Super Bowl. Now there will be two, and one will be the winner. Actually, the nation will be the winner in this one."

Sports Illustrated columnist Jeffri Chadiha joined in the celebration as well. "You have to understand this isn't merely about the Super Bowl," he wrote. "It's about a

cultural shift. It's about progress."

If Super Bowl XLI represents progress, what is the NFL progressing from?

In 2006, out of 32 NFL teams, there were seven black head coaches. Now that the regular season has ended, two have been fired: Arizona's Dennis Green and Oakland's Art Shell. With Pittsburgh's hiring of Mike Tomlin, there will be at least seven black head coaches next season, with one opening yet to be filled as of yesterday afternoon. So nearly 20 percent of NFL coaches next season will be black.

Because no black head coach has ever made it to the Super Bowl, we're supposed to assume that some sort of institutional racism exists within the NFL. The majority of NFL players are black, it is argued, so the proportion of white coaches to black coaches should be more evenly matched.

It is true, perhaps, that the NFL was late in bringing blacks into the coaching fraternity, with Art Shell becoming the first in the league's modern era as head coach of the Los Angeles Raiders in 1990. Since the 1990s, however, black coaches have been given numerous opportunities to coach in the NFL.

Some have had success. Dennis Green went 15-1 with the Minnesota Vikings before losing in the NFC Championship game. Tony Dungy built the long-suffering Tampa Bay Buccaneers into a playoff team, and it was his players who won Super Bowl XXXVII under Jon Gruden. And Lovie Smith has returned the Chicago Bears to

playoff form after several seasons of setbacks.

At the same time, some white head coaches have succeeded, while many more have been fired. For every successful coach like Bill Belichick or Tony Dungy, there is a plethora of bad coaches — black and white: Mike Tice, Art Shell, Butch Davis, Dom Capers et al.

If the media never mentioned the fact that two black coaches will coach Super Bowl XLI, at least 90 percent of the game's viewers wouldn't even take notice. Isn't that the way it should be? Isn't that the ultimate goal of the Civil Rights movement? Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of not judging people by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. Or for NFL standards, by their coaching record.

It's because sportswriters and columnists (myself not excluded) choose to draw attention to it that this becomes an issue in the first place. There is no league-wide institutional racism in the NFL that keeps blacks and other minorities out of the coaching ranks.

There is, however, racism in the form of paternalism in media pundits and sportswriters who will likely spend the next two weeks patting themselves on the back for the accomplishments of two successful NFL head coaches who happen to be black.

Wes Blevins is a journalism senior. E-mail [wblevins@kykernel.com](mailto:wblevins@kykernel.com).

### Forget candidate chatter — media needs to focus on present

I wonder if America's top news staffs bought the new calendars for the new year — they seem to keep forgetting it's only 2007.

Speculation about the 2008 U.S. presidential election has taken over the media. With U.S. Sens. Barack Obama, D-Ill., and Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., formally entering the race, it's set to only get worse.

This trend isn't at all unprecedented; today's prognosticators are merely treading in the steps of their predecessors four years ago. That is, they're filling myriad newspaper columns and TV time slots with idle chatter that will ultimately be worthless.

To wit: News stories from January and February 2003 focused mainly on three Democratic candidates, U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, U.S. Rep. Dick Gephardt of Missouri, and Vermont Gov. Howard Dean. Lieberman's and Gephardt's candidacies were, to use the latter's own infamous description of President George W. Bush, miserable failures; Dean's defeat was pretty ugly as well.

Meanwhile, such stories mentioned eventual Democratic nominee U.S. Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts only because of his massive personal wealth and consequent fundraising advantage. U.S. Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, who went on to become Kerry's junior mate, received about as much attention as did perennial

long-shot candidate and general media laughingstock Al Sharpton. Former NATO Commander Wesley Clark, who ended up putting in the third-best performance, went unmentioned — he was months away from entering the race.

There's one reason for news organizations to stop trying to handicap the presidential race more than a year before the first primaries: Their predictions are inevitably wrong, providing ample fodder for future media critics. If premature presidential speculation simply embarrassed the media outlets that engage in it and had no other harmful effects, it would not be a problem. But when newspaper editors and TV news producers decide to devote the bulk of coverage to a presidential race that doesn't really start for another year, they're further gutting our nearly hollow democracy.

I know that's counterintuitive: Doesn't the news help our democratic culture by informing us about the people likely to be leading the country in the future? Indeed, isn't such foresight a welcome change for news outlets that normally just react to missing children and forest fires?

No, and no. First, coverage of likely presidential contenders focuses more on intangible personal qualities and sheer irrelevancies than on candidates' substantive policy positions. In 2004, essentially every Democratic candidate had a proposal for expanding health coverage to the uninsured, but the reporters who covered the primary race devoted their time to parsing the contenders' fashion choices and stump speeches to determine who was "unelectable" or "too angry."

Much of the 2008 coverage so far falls

under this category, with the bonus of exposing the racism and misogyny that motivate elite political reporting. Is Edwards an effective spokesman against poverty because he is attractive and has a Southern accent? Are Obama's "terrorist"-sounding middle and last names going to be an impediment to his candidacy? What's worse for Clinton: that she has a vagina or that her husband exerted questionable control over his own penis?

We can imagine a parallel world in which reporters are more interested in policy proposals than in sweeter choices. In such a world, rather early coverage of the presidential race would be beneficial, as media outlets would have the time to go through difficult material and analyze it well. That world, however, is not ours, and an irresponsible media does more harm than good by jumping the gun on the presidential race.

Second, every column inch or televised minute spent talking about the 2008 race would be better spent covering current problems. The United States is stuck in an unwinnable war in Iraq, and the foreign-policy community desperately needs to come up with a plan for withdrawing U.S. troops. On the domestic front, more than 45 million Americans still lack health insurance, but a plan to cover everyone still seems far off.

These issues deserve immediate public attention in order to facilitate the broadest possible involvement in policy solutions. If reporters facilitated that instead of helping spread slurs about Obama's name, Americans would be much better off.

Brenton Kenkel is a philosophy and political science senior. E-mail [kenkel@kykernel.com](mailto:kenkel@kykernel.com).

### MLK award reflects Turner's work at UK

A state-wide award recently reinforced William Turner's importance at UK by rewarding his dedication to civil rights.

Turner, an associate provost for multicultural affairs at UK, was awarded the Martin Luther King Jr. Citizenship Award on Jan. 17 for his work toward racial equality and nonviolent social change, according to a Kernel article last week. The award's recipient is chosen annually by a committee appointed by the governor.

As UK continues to work toward a more diverse student, faculty and staff population, it only benefits from a UK administrator receiving this prestigious award. Turner's activism represents a commitment to human rights and the continuation of King's dream.

Turner is also UK's vice president for university engagement, meaning he helps UK connect with surrounding communities, schools and businesses, according to the university engagement website. It is important for UK to have a person who is respected throughout the state and involved with social change representing UK to the surrounding communities. Turner helps UK put forth an image of change, diversity and leadership.

UK and the Lexington community should be proud to have Turner so close to home. Turner, and others like him, makes UK a place where all can feel welcome; he is certainly an asset to UK and Kentucky.



**BRENTON KENKEL**  
Kernel columnist





## CHEER

Continued from page 1

said. "We try ideas that would look cool. In the end, the performance is a work of art."  
For Jenny Fleming, a fifth year senior on the team, it would be a performance that she would not be able to be a part of after breaking a finger in a freak accident during practice a couple of weeks earlier.

"My whole life I was working up for this kind of ending," Fleming said. "Now it's over. It ended before I thought it would."

Fleming can do nothing more than cheer her squad on. Every practice, Fleming sits on the edge of the mat and watches the rest of the team go through their routine, shouting advice to members that may be having trouble. She is also in charge of an important tradition: she gathers each championship ring from those on the squad who have won and lines them up in the shape of a 'K' in front of the team as they practice.

"We always have the ring box, as a reminder, to tell us what we're working for," Fleming said.

Thompson said that the UK

cheerleading dynasty is built on previous squads and that the present team was looking to build on the winning tradition.

"We remind everyone that they're standing on the shoulders of those that came before them," Thompson said.

But this year, the difficult routine proved to be too much for the Cats.

UK's dynasty came undone when the squad was unable to finish the final pyramid during its performance. The routine's finale saw the squad snap together through flips and somersaults, forming into a pyramid three people tall. But one end of the pyramid fell, and the squad finished third — its worst result in a decade.

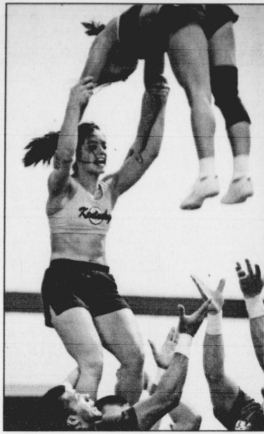
"If we would have had it, we would have won," Thompson said. "It's a disappointment. We had expected a national championship."

The third place finish in the UCA tournament would have been an achievement for many schools around the nation, but not UK.

"We're a number one program," Roe said. "Anything other than first place feels like last."

Still, like the problems facing the squad before the tournament, the players said they will battle through it.

"So many people want to



Billie Sue Roe performs part of the final pyramid in the cheerleading teams' national routine during practice on Saturday, Jan. 6. A week before nationals, Roe was distracted after hearing that her brother was admitted to the emergency room.

ANDREW HUGHES STAFF

come here," Fleming said. "Compared to everyone else we're way ahead."

Testament to that fact is a banner hanging from the rafters in Rupp Arena that displays the years of the Cats' 15 national championships.

And because of that tradition, the squad will keep smiling.

"It's a setback for us," Thompson said. "But we know we'll come back and win it next year."

## SCORSONE

Continued from page 1

percent ... but I can't win that argument in Congress. Today, in 2007, I can't win on gay benefits."

In a later interview, Scorsone said that even if legislators became more open to domestic partner benefits, he would still like to leave that decision up to the universities.

"In the long haul, we're always better served by (the legislature) butting out," he said. "The university has plenty of good people to decide things like health care benefits."

Scorsone also cited health care as an important issue he'd like to see the legislature tackle.

"I think the biggest issue we're not addressing is health care," he said. "Here we've got a physician as governor and he's doing nothing."

Having a strong belief in the potential of any citizens who voice their opinion, Scorsone encouraged students to speak out.

"Students' voices carry weight," he said. "You can have even more clout if you all register (to vote) in the same place."

## CELLS

Continued from page 1

keeps the number of stem cells small, he said. "When you inhibit Latexin, the stem cell population increases," he said.

"This (Latexin) is a tool to modulate, or change, the population size of stem cells in animals," Van Zant said. "Now we move on to humans."

According to Van Zant, Latexin is found in humans and may have the same effect. These results could lead to advances in other areas of stem cell research, such as the treatment and recovery of cancer patients and patients who have received bone marrow transplants.

Patients who have received bone marrow transplants have slow recoveries and it takes a while for their immune systems to build up, Van Zant said.

This could be because the patient does not have enough stem cells, he said. "By increasing the stem cell population, there could be a faster recovery," he said.

Van Zant said his research could also benefit cancer patients who have had high-dose chemotherapy.

"It (chemotherapy) is very debilitating and the blood-forming system gets hit the hardest," he said. "When there are not enough stem cells, (the patients) get prone to infec-

tion. "If you modulate the Latexin, you can speed up the growth of the stem cell population and the recovery after chemotherapy."

Van Zant said embryonic stem cell research is very controversial and "hotly debated."

"We concentrated on the adult stem cell population, which is not controversial," he said.

Van Zant acknowledged that there is an area in between embryonic stem cell research and adult stem cell research. That area is umbilical cord stem cell research, which is an area that Van Zant's study could come into play.

He said the usual practice when a baby is born is to cut the cord and throw it away. However, when the blood is extracted from the cord it produces a "rich population of stem cells," he said.

"But there aren't enough for adults," he said. "Our requirements are much greater than what is found in the umbilical cord."

With the discovery of Latexin, Van Zant said it might be possible to collect those stem cells, culture them and then inhibit the Latexin. This would make more stem cells, possibly enough to significantly aid in recovery for an adult.

Van Zant compared Latexin to a car brake, slowing the production of stem cells. "The ideal situation would be to develop a pharmaceutical that could partially or completely release that brake," he said.

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**2007 Fillyies Tryout Information**

**You MUST be 19 years old to tryout.**

**The fee for tryouts is \$60 and can be paid by cash or money order. Orders can be made up to The Pep Club, NO CHECKS!**

**Dance attire is appropriate for the tryouts.**

**There will be open clinics held for all interested in becoming a member of the Fillyies Dance Team.**

**Clinic Dates & Times:**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Jan. 16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> | Clinics will be held from 8:30-10:30PM |
| Jan. 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> |  |
| Jan. 30 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup> |  |

**Tryouts will be held February 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:30-10:30 pm.**

**All clinics and tryouts will be held at the Pep Club, 261 Ruccio Way, Lexington, KY, 40503 located inside the Omni Center. Please contact Linda Parker with any questions: [lparker@pepclubcolts.com](mailto:lparker@pepclubcolts.com)**

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