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MAYOR

Former candidate Gray endorses Isaac's race

Turnabout: After losing in the primaries, Gray offers support and \$1000 donation

By Lamin Swann
SUMMER NEWS EDITOR

Announcing his endorsement for the Lexington mayoral race Wednesday, former candidate Jim Gray endorsed Teresa Isaac, a former vice mayor.

A Lexington businessman, Gray faced Isaac in the mayoral primary in May,

but finished a close third behind Isaac and Lexington at-large Councilman Scott Crosbie, eliminating him from the race. Isaac accepted the endorsement, which included a \$1,000 contribution from the construction executive. Isaac said both the Gray and Isaac families were present at Gray's

announcement.

Isaac said she is continuing to campaign and fundraise until the November general election, going door to door, and said Gray will be a great asset to the campaign.

"Jim will be great with getting the word out to the



Isaac

business community," she said.

With the college-town concept at full speed, Isaac supports having a downtown-campus connection, which would be beneficial to both Transylvania University



Gray

See ISAAC on 2

WALLACE G. WILKINSON 1941-2002

Governor, UK trustee dies



Wallace Wilkinson and former UK Athletics Director C.M. Newton socialize at the Kentucky Derby on May 2, 1998.

Fingerprint: Wilkinson's UK legacy lingers on after his death at age 60

By Jodi Whitaker
STAFF WRITER

From bookstores to basketball, Wallace Wilkinson left his mark on the University of Kentucky campus.

Wilkinson, a Casey County native who served as Governor of Kentucky from 1987 to 1991, died last week at Lexington's St. Joseph Hospital. Wilkinson suffered a massive stroke while in the hospital for complications from cancer and heart disease. He was 60.

One of Wilkinson's most notable acts as governor involving UK came in 1991, when, as outgoing governor, he appointed himself to a six-year term on the UK Board of Trustees.

Wilkinson, who had enacted education reform in Kentucky's primary and secondary schools during his tenure as governor, said he planned to do the same

for higher education while on the Board.

But the move was highly criticized by many, who called it nothing more than a precursor to a run for governor in 1995. Wilkinson lost a bid for a second term to Gov. Brereton Jones in the 1991 gubernatorial election.

The outgoing governor's self-appointment caused quite a stir, prompting the 1992 General Assembly to pass a "ripper" provision, which changed the selection process for university regents and trustees. The provision called for a nominating committee to be formed. Gov. Jones and state Rep. Ernesto Scorsone, D-Lexington, asked that all current UK Board of Trustees members be ousted. The law was eventually used to remove Wilkinson and some of his appointments from the UK Board.

See DEATH on 2

EXPERIENCE

Program now includes undergrads

Opportunity: Bucks for Brains program lets students work with top researchers

By Joe Anderson
SUMMER EDITOR

Undergraduates have not been entirely left out of UK's multi-million dollar "Bucks for Brains" program.

The Research Challenge Trust Fund, better known as Bucks for Brains, was started by the state legislature in 1997 to draw top researchers and teachers from institutions around the country to UK.

This year, it includes a summer program that will pair 25 minority undergraduate students with the researchers hired under the RCTF in a setting similar to a paid internship, said Richard McCann, an assistant professor of biochemistry.

Bridget Sanders, an undeclared junior, works with McCann as part of the program. Sanders helps the research team harvest, purify

and mutate talin, a type of protein. Sanders said talin is associated with Huntington's disease, and if the research is successful it could help produce a cure.

Sanders said she was nervous when she began the program, but quickly overcame her anxieties. "I wasn't sure about it when I first learned we use E. Coli to produce talin," she said. "But then I found out E. Coli was really pretty tame."

"The program seems to be working very well," McCann said. "She is helping us do the things we do, and she is learning a lot as well, so the benefit accrues to

both of us."

McCann said the program is "targeted at Kentucky residents who come from traditionally underrepresented groups."

"The program beats a regular 9 to 5 job," Sanders said. "It is a wonderful learning experience, there's wonderful people to work with and it's lots of fun."

YEAR IN REVIEW

Lee Todd's first year

UK's eleventh president Lee Todd completed his first year as the top administrator, July 1. Todd, a Hopkins County native, UK and Massachusetts Institute of Technology graduate, below the Kernel reviews several events in his first year as president.

Day One

New UK President Lee Todd introduces himself to UK students, faculty and staff in the Patterson Office Tower Plaza.



Reorganize

Todd abolishes the chancellor system, replaces it with a provost system and names Mike Nietzel as acting provost.



Freshmen

Todd serves incoming freshman Cheryl Machholz a hotdog on moving-in day at UK. Todd attended many pre-semester events, greeting students.

Downtown UK

Todd and Lexington city officials announce a plan to revitalize the area between campus and downtown and develop the area into a college town, full of shops, restaurants, clubs and multi-use housing.

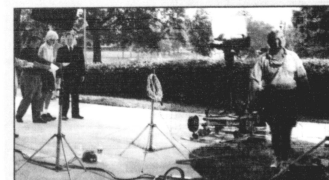


Sept. 11

Two days after terrorists hijacked four airplanes, Todd holds a memorial vigil in the Memorial Hall amphitheater. Todd's wife, Patsy, pictured at left.

Big Blue improvement

Todd placed hot dog stands in high-traffic areas around campus. Benches were also added, along with signs pointing out UK graduates who made significant accomplishments, including Pulitzer Prize and Grammy winners.



"...but I play a president on TV."

Todd goes over his lines with the production crew before filming a new UK commercial.

White chocolate mocha latte

A Starbucks Coffee store opens in the Student Center after the Thanksgiving break, the first one operated by a self-sufficient university food service. This is the first Starbucks in Lexington.



Spring Cleaning

After NCAA sanctions were given to the UK football program, including a one-year bowl ban, Todd reorganized the UK Athletics program, fired Athletics Director Larry Ivy, ceased the "Tickets for Cars" program and hired a search firm for a new athletics director. A short list of candidates will be announced soon.

Campus Tragedy

Minutes after hearing that a UK student and a friend died after falling from a Kirwan Tower window during finals week, Todd provided comfort to students on the scene.

Money, Money, Money

Presenting a tight 2002-2003 budget to the UK Board of Trustees on June 11, Todd avoided departmental cuts and refused a \$100,000 merit bonus from trustees.

NEWS TO USE

The Low-down

CAMPUS NEWS

Two UK faculty named Fulbright professors

Two faculty members from the UK College of Human Environmental Sciences have been awarded prestigious 2002-2003 Fulbright grants from the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Desmond O. Brown, associate professor of tourism, will teach and conduct research in Ghana, West Africa. Greg Brock, professor of family studies, will do the same in Sri Lanka. In 1997-98, Brock studied in China as a Fulbright professor. Brock has been assigned to the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka where he'll teach courses in research and research ethics. Brown will teach undergraduate and graduate courses in tourism management and marketing in the Department of Geography and Tourism at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana.

Monument to honor UK pioneer

To honor the efforts and achievements of Lyman T. Johnson, an African-American pioneer, UK is undertaking a commemorative bust and monument project. Chester Grundy, director of UK African-American Student Affairs, developed the monument idea with art professor Bobby Scroggins. Scroggins has designed a life-sized bust of Johnson in hopes it would be placed in a visible location on campus. To support the monument projects, Scroggins designed a smaller version of the bust, which is available for purchase.

UK gymnast named academic All-American

UK gymnast Nicole Allen was named to the women's Verizon At-Large Academic All-America third team, the College Sports Information Directors of America announced recently. After two consecutive years being named to the All-district IV first team, Allen earned her first All-America honor and is the Wildcats' 14th student-athlete to earn Verizon Academic All-American honors during the

2001-02 school year. Allen, a native of Bowmansville, N.Y., is a biology senior with a 3.9 grade point average. She helped Kentucky finish the season with a No. 23 national ranking and its 16th NCAA regional appearance in 16 years.

STATE NEWS

Auditors say manual for KSU not used

FRANKFORT — State auditors say a financial operations manual they devised for Kentucky State University has been mostly ignored. University officials said their own procedures were adequate; they just had not been followed. State Auditor Ed Hatchett's staff produced an operations manual last year while examining the university's finances for fiscal year 1999. The audit for that period said internal accounting at KSU was so haphazard that examiners could not give an opinion about the school's financial condition. A member of the university's board of regents, Harry Lee Waterfield II, said parts of the auditors' manual had been implemented. A new manual was put together because the university's own manual could not be found during the 1999 audit, he said. With their own manual again in hand, university officials decided it was adequate, Waterfield said.

NATIONAL NEWS

Giuliani divorce settled out of court, no case

NEW YORK — Former Big Apple Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Donna Hanover reached an out-of-court divorce settlement Wednesday, avoiding a public conclusion to their bitter separation after two decades of marriage. The settlement was accepted by the court the day the case was scheduled to go to trial. Supreme Court Justice Judith Gische had granted attorneys for the two an extension to finalize details of the settlement worked out in an all-night negotiating session. The marriage began falling apart during Giuliani's first term as mayor. Giuliani, 58, had filed for divorce in October 2000, accusing Hanover, a television personality and sometime actress, of cruel and inhuman treatment. Hanover, in her own filing last month, blamed the ex-mayor's "open and notorious adultery" for the split.

Compiled from staff, wire reports

ISAAC

Continued from page 1

and UK.

"I am excited about bringing UK and Transy downtown," Isaac said. The former sixth district U.S. congressional candidate said integrating the PLUS account in area businesses would be effective for both students and businesses.

"With 35,000 students, the PLUS account will bring business downtown," Isaac said. Concerning the concept of revitalizing older structures in the college-town area, Isaac said she would favor moving some on-campus offices to buildings and offer lodgings in the downtown area.

"These buildings would be wonderful places for parents visiting students to stay," Isaac said.

DEATH

Continued from page 1

Wilkinson was also governor in 1988, when former Gov. AB "Happy" Chandler, the first person appointed to the UK Board of Trustees by Wilkinson, uttered a racial slur at a BOT committee meeting, which led many to call for Chandler's resignation. Wilkinson was encouraged to remove Chandler from the board, but said in a newspaper interview, "To kick an old friend when he's down, an 89-year-old friend of this commonwealth and the University of Kentucky, would serve no purpose."

As governor, Wilkinson involved himself with UK's basketball program, which went through many controversies itself during Wilkinson's tenure. Wilkinson reportedly received briefings from then UK President

David Roselle on NCAA investigations into the basketball program, and at one point, was said to have promised to help then basketball coach Eddie Sutton keep his job.

Wilkinson was also said to have made it clear during his tenure, through his board appointments and actions as governor, that he wanted Roselle replaced as UK President by Charles Wethington, an old friend and high school English teacher of Wilkinson's in Casey County.

The UK campus isn't the only one familiar with the Wilkinson name. Wilkinson also made a name for himself on college campuses everywhere when he founded Wallace's Bookstore, a major supplier of used textbooks to university bookstores. The company became a key part of Wilkinson's future business ventures. In 1999, Wilkinson launched

ecampus.com, an Internet company that sells books and supplies to college students online.

Wilkinson's business ventures began a downward spiral in early 2001, when auditors began legal procedures to recoup money Wilkinson owed to creditors. The claims led to the revelation that Wilkinson owed \$418.4 million in debts, and had little assets. Wilkinson's estate remains in bankruptcy.

After a funeral service Tuesday at Broadway Christian Church, an interment was held at a Jessamine County mausoleum.

The Wilkinson family declined an offer by Kentucky Gov. Paul Patton to have Wilkinson's body lie in state at the Frankfort State Capital. Flags at the capital flew at half-staff Tuesday in Wilkinson's honor.

Wilkinson is survived by his wife, Martha, and two sons, Andrew and Glenn.



Jammin'

Saxophonist Reid Jahn and guitarist Mark Hamilton play some "polyethnic fusion" with band Dig Mowgli as part of the UK Summer Lawn Series, which happens every Wednesday this month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at various campus locations. The band will also play next week, and free ice cream will be given away.

SCOTT LASHINSKY | KERNEL STAFF

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HONORING THE BARD

UK theatre staff sets the stage

By Jodi Whitaker
STAFF WRITER

John Holloway began attending the Lexington Shakespeare Festival when it was being held at Woodland Park. While enjoying the plays, Holloway, a scenic production faculty member in UK's Department of Theatre, would have ideas roll through his mind on how he would present the plays if he were in charge of the set.

This year, Holloway got the chance to put those rolling ideas to work.

For the first time in its 21 years, the Lexington Shakespeare Festival is being presented in conjunction with the University of Kentucky, allowing UK faculty to have a hand in the production.

And Holloway couldn't be happier. "I've known all these people for years, and I've been coming to see the festival for years as well," Holloway said of being able to work first-hand with the production. "For the theatre department, we thought that if we could get involved with this in a substantial way, it would reflect well on us."

One of the most time-consuming changes Holloway has made with a staff from the Department of Theatre is the building of a metal elevated stage, which will not only put the performers at a better sight level with the audience, but will make setting up the Festival in years to come a much easier process. In years past, a wooden platform was built every year and torn down at the end of the Festival.

"The advantage of this one is that next year, we can set it up in a day rather than two weeks," Holloway said of the new stage. "It took a while to construct it. But now it should speed things up in the future."

Other changes to the Festival setting include narrowing the seating area (but moving the stage farther down so as not to lessen the amount of seating) in order to improve site lines and sound, making the stage higher off the ground so the actors can be seen better, widening the seating area to enhance the sound, adding light posts to increase illumination and adding side panels and a backdrop around the stage in hopes of sprucing up the entire appearance.

"Hopefully, it will be smoother looking," Holloway said. "We hope it will add a little more polish to the Festival."

In addition, the set for each play will be completely different, another aspect that hasn't been done in the past.

"The concept that you have three different sets for three different shows is the biggest thing that's changed," Holloway said. "Before, they would just have one basic set that they would change dressing on, but it was basically the same thing. These are all completely different."

Even though Holloway considers the work the Department of Theatre has done on the Festival a "mammoth



HOLLY DAVIS | PHOTO EDITOR

A work of arts

The new Shakespeare Festival stage has been built over the past few months - a job that's proven to be a "mammoth undertaking."

undertaking," he says UK's collaboration with the Festival has been a great experience.

"Historically, there's been a pretty close tie, although it hasn't been formal," Holloway said. "It just seemed to me that the festival had grown to a point where they could make changes like this. We just feel like this is a real leap for them this year."

"I think it's a good festival, and it's exciting that they're doing what they're doing," he added.

Get festive

Gates open for the Lexington Shakespeare Festival nightly at 7 p.m., with pre-show fun at 8 and the show beginning at 8:45. Tickets are \$5 for general admission, \$10 for a reserved chair (chair provided), \$30 for blanket seating for four (blanket not provided). Tickets can be purchased at the gate or reserved by calling the Singletary Center Ticket Office at 257-4929.

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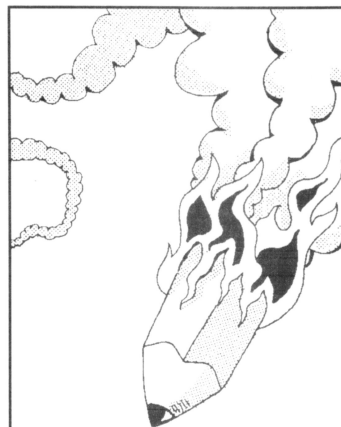
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Late night comedians

"It's been reported that the FBI is visiting libraries nationwide and checking the reading records of people it finds suspicious. When asked about it, President Bush said I've always been suspicious of people who go to libraries."

"Tom Ridge announced a new color-coded alarm system — green means everything's okay, Red means we're in extreme danger. And champagne-fuschia means we're being attacked by Martha Stewart."

—Conan O'Brien

"Hillary Clinton has finished her memoirs for publication next year, while Bill has barely finished the first chapter. Well, in all fairness, fiction is a lot harder to write."

"First Enron, then Tyco and now WorldCom. How come all these companies are off billions in their accounting and nothing ever happens to them? If you bounce a \$15 check at the Quickmart, the feds are at your door!"

"The U.S. Cardinals say they are going to develop a code of ethics to help them deal with the sexual scandal. Wait a minute, I thought there already was a code of ethics — it's called the Bible."

"Former President Clinton went to London to see Chelsea and meet her new boyfriend. I guess the boyfriend told Clinton he thought of him as a role model. Clinton said, 'That's it — you are not dating my daughter!'"

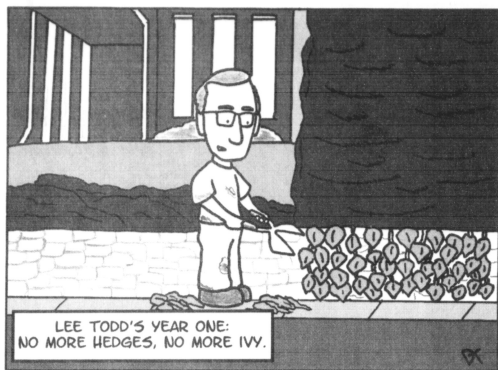
—Jay Leno

"We can't find him, but he's a 6-foot-5 Arab on dialysis. Call me crazy, but look for a guy connected to his luggage."

—Robin Williams

Source: about.com

Compiled by
Rebecca Neal
Dialogue Editor
Dialogue@kykernel.com



IN OUR OPINION

A successful first year for Lee Todd

On July 1, 2001, Lee Todd replaced Charles Wethington to become the University of Kentucky's 11th president.

Wethington's presidency was fraught with controversy, from his appointment as president by then Governor Wallace Wilkinson to the 2000 arrest of students protesting sweatshop labor.

Todd's first year as UK's president was no less eventful. Todd was thrust into the national spotlight just months after he took office when the NCAA investigated UK's football program and the Athletics department. From his quest to make UK a top university to working to improve conditions for students and employees, Todd has shown himself to be a capable and competent leader. Here's why:

•**The Athletics Department.** The NCAA football violations occurred before Todd took office, yet he dealt with the media's questions and enacted reform. After Larry Ivy resigned as athletics director, Todd announced the formation of a search committee for a new director and promised to hold the department accountable. A new AD should be announced by the end of July.

•**Budget constraints.** The state of Kentucky's economic shortfalls resulted in a tight 2002-2003 fiscal year budget for the university. Instead of awarding raises, the university granted three percent merit bonuses for some faculty. Citing the economic conditions, Todd declined a \$100,000 merit bonus proposed by the Board of Trustees in June.

•**Campus improvements.** Sure, everyone jokes about the Starbucks and the hot dog stands. However, it's nice to see someone taking an interest in providing more eating options for students. The removal of the hedges around Maxwell Place is also a plus. Now we can see that we do have a president living in the house.

•**Top-20 status.** For a while, we were just "America's Next Great University." Todd has encouraged not only continuing UK's tradition of groundbreaking research but wants to see all colleges and departments excel. For years, most of the emphasis was placed solely on research. UK should be a top-20 school in everything from languages to fine arts to business to architecture to the sciences.

With this level of determination, we can have a school that can attract the brightest students and faculty and compete with the nation's leading universities.

Being patriotic in my own little way

Traditionally, Fourth of July celebrations include food, friends and fireworks. I, too, had big plans for the day — that is, until those plans fell through.

All of my friends were either working, out of town or had other plans. I was pretty bummed about the prospect of spending the Fourth at home, watching the Boston Pops Orchestra on television like I have for the last ten years.

I'm ashamed to admit that I turned into a bit of a whiner for a few days. I know there's more to the Fourth than just having fun; if there was any time we were reminded of that, it was last year. However, that still doesn't excuse the fact that I just wanted to go watch some fireworks with some friends and have a good time. None of my friends actually said I was



Rebecca Neal
DIALOGUE EDITOR

whining, but I sure felt like it.

So, I ended up spending my Fourth of July at home, cleaning out my email account and backing up my computer. What an exciting evening, I thought.

To top off my happening night, I decided to go get some vanilla ice cream. My mom, the queen of channel surfing, was looking for something interesting on TV before the Boston Pops concert started.

She stopped on a special on PBS about Air Force One. The program was a look back on the history of presidents and their airplanes.

I was thrilled. Planes and politics — what more could you want?

I found the special fascinating. It was a behind-the-scenes look at a place few people have the opportunity to experience. It was a documentary of history made at 35,000 feet.

One of the most interesting things about the program was that I had actually had the opportunity to step on board many of the presidential aircraft shown. Back in May, my friend Jason and I went to the Wright-Patterson Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio.

(Yes, one of our big summer "road trips" was to a museum. Our friends didn't see the fun in that.)

The museum was interesting and was filled with vintage airplanes and memorabilia. And the plane was enormous; it was more than a person could look at in a day.

The best part of the trip was when we were bussed onto the Air Force base to tour a hangar filled with former presidential aircraft. We had the opportunity to walk through four planes used by President Franklin Roosevelt through President George Bush Sr.

The planes gave us an interesting perspective on history. For example, everyone knows now that Roosevelt

Blame your friends for smoking habit

College does strange things to us. Maybe it's the whole peer pressure thing, or maybe it's the independence, but we all try to do things that we probably wouldn't attempt otherwise. One curious thing that many people try for the first time is smoking. Granted, many start in high school, but college itself leads many toward the dark side.

I often wonder why people actually try smoking in the first place. With this question, I asked both myself and some of my friends; in the end, peer pressure and social atmosphere have the most to do with it.

You can blame your friends now. It's not the cigarettes themselves that have the most to do with it, but your buddy who has been a life-long smoker. This person buys you a drink on one of your collegiate birthdays and says to you in a dark voice, "have a smoke, it's good for you." If it's a female, then guys will say yes, of course. Otherwise, that tantalizing little white-tipped curiosity gets the better of you. It's either that or you're already drunk. You can always count on your friends to get you in trouble.

Cigarette manufacturers aren't the ones to blame, just the ones for litigation. Their ads in the media aren't the ones to worry about either, since most of them are too cheesy to lure us. We're college students; we know not to trust advertising. And Joe Camel? He's so, well, 80s.

Cigarettes have to be one of the most physically and psychologically addicting things known to man. They look harmless enough, yet are the primary causes for countless deaths each year. Humans are also curious creatures themselves; just read up on Pandora's Box. Combine fire and foliage and you're sure to find something intoxicating to inhale. North America had tobacco, while Asia had opium. Fair enough. Actually, nicotine itself has been found to have certain beneficial health uses, but the 29,999 other ingredients in cigarettes are far sketchier.

It's been known that smoking is bad for one's health for a long time. Perhaps the average life expectancy wasn't quite long enough for them realize cigarettes' other effects though. Wary individuals noticed a trend in smoking and cancer and German scientists found a statistical link between the two in the early 1930's. Of course, leave it to stubborn Americans to demand concrete scientific proof of that. You can jump off a cliff and you'll die 90% of the time, unless you land on the previous jumper. We want 99.99% proof positive and having just 90% doesn't cut it. RJ Reynolds must be laughing in his grave.

Since these so-called cancer sticks are bad for you, people try to stop others from starting in the first place. In a way, it's like trying to persuade the car companies to make a more efficient car — it's hopeless in the world of greenbacks and SUV-driving folk. You can, however, try to make a persuasive case against smoking. You could raise taxes (while actually spending this revenue on something productive). New York has quite a large tax at \$1.50, while Kentucky is pretty low at three cents. We can't brag about being the absolute lowest; Virginia is a petty 2.5 cents. There has been legislation in the government for a while to try to raise the tax, but the cigarette companies and growers have quite a decent amount of squirrels working to prevent any such measures.

I'm not fluent in the political world, but I imagine a conversation between a tobacco lobbyist and a congressman would go something like this:

Lobbyist: Don't vote for the increase in the federal excise tax. Congress: And why shouldn't I?
L: Cigarettes are good for you.
C: Like I haven't heard that one before.
L: Everyone's doing it.
C: You can do better than that.
L: Er, how about 5000 little financial contributions?
C: That's more like it.
So, while that goes on, do you want a smoke? All the cool kids are doing it.

Kernel columnist Alan Chan is a medical graduate student. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel.



Alan Chan
KERNEL COLUMNIST

was dependent on a wheelchair due to polio. Back when Roosevelt was in office, though, the American public was kept in the dark about his disability. However, Roosevelt's plane had a wheelchair lift that was accessible for viewing — how ironic.

The last plane we went through was Kennedy's plane. It was the plane that took him down to Dallas back in 1963 and the one that brought his body back to Washington. A plaque in the back of the plane said that the area where Jason and I were standing was where Johnson was sworn in as the 36th President of the United States. Another plaque pointed out scrapes in the plane wall that were made when part of an interior wall was cut away to make room for Kennedy's casket.

I don't know exactly what was going through Jason's mind that day, but I was awed. I can't explain the feeling of standing in a place where history was made and people's lives were changed

forever. I thought about what must have been going through the mind of Jackie Kennedy while she watched her husband's vice-president being sworn into office while her husband lay dead in the back of the plane. I thought about the plane's crew; I can't imagine their sorrow and grief after a routine presidential trip turned into a horrific tragedy.

I didn't participate in the traditional patriotic festivities on the Fourth. There were no picnics or parades for me. Instead, I ended up reflecting on history and relating it to my personal experiences.

Those two things are what the Fourth of July is about. It should be a chance to reflect on our nation's history and celebrate our heritage.

Dialogue Editor Rebecca Neal is a journalism and political science sophomore. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel.

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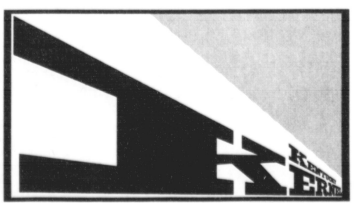
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Graduate School Dissertations Name: Blake Ann Cavalls Program: Botany and Plant Pathology Dissertation Title: The Relationship Between Ecovore and Ecovore for Learning & Ecovore between Ecovore and Ecovore between Ecovore and Ecovore Major Professor: Dr. Bill Dole Date: July 11, 2002 Time: 10:00 PM Place: South Center



'THE TOUR DE LANCE'



PHOTO FURNISHED

Tight shorts

Lance Armstrong rides his bicycle prior to the start of the second stage of the Tour de France cycling race, Monday July 8, 2002 between Luxembourg and Saarbrücken, Germany.

Still Going: Lance Armstrong continues to pursue his fourth straight tour title

ASSOCIATED PRESS

REIMS, France — With Lance Armstrong not far off the lead and the mountains still to come, Erik Zabel knows it is far too early to celebrate any sort of success.

The German sprint specialist rode through the Champagne region in the third stage of the Tour de France to finish second and claim the leader's yellow jersey. He is eight seconds ahead of Australia's Robbie McEwen, the winner of Tuesday's stage.

Armstrong, bidding for a fourth straight Tour de France title, was 53rd in the stage and dropped a spot to fifth overall, 17 seconds behind the leader.

Zabel, who rides for Telekom, took the yellow jersey from surprising two-day leader Rubens Bertogliati of Switzerland.

Zabel said Armstrong's U.S. Postal Service team is a big threat entering the team time trial Wednesday.

"We're going to leave the champagne tonight for the coaching staff of Telekom, out of respect for tomorrow's team time trial," he said. "No champagne for me tonight."

"U.S. Postal seems to have a great chance of winning the time trial, so holding on to the yellow jersey seems uncertain," Zabel added.

Armstrong maintained his strategy of keeping up in the flat stages while awaiting the time trials and mountains. The 30-year-old Texan cruised through the wheat fields of eastern France on the 108-mile leg from Metz to Reims, all part of his plan to quicken the pace in the mountains, where he often leaves rivals

behind.

"If you had offered me this scenario before the Tour, I would have signed for it right away," USPS team leader Johan Bruyneel said.

The USPS team is one of the favorites to win Wednesday's fourth stage, a 42-mile team time trial from Epernay to the historic town of Chateau-Thierry.

Tuesday's leg took riders through the World War I battlefield of Verdun, where Armstrong won his first Tour stage in 1993 — the year he captured the world championship.

In a region that often honors U.S. soldiers who died there, many fans waved American flags or team jerseys of the USPS riders.

McEwen won the stage in 4 hours, 13 minutes, 37 seconds. Armstrong was among a pack of 185 other riders that clocked the same time as McEwen.

PROFESSIONAL BOXING

Boxing comes to Applebee's Park

Let's get it on: Lexus Friday Night Fights will feature eight bouts, state title fight

By Tom Soper
SPORTSWEEKLY EDITOR

Boxing comes to Lexington this Friday at Applebee's Park.

That's right, the home of the Legends will host Lexus Friday Night Fights.

This isn't the first time that a boxing event has been held at the ballpark. They held an event there last September, but not many people turned out to see the fights.

Fight promoter Darren Turner expects a better showing this time.

"Back in September, unfortunately, it was right after the 9/11 events," he said. "It was also only about 45 degrees, so we had about 1,000 people. But I think

we'll have a great event this time."

Turner hopes that this event will be successful enough to keep a normal rotation of fights coming through Lexington. Turner hopes the popularity of boxing in Central Kentucky will continue to grow.

"I think we're building (boxing) back up," he said. "We're bringing in world-class fighters, which is what we will have here on Friday. Each of these guys has fought on ESPN."

Heavyweight fighter Jeremy "The Beast" Bates said that he looks forward to the fight in Applebee's Park. "Of all the shows I've done," he said, "either on pay-per-view or ESPN, I have to say that Applebee's Park is the classiest place I've ever been, and I've been all over the country."

Friday's main event will feature Daniel "The Sandman" Maldonado fighting Terrell Hardgrove for the Kentucky Featherweight Title. At a pre-fight press conference Maldonado had a few things to say about his opponent.

"I heard he's a cocky guy who likes to talk a lot," Maldonado said. "I intend to shut him up. He wants me right now, but he won't want me come the twelfth."

Hardgrove wasn't at the press conference to defend

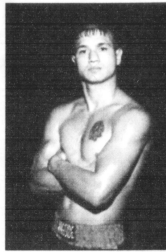


PHOTO FURNISHED

Daniel "The Sandman" Maldonado will fight for the Kentucky Featherweight Title on Friday.

himself or reply to what Maldonado had to say. However, that didn't keep "The Sandman" from talking.

"I've trained so hard for this fight," he said. "I don't like to make knockout predictions, but I'm going to call this one in the fifth round."

Also on the card is a woman's bout featuring four-time Tough Man Champion Nikki "No Slack" Eplion. Nikki will be fighting Bonnie Mann, but she said that Bonnie won't be doing much fighting.

"I don't expect anyone to see her fight very much," Eplion said. "I predict that it will end in the first round. I'm going to be all over her."

The action begins at 8 p.m.

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