

Tuesday
November 9, 2004

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THE KENTUCKY Kernel

Celebrating 33 years of independence

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Study gets grant to research foal deaths

Researchers: Hairs of caterpillars key to understanding string of horse deaths

By Katie Vass
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Scientists and horse breeders were mystified in spring 2001 when about 3,000 foals were miscarried on horse farms throughout Central Kentucky.

UK researchers — who recently received a combined \$219,040 in grants — think they may know what caused the deaths.

Coinciding with the lost foals was a population explosion of the Eastern Tent Caterpillar.

Scientists are conducting experiments to determine what part of the caterpillar is causing the onset of the disease in the horses.

"We've got some evidence that says it's the hair," said UK entomologist Bruce Webb, who has been con-

ducting experiments and researching the connection between the Eastern Tent Caterpillar and the deaths.

About 25 to 30 percent of pregnant mares lost their foals due to Mare Reproductive Loss Syndrome, a disease that causes early and late term abortions.

This devastation, which cost an economic loss in central Kentucky of about \$330 million, led UK researchers and scientists to begin studies on the disease.

At first, cyanide used to treat plants was cited as a possible cause for the syndrome, though research now identifies the cause as the caterpillar.

The belief is that when mares ingest the caterpillars, the hairs of the caterpillar's body punch holes in

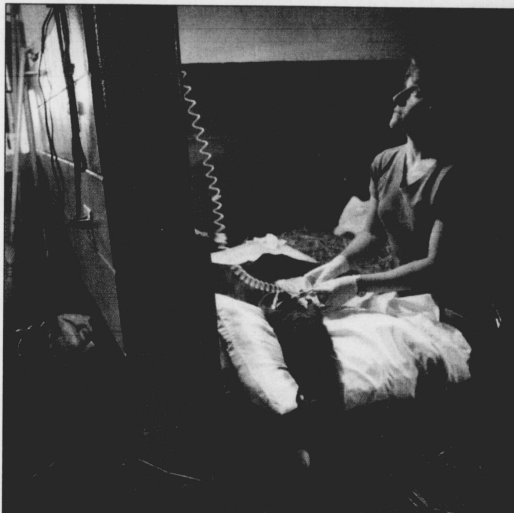
the mouth, throat and digestive tract of the mares. The holes, or sores, help bacteria from the gut enter the bloodstream of the mare, which eventually leads to the foal and ultimately kills it.

"The bacteria we're getting out of the fetus is the normal gut bacteria out of the horse," said Walter Barney, a scientist in the entomology department.

Scientists are using children's rock tumblers to remove the hairs from the caterpillars, by putting a frozen caterpillar into the tumbler with dry ice to keep it frozen. The hairs are collected from the tumbler and saved to research.

The disease can be seen with an ultrasound of an infected mare. Between 35 to 100 days of the pregnancy, the ultrasound will give an indication of the disease when the placental fluids of the foal appear cloudy.

See Horses on page 2



Above — Intensive care unit supervisor Lynne Hewitt kept an eye on a sick foal at Hagyard-Davidson-McGee, an equine hospital on Ironworks Pike, May 9, 2001 after an affliction caused a dramatic increase in sick and stillborn foals.

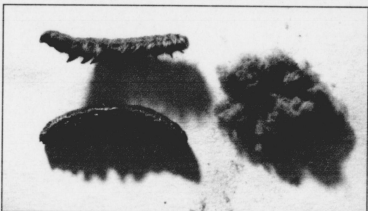
DAVID STEPHENSON | LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER

Left — Researchers believe the hair from Eastern Tent Caterpillars caused the foal deaths in 2001. They believe the hairs punched holes in the mouth, throat and digestive tract of the mares when ingested. The holes, or sores, helped bacteria from the gut enter the bloodstream of the mare, which eventually led to the foal — ultimately killing it. To get the hair off the caterpillars, the researchers put frozen caterpillars in a child's rock tumbler with dry ice.

JONATHAN PALMER | STAFF

"The bacteria we're getting out of the fetus is the normal gut bacteria out of the (mare) horse."

Walter Barney
entomology researcher



JOHN FOSTER | STAFF

The sky glowed shades of red and green Sunday night as the Northern Lights, also known as aurora borealis, became visible over Lexington. The best place to see this astronomical occurrence is away from city lights, such as near the Lexington Cricket Club near Bluegrass Station, where this photo was taken.

Sky of Lights

The aurora borealis makes an appearance over Lexington

By Dariush Shafa
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Skies over Lexington blazed with light Sunday night during one of nature's most vivid astronomical displays, the Northern Lights.

Similar activity was predicted to happen last night as well.

Also known by the scientific name, aurora borealis, this vivid display of red and green is caused by solar particles, said astronomy professor Tom Troland.

These particles, emitted in a "solar wind" by the sun, are electrically charged and are drawn to the earth's north and south magnetic poles, he said, making it rare that they come this far south.

"I've been here 20 years, and I only know of two or three times (they've been visible)," he said.

Once the charged particles enter the atmosphere, they release energy into the surrounding air molecules, charging the air with energy and causing the oxygen and nitrogen to glow, Troland said.

A Web site dedicated to astronomy, www.spaceweather.com, predicts that more auroras are possible because of a surge in solar sun spot activity.

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No loyalty oath needed for Cats' Casper

By Laura Nelligan
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Jenni Casper rarely roots against Louisville.

But tonight will be one of those occasions.

When Casper looks on the other side of the volleyball net, she will see the faces of not only her friends but also her favorite team — the Louisville Cardinals.

Casper, a sophomore libero for the Cats, graduated from Mercy High School in Louisville in 2003. She played club volleyball at the Kentucky Indiana Volleyball Academy, where she met Jennifer Craven and Candace Cogan, who both play for Louisville.

And Casper can't wait to play against them.

"It will be fun playing them," Casper said. "We used to play against each other all

the time. Jennifer was one year older and Candace was two years older, so we would scrimmage in KIVA. It will bring back memories."

Her friends on the other side can't wait either. "UK has always been a big rival, and even more with Jenni on the team," Craven said. "Jenni is competitive, and I am competitive, so it will be a good game."

But even though Casper grew up a Cardinal fan, she will have no problem with her loyalties.

She is very much a Cat, her team says.

In her second year with UK, she has contributed many things to the team.

As a libero, she serves as the seventh specialist and is a defensive specialist permitted to enter the court in more than one position. However, the libero is required to always stay in the backcourt.

Last season at this position, Casper was named the first-ever Southeastern Conference Defensive Player of the Year and named to the All-SEC First Team and the All-SEC freshman team.

In addition to those honors, she recorded 473 digs last season, which is the third-highest single-season total in UK history.

"She has a pure defensive mindset," said head coach Jona Braden. "Her defensive piece adds punch to the offense. She has that inner fight, determination to win, and the spirit of going after it."

Not only does Casper bring amazing defensive skill to the team, Braden said her spirit fits the theme of this year's volleyball team: Blue Attitude.

"What makes her special

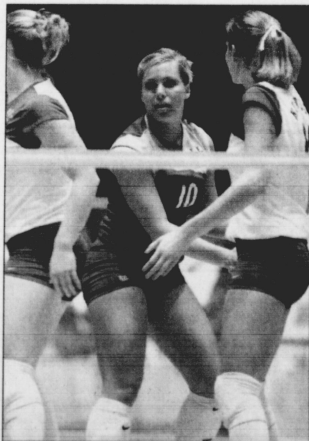
See Casper on page 3

By the Numbers

- Jenni Casper
- 88 games
 - 400 digs (team-high)
 - 2 kills
 - 32 sets
 - 30 receptions

Home Finale

Louisville at UK
7 tonight in Memorial Coliseum



UK sophomore libero Jenni Casper leads the Cats with 400 digs this season. Casper, who grew up in Louisville, will face her hometown team, the No. 22 Louisville Cardinals, at 7 p.m. at Memorial Coliseum. Students get in free with valid student identification cards.

JONATHAN PALMER | STAFF

Horses

Continued from page 1

"We believe the disease invades the placental fluid," Webb said. Normally, the placental fluid would appear black on an ultrasound.

Even though the disease has not been a large problem for the past three years, the loss in 2001 has motivated research to find a cause and a solution.

The few cases of the disease from 2002 to 2004 can be attributed to the downward cycle of the caterpillar pop-

ulation. Researchers believe there is a disease within the caterpillar population that is causing the decline in their population.

UK is enlisting the help of biology students at Lexington's Bates Creek High School and Winburn Middle School to educate them about the disease and spark their interest in science.

The students have been counting the egg masses to predict how big next year's population of the caterpillar will be. The students will compare their count to the number of tents, the thread-like shelter the caterpillars make, in the spring.

"We went to the horse

park (the Kentucky Horse Park on Iron Works Parkway in Lexington) to learn about the disease," said Bates Creek sophomore Sami Mansour, who is involved in the project. "Then we looked at the eggs of the caterpillars by the cherry trees."

Currently the bald caterpillars are being fed to pregnant mares to test whether the disease will affect them. Scientists hope to target the cause of the disease to avoid another outbreak like the one in 2001.

E-mail
news@kykernel.com

Marines move closer for assault on Fallujah

By Alissa J. Rubin, Patrick McDonnell and John Hendren
LOS ANGELES TIMES

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. warplanes pummeled suspected insurgent positions in Fallujah early yesterday as thousands of American troops advanced to the edges of the rebel-held city and prepared to launch an all-out assault.

Iraqi commandos and U.S. troops captured a hospital in Fallujah late Sunday. The facility was seized "to ensure that there was a medical treatment facility available to the population as well as making sure the insurgents could not continue to exaggerate casualties," a senior Pentagon official said on condition of anonymity.

U.S. forces halted traffic in and out of Fallujah by nightfall, and roads in the surrounding countryside were blocked, presumably to stop fighters from escaping and to prevent reinforcements or arms from entering.

As dawn broke and a thunderstorm poured down rain, hundreds of Marines streamed out of bases near Fallujah. Scores of tanks, Humvees, amphibious assault vehicles and tow trucks moved toward the city.

Arriving at staging areas about a mile outside of town, the troops dug ditches and built berms with shovels.

Flames and smoke rose from the city as the United States launched a heavy attack.

The military movements in Fallujah came just hours after the Iraqi government declared a state of emergency in most of the country, anticipating that violence could escalate nationwide once U.S. forces stormed the city about 35 miles west of Baghdad.

Although the looming showdown in Fallujah is in some ways a rematch of April's abortive five-day Marine assault on the city, this battle could be much larger and longer.

This time, the U.S. troops have taken longer to prepare and say they are determined to go in with overwhelming force and finish the fighting instead of withdrawing halfway through.

In April, fewer than 3,000 troops were initially deployed. This time, U.S. forces are known to have trained two regimental combat teams — which could total more than 6,000 troops — to spearhead the assault, with Marines, soldiers, sailors and extensive Air Force support. In addition, thousands of Army and other troops are involved in the effort.

In another contrast with April's assault, Prime Minister Ayad Allawi has sent envoys to neighboring countries to explain his approach, hop-

ing to avoid the kind of criticism Arab countries leveled at the United States over the spring attack.

The rebels, too, appear to be far more numerous, better organized and well armed than they were in April, according to Fallujans.

U.S. intelligence estimates that as many as 5,000 militants may be hunkered down in the city. Most are believed to be Iraqi, including many former members of Saddam Hussein's army.

Residents reported continuous explosions Sunday.

"We are just a helpless and feeble town, a town like an old man! Still, the U.S. is accumulating its armies and troops against Fallujah... as if Fallujah is a superpower that stands in the face of America," said Haji Mahmood Allawi, a former colonel in the Iraqi army who has stayed in Fallujah for the fight. "If you look at what is arrayed against Fallujah, you would think World War III was going to take place."

Insurgents have threatened to launch attacks throughout the country if Marines storm Fallujah, and in recent days, militants have stepped up assaults on Iraqi police and soldiers. A number of insurgents are believed to have left Fallujah in recent days to conduct attacks in other cities.



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Bob Batch

A Kentucky native, Bob Batch is gladly returning for his second season performing at the Cats Den. His charming southern style of comedy is intertwined with a fast-paced Boston delivery giving him an edge that makes him a master of his craft.

8:00 PM in the Cats Den

FREE! to UK students

FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

Brooks looking for part-time workers

By Jeff Patterson
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Help wanted. Apply with-
in. The UK football team
needs help.

And head coach Rich
Brooks is seeking every op-
tion.

With the latest rash of in-
juries plaguing the Cats,
Brooks is trying whatever he
can to fill his roster.

"Anybody interested in re-
turning punts can come out
to the practice field today,"
Brooks joked.

Seventeen players who
were listed on the first or sec-
ond team at the start of the
season are currently out with
injuries.

The kick returners might
as well have had a bull's-eye
on their chest this year.

First, sophomore Keenan
Horton broke his wrist early
in the season.

Go to Plan B.

Freshman Dicky Lyons Jr.
broke his shoulder blade Oct.
30 at Mississippi State. He's
out for the season.

Last weekend in UK's 62-
17 loss to Georgia, junior An-
drew Hopewell suffered a
thigh contusion on his first
return.

During Monday's practice
Brooks tried using senior
quarterback Shane Boyd and
senior safety Russ Throck-
morton.

It's reached that level of
depletion.

"This is approaching about
as bad as it gets,"
Brooks said. "When you run
out of players at a few critical
positions, it gets unnerve-
ing."

**Cook gains extra year of eli-
gibility**

The NCAA granted a
sixth year of eligibility to se-
nior receiver Tommy Cook on
Monday. Cook tore the anteri-
or cruciate ligament in his
left knee during the Blue-
White game in April.

Cook needed the NCAA to
grant him a second medical
redshirt in order for him to
ever play again. He redshirted
in 2000 after breaking his hand.

"Obviously, this is a win-
win situation for Tommy
Cook," Brooks said. "He's an
outstanding young man. He



Senior safety Mike Williams (1) sacks Ohio senior quarterback Ryan Hawk in Ohio's 28-16 over UK Oct. 2. Williams was tied for third on the team with 43 tackles before his suspension.

JONATHAN PALMER
| STAFF

will be a big boost to the 2005
Kentucky football team."

**Suspended Williams will miss
Senior Day activities**

Senior safety Mike
Williams, who was suspended
for the remainder of the sea-
son for violating unspecified
team rules last Friday, will
not participate in Saturday's
Senior Day festivities, Brooks
said.

The team learned of
Williams' suspension Friday
night at the hotel.

But Williams has taken
the suspension well, accord-
ing to his teammates.

"Mike's overcome much
more difficult things than
this," said senior cornerback
Earven Flowers.

Lineup changes

With senior defensive
ends Ellery Moore and Vin-
cent "Sweet Pea" Burns out
with high ankle sprains, sev-
eral younger players will take
their spot. Freshman Jason
Leger, redshirt freshman
Ricky Abren and sophomore
Lamar Mills will start.

Junior center Matt Mc-
Cutchan has also been out
with a minor neck injury.
Redshirt freshman center
Casey Shumate played about
20 snaps Saturday, and senior
guard Jason Rollins, who has
played center sparingly, may

start at center Saturday,
Brooks said.

Lyons loses his ride

It's been a difficult month
for Dicky Lyons Jr. First, he
broke his shoulder blade, end-
ing his season. And now his
scouter is in the shop for re-
pair.

Ever since he arrived on
campus in August, Lyons and
his scouter have been insepa-
rable. He has even given rides
to his teammates, most no-
tably 6-foot-6 freshman receiver
Lonnell Dewalt.

Vandy's Cutler injured

Although he isn't facing

the shortages UK is, Vander-
bilt head coach Bobby John-
son also faces a short-handed
roster. Junior quarterback
Jay Cutler missed practice
Sunday with an ankle injury.
Like many UK players, he
wears a protective boot.

"He's a tough guy and if
there's any way to play, he'll
be ready," Johnson said.

Jeff Patterson covers UK football
for the Kentucky Kernel. This article
contains his observations and opin-
ions. He can be heard Sundays at 9
p.m. on "The Big Blue Review" on
WRFL, 88.1 FM.

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jpatterson@kykernel.com



UK head coach Rich Brooks announced Monday that senior safety Mike Williams (left) will not participate in Saturday's Senior Day festivities. UK hosts Vanderbilt at 1 p.m.

CHRIS REYNOLDS
| STAFF

Casper

Continued from page 1

is that she's the only player
from Kentucky," Braden said.

"She has had a love for the
university since she was a lit-
tle girl. This is a very contag-
ious piece. It really rubs off
on the rest of the team."

As for playing No. 22
Louisville tonight, both
Casper and Braden said it'll
be an difficult match.

"Anytime there's an in-
trastate rivalry, there's an
emotion that's stirred,"
Braden said. "For this game,
we need to be in a defensive
mindset and put pressure on
our opponent's tendencies."

That's something Casper
will not forget tonight, even

with facing her hometown
Cardinals.

"She takes the 'Blue At-
titude' defense to the court,"
Braden said. "It's in her
veins."

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- UK vs. Ball State-11/23/04
- UK vs. Georgia State-11/26/04
- UK vs. Tennessee Tech-11/30/04

GO CATS!

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Week of November 8th-14th

The Campus Calendar is produced by the Office of Student Activities, Registered Student Orgs. and UK Depts. can submit information for FREE online ONE WEEK PRIOR to the MONDAY infor-
mation to appear at: <http://www.uky.edu/CampusCalendar>. Call 257-8867 for more information.

MEETINGS

- *Baptist Student Union's English Conversation Class, 6:00pm, 429 Columbia Avenue
- *Baptist Student Union TWT, 7:30pm, 429 Columbia Ave.
- *UK Students for Life Meeting, 8:00pm, Student Center, Room 115
- *UK Berean Bible Study, 8:00pm-9:00pm, Student Center, Room 113
- *Pre Physical Therapy Student Association Meeting, 7:30pm, William T. Young Library, Gallery Room

ACADEMIC

- *National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 7:00pm, College of Health Science Building, Room 411

SPORTS

- *Shoalin-Do Club Meeting, 5:00-6:30pm, Alumni Gym Loft, \$60 per semester fee
- *UK Fencing Club, 8:00pm-10:00pm, Buell Armory on Administration Dr.
- *UK Water Ski Club, 8:00pm OFF CAMPUS, Call (859)963-4123 for more info.
- *UK Tae Kwon Do Club Mtg., 6:30pm-7:30pm, Alumni Gym Loft, call 257-7311 for more info.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- *Classical Tuesdays "Citizen Kane," 8:00pm, Worsham Theatre, Student Center

ARTS/MOVIES

- *UK Anime presents Alahitru ze Baby, 6:00pm, Student Center, Center Theatre

MEETINGS

- *MCL, French Division's Table Francaise, French Conversation Group, 3:00-4:30pm, Student Center, Room 206
- *Lavender Society Mtg., 7:00pm, Student Center, Room 225
- *Cats For Christ Mtg., 7:00pm, Student Center, Room 230
- *UK Fellowship of Christian Athletes Mtg., 8:00pm, Upstairs of the Commons Market, South Campus
- *Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry's Worship and Dinner, 7:00pm, St. Augustine's Chapel on Rose St.
- *College Republican Mtg., 8:00pm, Commons Market, Room 306
- *Women's Studies Vagina Monologues Informational Meeting, 7:30pm, Student Center, Room 211

ARTS/MOVIES

- *Creative Writing Corner, 8:00pm-8:00pm, W.T. Young Library, Writing Center, 5th floor Westside, for more information call the Writing Center at 257-1385

MEETINGS

- *Wesley Foundation Focus Worship, 7:30pm, Student Center, Center Theatre
- *Christian Student Fellowship presents "Serenity", 8:00pm, CSE Building on the corner of Woodland and Columbia
- *UK Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Mtg., 8:00pm, Student Center, Room 205.

SPORTS

- *UK Fencing Club, 8:00pm-10:00pm, Buell Armory on Administration Dr.
- *Shoalin-Do Club Meeting, 5:00-6:30pm, Alumni Gym Loft, \$60 per semester fee
- *Dressage Team Meeting, 8:00pm, Student Center, Room 115

ARTS/MOVIES

- *Picasso at the Lapin Agile by Steve Martin, 8:00pm, Fine Arts Building, Guignol Theatre, Tickets are \$8-\$15, call 257-4829 for more info

SPORTS

- *UK Tae Kwon Do Club Mtg., 8:30pm-8:30pm, Alumni Gym Loft, call 257-7311 for more info

SPECIAL EVENTS

- *Doug Wamble, 8:00pm, Memorial Hall

ARTS/MOVIES

- *"Minds Wide Open," Monday-Friday, 11:00pm-8:00pm, Radcliff Art Gallery, Student Center
- *Picasso at the Lapin Agile by Steve Martin, 8:00pm, Fine Arts Building, Guignol Theatre, Tickets are \$8-\$15, call 257-4829 for more info
- *UK Anime presents Lupin Night Double Feature: Castle of Cagliostro, 8:00pm, Student Center, Center Theatre

SPORTS

- *UK Tae Kwon Do Club Mtg., 11:00am-12:30pm, Alumni Gym Loft, call 257-7311 for more info

ARTS/MOVIES

- *Picasso at the Lapin Agile by Steve Martin, 8:00pm, Fine Arts Building, Guignol Theatre, Tickets are \$8-\$15, call 257-4829 for more info

ARTS/MOVIES

- *King's Singers, 7:30pm, Singletary Center for the Arts, Tickets are \$15 for students, Call 257-4829 for tickets

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IN OUR OPINION

Council shakeup must bring real change

Last Tuesday Lexington voters overwhelmingly voiced their displeasure with the Lexington-Payette Urban County Council. Incumbents Paul Brooks, Wanda Sipe Edlison and Gloria Martin all lost their seats.

All of those members supported the effort to condemn and seize control of Kentucky American Water Company.

Last Tuesday morning, the urban county council was lined up 9-6 in favor of condemnation. Tuesday night, the breakdown was reversed, with nine council members opposing the condemnation process.

One of the new urban county council's first orders of business should be to end the effort to seize this well run company.

The council has been obsessed with this fight for the past year. Voters knew where

their representative stood and understood that their council vote would be a de facto vote on the water company issue. They roundly rejected the council's position.

Now, the new council has an obligation to respond to its constituents and end this reckless pursuit before it drains more taxpayer dollars. The court battles surrounding this fiasco have cost us well over a million dollars so far.

It's time to fall on our swords. The council should also make funding for the police force and fire departments a

top priority. Our officers are severely underpaid and have been fleeing the city in pursuit of better wages. The first function of government should be to protect its citizens. The council has seen fit to rank that goal shamefully low on the priority list for far too long. It's time to put it where it belongs.

All other pursuits should take a backseat to the effort to retain the best safety personnel and pay them the most competitive wages possible.

A city growing as quickly as Lexington can't afford to let its police officers and fire

fighters bolt town because they can't meet the cost of living.

After ending the water company takeover and stemming our public safety crisis, the council should follow 3rd District Councilman Dick DeCamp's lead and work on ways to continue improving the relationship between UK and Lexington.

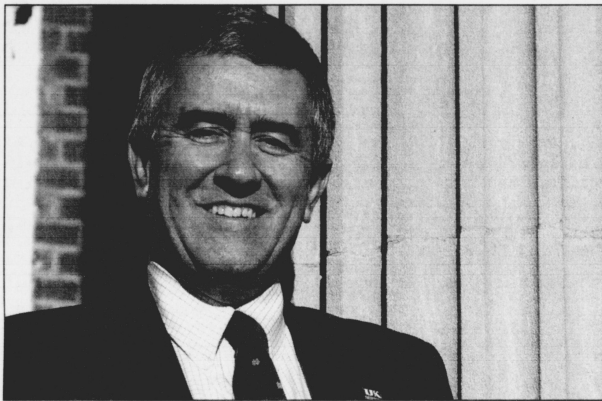
We are undeniably a "college town," and a strong working relationship between UK and the urban county government will benefit everyone. The Live Where You Work program, which offers grants for UK and Lexington government employees to buy townhouses near campus, is a great start.

Lexington voters plainly rejected our old council's actions. Our new council would do well to heed the message or else the future may hold another historic shakeup.

The election of several urban county council candidates opposed to the water company takeover should send condemnation supporters a message.

Q&A with David Bettez

Director of Study Abroad program



CHRIS REYNOLDS | STAFF

Opinions editor Andrew Martin sat down with Study Abroad Director David Bettez to discuss options and opportunities UK students who decided to study in other countries have.

Q. Why study abroad?

A. There are personal and professional reasons to study abroad. Personal reasons to see a place that you've always wanted to see, maybe a heritage reason for going to study abroad.

Professionally, we live in a global society so I think all students should be aware of this. The best way to become aware is to go abroad yourself.

Students who go abroad learn a lot about countries they go to, they learn a lot about their own country because they are representatives of the United States, whether they like it or not sometimes. I think our students learn a lot about themselves too.

So I think these are all reasons for going abroad.

Q. How many options do students have to choose from?

A. Hundreds. There are many options to UK, departments, colleges, through our office. If those options don't work then we can help students find programs from every university that can suit their personal, professional or educational needs.

Q. What programs or majors offer study abroad programs?

A. Last semester, I think we had over 50 different majors represented in the Study Abroad program. I assert that any major can do a study abroad.

Now it may be studying in the major for either major requirements or electives, or it may be just studying abroad outside the major for university requirements or electives.

With proper planning, early planning, students from any major.

Q. Isn't studying abroad prohibitively expensive?

A. It doesn't have to be. This

is one of the myths of Study Abroad. It can be. Some programs are expensive. But we focus here on primarily cost-effective programs.

We have some summer programs that are amongst the best bargains in the United States for six hours of credit.

For a semester a year we focus on exchange programs where students can basically pay their UK tuition and fees, sometimes room and board and administrative fees and exchange places with students from all over the world. And so that makes the cost quite reasonable.

You'll have to, of course, pay for transportation abroad.

Students often then save on car expenses, for example. It can be but it doesn't have to be expensive and plan early and take advantage of the best programs.

Q. Is it too late to study abroad next semester?

A. It would be a little tough. I won't say it's impossible.

There are language programs, for example, that sometimes require only a month notice.

Most of our students coming in now are starting to plan for the summer or following year.

There's still plenty of time for summer programs.

Q. Is it necessary for students to know the language spoken in the country they study in?

A. It's not. We do obviously support the study of foreign languages but it isn't absolutely necessary to know a language to be in the country.

We have some examples here at UK. We have a college of business programs in France, Italy and Austria where students can go and take upper-level business classes in English.

We've had chemical engineers in Budapest, Hungary and a geology student at the University of Iceland who neither spoke Hungarian or Icelandic. It's not absolutely necessary.

That's another one of those myths of study abroad.

Q. Is it difficult to get visas and other travel documents?

A. It's becoming a little more complicated for getting visas to some countries because of what we are doing with students from those countries — making them all go to the embassy to get personal interviews for visas. But on the whole it's not too bad. Just another bureaucratic step, and we help students hurdle that.

Q. Are there some countries or regions that would be considered dangerous for American students?

A. The three of us who deal with Study Abroad are on the State Department e-mail list where we get automatic notifications, updates of safety conditions around the world.

If I recall correctly there are 26 or 27 countries on the State Department warning list that we would not send students to at this time.

Q. Any particular country or region?

A. It ranges from some places in the Middle East although we had a couple of graduate students, one in Syria and one in Jordan, this summer studying Arabic.

We used to send some students to Nepal but we're not doing that, that's a rough place to be right now. And so it's just whatever the State Department warns against.

Q. When students study abroad what do they bring back with them?

A. They do get a better appreciation for the world around us. That the United States is not the only place in the world.

I think they get a better understanding of themselves and their ability to adapt to new cultures and new situations which can be important for the future when they leave UK.

Students adapt to new cultures when they leave here, business cultures or new educational cultures and so forth. These are things I think they get.

President Bush deserves support of his detractors

Oh, no! Only one week after Bush's re-election and a whole new monster of myths is lurching up from the debris of fallen pre-election distortions.

Yes, it's a recent hybrid, pieced together from previous defunct bodies of lies, such as "Bush stole the election" and "Bush didn't win the popular vote, so he has no mandate." This new monster groans, howls in rage, gnashes its teeth and stomps into fake living rooms on cable TV and the evening news shows, very intent on having its way.

And it speaks! It says: "Our country is too divided! We've never been so polarized as we are now! That disgusting Bush promised to unite, not divide."

Let's take just a moment and blow this new propaganda into submolecular-sized shards, shall we? I won't even base the whole refutation on numbers — which are, let's remember, 51 percent to 48 percent in the popular vote, and a margin of 34 electoral votes.

Instead, start with the sentiment's first assumption, which sounds simple, yet is worth questioning: the idea that being "united" is good.

Turn this around. What if more than 50 percent of Americans agreed with and voted for Bush's re-election? Instead, let's say 75 percent of the country supports Bush, or if that's not united enough, how about 95 percent?

What then do we do with unhappy liberals? Why, send them to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, of course.

Ergo, behold your united country, incoherent complainers! A new nation in which there's little to no public dissent against a leader you don't like.

This utopian united country now seems undesirable, no? Of course, some countries have been very united. Among those was Saddam Hussein, who presided over the wonderfully united country of Iraq, which during this country's old elections he would somehow get 99.9 percent of the votes. The other .1 percent would get special baths.

Again, behold one of the world's only united countries. Some would call it a "dictatorship."

Isn't it good to have robust debate and a marketplace of ideas? And if this country really is so "divided," isn't it good that so many people are against George W. Bush?

Oh, my mistake. The whiners aren't annoyed that we can't get along; they're only vexed that more than half the voting country agrees with Bush and disagrees with them.

Moving on to the exceptionally annoying habit many commentators have of blathering inside a historical vacuum: Has there ever been some golden age in American history during which we have been a united country?

18th century: War for Independence, opposed by an estimated one-third of the colonists.

1800 - 1890's: constant division between new parties and movements, a couple of wars and little revolts, and a not-so-little problem of racial slavery that had to be dealt with during the very literal nation-splitting Civil War.

And, 20th century: domestic tumult over the Supreme Court, cultural revolutions, the Great Society, the Cold War and the decidedly un-uniting President Ronald Reagan.

Some would say the country was united during certain historical events, like wars. Yes, in World War II, the nation certainly came together in order to get Hitler, Mussolini and their ilk vanquished.

So why can't we be like that now? Can't we put aside our differences and work together to solve world problems?

Well, one difficulty: America was united under the leadership of Democrat President Franklin Roosevelt. The paradox here is that President Bush is trying to fight this whole war on terror thing, and he'd love to have more support, but the whining people are trying to stop him.

And now the losers in this election, who were so ready to lead and show the rest of us the enlightened way, are suddenly rushing to the back of the pack. "Here we go!" they put. "You get what you vote for! Now it's incumbent on Bush! He promised to unite, not divide! He hasn't done it, and he won't! Now he'd better be nice!"

Bush tried to reach out. He kept Democrat George Tenet as the head of CIA and Norman Mineta as the head of transportation, let Sen. Ted Kennedy co-write the education bill, and spent like a fiscal liberal — just not enough for real liberals.

It doesn't work. Bush tried to get along, tried to extend the olive branch of peace to his opponents. They accepted that branch — and smacked him in the head with it.

The "divided country," yet another logically untenable, mythical, self-contradictory talking point, currently uttered from merely the mouths of losers at a media outlet near you. Quite fun to watch.

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BOOK REVIEW

Reality grounds Donaldson's 'visceral' fantasy

By Joshua Kempton
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The Lord of the Rings lies finished. The movies had their indomitable run in theaters and now people around the globe shiver and huddle, awaiting their copy of the super-mega-platinum-limited-double-extended-director's-cut edition of *The Return of the King* — you know, the one that has 17 hours of bonus material.

But what to do until then? Perhaps I might be of some assistance.

Stephen R. Donaldson completely changed my perspective on fantasy literature — and science fiction, but that's another tale for another time.

Donaldson wove a bleak yet transcendently beautiful tapestry in 1977. *The Chronicles of Thomas Covenant the Unbeliever: Lord Foul's Bane* began what would (at least in my mind) stand as one of the greatest works of fiction ever. J.R.R. Tolkien's influence on fantasy literature, both in how we perceive it and how it's written, can't be denied. There's a significant shift in fantasy literature between pre- and post-Tolkien.

Donaldson followed loosely in Tolkien's footsteps: He crafted a lush and mesmerizing world that was referred to simply as "the Land" and bordered a hellish blasted waste. He developed varied cultures that seem strikingly familiar and yet somehow exotic — and there was a ring and a monolithic evil.

There the works begin to diverge. Tolkien's most famous work was a heroic fantasy of mythic proportions. Donaldson delved into the blacker humors of the human soul and psyche with the titular character's own denegation and absolute refusal to acknowledge the situation he faces (hence his name, the Unbeliever).

After the first three books concluded, Donaldson revisited "the Land" in 1980 with *The Second Chronicles of Thomas Covenant*. In 1983 the third and final book of the *Second Chronicles* was released.

When I was 12, I read *The Power That Preserves*, the third volume of the original series. I reread the novel yearly, and — for good or ill — it has irrevocably influenced my perception

on everything from writing and movies to society and morality. Tolkien never affected my thought processes like this, but I digress.

Last month I was once again transported to a journey back to the harrowing majesty of "the Land." More than 20 years after the conclusion of the final cycle, Donaldson has returned to his seminal fantasy world and begun to forge another agonizing and beautiful psychological fantasy.

The Runes of the Earth takes place roughly 10 years after the tragically heroic events of *The Second Chronicles of Thomas Covenant: White Gold Welder* and focuses on what befalls Linden Avery, Covenant's companion during the second trilogy.

Roger Covenant, Thomas Covenant's son, is now grown and compelled to serve Lord Foul (a.k.a. the Grey Slayer, Corruption, Satan's Heart and the Despiser) and bring his father and mother's rings to "the Land" and give them over to The Despiser so that he might free himself from his Earthly prison. Roger's mother, Joan — Thomas Covenant's estranged wife — resides in a mental institution because of her experiences in the *Second Chronicles*.

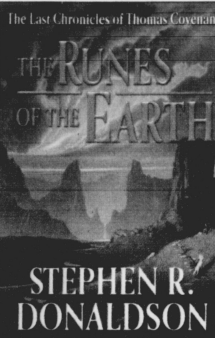
Linden, Roger and Joan are transported, once again, to the Land, where 3,500 years have passed since Linden's last visit.

The actions of a group of self-styled saviors have caused the people of "the Land" to teeter on the brink of destruction, but few realize it — and those who do see the danger have no means to counter The Despiser's mounting power.

The presence of a soulless Roger and a mentally damaged Joan complicate matters further.

It falls to Linden to devise a way to recover the Staff of Law (which basically exists as the keystone that keeps nature itself from collapsing), to cure the ills that have been wrought against the Land and its inhabitants, and put down Lord Foul once again.

Donaldson possesses a gift for prose that rivals Poe. He crafts majestic sentences that I would happily compare to anything I've ever read, including Shakespeare, Hawthorne, Melville, Dumas and Conrad.



Donaldson produces visceral reaction with a deft, enviable skill. Words twine their way across page after page, pulling the reader along on a journey into some of the darkest recesses of the human psyche. Hatred and despair are painted with broad strokes and then refined with needle-like precision. Conversely, beauty and hope unfold like spring, as fragrant and warm as Sol above.

As useless as those preceding lines of prose may have been, that's the best I can do to describe the style of his work.

Unfortunately, *The Runes of the Earth* falls somewhat short of Donaldson's earlier work, but that is to be expected — 20 years is a long time to spend away from something. I have faith that the next book, *Fatal Revenant*, will be as strong as *Lord Foul's Bane*.

So if you're looking for some astounding fantasy fiction to explore, pick up Donaldson's work.

Or if you thought *The Lord of the Rings* was just too damn happy, pick up Donaldson's work.

In fact, just pick up Donaldson's work — any of it.

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