

Thursday  
February 3, 2005

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# THE KENTUCKY Kernel

Celebrating 33 years of independence

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## SG removes restrictions on candidates' experience



Sen. Becky Ellingsworth reads from an amendment Student Government passed removing restrictions on SG candidates.

By Tricia McKenny  
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Students are no longer required to have previous experience in Student Government to run for SG president, after SG approved a constitutional amendment last night. The SG constitution previously required one year of service in SG in order for a student to run for a "chief leadership position," including SG president and vice president.

The amendment, which received initial approval after its first reading Jan. 19 and final approval last night, changes this experiential clause and says that an individual running for a leadership position, "shall be a member of Student Government."

According to the SG Constitution, all students at UK, LCC and the Medical Center Campus are

members of the Student Government Association of UK and are members of SG.

The amendment was sponsored by Senator at Large Becky Ellingsworth and College of Business and Economics Senator Ben Carter, who both have said they hope the amendment will open SG up to students and make it available to more students. Ellingsworth is running for president this year.

"It is good for the organization to open up to all students, and (the amendment) is something we should all vote for," Ellingsworth said to the senators.

Several SG members have mentioned opening SG up and providing opportunities for more students as a goal by several SG members this year, and last night SG approved a resolution that some members hope will provide this opportunity.

SG approved a special projects resolution last night, "The Wildcat Innovation Fellowship," that will award up to two \$1,500 fellowships to students.

The fellowship is open to all graduate and undergraduate students who will be attending UK in the Fall 2006 semester, except for SG officials.

Students who have ideas for improving any aspect of UK are asked to write a three- to five-page essay outlining the problem and the proposed solution.

Up to five finalists will be selected and each finalist will be required to make a presentation describing their project to the Wildcat Innovation Fellowship Selection Committee on March 1.

The selection committee is made up of SG senators and officials from all three branches of SG. Up to two winners will be select-

ed by the committee who will be required to work with SG officials during the month of April to develop their project and create a plan of action.

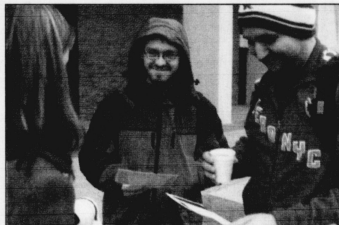
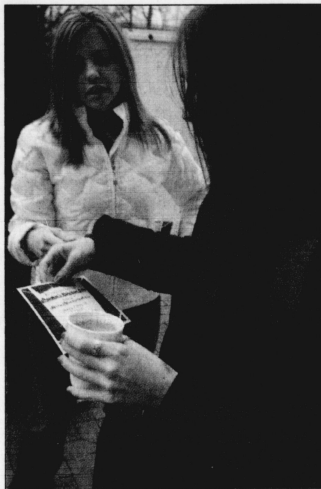
If all of these conditions are met, the award money will be applied to the students' tuition for the Fall 2006 semester and next year's SG council will provide funding to implement the new program, said Ellingsworth, the resolution's sponsor.

"The committee will be looking for the most feasible, beneficial idea from the students who seem the most committed (to implementing their plan)," Ellingsworth said.

Applications for the fellowship can be picked up in the SG offices beginning Monday and are due at noon Feb. 25.

E-mail  
tmckenny@kykernel.com

## WARM UP WEDNESDAYS



PHOTOS BY SCOTT LOUTNER | STAFF

Left: Freshman Sen. Meredith Storm gives free hot chocolate and a flyer about the President's Valentine's Gala to marketing sophomore Crystal Shelton yesterday at Patterson Office Tower Plaza. SG will return to POT next Wednesday with more free hot chocolate.

Above: SG President Rachel Watts gives hot chocolate to mechanical engineering seniors Jason Justis (Left) and Andy Singer (Right).

## Officials find funding for Robinson program without mining forest

By Ryan Toombs  
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The Robinson Scholars program has had to cut the number of scholarships offered, but administrators said the program is not in danger.

"We looked at our long-term financial situation, and we know we don't have an endless pool of resources," said Brad Goan, the program director.

The Robinson Scholars program, which began in 1997, has experienced a lack of funding. Sale of timber from Robinson Forest funds the scholarship program. The program, which covers 29 counties in Eastern Kentucky, originally covered four students per county. Now, the number of students has been reduced to one per county.

Goan said despite the cuts to the program, it still provides a high level of service to students, and he stressed that the program is not in danger of ending.

"The notion has been that it will either be mining the forest or a loss of the program — this is not so," Goan said.

UK will probably begin its logging experiments in Robinson Forest in the spring of 2006, said Chris Barton, an assistant professor in the Department of Forestry.

"Our current research in the area will be finished in October of this year, but we will more than likely wait until next spring so that we can study the harvesting in the eight water-

sheds simultaneously," Barton said.

The cutting, officially known as the Streams Management Zone, was approved and discussed concurrently with the comprehensive plan for Robinson Forest, which was approved in 2004 by the UK Board of Trustees.

The current research, Barton said, will be used to determine if the results seen after the harvesting are the effects of the tree loss or natural phenomenon.

He said that the research is designed to test the current regulations put on timber harvesting operations. The objective is to see if those regulations are suitable for Kentucky's forests. The current regulations determine, for example, how many trees must be left surrounding streams.

"The study is really about the trees that will be left behind in the watersheds, not those that will be harvested," Barton said.

The goal was to develop a comprehensive management plan for the forest, said Scott Smith, dean of the College of Agriculture.

"If you look at the long-term plan, it was a decision on what we will do with this valuable piece of property," said Smith.

Smith said that the debate over preservation of the forest and mining was settled and that UK had chosen a middle ground of research and no mining.

See Robinson on page 2

## Bush details plan for Social Security reform

By Michael A. Fletcher and Peter Baker  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — President Bush last night called for a historic restructuring of Social Security that would allow younger workers for the first time to invest some of their payroll taxes in the stock market, declaring in his annual State of the Union address that without change the venerable program is headed toward bankruptcy.

Speaking to a joint session of Congress and a national television audience, Bush sketched out in more detail than before the top domestic goal of his second term but stopped short of providing a complete blueprint to leave himself negotiating room with skeptical lawmakers.

Under his plan, workers younger than 55 could divert up to 4 percent of income subject to Social Security taxation into private investment accounts beginning in 2009.

With Social Security as its centerpiece, the address laid out an excep-

tionally ambitious agenda as Bush gears up for another four years, one that will challenge powerful constituencies and test the capacity of a president re-elected with a bare majority to simultaneously wage war abroad and transform government at home.

"Fixing Social Security permanently will require an open, candid review of the options," Bush said. "I know that none of these reforms would be easy. But we have to move ahead with courage and honesty, because our children's retirement security is more important than partisan politics."

Celebrating the success of elections in Iraq and vowing a new effort to make peace between Israelis and Palestinians, Bush also promised to rewrite the U.S. tax code, liberalize the nation's immigration laws and rein in

a litigious legal system.

Bush used his speech to reinforce his inauguration theme of spreading democracy abroad, literally repeating much of the same language about "ending tyranny in our world."

He offered no new programs or initiatives intended to achieve such a goal, but after criticism that his administration had been selective in promoting freedom, he directly if politely challenged two close allies with autocratic governments, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, to reform their systems.

He had sterner words for two other nations in the Middle East, demanding that Syria stop harboring terrorists and that Iran give up its nuclear development programs, all but encouraging Iranians to rise up against the re-

See Bush on page 2

## Vatican mulls pontiff's illness, future

By Janice D'Arcy  
THE BALTIMORE SUN

As Catholics worldwide offered prayers for the recovery of Pope John Paul II Wednesday, church scholars said the Vatican may eventually have to grapple publicly with legal and moral questions about the pontiff's potential incapacitation and efforts to keep him alive if his condition deteriorates.

"One of the great difficulties in dealing with life-sustaining treatment is that one cannot guess all the circumstances that can arise," said John Haas, president of the National Catholic Bioethics Center.

Discussion of a pope's death was once considered taboo in the Roman Catholic Church. But given the 84-year-old pontiff's long-declining health — he suffers from Parkinson's disease and debilitating arthritis — it's now unavoidable.

His current illness is a respiratory ailment that developed from the flu, according to the Vatican, where aides said his health was improving yesterday at The Gemelli Polyclinic in Rome. He was rushed to the hospital late Tuesday when he had difficulty breathing.

The Church has an elaborate protocol for funeral rituals and succession procedures that follow a pope's death.

But if the pope were to fall into a coma, for example, it is unclear how long the Vatican would have to function without an effective leader.

Although the Vatican's secretary of state, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, could run day-to-day operations, he would not have the authority to appoint bishops, issue binding pronouncements on doctrine, or perform other theologically critical assignments.

"How long can we have a Church where nothing would happen?" said Jesuit priest Thomas Reese, editor of America, a monthly magazine on religious affairs. "We may just have to wait."

## UK named in latest round of downloading lawsuits

STAFF REPORT

A group of record companies filed a civil suit against UK on Jan. 27 for copyright infringement involving students on the university's campus.

Fayette County District Court received a complaint from the plaintiff's attorneys in Cincinnati stating that the university maintained authority to facilitate illegal downloading of music services by students.

Maverick Recording Co., Artista Records LCC and Sony BMG Music Entertainment are a few of the Delaware-based companies that are pursuing legal action.

According to its Web site, the Recording Industry Association of America has filed suits against 717 music downloaders, including 68 computer network users at 23 universities across the country.

Other schools facing the lawsuits include The Ohio State University, Michigan State University, Georgetown University, Harvard University, Indiana University and Indiana University.

The identifications of three "John Does" suspected of illegal downloading at UK remain unknown to the plaintiffs. The defendants must respond to the complaint within 20 days from the date it was filed.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Todd, Smith to discuss leadership

President Lee T. Todd and Coach Orlando "Tubby" Smith will speak at this year's "Forum at Noon," an annual event sponsored by the Lexington Forum, a group of local business leaders. "Forum at Noon" will be held at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 16 in the Blue Grass Ballroom of the Lexington Convention Center. Todd and Smith will discuss their leadership styles and the impact that Jim Collins' best-selling book "Good to Great" has had on their success.

Cost to attend the event, which is being presented by AD-SUCCESS, is \$40 per person or tables of 10 may be purchased for \$300. For more information, call Kelley Bozeman at 227-7862.

### Faculty art show continues this weekend

The Art Department's annual Faculty Show exhibition, which began Jan. 28 with an opening reception in the artists' honor, is on display through Feb. 12 at UK's Tuska Gallery in the Fine Arts Building.

Admission to the Faculty Show is free and open to the public. The exhibit is open noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information, contact Benjamin Withers at 257-2727.

## Robinson

Continued from page 1

Along with its research purpose, the harvesting will also provide funding for both the forest and the Robinson Scholars program through the sale of the trees.

Jeretta Hall, a political science junior and Robinson Scholar, said she is happy with the decisions about the forest and the program.

"I am very pleased that they are working on finding solutions for the program — hopefully the logging will be equally beneficial to the program and the research," Hall said.

Smith agreed that funding the scholarship should not mean having to mine the forest.

"It almost did, but the answer was no — we have always taken a strong stand against mining the forest," Smith said.

E-mail news@kykernel.com

## CORRECTION

In yesterday's Kernel, the picture of Gov. Ernie Fletcher giving his State of the Commonwealth address incorrectly identified Senate President David Williams in the background.

Yesterday's On Tap listed an incorrect ticket price for the Low and Pedro the Lion show. Tickets cost \$5.

To report an error, please call the Kernel newsroom at 257-1915 or e-mail news@kykernel.com.

## Bush

Continued from page 1

gious government in Tehran. Yet he said little about North Korea, which has been building its own nuclear weapons program and was part of Bush's original "axis of evil" that he mentioned in his State of the Union address three years ago.

The president also called for greater fiscal discipline, as he prepared the nation for a budget proposal that will virtually freeze discretionary spending not related to the military or homeland security. In addition, Bush called for an initiative led by first lady Laura Bush to

discourage young people from falling into gang life. He also announced plans to provide special training for defense lawyers in death penalty cases, and he called for expanded use of DNA evidence to prevent wrongful convictions.

Bush reiterated his support for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, an issue that he had wavered on, citing Senate opposition since his re-election. "For the good of families, children and society, I support a constitutional amendment to protect the institution of marriage," he said.

In their response, Democratic leaders drew a careful line, promising not to let partisanship get in the way of progress while vowing to stand up to Bush on matters of principle. "We will be first in line to work with him," said Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-

## UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY CRIME REPORT

Crime Log: Jan. 25-Jan. 30

- Jan. 25: Theft at 120 Patterson Drive reported at 11:48 a.m.
- Jan. 25: Theft of a wallet at Seaton Center reported at 3:31 p.m.
- Jan. 25: Criminal mischief at Sports Center Drive parking lot reported at 4:11 p.m.
- Jan. 26: Burglary at Kentucky Clinic reported at 12:37 p.m.
- Jan. 26: Theft at 1405 Veterans Drive reported at 2:15 p.m.
- Jan. 26: Theft at UK Chandler Medical Center reported at 10:56 p.m.
- Jan. 27: Criminal mischief at 401 Hilltop Drive reported at 9:28 a.m.
- Jan. 27: Criminal mischief at UK Chandler Medical Center reported at 10:57 a.m.
- Jan. 27: Assault at 120 Patterson Drive reported at 11:26 a.m.
- Jan. 27: Terroristic threatening at 411 S. Limestone St. reported at 1:50 p.m.
- Jan. 27: Assault at 404 S. Limestone St. reported at 2:31 p.m.
- Jan. 28: Criminal mischief at Kentucky Clinic reported at 6:16 a.m.
- Jan. 29: Criminal mischief at UK Chandler Medical Center reported at 5:51 a.m.
- Jan. 29: Criminal mischief at 1100 Nicholasville Road reported at 7:20 p.m.
- Jan. 30: Terroristic threatening and criminal mischief at 305 Euclid Ave. reported at 12:56 p.m.
- Jan. 30: Theft at Johnson Center reported at 2:04 p.m.
- Jan. 30: Theft at Johnson Center reported at 5:09 p.m.
- Jan. 30: Forgery at Blanding III reported at 10:02 p.m.
- Jan. 31: Shot fired, burglary, assault and wanton endangerment at 300 Alumni Drive reported at 4 p.m.

Compiled by staff writer Dariush Shafa.  
E-mail dshafa@kykernel.com

## CLARIFICATION

Tuesday's Tech Check did not mention that a wireless access point is more accurately called a wireless router, as a wireless access point is more of a network extension. Also, wired equivalent privacy is an older form of network security; wireless access point is the newest and easiest.

But when he gets off track, we will be there to hold him accountable."

Reid signaled that Social Security was one area where the Democrats would fight. "Democrats are all for giving Americans more of a say and more choices when it comes to their retirement savings. But that doesn't mean taking Social Security's guarantee and gambling with it. And that's coming from a senator who represents Las Vegas," he said.

Bush's plan to restructure Social Security faces near unanimous opposition from congressional Democrats, who see the program as one of their party's most enduring legislative legacies. Republican lawmakers, meanwhile, have approached the issue cautiously, worried that voters would turn on them if they believe that Republicans are cutting one of the federal government's most popular programs.

## Nuclear evidence may point to Pakistan

By Glenn Kessler and Dafna Linzer  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration's claim this week that North Korea appears to have been the supplier of converted uranium to Libya is based on evidence that could just as easily point to Pakistan, a key U.S. ally, as the source, according to analysts and officials familiar with the data.

Two senior staffers of the National Security Council have toured China, Japan and South Korea in recent days to brief top officials that U.S. scientific tests strongly suggest North Korea provided Libya with uranium hexafluoride gas, which can be processed into material for a nuclear weapon. Their trip came as U.S. officials are trying to build a united front with key allies if, as expected, North Korea soon agrees to restart six-nation talks on its nuclear programs.

China and South Korea, in particular, have been skeptical of administration claims that North Korea has a clandestine uranium enrichment program. One of the officials, Asian senior director Michael Green,

brought a hand-written message from President Bush for South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun, according to media reports in Seoul.

The questions raised Wednesday about the administration's evidence are significant in the wake of the controversy over the administration's claims — later disproved — that Iraq had illicit weapons. Several experts said the administration needed to be very careful in making its case to allies, given resulting skepticism.

The administration's case is based on tests conducted on equipment and on hexafluoride gas, known as UF6, surrendered by Libya after it agreed to give up its illicit weapons programs. The New York Times reported Wednesday that scientists focused on North Korea as a source through a process of elimination by examining isotope fingerprints and ruling out other countries.

The Washington Post reported Wednesday on another potential link: a canister obtained from Libya that contained the gas apparently had traces of plutonium produced at Yongbyon, where North Korea has its nuclear facilities.

But the International Atomic Energy Agency, which conducted tests on the materials, has not reached the same finding and believes the evidence is inconclusive.

Several experts said the process of elimination cited by the Times still left open the possibility of other sources for the uranium — and did not show that it was actually converted to UF6 in North Korea. The experts see problems as well with the plutonium test cited by The Post.

IAEA tests on the same container — using samples taken at the same time the U.S. took samples last spring — didn't indicate the presence of plutonium, and the United States hasn't shared the results of its plutonium tests with the international agency. Moreover, the suspect container originated from Pakistan, officials said Wednesday.

The presence of plutonium indicates that it was in North Korea but there is no way to know where the contents of the cylinder originated, investigators said.

Indeed, the IAEA, which has been investigating the nuclear smuggling network led by Pakistani scientist

A.Q. Khan, has collected a mountain of conflicting information pointing to both Pakistan and North Korea as Libya's source of uranium.

"In order to come to this conclusion you need a sample from North Korea and no one has a uranium sample from North Korea," said one official investigating the network and Libya's former programs. "The Pakistanis won't allow any samples of their UF6 either," said the official, who would only discuss the status of the investigation on condition of anonymity.

North Korea has natural uranium but there is no direct evidence that it is able to convert the material to UF6, a gas state that prepares the uranium for enrichment. While North Korea is suspected of trying to assemble an enrichment program, U.S. intelligence analysts have differed over when it would be operational.

Experts said it would be surprising to discover that North Korea had built a conversion facility. Libya put out an order in 2003 for 20 tons of UF6 in the hopes of beginning research and development on uranium enrichment.

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The top 10 finalists will compete on Sunday, March 6, 2005 to win two tickets to the Men's College Basketball Championship in St. Louis. You may enter at either Harry's location during normal business hours. Enter as many times as you like!

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## FLY ON THE WALL | feelin' the buzz

### Pickles, spice and everything nice

If you're anything like me, you love sandwiches and you're sick of the same ol' sub shop.

Lately, I've been looking for something more. A place where I could sit comfortably and talk with my companions about how good the food was instead of complaining about how much I spent and how little I received.



**Danielle Herring**  
KERNEL COLUMNIST

Thankfully I've found such a place.

It's easy to see that this eatery is different before you look at the menu. Although it's about the same size as your average sandwich shop, I'm certain this is the only place you'll find a green six-seat table shaped like a pickle. And instead of obnoxious bold colors that are supposed to make you hungry, patrons can relax in the post-modern decor done in maroon, maize, cadet blue and, of course, a flat pickle green.

My first visit was an eye-opener. I felt a little overwhelmed by all the options and the line of people behind me made me feel a little rushed, but I quickly found something I wanted with the help of the cashier.

One patron had a similar first experience.

"The customer service was excellent," Amy Utery of Lexington said. "This is my first time here, and they explained all the options and were patient while I decided.

I'll definitely be back."

The menu advises customers to first decide to have either a sub or a panini.

For a sub, you then choose from the 14 different meats offered, including mortadella (a type of bologna), capocola (ham) and pastrami or decide to fill your sub with vegetables.

Then, pick your bread: White, wheat, floune or focaccia.

And as if that wasn't difficult enough, you then have to choose from their selection of 12 different cheeses, 21 toppings and 16 mouth-watering spreads to create your sandwich — that works out to 17,000 different sandwich combinations.

If you choose a panini, you can pick from nine specialty sandwiches designed to please a variety of tastes. Every panini is served on focaccia bread and can be customized.

Not in the mood for a sandwich? You can also choose one of six salads to satisfy your appetite.

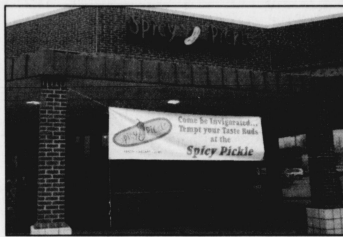
I liked that the prices of the subs, paninis and salads were all the same: \$5.95.

One patron agreed and said it was what kept him coming back.

"The food is good and it's not too expensive," Jack Chaney, a student at Asbury Theological Seminary, said. "You get a really good sandwich for the price."

When I went, I chose the "Double Dilly-yo," pairing half of an Italian panini with a Caesar salad and, of course, a spicy pickle.

The Double Dilly-yo is for those of us that want it all for the same price (\$5.95). You can choose half of any



The Spicy Pickle on South Broadway offers a variety of options for the sandwich connoisseur.

panini or sub with your choice of soup or salad.

Chaney was right about something else, too.

"It is a spicy pickle," he said.

To explain my experience, here's some background: I love pickles. So much that I can my own in the summer and use a lot of garlic and chili peppers.

Before I tried a "spicy pickle," I thought I was perfectly capable of handling the fiery goodness that the name promised.

I was grossly mistaken. One bite started a four-alarm fire on my tongue. It even closed my throat a little like only the hottest of spices can do.

I was in luck; the Caesar salad that I ordered was just what I needed to put the fire out. The cool romaine leaves and artichoke hearts soothed my flaming mouth. The light, creamy dressing was even complemented by the heat and flavor of the pickle.

#### If you go...

What: The Spicy Pickle  
Where: 1020 South Broadway  
Phone: 226-0179  
Fax: 226-0178  
Hours: 11:30 a.m. to 1 a.m. Monday through Saturday; 1 p.m. to 1 a.m. Sunday

The Italian panini was just what I was craving. The hot sandwich was perfect for the cold weather and the basil mayo spread reminded me of a delicious pesto sauce that complemented the meats and cheese in the best of ways.

My only complaint is that there is only one location in Lexington.

Their sign out front summed up the experience: "Come be invigorated. Tempt your taste buds at the Spicy Pickle."

E-mail

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## BLACK HISTORY MONTH CALENDAR

**Friday Feb. 4**  
Dialogues on Race - "Images & Realities: The African American Family," 2 p.m., 107 Breckenridge Hall. Free and open to the public. Limited seating.

**The Word and The Tsunami of Compassion - A poetry and music presentation benefiting the victims of the East African and Southeast Asian Tsunami.**  
Featuring Mitchell Douglas of Indiana University, The Afrilichian Poets and the neo-soul styling of Darnell Anderson. 7 p.m., Worsham Theatre. Suggested donation of \$3. Charity organization will be on hand to collect funds. Computers will be available to make an online donation.

**Tuesday Feb. 8**  
"Why We Celebrate Black History Month" 7 p.m., Student Center, Center Theater. Free and open to the public.

**Wednesday Feb. 9**  
Black Literary Voices - A literary reading of classic black writings. Noon, 124 Student Center. Free and open to the public. Limited seating.

**Saturday Feb. 12**  
Apollo - The community- and campus-based talent extravaganza. 6 p.m., Memorial Hall. Tickets cost \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door.

**Wednesday Feb. 16**  
Carter G. Woodson Lecture Series - Anita Fernandez, Ph. D. "The Socio-cultural Context of Health among African Americans: The Case of John Henryism." 4 p.m., 230 Student Center. Free and open to the public.

**Thursday Feb. 17**  
Film Documentary *The Murder of Emmett Till*. The murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till, a black boy who whistled at a white woman in a Mississippi store in 1955, was a powerful catalyst for the

Civil Rights Movement. 3:30 p.m., Student Center, Center Theater. Free and open to the public.

**Sunday Feb. 20**  
Blind Boys of Alabama 8 p.m., Singletary Center for the Arts. Tickets cost \$10 for students, \$17 for faculty/staff, \$22 for general public, \$17 each for groups of 10 or more.

**Tuesday Feb. 22**  
Carter G. Woodson Lecture Series - Dr. Dwayne Mack, "Long Road to Freedom: Berea College's Participation in the Selma to Montgomery March" 4 p.m., 230 Student Center. Free and open to the public.

**Tuesday Feb. 22**  
Lecture by Bakari Kitwana, author of *Why White Kids Love Hip Hop and The Hip Hop Generation: Young Blacks and the Crisis in African American Culture*. 8 p.m., Worsham Theater. Free and open to the public.

- Compiled by Staff Writer Danielle Komis

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## IN OUR OPINION

# UK falls short in providing financial aid



One of UK's top goals to becoming a top-20 institution leaves out an important step in getting there. The second goal in UK's strategic plan "Attract and graduate outstanding students" — includes no indicators pertaining to student financial aid.

It's difficult to compare UK with its 19 benchmark schools in regards to financial aid. In-state tuition prices range from \$2,780 at the University of Florida to \$9,206 at Penn State University. UK's 2004-05 in-state tuition price was \$4,547.

Still, administrators must make affordable tuition an aspect of attaining top-20 status.

According to figures from the U.S. Census Bureau, Kentucky ranks second-to-last in average three-year household income for 2001-03 among the states with universities represented in its benchmarks; only North Carolina lags statistically behind, albeit insignifi-

cantly. Still, UK ranks 18th in average overall financial aid to full-time undergraduate students; only the universities of Georgia and Iowa give less, according to numbers from Kaplan's guide to "America's Hottest Colleges."

President Lee Todd took responsible measures this week in a trip to Frankfort to address a General Assembly committee. Todd seemed encouraged by Gov. Ernie Fletcher's announcement that a tax modernization plan would mean more money for Kentucky's universities.

But until noticeable increases in funding occur, UK should look to another area of financial aid: non-need based aid.

UK ranks last among its benchmarks in non-need based scholarships and grants. The Kaplan guide said just 4 percent of full-time undergraduate UK students receive such aid,

ranking UK 19th of 19 in that area. (Numbers were not available from the University of Arizona).

UK already works to attract the best students from the state by offering aid to Governor's Scholars students.

But by raising admissions standards and limiting incoming freshman classes, UK would have more money to allocate to the best students from around the Commonwealth and the nation.

Another point in UK's plan is to improve the quality of life for Kentuckians. But with a low

average household income and increasing tuition costs, graduates are left with debt that may take years to pay off.

Of the 17 benchmark schools who give more overall financial aid to students, 11 of them graduate students with less average debt than UK. The Kaplan guide says UK students bear an average debt of \$16,584 upon graduation.

The financial aid office's responsibilities don't end with cutting the checks. Lynda George, director of UK Financial Aid, said the office conducts an annual satisfaction survey of students who receive aid. While figures for last year's survey are not yet complete, George said students were generally pleased with the office's responsiveness.

"You'll get some outliers who are unsatisfied, but that's usually a student who called during the first two weeks of school, when we're busiest," she said.

And George said the office is considering changes based on student surveys.

"At our presentations during advising conferences, students said they didn't always have the opportunity to ask their questions, and by the time they come to the advising conferences, they usually already know most of what we're telling them anyway. They want to know what happens when they get to school." So, George said, the financial aid office is working to make the advising presentations more informative based on student requests.

Too bad students can't request more money and have it happen as quickly.

**UK is trailing its benchmarks in several measurable indicators relating to financial aid issues.**



AARON SMITH, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

## Journalists failed public with poor war coverage

I think I'm suffering from a case of the subterranean homesick Iraqi election blues.

It's the same old song, kids: Righties are exalting the president (no shocker there), commending the faux good-ol'-boy on yet another job well done, while the left screams its silent cry of nothingness and TV bombard us with the latest images of user-friendly democracy.

Iraqis are dancing in the street, smiling freedom smiles; case closed. Before too long, the white noise generated by this thing gets so thick that we're all choking on it.

Yet with the kind of coverage this election has garnered, and the preemptive pats administered on the crooked backs of Bush and his cronies, aren't we missing a point somewhere? Is there some nugget of truth to be found if we burrow through this sea of white noise? Namely, aren't we forgetting the original reason for this awful war?

Once upon a time, Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. So the president and all his men banged the war drums, bypassed Congress and hurried to war. Yet this story turned out to be false, but no matter. They have furnished us with a new motive: the freedom of the Iraqi people! How joyous! Just ignore all the old lies and believe the new ones!

Lawyers call this a "bait and switch" tactic. George Orwell called it "doublethink." I call it "American politics."

Yes, the gospels of Condi, Rummy, Colin and Dick were written in disappearing ink, not that it really matters anyway, because "journalists" have let them slide by like "C" students praying for the grading curve. The information regarding the complete lack of weapons of mass destruction was on the table for less than a month before it was shelved in lieu of the election distraction. Taken out of context, Iraqi democracy looks great; when viewed through the myopic lens of the media, truth becomes a funhouse mirror.

Our political discourse has become congested with the drone of amateur punditry, these absolute butchers who espouse rhetoric by the pound. They have succeeded in clogging the political artery, and when the blood stops flowing, the brain will inevitably die.

And a brain-dead public is ideal for tyranny of all kinds, big and small.

If we keep snowing over the past, holding no one accountable for grave errors in leadership, then what kind of a democracy have we become? And what of our press?

"Journalists" have failed (yet again) to hold accountable our demagogues, and when the fourth estate crumbles, the task of civil disobedience will fall upon our own shoulders.

Once upon another time, the public could trust the press to put the truth in order for them. Journalism was a public trust, serving the public and not the parent company (or so I like to hope). But lo, this Golden Age has passed. The media has since mutated into a drunken, raving beast, fueled by the spirits of high-speed information outlets and yellow cable news, vomiting random chunks of information into the public cesspool, checks and balances be damned.

Suffice to say, the times they are a-changin', and we're long overdue for a proper flushing.

Jonathan Meador is a journalism sophomore. His column appears every Thursday. E-mail: jmeador@kykernel.com.

## Iraqi election cause for celebration

Conservatives, now is the time to walk up to your liberal friends and give them great big hugs.

Or, if you're a liberal, simply call up your conservative friend — you know you have one or more of those — and receive your hug.

Yes, now is especially the time for the nation to pull together. Smiling, graciously winning conservatives can again congratulate their liberal neighbors for a well-fought game, yet comfort them after another stunning loss — this time, following Iraq's successful voting procedures this weekend.

Now make no mistake here: Who can generalize the liberal reaction after the voting? I wholeheartedly want to exclude from any of my criticism all of you liberals who are thrilled, publicly or silently, about the new birth of democracy in one of the world's most violent regions. With hope and optimism, I salute you and your courage to at least think about what went wrong with your position.

That includes Chicago Sun-Times columnist Mark Brown, who's evidently honest enough to begin reconsidering his negative views on the Bush policy, and whose body is probably already at the bottom of Lake Michigan.

"What if it turns out Bush was right, and we were wrong?" he asked in a Feb. 1 column. "For those who've been in the same boat with me, we don't need to concede the point just yet. There's a long way to go. But I think we have to face the possibility."

I do not suggest that thoughtful liberals completely adjust their worldviews. But acknowledging the falsity of the "we're in a quagmire" myth would be a start.

Dare I suggest this is finally the event

that will change even 10 percent of liberals' minds on Iraq?

Audible sigh. I'm afraid not. No such mass change of mind will take place. Instead some all-new myths are evolving from the primordial ooze that is mass media, and I'm guessing the dominant one will comprise something like this: "There we go, we're all done in Iraq! Now it's time to leave. It's like we've been saying all along — have the elections, then leave. We've always said that. It's really for the best, and you know we're right because of our track record on predictions."

That's best exemplified by those beloved senators from that great state of Massachusetts, Old Ted Kennedy and John Kerry, who in the spirit of patriotism and support for their fellow man sneered at the election and inflexibly compared the war to Vietnam.

"The war in Iraq has become a war against the American occupation," Kennedy blared during a speech. "There is no question (the Bush administration) misled the nation and led us into a quagmire in Iraq. ... As in Vietnam, truth was the first casualty of this war."

Can Old Ted think about any war other than Vietnam? You'd think he had actually fought there or something.

Kerry, who did fight in Vietnam, sort of blathered around on "Meet the Press," unable to get through a sentence without injecting last-second qualifiers. "No one in the United States or in the world — and I'm confident of what the world response will be," he interrupted himself. "No one in the United States should try to overhype this election."

So, in summary, Old Ted and John Kerry, before: "This election will never work. Everyone there hates us and they're not worth the effort. We're in a quagmire; get them out."

What might they say after the election "quagmire" failed to appear in accordance with their hopes?

Probably something like, "Now that the election has worked, we're done in

Iraq. Get them out."

Ever get the hint that maybe these two and those like them aren't ever going to change their minds on this one?

Kerry in particular — now would be a wonderful time for a very principled change in positions. Those can happen sometimes.

More hugs all around as I remind the stubborn liberals of this — somehow everything that happens in Iraq has ever fixed the view in your mind that American soldiers should pull out, whether the circumstances seem good or bad according to the day's news.

Baghdad's taken? Good. Time to pull out. Uday and Qusay Hussein shot dead? Good. Time to pull out. Saddam captured? Good. Pull out. Trouble in Fallujah? Bad! Pull out! Sovereignty handed over two days early last summer? Good. Pull out. Suicide bombing in an American mess hall? Bad! Pull out. Mount St. Helens erupting? Pull out!

Either that or try to get the French to help.

Lots of imaginative suggestions, these folks. And somehow after all the failed predictions, they just can't accept the truth that they're losing the battle — in America, in Iraq, everywhere.

In closing, a few words of advice while a secondary wave of Post-Election Trauma Syndrome sets in for the stubborn ones.

Before you get some real, lasting treatment, you've first got to admit that you have a problem. Try it out. Put down the paper for a second, along with whatever you've been drinking, then sigh and mutter, "Hello, my name is (your name here), and I've voted for a losing ideology."

And, if you've got Ted Kennedy, just try to put down whatever you've been drinking.

Stephen Burnett is a journalism senior. His column appears on Thursdays. E-mail: sburnett@kykernel.com.

**Submissions**

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Andrew Martin or Assistant Opinions Editor Ben Roberts. Please limit letters to 250 words or less. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions.

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## FOOTBALL SIGNING DAY

# Brooks gets his man as Cats sign 31 recruits

By Jeff Patterson  
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

When Rich Brooks arrived as the UK football head coach in December 2002, one recruit caught his attention.

Brooks identified Curtis Pulley, then a sophomore quarterback at Hopkinsville (Ky.) High School, as a "guy we had to get."

Pulley, Kentucky's Mr. Football, and another 30 players officially signed with UK yesterday.

Pulley is UK's lone quarterback signee. Bill Stull verbally committed to UK, but reneged over the weekend, deciding to sign with his hometown Pittsburg.

"Some of them commit because they like you until a prettier girl comes along," Brooks said. "I didn't sleep very good last night. When someone goes south on you, you worry about everything."

But when Pulley signed shortly after 1 p.m., Brooks could let out a sigh of relief.

In his high school career, the 6-foot-4 Pulley threw for 6,016 yards and 62 touchdowns, while rushing for 3,043 yards and 54 touchdowns.

"Curtis has the ability to beat you with his arm or his feet," said Craig Clayton, head coach at Hopkinsville. "He's a difference maker."

Pulley will compete with sophomore Andre Woodson for the starting spot this fall, Brooks said.

While Pulley was the main target of this year's re-

cruiting class, signing offensive linemen was the focus of Brooks' staff. UK signed nine of them.

On average, the linemen stand 6-foot-4 and weigh more than 307 pounds.

"We may have to enlarge some of our doors," Brooks joked. "Overall, this class will look good getting off the bus."

Size-wise and athletically, we'll look like an SEC team."

Tim Masthay, from Murray, Ky., is expected to challenge to be the starting punter, as well as kick the kickoffs. UK has no returning punters with any game experience.

"He has a large leg," Brooks said. "He's a lot like Josh Eidenwell (who punts for the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers), a guy I recruited before I left Oregon."

Once again, Brooks tapped into a recruiting hotbed in LaGrange, Ga. This year's signees include wide receiver DeMoreo Ford and linebacker Braxton Kelley, both played with current UK linebacker Wesley Woodyard.

Before UK's game at Auburn last October, Brooks got a firsthand look at his LaGrange recruits, and they left a lasting impression on him. Ford made several "devastating blocks," and Kelley played like Vincent "Sweet Pea" Barnes, Brooks said.

"Braxton plays every play like it is his last play," said Steve Pardue, head coach at LaGrange. "I think Kentucky got a steal in Braxton Kelley."

With UK now off its three-

year probation, the Cats will come close to having 85 scholarship players — the NCAA limit.

But by signing more players than they have scholarships available, Brooks' staff will offer grayshirts to five or six players. Brooks said he will not decide who he'll grayshirt until June.

A grayshirt player is promised a scholarship but must delay enrollment as a full-time student until the spring semester.

Overall, Brooks said he filled his team's needs with this class.

"I don't think there's any question," Brooks said, "that we can get us where we want to go."

### Smith cleared to play

Junior cornerback Bo Smith has been cleared for full contact in spring practice, Brooks said. Smith, who suffered a fractured orbital bone in an off-campus summer incident, missed all of the 2004 season.

### Caragher promoted to recruiting coordinator

Running backs coach Tom Caragher will also now be UK's recruiting coordinator, Brooks said. He replaced Joker Phillips, who became offensive coordinator after the season.

Brooks cited Caragher's recruiting of some of the best players at UCLA when he was a coach there as one of the reasons he was selected.

"I think he'll do a heck of a job," Brooks said. *E-mail: jpatterson@kykernel.com*

| Name              | Pos.  | Ht.  | Wt. | Hometown             | Name              | Pos.   | Ht.  | Wt. | Hometown  |
|-------------------|-------|------|-----|----------------------|-------------------|--------|------|-----|---|
| L.J. Adams        | WR/DB | 6-0  | 190 | Suwanee, Ga.         | David Jones       | CB/RB  | 5-10 | 180 | Huddy, Ky.  |
| James Alexander   | OL    | 6-5  | 250 | Atlanta              | Draxton Kelley    | LB     | 6-2  | 200 | LaGrange, Ga.                                       |
| Ben Bates         | LB/RB | 6-0  | 230 | West Jefferson, Ohio | Trevard Lindley*  | CB     | 6-0  | 175 | Hiram, Ga.  |
| Kalvin Blanchard* | OL    | 6-4  | 350 | Kaunua, Hawaii       | Mahali Mobry*     | LB     | 6-2  | 225 | Mililani, Hawaii                                    |
| Saif Mubin Brynck | OL/DE | 6-4  | 315 | San Jose City        | Tim Matheny       | K/P/WR | 6-2  | 200 | Murray, Ky.   |
| Hoss Boque        | TE/DE | 6-5  | 240 | Suwanee, Ga.         | Sam Maxwell       | LB     | 6-3  | 225 | Hartwell, Ga.                                       |
| Mike Cross        | DE    | 6-4  | 316 | Columbus, Ohio       | Jordan Newsh      | CB     | 5-10 | 170 | Fl. Thomas, Ky.                                     |
| Clay Duncan       | TE/OL | 6-5  | 250 | Magnolia, Ky.        | Myron Pryor*      | DL     | 6-1  | 300 | Louisville  |
| DeMoreo Ford      | WR    | 5-10 | 175 | LaGrange, Ga.        | Curtis Pulley     | QB     | 6-4  | 200 | Hopkinsville, Ky.                                   |
| Jonny Gonzalez    | OL    | 6-3  | 300 | Tampa, Fla.          | Michael Schwanert | S      | 6-2  | 200 | Hopkinsville, Ky.                                   |
| Corey Goodson     | RB/DB | 6-1  | 200 | Louisville           | Alfonso Smith     | RB/DB  | 6-1  | 190 | Louisville  |
| Zach Henes        | DE    | 6-6  | 325 | Plain City, Ohio     | Felix Turler**    | OL     | 6-2  | 300 | Fox Run, Ariz.; Samoa                               |
| Jamel Jackson     | LB/OL | 6-4  | 200 | Cordoba, Ga.         | Kenny Ray Turner  | OL     | 6-6  | 314 | Cadiz, Ky.  |
| Jeremy Jamon      | DE    | 6-3  | 250 | Collierville, Tenn.  | Garry Williams    | OL     | 6-3  | 300 | Louisville  |
| Vestrell Jenkins  | DE    | 6-2  | 265 | Columbia, S.C.       | Johmy Williams*   | LB     | 6-3  | 235 | Neptune Beach, Fla.                                 |
| Christian Johnson | OL    | 6-4  | 315 | Fl. Campbell, Ky.    |                   |        |      |     | * junior transfer ** enrolled at UK in January 2005 |



Brooks

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## Sign of the times

### RECRUITING TAKES CENTER STAGE

Everyone is waiting ... for a list? On football signing day, coaches, fans and the media wait in hushed breath as the faxes roll in, each bearing the name of the newest recruit.

The faceless, black-and-white documents are the perfect symbol of this surreal day when everyone gets worked up over (mostly) anonymous players we know little about.

In the last decade, national signing day has become an event, a culmination of what has become the year-long recruiting season.

The rise of the Internet and the proliferation of recruiting publications have sped the process and thrown high school football players into the limelight like never before.

"Kentucky fans never cease to amaze me by how feverish they are," said Jeff Drummond, a reporter for Rivals.com, a recruiting service, and "The Cats' Pause," a magazine devoted to Kentucky athletics. "The Internet just makes everything more accessible."

UK head coach Rich Brooks said the whole process has changed in the last decade.

"As soon as you go make a visit (to a recruit), the world knows," he said. "Ten to 15 years ago, it would take the Pony Express a little while to get the news from town to town. All of these players are on the Internet, reading about themselves. It's a game to them, just

like the Nintendo or whatever they have now."

Fans are at the forefront of this fray, jawing back and forth across message boards about high school players few have even seen. Armed only with the rankings of recruiting gurus, fans throw around names like insiders.

"On any newsstand, you can see these recruiting magazines," said Lonny Demaree, writer for "Inside Kentucky" magazine and a contributor on WVLT-AM. "The funny thing is, if a fan doesn't see a name in these lists, then that player might as well not exist."

With thousands of players to sift through, there has to be a system, but it's still a little bizarre.

"We have to have something," said Tom Leach, play-by-play announcer for the UK football and men's basketball teams. "It's not like in basketball where you can line up the 10 best players and watch them play against each other. You just can't do that in football!"

So when the names roll off the fax machine, no one really knows what you've got.

In the past few seasons, Tennessee has been on top of many recruiting rankings, yet the Volunteers have not had the same results on the field. Instead, schools with lower-ranked (relatively speaking) recruits such as Auburn and Louisiana State have been the cream of the Southeastern Conference.

So then, is UK's class any good? You have to take Brooks' word for it, because who really knows? Right now, it's just a bunch of names on a list.

*E-mail: twiseman@kykernel.com*



Tim Wiseman  
SPORTS EDITOR

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