

# KENTUCKY KERNEL

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2008

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## Council votes down spring rush

By Hannah Ockerman  
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Rush week has traditionally been held in the Fall semester of the academic year, and the UK Panhellenic Council recently decided it would stay that way.

After some questions were raised about changing the Greek recruitment period to the Spring semester, the council unanimously ruled to keep recruitment in the fall, said Panhellenic Council

President Julie Meador. Meador said the UK Student Affairs Administration asked the Panhellenic Council to consider moving sorority recruitment two or three weeks into the Fall semester. There was also discussion of moving to or adding a formal spring recruitment week. Sorority recruitment is currently the week before school starts in the fall.

The Panhellenic Council talked to other campuses about when and how they recruit,

Meador said. Council members visited Purdue University to see how its Greek system recruited.

"Purdue is one of UK's benchmarks," said Susan West, director of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. "Their Greek community is similar to UK's."

Meador said after the Council visited Purdue, former UK Vice President of Student Affairs Pat Terrell determined that UK did not need to change the sorority recruitment period. Terrell

thought a change would be detrimental to the current recruitment system, Meador said.

West said she agreed with Terrell's conclusion about changing the current system.

"There would be conflict with academics and other UK community events such as football games, women's sports and leadership summits," West said. "Purdue had many scheduling con-

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## Art program receives first 'seal of approval'

By Ali Cicceri  
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After more than 30 years of talking about it, the UK Art Department received its first ever accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

The university's art department is one of only three accredited in the state, and UK offers the only free-standing College of Fine Arts in Kentucky.

Provost Kumble Subbaswamy said voluntary accreditation programs like the department of art gained through NASDA are rare.

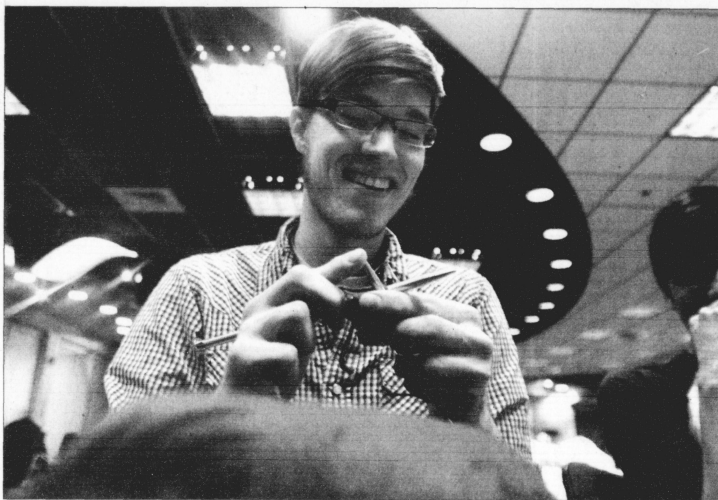
"It's important to do it, if possible," Subbaswamy said.

Many professions that involve professional degrees must have accreditation like medical degrees, architecture and engineering. In a way, accreditation is a "good housekeeping seal of approval," Subbaswamy said.

The art department, which received accreditation in mid-October, began thinking of the idea in the 1970s and became closer to accreditation in the 1990s, but nothing became of that hope, said Department Chair Ben Withers.

Withers said through suggestions from the accreditation agency, the art department began to seriously try for accreditation.

See Accreditation on page 3



Undeclared sophomore Russ Caldwell knits during a program the SOCKS knitting club held in the Cats Den on Nov. 22.

PHOTO BY ZACH BRAKE | STAFF

## Stitching to serve others

By Emily Gaskin  
news@kykernel.com

Knitting is not just for grandmothers anymore, or at least that is what one group of UK students is trying to prove.

The UK knitting club, SOCKS, is working on several service projects to benefit the Bluegrass Domestic Violence Shelter through knitting.

Amanda Zimny, a secondary studies education senior, started SOCKS. Serving Our Community Knitting and Stitching, her sophomore year at UK. "She held a 'Learn How to Knit' get-together and after a good turnout, she decided to start a knitting club with a service twist.

"I love knitting because it is a productive hobby that you can basically do anywhere," Zimny said. "Even when you are just sitting around watching movies or riding in the car you feel productive because you are making something that someone can use."

The club recently received a grant from the Alcohol and Health Education office to help purchase knitting supplies and journals to decorate and give to the shelter.

SOCKS' on-going project for the semester is donating knitted soap bags. The soap bags and journals will be put into welcome bags that each resident receives when he or she first arrives at the

shelter. Along with that, the club will knit winter hats to give to the shelter.

The members of the club also occasionally visit the shelter to teach residents how to knit. It can be a therapeutic hobby and also give the people something to do on a Sunday afternoon, Zimny said.

Jama Leichy, a library and information science graduate student, said she joined the club because knitting eases stress and also gives her something to be proud of.

"I think it's relaxing," she said. "I like to watch TV and knit at the same time. My roommates probably think I'm kind of weird because I like to knit and watch

football. I also like to show off stuff that I've made and be like, 'Oh, yeah, I made that.'"

The knitting club will hold a bake sale on Dec. 10 in the Student Center to raise money for knitting supplies to teach residents at the Bluegrass Domestic Violence Shelter how to knit.

The group meets at 7 p.m. on Thursdays in Room 119 in the Student Center. The club meetings always involve knitting, whether it is teaching beginners new techniques or talking about the next fundraising opportunity. Sometimes they just enjoy watching a movie and knitting, Zimny said. The club is open to anyone and no knitting experience is necessary.

## Effigy case to go before grand jury

Staff report

The two men charged in connection with hanging an effigy of President-elect Barack Obama on UK's campus will go to a grand jury for their case after waiving their rights to a hearing.

Joe Fischer, 22, and Hunter Bush, 21, were scheduled for a preliminary hearing Monday in Fayette District Court but decided to let the case go to a grand jury instead. Their attorney, Fred Peters, said they decided to forgo the hearing because the prosecutor gave the defendants access to all the witness statements.

The grand jury could meet anytime in the next 30 days, or whenever Fayette County Commonwealth Attorney Ray Larson schedules it, Peters said.

Fischer and Bush were arrested on Oct. 30 by UK Police on charges of second-degree burglary, second-degree disorderly conduct and theft by unlawful taking. They later pled not guilty to the charges.

### AIDS VIGIL



Sara Laforce, left, and Jay Smith, right, from The Hope Center, hold candles representing people affected by the HIV/AIDS virus, their family and friends Monday night in front of the Lexington Public Library. Five candle stations were set up around downtown so participants could pick up a candle from wherever they were and meet at the library, said Mark Royse, the executive director of AIDS Volunteers, Inc. According to a semi-annual report released in June, there are 3,000 people in Kentucky currently living with HIV/AIDS, Royse said. He said while media attention has focused on the cases in Africa and India, it is important to remember that this is still an issue in the United States.

PHOTO BY KRISTIN SHERRARD | STAFF

## Winter, economy increases need for charity drives

By Jennifer Hilinski  
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With cold weather here to stay, organizations around Lexington are looking for warmer clothes to give to needy people. While individuals may be concerned with their own financial well-being, charity organizations are looking to donation drives and the holiday spirit to help collect items.

The Salvation Army in Lexington has experienced a minor drop in donations this season, but not as much as expected, said Salvation Army manager Holly Bailey.

"Compared to last year, we have experienced a little change," she said. "A lot of people have been kind enough to donate, but I have noticed a little bit of a drop."

Donations by organizations have not slowed down, but individual gifts have suffered slightly, Bailey said.

"Not as many people aside from organizations have made as many donations compared to previous years, but people are still being generous," she said.

Bailey said the Salvation Army doesn't have records to compare the amount of donations to last year but said they are in dire need of warm clothes with the weather turning colder earlier this year.

"We need everything — towels, clothes, sheets and items for little children," Bailey said.

UK's College of Public Health and the Student Public Health Association have joined forces to collect winter clothes for the Appalachian community in Kentucky. John Kim, an advocate for "Winter Shoes and Coat Fest to Benefit Appalachia," said they are collecting shoes, coats, gloves, sweatpants and blankets.

"Just about anything that will benefit those in need during winter," said Kim, a public health graduate student.

Kim said he and Richard Crosby, a health behavior associate professor, decided to organize the charity drive because it reflected the problems that exist locally.

"We both thought it would be a great idea to run a grassroots donation campaign on campus that would help raise awareness of the poverty faced by people in that area," Kim said. "Most students have no idea of the level of economic and health disparities that exists in the Appalachian region of Kentucky."

Kim said he was surprised at the way some students are reaching out to help with

See Charity on page 3

# SUDOKU

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## Horoscopes

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

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** — Today is an 8 — Your routine works well, so keep doing what you do to bring the money in. Take more responsibility. And the others need you.  
**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** — Today is a 6 — Continue to manage your resources carefully. This is the theme of the month. Eventually, with all the wise choices you make, everything will work out fine.  
**Gemini (May 21-June 21)** — Today is an 8 — A person who doesn't agree with you isn't necessarily right, but sometimes passion carries more weight than rational analysis. Stay cool, have the facts and smile.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22)** — Today is a 7 — You always have tell the truth, but you don't always have to be telling it. So keep quiet about what you're doing. Maintain the mystery.  
**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** — Today is an 8 — Use experts to help you come up with ideas if you find yourself running out. You shouldn't have to think of everything and anyway, you couldn't.  
**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** — Today is a 6 — Duty calls, although you're not quite ready to go back to work. You can put the call on hold for a while, but you'll have to respond pretty soon.  
**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** — Today is a 7 — The confusion starts to clear, as you realign with your primary objectives. Make lists, if necessary, and then set new priorities.  
**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** — Today is a 7 — Gather more information before you go on your shopping spree. You don't want to get the wrong thing and have to take it back. receipts.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** — Today is an 8 — You have the ability to see the big picture relatively easily. You watch trends and like to get into a comfortable position. Study the game board; it's changed.  
**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** — Today is a 7 — Find what you need in your own cupboards, garage, attic and basement. Dig through that stuff you've been saving. The time's right for some of it.  
**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** — Today is an 8 — You have a picture in your mind of how you want things to be. Draw up a few sketches to go with your lists, so you'll get everything you need.  
**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** — Today is a 7 — Your dreams should be very interesting. You'll be able to solve puzzles and difficult problems while sound asleep. Go to bed thinking about the issue, with curiosity.

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## kernel POP



# It's a boy

Six months after tying the knot, Ashlee Simpson and Pete Wentz welcomed their child

Blogging about her pregnancy this past August, Ashlee Simpson-Wentz said all she wanted was to deliver a "healthy baby." Mission accomplished! In the early evening on Nov. 20, the singer, 24, was whisked in a black SUV to Los Angeles' Cedars-Sinai Medical Center by her husband, Fall Out Boy bassist Pete Wentz, 29, where she gave birth to 7-pound, 11-ounce son Bronx Mowgli just before 10:30 p.m.

At the hospital to welcome him into the world? Ashlee's big sis, Jessica Simpson; her parents, Joe and Tina; and Wentz's mom, Dale, in from Chicago. (Father Pete arrived later.) "Bronx is beyond precious. I'm over the moon with joy. Life is a beautiful miracle," Jessica, 28, tells Us. "Ashlee and Pete are healthy, happy and enjoying every moment." And Pete's sister, Hillary, tells Us, "I'm really excited to spoil Bronx rotten!"

### Baby joy

She won't be the only one: Both sets of grandparents can hardly contain their excitement. "We are happy beyond words and incredibly proud of Ashlee and Pete," Joe and Tina told Us in a statement. "We can't wait to spend Bronx's first holidays together. We are truly blessed." And for Pete and Dale, who said in a statement their grandson is already developing his own personality. "He stayed up late the first night, smiling at every-

one who came into the room. He already seems to have the independence and charm of both of his parents." Bronx's birth also has special meaning: He shares a birthday with the rocker's grandfather!

But no one is more elated than the new mom herself. A source says Simpson-Wentz already had a nanny hired in October. And during a Nov. 17 taping of The Ellen DeGeneres Show, Jessica told the host that Ashlee was so eager to give birth, she was "trying to eat, like, different salads to make her go into labor ... just jumping around, trying everything." And a witness tells Us when the Wenzes caught a screening of Quantum of Solace at Los Angeles' Arc-light Theater the next day, she appeared "ready to pop!"

### What's next

A source tells Us that Simpson-Wentz and her husband (who said of naming their son, "My friend said it — you've gotta have a baby with a name that could be a rock star or a senator, so he'll get work either way") are going to keep a low-key life in Los Angeles for the time being. "They're nesting." And perhaps planning for the next addition to their brood. As the bassist told Us in June, "I want a house full of kids!"

### What's with the name?

Don't look for any deep

reason the Texas-born Simpson-Wentz and her Illinois-bred husband opted to give son Bronx the same name as the NYC borough.

"I think they just thought it was a strong name," a source tells Us. "I doubt they've been to the Bronx." As for Mowgli, the name of the boy from The Jungle Book, it shows "they're huge Disney fans," says another pal.

Indeed, the couple's wedding had an Alice in Wonderland theme, and the baby shower featured Winnie the Pooh decor.

### From Olympian to reality star

Lauren Conrad is about to have some Olympic-size competition. Alicia Sacramone, 21, the former captain of the U.S. gymnastics silver medal-winning team, is now developing her own reality show.

"I'm interested in working for a designer and getting that on film, or working with teenage girls and helping them do a total lifestyle makeover," the Massachusetts native (whose boyfriend, Eric Hunt, 21, plays football at Brown University) tells Us. Though the show hasn't found a home yet, "we've gotten a lot of interest in it," she says. "It's probably going to be on Style, A&E or Bravo."

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# Lyrics and depth guide West through '808s and Heartbreak'

The famously lighthearted rapper/producer Kanye West has been promising for months that he was going to reveal a whole different side to his music as well as his personality, and West certainly meant business.

"808s and Heartbreak," West's fourth full-length LP, is unlike anything he has released to date. The most glaring difference on this album: depth. West's lyrics have dropped their playful tone,



**MATT MURRAY**  
Kernel columnist

and through his auto-tuned voice, you can tell what he says is the truth as he cries, "My friend showed me pictures of his kids, all I could show him was pictures of my cribs."

Throughout the course of the entire album, West wonders if he's gotten too wrapped up in a life of material things letting other, more important opportunities pass him by.

The sadder lyrics are a result of a combination of heartbreaks in West's life.

Late last year he lost his mother to heart complications following elective cosmetic surgery. Only to add to his pain, he lost his girlfriend, model Alexis Phifer, after she claimed he was devoting too much time to his music and touring.

Along with a change in depth has come a change in style. All of the songs are heavy in 808 bass loops, and West has conformed to the world of auto-tuning his voice, following the trend of such artists as T-Pain and Lil Wayne.

However, instead of using it in an attempt to hide errors in pitch, he instead pushes it to its limit through harsh, sudden changes in pitch, creating an extremely futuristic feel. The very unique, stylistic shift is only complimented by the incredible knack West has for writing strong melodic hooks; his rapping is not missed as a result.

There will be a handful of pretentious critics who say West can't pull off this sound and that he lacks the heartfelt depth, but condemning his playful past and using it to create a template for what he is able to create as an artist is far from fair.

West succeeds with flying colors. Outselling the 14-year work-in-progress that is Guns N' Roses' "Chinese

Democracy" only proves that West's "Heartbreak" is making plenty of noise. **Key Tracks:** "Welcome to Heartbreak," "Heartless," and "Paranoid"

Matt Murray is a journalism sophomore. E-mail mmurray@kykernel.com.

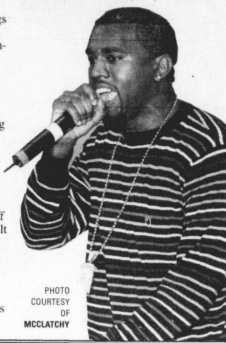


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## RECRUITMENT

Continued from page 1

licts for both their recruiters and potential members. Recruiters missed class to prepare for the recruitment events and got behind in their studies."

Members of the Purdue Panhellenic Council could not be reached for comment. Centre College is one school that emphasizes waiting until later in the school year to recruit for Greek organizations. Centre has Greek recruitment the week after Centre Term, a three-week term in January. Students must be in at least their second semester to be eligible for recruitment.

Allowing students to develop relationships before joining a sorority is a benefit of later recruitment, said Emily Perrin, vice president of recruitment for Centre's Panhellenic Council.

"You have the opportunity to get to know people on

campus, so when you walk into those houses (during recruitment) you see women you know," Perrin said. "Choosing a sorority isn't a gut decision based on the few nights you spend in that house; it's based on the women you know."

By allowing students to finish one semester before they join a sorority, Perrin said current members can look at that student's grade point average and determine if they are ready for the commitment of joining an extracurricular like Greek life.

"When you enter Greek life (at Centre) you are entering on college grades, not high school grades," she said. "We can make sure they are ready scholastically for the time commitment."

Vanderbilt University and DePauw University both have spring recruitment for their Greek systems, but West said delaying recruitment means delaying the pledging period, which provides many new students opportunities to

get know a campus better.

"Being able to join a sorority early gives the new students instant connections which help with their adjustment to college," she said. "It makes sense to have the valuable connections as soon as possible before the stress of classes begins."

Some sorority members thought connections could be made just as easily in the spring. Christina Criollo, a merchandising and textiles senior, said she thought recruits might be more likely to stay in the Greek system with spring recruitment.

"I think changing recruitment from the fall to the spring would be a really great idea," Criollo said. "Moving into the dorms, starting classes and making new friends is a lot to handle without adding the pressure of joining a sorority."

"Being in a sorority was one of the best decisions I made ... but I think more girls would not only decide to go through recruitment, but they'd also stay with the

sorority they chose, and the drop rates would go down," she said.

Fraternities at UK hold spring recruitment, but that is because the recruitment process is a lot less formal for Greek men, West said.

"(Fraternity recruitment) is not as formalized," she said. "Panhellenic takes more time. The men don't spend as much time. It's just a different process."

Carissa Dowden, a mechanical engineering senior, said she thought spring recruitment would be distracting for new members.

"I like recruitment taking place a week before school starts because school/work and classes are number one priority for me, and my sorority also values high academic achievement in its members," she said. "Holding formal recruitment events during school could provide a distraction for members and potential members."

STAFF WRITER KATE SALTZ CONTRIBUTED TO THIS STORY

## ACCREDITATION

Continued from page 1

tion, which included a proposal for renovations of the Reynolds Building.

Dean of the College of Fine Arts Robert Shay said the art department did the "lion's share of the work." Once the team made suggestions, he was then able to go to the administration and tell them what they needed.

"It was starting to be a little conspicuous that we were not on that list," Shay said. "The university deserves more, and we are demanding more from faculty and students."

Some students think the accreditation is a milestone for the department as well. Art studio senior Angie Shay said it is "a big step in the right direction," and art studio junior Mike Ferrarelli said he hopes the art department continues to get better.

"I think it's good if we're going to get better resources," said Fer-

rarelli, who admitted he didn't think much about accreditation beforehand.

Withers said it does matter in, some ways to be accredited.

"There are objective standards and this is showing you are meeting those standards," he said.

Angie Shay said Withers always made sure the students knew their degrees were worth something with or without outside accreditation.

"It's nice," she said, "but I would have thought my degree was worth something without accreditation."

While accreditation is not an option for some departments like history and English, Subbaswamy said students in accredited programs should care.

"When there is an agency accreditation, it matters to their employers when they go look for jobs," Subbaswamy said.

The university has 42 undergraduate programs that are accredited by outside agencies. The university as a whole is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

## CHARITY

Continued from page 1

the drive.

"One student who is from the region of Kentucky that we're helping contacted me out of the blue and has offered to set up bins and collect on our behalf," Kim said.

Students can make donations until Dec. 3 for the Appalachian drive at five different locations around campus. Donation bins are set up outside of Starbucks in the Student Center, the Hall of Fame Room in the Nursing building, the Gatton College of Business and Economics building, the Seaton Center and the College of Public Health building.

This is the first year the two groups have sponsored a service project to benefit the Appalachian community. Kim said they have a large trailer they are hoping to fill with student donations.

"We want to fill that thing up completely, as high as we can fill it, maybe require (the driver) to make two trips, which would mean we did really well," Kim said.

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| Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>   | Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>   | Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>   |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•UK Trap and Skeet Practice 7:00 Bluegrass Sportsman League</li> <li>•Robert C. May Photography Endowment Lecture Series 12:00 PM UK Art Museum</li> <li>•The Secret Life of STDs, 6PM, 206 Student Center</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Robert C. May Photography Endowment Lecture Series 12:00 PM UK Art Museum</li> <li>•Comedy Caravan 8:00 PM UK Student Center Cats Den</li> <li>•UK Trap and Skeet Practice 7:00 PM Bluegrass Sportsman League</li> <li>•Fellowship of Christian Athletes 8:00 PM Room 211 of the Student Center</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•HAIR POLICE CHRISTMAS SHOW! 9:00 PM UK Student Center Cats Den</li> <li>•Robert C. May Photography Endowment Lecture Series 12:00 PM UK Art Museum</li> <li>•FREE PLAY 9:00 AM UK Student Center Cats Den</li> <li>•Spotlight: Public Service Careers 3:30 PM Career Center</li> <li>•UK Trap and Skeet Practice 7:00 PM Bluegrass Sportsman League</li> <li>•Campus Crusade for Christ 7:30 PM Center Theatre in the Student Center</li> <li>•Spotlight: Public Service Careers 3:30 PM Career Center</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•UK Trap and Skeet Practice 7:00 PM Bluegrass Sportsman League</li> <li>•Robert C. May Photography Endowment Lecture Series 12:00 PM UK Art Museum</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•UK Trap and Skeet Practice 7:00 PM Bluegrass Sportsman League</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Robert C. May Photography Endowment Lecture Series 12:00 PM UK Art Museum</li> <li>•UK Trap and Skeet Practice 7:00 PM Bluegrass Sportsman League</li> </ul> |

# OPINIONS

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## ■ KERNEL EDITORIAL UK must allocate cuts in budget with extra care

"Let me be clear: I'm talking about cuts that will bring pain."  
Gov. Steve Beshear's words rang out at the end of November and sent every state agency running for cover. Kentucky faces a shortfall of more than \$450 million for the fiscal year, Beshear announced on Nov. 21, meaning mid-year cuts are possible for all state agencies.

At UK, finding places to sacrifice the few million dollars in the middle of the year that are sure to be taken away is easier said than done.

"Everything's on the table, from programs to services to people," UK President Lee Todd said in a Kernel article on Nov. 24.

Which means programs and services — like tutoring, SAFECATS, library hours, the Violence Intervention and Prevention Center, the Hub and the CATS bus — and people — including every faculty, staff, intern and administration position — are at risk.

UK is already preparing for a budget cut, UK spokesman Tom Harris told the Kernel on Nov. 24, and has already started evaluating where these cuts will come from.

The university must take its time and really look at each program and the service it provides to students before determining where to pull funding. As a school working toward top-20 status, funding for research initiatives hold a heavy importance. But this dedication to the 2020 goal doesn't mean the current undergraduate students should have to suffer.

Scientific research, especially medical, requires a significant amount of funding to gain knowledge. This research has little effect on the students at UK. These researchers should be required to fund their projects with grant money from private donors or groups and not take money from the overall university budget.

In cutting funding for research, UK can afford to take less from services that students rely on to be successful. It would be difficult to defend spending excessive amounts of money on experimenting on apes if retention rates and undergraduate GPAs are suffering.

But cutting these services won't be enough. UK already absorbed a \$20 million reduction over the last 11 months, meaning cuts have already been issued. So additional sacrifices are going to be tight. The problem is UK will see cuts. There is no way around it.

It is important to evaluate each cut individually so students see minimal changes. Don't cut library hours — students use the library. But if the W.T. Young Library is too expensive, maybe consider opening a smaller library like King Library or the Fine Arts Library 24 hours.

Cuts are inevitable, but UK has to be smart about it. Don't make the students suffer in obtaining their undergraduate education simply because the state can't manage its money.

## ■ LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Democrats dropping standards to gain voters

I am someone who, quite frankly, is already sick of the complaints of Democrats to restore voting rights to criminals and felons, which would make sense because of the recent state shift toward Republican ideals. In the latest attempt by the hierarchy of Democrats to gather more votes for their ticket, they are now resorting to members of our society that do not abide by the rules and restrictions that every other member of society does.

In life, we are taught that our actions have consequences. When there is a law that says we cannot sell and traffic marijuana, the majority of us don't smoke or sell it. If we do choose to partake in these activities, we know the penalties for our actions. Where is the personal responsibility?

The argument for giving back voting rights to the people of our society that don't follow the rules is invalid and an issue that we should have a lack of sympathy for, unless they were innocent. If you don't like the rules, then write to your congressman and try to change the rule. But what kind of message are you sending the rest of our state if you pass an initiative like this?

It is perfectly fine that you don't follow the rules. Don't worry about that trafficking charge or any violent or non-violent act that you have committed against the state. Don't worry about if you commit felonies anymore because the Democrats are going to make sure that you are not civilly punished so that you can vote for them when you are able to vote again.

Bradley Browning  
biology sophomore

## Submissions

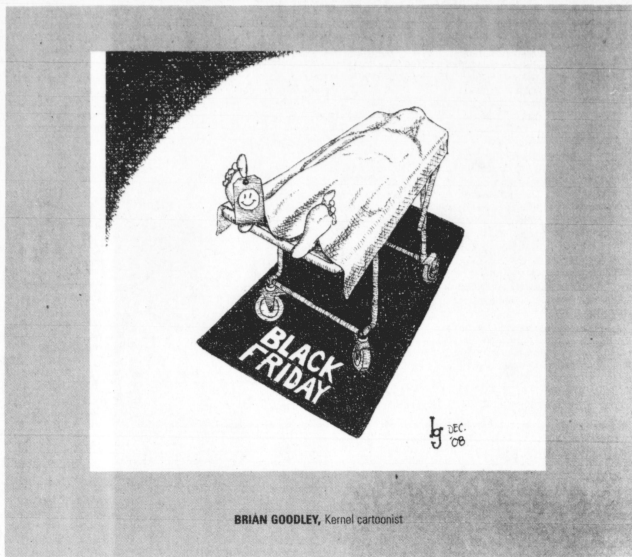
Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Brad Bowling. Please limit letters to 350 words or fewer. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions.

E-mail [opinions@kykernel.com](mailto:opinions@kykernel.com)

## Cartoonists Needed

The Kernel is looking for a cartoonist to draw pieces for the Opinions page on a regular basis. Those who have an interest in campus and local issues will be given special attention, although cartoonists of all interests will be considered.

E-mail [opinions@kykernel.com](mailto:opinions@kykernel.com)



BRIAN GOODLEY, Kernel cartoonist

## Sexual orientation should not factor into recruiting of military personnel

With the release of the film "Milk" there has been an increased discussion about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning rights, and thankfully it looks like some progress is going to be made toward equality.



JOE GALLENSTEIN  
Contributing columnist

Americans as a whole are realizing that gay rights are not special rights. They are equal rights. Americans are realizing that every person's love is equal, no matter whom they love.

While the largest infringements of liberty for the LGBTQ community come in the lack of marriage equality, the most basic and stupefying restrictions are on those people who have a different sexual preference or sexual identity who wish to serve in our military.

These people, who want nothing more than to defend their country, can only join the military if they are willing to deny part of who they are. We as a country do not ask a Muslim, Catholic or Jewish soldier to hide their faith, nor do we ask a female marine to hide her gender. Yet we have deemed it appropriate to tell service people coming in to hide their love lives from their fellow members of the military.

We have done so without clearly considering the harm this has on our military, as we devote resources to remove personnel with differing sexual

preferences. The result is federal money being wasted seeking to get rid of homosexual personnel, as studies in recent years have shown. Further, these efforts do more to break down cohesion in our units, rather than uniting them.

The Government Accountability Office estimated the cost to be roughly \$190.5 million from 1993 through 2003 in a report from 2005, although an independent commission released in 2006 suggested the cost was probably closer to \$363.8 million. The first number included only recruiting and training replacements for service members discharged under the policy, while the commission added the cost of recruiting, training and discharging personnel under this policy.

Clearly, this is a lot of money that our government is spending on personnel they will fail to utilize fully, but what is interesting is how many service people this has affected. It is impossible to know exactly how many people were discharged for violating "don't ask, don't tell," but the estimations from the Government Accountability Office and the Servicemembers Legal Defense fund range from 9,488 to 11,694. These are people who wanted nothing more than to serve their country, but the astounding thing is how many more people in the LGBTQ community are currently serving in the United States armed forces.

According to a joint statement from 104 former officers who served in our military, there are an estimated 65,000 gays and lesbians currently serving in our armed forces, and there are over 1

million gay and lesbian veterans in the United States today. These officers, who include a former head of the Naval Academy, feel it is time that we treat all military personnel equally, and that by doing so we would help our military.

Many military personnel agree, though definitively not all. When I was attempting to enlist in the military, one female soldier I was training with was relatively open about her homosexuality, and has since served a tour in Afghanistan. None of her comrades degraded her for it, though many were apprehensive because of "don't ask, don't tell," but some of the older veterans felt that dealing with LGBTQ service people was just part of being in a modern military.

One sergeant in particular comes to mind, for while talking about basic training with several new enlistees, he told them that at least one of their fellow service members they would be rooming with at basic training will be gay. His attitude was that one should get over it, for these people were just as qualified as anyone else.

I think most Americans agree that military personnel have the right to be themselves. Everyone should have the ability to be true to their country, as well as themselves. It is time we made the same leap our allies in the United Kingdom and Israel have and allow people from the LGBTQ community to serve openly in our military.

Joe Gallenstein is a political science and history senior and president of UK College Democrats. E-mail [opinions@kykernel.com](mailto:opinions@kykernel.com).

## Holidays are really about giving back

With the economy as bad as it is this year, not only is it important to be a smart consumer/shopper, but it is also important to be an even more charitable than ever.

Most college students are a lot more fortunate than the people really being hit by the economic recession, and the things we have to worry about are relatively trivial to the realities of life.

All year I have had to struggle with not being able to buy all the material goods I want, and now I have to worry about buying Christmas gifts for my family. But many individuals face a more dire economic situation, making this holiday season even more difficult.

Although gas prices have dropped to levels we haven't seen in years, the price to heat a home has risen almost 20 percent. On top of that, the ever-rising cost of living, advantageous pricing of holiday gift items and a stagnant wage for working class people adds to the problem. For families and individuals on tight budgets, finding that extra money to buy holiday gifts may be harder than normal. Then there are those extreme cases that occur more often than we care to acknowledge,

where buying winter clothing will be nearly impossible.

The Center for Community Outreach and many other campus organizations have made it really easy for students to help others out this Christmas, as they do every year. There is the Circle of Love, where students, faculty and staff can help provide Christmas presents to local children in need. If you can't participate in Circle of Love through UK, there are many organizations that specialize in charitable giving during the holidays like Toys for Tots, the Salvation Army and many churches and religious institutions that provide Christmas gifts for children in need.

Each year as it starts to get cold, several campus organizations have winter clothing drives to provide clothing for people in need. Most of us have clothes that we never wear that someone would gladly use, and that little bit of charity goes a long way. For those who lack the funds or the spare clothing to give, several of these same organizations offer time and service to causes that help those in need.

There is always a need for volunteers year-round, not just during the holiday season. I hope UK students seriously consider the impact of volunteering on the community both locally and globally. Last year in an interview for a story, mathematical economics senior Jeff Steller left a deep impression on me with one of his quotes. Steller, an extremely involved volun-

teer, said, "Pause for a second and look where you are in life... everyone can pinpoint that person or people who helped them arrive where they are. Everyone deserves that person."

Steller was referring to "Place Leaders Around Youth and how the interaction with positive adults influences young children for the better. But it extends beyond the scope of just youth. Giving an hour to volunteer at a homeless shelter, a nursing home, an after-school program or wherever you choose to go gives the opportunity to connect with other people.

I hope that we keep in mind what we are celebrating, because whatever religious or cultural celebration you observe, holidays are centered on giving and providing a shining light into the lives of others. Most of us are an unexpected major crisis away from being in the same boat as a lot of the people who are struggling in this economy.

If we extend this spirit of giving throughout the year, we can make an even greater impact and really help change the society we live in. After all, we wouldn't have gotten where we are without a little help. A lot of the problems we have as a society can be easily fixed if we just give up a little, and this holiday season we have to make more of a conscious effort to think outside of what we know and remember to help others.

Wesley Robinson is a Spanish junior. E-mail [opinions@kykernel.com](mailto:opinions@kykernel.com).



## Cats use road trip as learning curve

By BW Jones  
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There is no rest for the UK basketball weary.

While most students traveled home to be with their families over the Thanksgiving holiday, the UK women's basketball team (4-1) traveled to New York City to play in the Courtney LaGuardia Turkey Classic, which they won by sweeping Yale and Long Island.

Things won't get any easier this week as the Cats face three opponents in five days. But with an opponent like No. 25 Xavier (5-2), who the Cats face Tuesday night in Cincinnati, UK head coach Matthew Mitchell is working to make sure that his players aren't looking too far ahead.

"I'm not worried about the other two games this week right now and I don't want our players to be," Mitchell said. "I don't want their mind on anything but right now, practice today and how we're going to get prepared to play Xavier."

One way the Cats are preparing for their contest against the Musketeers is by focusing more on offense during practice. That could be good news for the team, especially after shooting a season-low 27.9 percent from the floor in their win against Long Island.

Another major difference UK fans may notice is the return of junior forward-center Jackie Sanders, who returned to the team against Yale after being suspended the first three games. She scored her first points of the season against Long Island, a crucial three-pointer that swung momentum to UK.

"She brings a lot to this team," Smith said. "She can shoot the lights out."

While it's likely too early in the season to consider the three-game week a make-or-break stretch, senior guard Carly Ormerod said playing



PHOTO BY KRISTIN SHERRARD | STAFF

Sophomore guard Amber Smith chases after a loose ball during UK's game against Cincinnati in Memorial Coliseum earlier this year.

back-to-back games early in the year can help the team come together. Ormerod also believes UK can learn what it takes to play during the grind of a Southeastern Conference schedule, or even in a postseason tournament.

"I feel like a lot of people on this team are starting to get," Ormerod said. "We really learned how to fight through some adversity this week-end. There were a lot of factors playing into it that weren't really benefiting us and we were able to play through it."

Despite already learning much about his team during its trip to New York, Mitchell said he thinks that this stretch could be just as telling.

"Would you like having more time to prepare for each game? You would, but that's not possible right now," Mitchell said. "I think this can help us a lot, and as a coach I think it's my responsibility to make certain that all the experiences we have impact our team in a positive way."

## After 15 years, UK back at home

By Metz Camfield  
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In true holiday spirit, the UK volleyball team will be inviting some unknown visitors into their house this week as one of 16 host sites for this year's NCAA Tournament. It is the first time that the Cats will host the tournament since 1993.

UK (26-5, 17-3 Southeastern Conference) learned of its post-season fate just two days after losing a share of the SEC crown to Florida. Huddled in front of a TV in Memorial Coliseum on Sunday night, the Cats erupted into cheers when their selection was announced on ESPN.

"It's going to be nice to not have to worry about the extra travel, to be able to sleep in your own bed and to be able to just stay in the kind of swing of things that we're used to," junior setter Sarah Rumely said. "Our fans have been so supportive these last couple games, so I think that hopefully if we can get more support from them that's definitely, definitely going to help us when we're playing these matches in this tournament."

The Cats were only one win away from earning a share of the SEC championship on Friday, but a five-set loss to the visiting Volunteers left the Cats one game back of the now 18-time SEC champion Florida Gators. Despite the loss, the Cats see the

NCAA Tournament as a clean slate and an opportunity to start fresh.

"If (Sunday's) practice is any indication, I think they're pretty excited to compete and play again," UK head coach Craig Skinner said. "I think they want to quickly get rid of the memory of the loss to Tennessee and get on to the NCAA Tournament and get to work and play hard."

The Cats will enter their first round match against Michigan with a 16-2 record at Memorial Coliseum. Playing at home, with the rowdy student section called "The Litter Box" cheering them on, is a welcome sight for the Cats, but one they also feel they need to be wary of.

"We have such great fans here, but you could see it as we might get distracted just because we're at home and we might not be as focused as we are on the road," sophomore outside hitter Sarah Mendoza said.

If history means anything for the Cats, it's that their first game in the tournament against Michigan looks promising. The Cats have won all of their games in the NCAA Tournament played in Lexington except for one — the 1993 opening round loss to Duke. UK also owns a 2-1 record against Michigan all time.

Under Skinner, however, the Cats have never hosted an NCAA Tournament. But after making three straight tournament appear-

ances since Skinner arrived, UK has also never made it past the second round, a feat they hope to accomplish with home-court advantage.

The Cats enter the tournament ranked No. 20 in the most recent American Volleyball Coaches Association rankings while their opponent, the Wolverines (24-8, 12-8 Big Ten), come in at No. 19. In the other matchup in the Lexington sub-regional, No. 21 Saint Louis will face off against Alabama A&M.

"I think (the fans) will be in for an exciting match and exciting couple of matches this week," Skinner said. "It's a great time and our players would love to see a great crowd for us."

### Rumely named SEC Player of the Year

While the Cats may not have been able to overtake the Gators for the SEC championship, they did beat their rival for another SEC honor — Player of the Year. Junior setter Sarah Rumely was named Player of the Year by the league office Monday, snapping a 13-year stranglehold that Florida had on the award. It is the first time a UK player has earned the award.

Five Cats were named to All-SEC teams — Queen Nzevwa and Rumely were first team, Lauren Rapp and Sarah Mendoza were voted to the second team and Becky Pavan made the All-SEC freshman team.

## Meeks lands SEC award after tourney

For junior guard Jodie Meeks, the honors just keep rolling in.

After being named tournament Most Valuable Player after UK won the Findlay Las Vegas Invitational, Meeks was named Southeastern Conference Player of the Week by the league office Monday.

Meeks averaged 28.5 points in two games in Las Vegas, in-

cluding his second 30-point effort this season against Kansas State.

The honor is Meeks' fourth while at UK. He previously won SEC Freshman of the Week three times.

### Surgery puts Cobb's status in doubt

Freshman quarterback/wide receiver Randall Cobb will have

arthroscopic surgery on Tuesday to repair cartilage in his left knee. UK head coach Rich Brooks said in a news release on Monday.

Cobb sustained the injury during Saturday's game at Tennessee. His status for Kentucky's upcoming bowl game will be determined following the surgery. Cobb has started the last four games at quarterback for the Cats.

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