

KENTUCKY KERNEL

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FLOATIN' HIGH



BRITNEY MCINTOSH/STAFF

Computer science freshman Nick Geis, left, watches as mining engineering freshman Jay Frazier, right, reaches for the ball against Brandon Long, an undecided freshman, yesterday afternoon near Haggin Hall. The students were out enjoying the warm weather by playing pick-up basketball games. The weather for today is expected to turn much colder, with rain and snow accumulation predicted.

Many see Lent as chance to purge bad habits

By Pat Deringer
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Many students have been dieting, tanning or giving up a night out with friends for a few hours at the gym to prepare for Spring Break.

Though these sacrifices lead to sculpted, tanned bodies for the break, other students are making withdrawals for an annual season of sacrifice distant from the crowded beaches of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

In the Roman Catholic Church, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and spans 40 days until Holy Saturday, excluding Sundays. This year that period is from Feb. 6 through March 20.

The Lenten season gives Christians an opportunity to imitate Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for 40 days, according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Pre-veterinary senior Brad Mitchell, is challenging himself to give up meat, something he would normally never go without.

"I wanted to give up something I knew was part of my everyday life," Mitchell said. "It has been a big challenge so far and I'm sure it will continue to be."

Laura Speer, a kinesiology junior, said she was raised Catholic and has been participating in Lent her entire life. In past years, she has given up coffee, chocolate and swearing. But this season's Lent is different, she said, because she's sacrificing to help someone else rather than to test herself.

"I'm giving up sweets and sodas like my boyfriend this year to help him along during his first time participating in Lent," Speer said.

People who observe the Lenten season are mainly members of various Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran and Anglican denominations, and members of the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches.

However, the most common trends in sacrifice are often more than a religious effort. Many people participate to try to improve their personal diet and lifestyle decisions.

"I've decided not to eat out anymore during Lent," said psychology junior Jessica Combs. "Hopefully doing this will save me a lot more money and allow me to make healthier decisions."

Lent can be a good reason for people to purge their bad habits, said Ana Clegg, a journalism senior, but they should be able to do that without the excuse of Lent. She has not participated in Lent since her sophomore year.

"I believe it's a good discipline, but I don't agree with the fact that it's only for a certain time period during a certain part of the year," said Clegg, who is a photographer for the Kernel. "I think if people want to give up something, then they should, but it shouldn't just be during Lent."

"I think if people want to give up something, then they should, but it shouldn't just be during Lent."

ANA CLEGG
Journalism senior

Students: Questions remain after Scientology talk

By Wesley Yonts
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Despite the hype surrounding last night's lecture on Scientology, many students who attended said they walked away feeling like their questions remained unanswered.

"I feel a lot of it was propaganda — it made you kind of feel stupid," said Nick Pulliam, a communications junior from Bluegrass Community and Technical College.

"To me, most of it seemed like a (communication) class or a psychology class," said Austin Gorman, an advertising sophomore, "and I didn't really see much religion into it until the very end, when people started to ask some of the hard questions about what the roots of Scientology are."

Chad Reese, a philosophy junior, said he did not expect the Scientologists to discuss their belief system in depth.

"It didn't really surprise me," Reese said. "It wouldn't have done them a lot of good to

bring up the dogmatic, or the theological, if I can use that term loosely, arguments of the religion. I kind of expected it as a loose breakdown, using generic non-controversial topics, like communication and things like that."

Thalia Ghiglia, a director of public affairs and community activities for the Church of Scientology, said this approach was deliberate. The lecture was sponsored by Student Activities Board and was the second installment of the Faithbusters lecture series.

"It's easy to find out what Scientology is about — it's on the Web site, you can look that up," Ghiglia said. "So we wanted to do a more experiential workshop because the heart of Scientology is help and communication."

Despite the initially tepid reaction, many students hung around after the event ended and debated with the Scientologists.

Mark Greco, a marketing senior, said he agreed with Scientologists on many of the is-

ues, like the things they said on communication and finding common ground.

"On the other hand, I disagree with what they agree on about some fields of mental health," Greco said. "I believe that serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia and severe depression can be treated by medicine."

But the topic of Scientology still remains very contentious in the eyes of many people. "I feel that Scientology is a dangerous organization," said Jared Ryker, a computer science junior. "...The fact that they view psychology and psychiatry as evil..."

"I don't view them as a church," he said. "I view them as a business."

However, in the end, some people walked away having learned a great deal.

"I agree with the Scientologists, probably on a lot of stuff," said Michael Statham, a psychology junior, on what Scientologists said about help, communication and control.

"There's more to Scientology than just Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes," he said.

Bradley and Crawford shared tears of their years at UK

By Travis Waldron
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In Rupp Arena, tears filled Ramel Bradley's eyes. UK had just lost to Gardner-Webb in the 2K Sports College Hoops Classic on Nov. 7, ending Bradley's chance to play in Madison Square Garden, the Mecca of basketball in his hometown of New York City.

Across the room, fellow senior Joe Crawford mourned for Bradley. He knew how much playing in the Garden meant to his teammate, and he was sad for him. It was a summary of their UK careers, which are now nearing the finish line.

Together, they overcame adversity and made the best of bad situations. And in the end, they became best friends.

"Our freshman year we were roommates, and we were the only two guys from big cities," Bradley said. "We've been together all the time. We've almost been brothers now. It's been great. I love Joe."

Bradley's identity as a

Ramel Bradley is ranked in the top 10 in the SEC for scoring, free throw percentage and steals.

ELLIOTT HESS
STAFF

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New Yorker endeared him to UK fans almost immediately. Tattooed and talkative, Bradley made up for what he may have lacked in size with a "never die" attitude common in graduates of the New York street ball circuits.

He talked trash — his infamous incident with then-Utah center Andre Bogut in 2004 the clearest example — he threw up "The Roc," his tribute to his hometown Brooklyn. And everywhere he went, a Yankee cap was on his head. He aspires to one day be the mayor of New York.

Addressing his last days as a Wildcat, Bradley acknowledged that the transition from New York to Kentucky had him a little nervous.

"You see people from Kentucky on television," Bradley said, smiling. "I just thought like, 'Aw, man, how am I gonna fit in with these people?' But just being around, it's nothing like that."

But even though Bradley would prefer Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York" to "My Old Kentucky Home" on Senior Day, he said he loves it in Lexington. Crawford didn't bring the same charisma to Lexington and struggled to earn the love from fans right away.

With sporadic minutes played from game to game in his freshman season, Crawford announced that he was leaving UK midway through his first year.

After a tumultuous month, Crawford ultimately decided to stay, and he's since blossomed, both on the basketball court and off.

"When I came here as a freshman, I was extremely impatient," Crawford said. "I just wanted to accomplish everything just like that. I forgot all the steps you need to take before you accomplish those goals. As a player, I've learned patience as well."

Crawford and Bradley talked about everything in those early days. Class work, basketball, each other's problems — everything.

But when it came to the tough times, Crawford said, the talks

See Senior Night on page 3

Seniors deserve fitting exit after a career of high hopes

They should have went all the way. And when you look back, they certainly could have.



J.D. WILLIAMS
Kernel columnist

When UK's 2004 class rolled into Lexington, it was headlined by three All-Americans. Tubby Smith's best class ever came with the unspoken promises of national dominance, as do all schools that bring in that much talent in one class. The Cats had all the pieces — a legitimate big man, a true floor general, a boun-

cy wing and a scrappy guard.

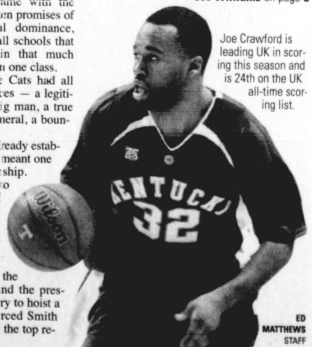
Those four added to the already established players on UK's roster meant one thing — a national championship.

But somewhere on the road to glory, in between the fall of 2004 and today, individual paths and personal detours erased any chances of cutting down the nets for the highly regarded group.

NBA dollars lured two of the three All-Americans away, and the pressure from impatient fans hungry to hoist a new championship banner forced Smith away three years after landing the top recruiting class in the nation.

That brings us to today's Cats. Of the four players that came to UK in 2004, seniors Ramel Bradley and Joe Crawford, the remaining All-American, are the leftovers. The Cats went from a team that should have won a national championship in Crawford's and Bradley's first year when UK advanced to the Elite Eight, to a team on the bubble.

See Williams on page 3



Joe Crawford is leading UK in scoring this season and is 24th on the UK all-time scoring list.

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STAFF

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Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black

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

Aries (March 21 - April 19) Today is a 6 — You may be overcome with an unexpected case of shyness. Don't be alarmed; it's perfectly normal for this to happen. It's part of the creative process.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Today is an 8 — Have you ever thought that you could read someone else's thoughts? Better verbalize what you get, just to make sure you're on the right track.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) Today is a 5 — Try something different to satisfy a temperamental person. He or she seems a little crazy some times, so be crazy too... in a good way, of course.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Today is an 8 — Indicators for travel are positive. This also looks like a good time to send out messages, such as advertising. You'll get farther now, for less.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Today is a 6 — Creativity is required, especially in financial matters. Not cheating, of course; you shouldn't do that. Instead, find more ways to stretch your resources.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Today is an 8 — Another person has some "good ideas" about what you should be doing. Your first reaction might be negative. Listen anyway, for something you can use.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Today is a 6 — Don't push yourself too hard. Let creativity flow naturally. You be the director as well as the talent. Encourage your inner artist.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Today is a 5 — Not everybody appreciates your intensity. There's one person

who does, however. Focus your attention there.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Today is a 5 — Ponder a difficult problem, with minimal distractions. Once you've accomplished the latter, the answer to the former becomes obvious.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Today is an 8 — An amazing discovery takes your mind off your troubles. You can learn to do something you thought you couldn't. Look around; this will be fun.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Today is an 8 — A windfall could be yours, through a lucky break. Something you already have could be worth a lot more than you thought.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Today is an 8 — Push forward with your plans, don't wait a moment longer. You don't have to have every detail worked out. Leave room for miracles.

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THE DISH

From cocktail waitress to the red carpet! So what does Sarah Larson have that has kept George entranced for eight months?

By Kevin O'Leary

In the four years she's known Sarah Larson, Melissa Conner has done the model's hair and makeup plenty of times. But Feb. 24 was special. It was Oscar day, and Conner met Larson at her boyfriend George Clooney's 20-room L.A. mansion.

"He made everyone so welcome and relaxed," Conner tells Us of Clooney, who greeted her wearing his bathrobe. "There was a stylist, my assistant, me and Sarah, and he jokingly said, 'Yeah, it's my fantasy to have four women in the house.'" Conner spent the morning prepping Larson for her red carpet walk with the Oscar nominee. "I think they're perfect for each other," says Conner, adding, "She's the same down-to-earth Sarah."

Still, dating Hollywood's most eligible bachelor starkly contrasts with her past life, which entailed eating a scorpion before winning \$25,000 on a 2005 Fear Factor episode and waitressing at Las Vegas' Moon nightclub.

"She says it can be surreal," one confidant tells Us. "But she considers it a normal relationship. It just happens to be with George Clooney."

Getting Her Man

So how do you lasso a guy who's dated one beautiful woman after another since his three-year marriage to actress Talia Balsam ended in 1992?

"She has some kind of spell on him," a mutual pal tells Us of the Kent, Wash., native, 29, who first caught Clooney's eye June 6 at the Playboy Club at the Palms Casino Resort in Las Vegas. Clooney, 46, was there for an Ocean's Thirteen premiere after-party, and Larson had the night off from her waitress job.

"They hit it off right away," says a source who was with them that night. "He didn't want to leave once he met her, and they talked until 4 a.m." And even though Clooney is a well-known Vegas player (a staffer at the city's Whiskey Bar says, "It seems like he's slept with every waitress here"), something about Larson stuck, and she hung in there too.

"For a long time," says the confidant, "their relationship was under the radar," which Clooney has said is his dating M.O. Before going public with women, he told Vanity Fair, "it's, 'Well, why don't we stay in and have some drinks and get to know each other?'" But their secret was revealed on Sept. 21 when the two were involved in a motorcycle accident in New Jersey, leaving him with a hairline rib fracture and her with a broken foot. "I feel pretty lucky," the Michael Clayton star told Us three days later.

Larson wasn't seeking the

spotlight, says Conner, "and that's got to be why he likes her. She's no gold digger." And no shunning violet. "Sarah doesn't put up with his s---, and he loves that," says the pal. "She can dish it back to him. And she can hang with him and his guy friends, which is so important."

Her Humble Start

On a recent cover shoot for Luxury Las Vegas, managing editor Beth Schwartz tells Us, Larson "talked more about her family than anything." Growing up the oldest of three girls, she "lived in a very small little ramble," family friend Cindy Dow tells Us. "Her parents divorced when the girls were little."

After graduating from nearby Evergreen State College in 2001, Larson moved to Las Vegas and was discovered by a modeling agent while working out with her ex-fiance and Fear Factor partner, Dan Randolph, 33. "He's a snowboarder type," says a source. "A guy's guy. Their split was amicable."

Her modest beginnings might be a plus for an A-lister like Clooney. "There's no worry about competition," relationship expert Dr. Reef Karim tells Us. "Plus, she can leave town with him whenever."

So will Clooney do the unthinkable and pop the question? "He thinks she's adorable," says the mutual pal, "but I don't think George will ever get married again. Even to Sarah." Still, says Conner, "I'm sure everyone's rooting for her!"

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J.D. Williams
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“I hope that with every penny they've spent on me, they know it was money well spent. It wasn't about the money or fame or records. It was never my accomplishments, it was our accomplishments.”

— Brett Favre on retiring from the Green Bay Packers after setting several NFL records over his 17-year career

SPORTS BRIEFS

Season defining weekend for Cats

The Cats' traveling plans for the postseason may be decided while most students are heading to Spring Break destinations. UK (17-11, 11-4 Southeastern Conference) will be in Atlanta for the SEC tournament, which begins Thursday. The rules are simple — if the Cats win it all they're in the NCAA tournament for sure. If they lose early, they could be headed to the N.I.T.

UK leads the SEC in tournament champions with 25. At a distant second is Alabama with six. The last championship for UK came in 2004 when the Cats beat Florida 89-73. Since then it's been all Gators. Florida's only tournament championships have come in back-to-back-to-back titles the last three years.

Baseball tries to stay undefeated

UK's baseball team will be busy defending its undefeated record next week. The ninth ranked Cats (10-0), will host three game series with Purdue (5-6) beginning this weekend. The games against the Boilermakers will conclude Monday.

The threat of bad weather postponed tomorrow's expected start date to the series. Both schools will decide today when the postponed game will be rescheduled. It's likely that the schools will have a double-header on Sunday or Monday.

The Cats will end the week hosting Alabama (4-5), its first SEC opponent of the year. The three game series against the Crimson Tide starts March 14.

Last year UK opened the season 19-0, its best start in the program's history. The Cats' first loss came in a 10-2 fall to Arkansas, its first SEC opponent of last year. But a healthy team this year may mean a better start to the SEC schedule.

Softball looks to bounce back

After starting the season 2-7, the UK softball team has won 6-of-7 games. Its loss during the hot streak came in the Cats' last outing Wednesday when Louisville beat them 6-1.

The Cats will look to get back on track as it hosts Valparaiso in the Frosthite Classic beginning tomorrow. UK will also host Tennessee in a two-game series next weekend.

Must win for UK

The women's basketball team enters must-win games this weekend heading into the SEC Tournament in Nashville, Tenn. Despite a first round bye due to finishing fourth in conference play, UK (14-14, 8-6 SEC) will have to win the tournament to advance to the NCAA Tournament.

The Cats will play Georgia today. With a win UK will advance to the semifinals to play the winner of the Louisiana State-Ole Miss game. It will be an uphill battle for the Cats. UK is 0-5 this season against teams with byes in the SEC tournament. The Cats have lost to LSU and Tennessee twice and Vanderbilt once.



Matthew Mitchell directs the Cats from the sidelines of Rupp Arena in their 60-58 win over Florida on Jan. 10. After a mediocre season, UK can still make the NCAA tournament if it wins the SEC Tournament. ELLIOTT HESS STAFF

SEC Tournament will determine Cats' fate

By James Pennington
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In a season characterized by close finishes, the women's basketball team has fittingly left its postseason hopes up in the air until the very end of the season.

The Cats (14-14, 8-6 Southeastern Conference) open play in the SEC tournament tonight in Nashville, Tenn. against No. 23 Georgia (21-8, 8-6 Southeastern Conference) tonight at 7:30, after having a first-round bye by earning the fourth seed in the tournament.

ers' perseverance." UK head coach Matthew Mitchell said. "We have so much respect for this conference, and to be in the top four in the SEC says a lot about our players and how hard they have worked throughout the season." This season, Mitchell's first at the helm for the Cats, has featured a lot of ups and downs. A grueling non-conference schedule left UK in a

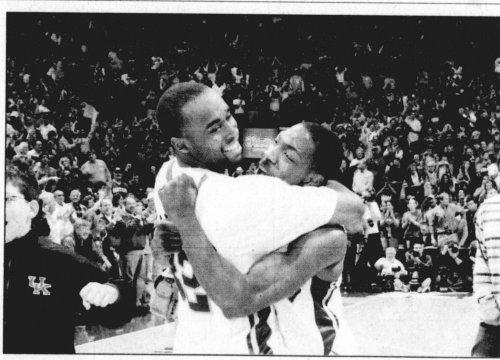
"I just told the team that we need to go down to Nashville with the mindset of winning the SEC Tournament."

MATTHEW MITCHELL
Head coach

tough spot: 6-8 before they played their first SEC game. Despite the early struggles, the Cats toughened up once conference play began and finished with an 8-6 record in one of the country's toughest leagues. With a strong conference schedule and a weak record outside the SEC, the Cats' hopes for the postseason are anything

but certain. With UK eyeing its second NCAA tournament appearance in the last three years, the players know what they have to do to decide their own fate. "I just told the team that we need to go down to Nashville with the mindset of winning the SEC Tournament," Mitchell said. On Jan. 31, the Cats traveled to Athens, Ga., and earned the first signature win of Mitchell's young tenure. Freshman guard Amber Smith led the Cats with 12 points and seven rebounds, including two clutch free throws with 5.6 seconds left, and the Cats upset the Bulldogs, 47-44.

Ramel Bradley, right, and Joe Crawford hug after UK's 72-66 upset win over Tennessee on Jan. 22 at Rupp Arena. After dropping 3-of-4 games, the win set the tone for a resurging UK team that won nine of the next 11 games.



SENIOR NIGHT

Continued from page 1

were deeper. "It's personal," Crawford said when asked about the conversations. Their four years at UK won't be remembered with much glee, at least from a fan base that expected the nation's top recruiting class, which included NBA players Rajon Rondo and Randolph Morris, to produce multiple Final Fours.

Rondo left after two seasons; Morris after three. Head coach Tubby Smith left for the University of Minnesota after last season.

Meanwhile, Bradley and Crawford were left behind to sift through the wreckage, which included a 6-7 start to this season and a not-so-seamless transition to a new coach, Billy Gillispie.

Then something started to click.

The Cats began winning, vaulting to second place in the SEC and earning a chance to play for the conference lead against Tennessee on Sunday. The Cats narrowly lost when Crawford's 3-point attempt to tie the game rattled down, then back out.

And though the two seniors will likely end their careers without a national championship or a Final Four appearance, they'll both look back on their time in Lexington with good memories.

During their senior day news conference, the two roommates again looked like brothers. Dressed in matching UK varsity jackets, laughing joyously and cracking jokes, both Crawford and Bradley acknowledged that, after taking time to adjust to Gillispie, they were having fun playing basketball at UK.

"We're enjoying the moment, realizing that this is the last year that we'll be playing Kentucky basketball," Crawford said. "Kentucky bas-

ketball is bigger than some professional teams, and we realize that we might not be playing for another team like this."

Four years ago, both wondered if Kentucky was the right place to write the next chapter in their lives. Now, both called UK the "right fit" and said they'd look back on their time in Lexington as a great step in life. But will either of them cry?

It was Bradley with tears in his eyes after the loss to Gardner-Webb, but he claimed it would be Crawford crying during the Senior Day ceremonies.

But Crawford knows Ramel Bradley. After four years, he's familiar with the Brooklyn native's sense for attention. That's why it was Bradley who would have tears in his eyes.

Crawford put it simply, with a smile for his best friend: "Ramel's gonna cry for the cameras."

WILLIAMS

Continued from page 1

uncertain of an NCAA berth in their senior year. Because of the revolving door of players leaving early, the two never made a Final Four appearance in their four years.

Still Bradley and Crawford have seen much success in the final push of their careers. Both are in the top-10 in scoring in the Southeastern Conference. Crawford's 17.1 is sixth, Bradley's 16.0 is tenth.

And with the help of freshman forward Patrick Patterson — prior to his season ending injury — the Cats are tied for the second best conference record heading into Sunday's Senior Night game against Florida.

Now more than ever, and much like their freshman seasons, UK's plan for a successful finish to the season rests solely on their shoulders.

With Patterson gone for the year, and maybe for good as dominant freshmen leaving for the NBA have become the norm, Crawford and Bradley will have to pick up the slack to determine how their careers at UK will end.

Strong performances like Crawford's career high 35 points against South Carolina Wednesday will be key for the Cats heading into the postseason. Every night isn't going to be a career night, but Bradley and Crawford have to keep their engines in high gear because without a post presence, the conference tournament next week will be no easy coast.

Which raises another question: What would be a perfect finish to their careers? The truthful answer is something that most who follow UK hoops aren't hoping for.

For the Cats to advance past the opening rounds of the NCAA tournament — if they get in — would take Sen. Mitch McConnell pushing for the Take It Easy on the Cats Act of 2008. And even with all the pull McConnell has on Capitol Hill, it would still take a miracle to get the ending Bradley and Crawford deserve after a

career of early promises and desertions of former players and coaches.

For that reason the NCAA tournament is not the place for them to end their careers. The NCAA tournament is not a place for teams that enter March wishing to be a part of the Madness. The teams that are nail-biters on Selection Sunday are the clubs that don't make it past the first weekend of the tournament.

This year, UK is one of those teams. It's not that UK is a bad team without heart. The close loss to Tennessee Sunday proves they are not. It's just that there are more than a handful of teams that are better than the Cats. The big journey is not the way.

But, the N.I.T. is. It's in that tournament where the Cats have a sure chance to go all the way and end the season with a championship. Sure, it's not the NCAA championship, but it's a huge accomplishment after a season that started with much turmoil.

The N.I.T. tournament final is played at Madison Square Garden, the world's greatest arena in New York City, which is home to Bradley.

There's no better place for Bradley to end his career than in front of friends and family after missing the chance to play there earlier this season when the Cats lost in Rupp Arena to Gardner Webb in the opening round of the 2K Sports College Hoops Classic.

There's no better place for Crawford to end his career than on a stage such as the one in Madison Square Garden, where UK's leading scorer this season can finish with the entire nation looking on in a nationally televised game.

At UK, it's all or nothing when it comes to college basketball. So ending careers with a win, instead of the nasty after taste of losses and a third consecutive early round bounce out of the NCAA tournament, would be a fitting way to end the season.

But most importantly to UK's two seniors, the N.I.T. offers Crawford and Bradley the best chance to finish their careers going all the way.

J.D. Williams is a journalism senior. E-mail jwilliams@kykernel.com.

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■ KERNEL EDITORIAL

Campuswide alert called for after recent break-ins

UK's response to the two break-ins that took place in Blanding Tower on Feb. 23 and 24 revealed flaws in the campus emergency management.

Women in two Blanding Tower rooms were awakened early in the morning to see an unknown man who had entered their unlocked rooms while they were sleeping, the Kernel reported Feb. 27.

UK did not issue a campuswide alert in response to the incident. University police and administrators said it was an isolated incident and the situation did not pose an imminent threat to the rest of campus, according to the article.

Instead, an advisory to people in Blanding Tower and nearby areas was issued in the form of posted signs in the building because UK does not have a way to e-mail only Blanding Tower residents, the article reported.

First of all, a campuswide e-mail notification after the incident is appropriate and useful. The information of the attempted burglaries, while belated, is relevant to all of campus. While the suspect may be a resident in Blanding Tower, as UK police believes, similar incidents can happen in any dorm. It is important that residents are aware of the break-ins and take precautions ac-

ordingly, especially by locking their doors when they are away and when they are sleeping.

Secondly, UK should have clear guidelines for issuing campus alerts and publicizing it to all of campus. According to the 2007 Campus Safety and Security Report, UK police issues a campus safety alert when "a credible threat to the personal safety or property has been identified or has occurred."

For the sake of consistency and efficiency, these terms have to be defined more specifically and made aware to the student body. Lastly, UK should have the ability to e-mail residents of individual dorms. Students already provide their e-mail addresses when they sign up for on-campus housing, so there's no reason that UK should not have an e-mail database of each dorm's residents. Such a database would be easy to create and manage, and it could be useful in sending out dorm and regional alerts.

This incident shows that UK cannot keep its campus safety alert guidelines in vague terms and leave it to personnel in charge to make an impromptu judgment. Clarifying the guidelines can help make the administrators' job easier and the students safer.

A campuswide e-mail notification after the incident is appropriate and useful. The information of the attempted burglaries, while belated, is relevant to all of campus.



Don Wright, The Palm Beach Post

Respect others' personal advices, but take charge of your own life

A common question explored in conspiracy theories is who really is in charge.



SEAN ROSE
Kernel
columnist

Who really is running things in this world? These theories jangle answers at anyone and anything from the Cigarette Smoking Man in "The X-Files" to the gargantuan corporations and industries or even a more old-fashioned answer

like the National Security Agency. While it's easy to poke fun at such theories, the question they strive to answer is a valuable one to examine and more important at the personal level.

Who is running you? Why wouldn't it be you, you may be wondering. Because, if we're honest, very few students have been thinking for themselves that long. And for the ones who have learned to listen to themselves, the luck of finding free thought has likely taken a toll in other areas of life.

I touched on this topic slightly in my last column. Who among us actively weighed the pros and cons of going to college? Who actually sat down and decided going to college was right for them? I'm not saying college isn't the right move

to make or that we should stage a walk-out from the university, but the fact is 99 percent of us are here simply because it's what high school graduates do.

It's the next step. We're raised to follow these steps, climbing the staircase of education until we have the credentials required for an adequate paycheck. It's the norm. It's what's expected. Coming to college is a hair-line away from being anything but a choice.

While free-thinkers do leave college, very few make up the initial enrollment. There are so many pressures shaping our thinking: society, education, parents, girlfriends, boyfriends; it's so easy to lose track of an individualistic point of view.

It makes sense that students haven't been fully thinking for themselves for most of their lives. Growing up, we depend on elders who are more knowledgeable to raise us, and I'm sure we all have at least a few experiences in high school where the only excuse we can offer looking back at our behavior is that we were simply "stupid."

But with these relationships there is a danger of putting too much emphasis on others' advice so that the only path we plan to follow has been blazed by another.

Especially if our desires for life and a career are not widely renowned (doctors, lawyers, families), it's easy to become too timid to follow our

own hearts and minds. That's when the voice inside our heads that guides our plans shrinks to a whisper.

Having the courage to do what you want must be one of the rarest qualities to find in a person. And knowing yourself enough to separate personal callings from sound advice from all-out intrusion must be one of the most difficult skills to master, at least with such limited experience on our own.

It's very easy to get lost in these grand schemes of the future. Along with listening to others who know better, we have grown up continually looking forward — take advanced classes now to have an easier schedule in college, graduate in good standing to get a good job, find a good job to make enough money for the family or whom ever you might have to take care of. In such a system, asking who or what is pushing our lives is a truly valid question.

It's easy to get lost in this storm of preparation. I know I often do. Planning ahead obviously has its advantage, but focusing on the immediacy of this day and this month or even this year rather than the next five is also filled with benefit. For one, it's easier to listen to yourself. And that can be a challenge when everyone else's voices are so collectively loud.

Sean Rose is a journalism and English senior. E-mail rose@kykernel.com.

Russia's president-elect bears close watching

The following editorial appeared in the Kansas City Star on Tuesday.

Russia has a new president-elect, but it's not yet clear who will actually rule.

Dmitry Medvedev won Sunday's election with more than 70 percent of the vote, in a campaign in which most opposition candidates were suppressed.

Outgoing President Vladimir Putin isn't about to fade from the scene. He will become prime minister, setting up a potential power struggle with Medvedev, who has worked in Putin's shadow for 17 years.

Under the Russian constitution, the president — at least on paper — has more heft than the prime minister, whose main job is to draft the government budget and implement policy.

Both men have said they expect to handle their new jobs without conflict. But at the same time, both say they expect to take the lead.

Putin says the prime minister has the "highest executive power." Medvedev says "the president rules Russia, and according to the constitu-

tion there's only one president." Some analysts expect conflict between the two after Medvedev's inauguration in May.

Putin's unusual job shift will allow him to remain at the center of power even though he was barred by the constitution from seeking a third term as president.

The move highlights the diluted nature of Russian democracy since Putin's rise in the Kremlin. Freedom House, an organization that monitors the state of democratic practices globally, says Russian citizens experience about the same level of freedom as people in Egypt and Angola.

Under Putin, political dissent has been brutally suppressed, and Russia has used its status as a major natural-gas supplier to bully its neighbors. Russian bombers have been accused of intruding on Japanese airspace, and recently bombers flew over a U.S. aircraft carrier at low altitude.

Russia's worrisome behavior bears close watching in Washington, where the implications of Moscow's aggressiveness may not be fully appreciated.

■ LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Traditional relationships not for everyone

In Natalie Glover's column in Tuesday's Kernel, she argues that college students need to enter relationships with an emphasis on commitment. She encourages readers to evaluate their relationships, arguing that those who do not intend to marry are wasting their time with "distractions." By doing so she reinforces a traditional standard for intimate relationships that is overwhelmingly unrealistic for many people.

The assertion that marriage is the path to happiness for everyone is a blind submission to tradition. While committed relationships can be fulfilling, one should not assume that less traditional, non-heteronormative and non-monogamous relationships aren't.

Ms. Glover's arguments based on gender stereotypes and unrelated research on animal conditioning fall short of providing substantial evidence for why non-traditional relationships are the ideal for all. If anything, her anecdotal evidence and reference to divorce rates prove the old "forever-and-ever story" doesn't work for everyone.

Instead of seeing short-term and non-normative relationships as failures, why not celebrate the diverse ways people connect and engage with each other? Intimate relationships do not have to be built around possibly unrealistic philosophy of "forever and ever" to be happy, fun, exciting and fulfilling. Love and happiness isn't one-size-fits-all. What defines love and ideal relationships differs from person to person, as does the ideal intimate relationship.

Accepting this will provide people with a variety of opportunities for happiness. One way to express this acceptance is to stop holding ourselves and others up against the normative standards of love expressed by Ms. Glover. We should celebrate love, happiness and togetherness no matter how untraditional or short-lived they may be.

Rhiannon Good
Gender and women's studies senior

As front line of civil rights movement, GLBT deserves voters' attention

Tuesday's primary election results proved what I have been harping on for weeks: For the Democratic primary, Kentucky could very well become an important state if Sens. Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton continue to be neck-and-neck for delegates.



CARRIE BASS
Kernel
columnist

We Democrats should be gearing up to vote, checking up on our registration and researching candidate platforms in preparation for a decision that could ultimately be made by states like Kentucky. The time is now to prioritize what and who is most important to you as an individual.

For me, the top issues that will swing my vote are the war in Iraq; abortion rights; gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender rights; health care; education; and environmental policies. Among these issues, I feel that GLBT rights are receiving remarkably little (positive) commentary or attention from the mainstream media, but in my opinion, this is the forefront of civil rights movements.

I know that many people balk at the GLBT claim to the legacy of civil rights that includes women's suffrage and African-American

protests. Regardless of whether I or anybody else believe that members of the GLBT community have any claim to recognition under the law as a protected class or that this group deserves to be given any rights at all, the GLBT community is making civil rights claims in courts, legislatures and classrooms across the nation.

Many public and government institutions are accepting the GLBT claim to civil rights. Our own university is a part of the movement away from criminalization and discrimination of GLBT peoples. Much to the dismay of certain Kentucky legislators, UK has given partner benefits to its employees, thus recognizing the legitimacy of such relationships, if not condoning them.

The ultimate goal of arguing for GLBT rights in a way that references past civil rights movements is that it calls into question the legality of restrictions for homosexuals that are not in place for heterosexuals.

If we are to discriminate on the basis of one factor alone, there must be a reason behind those limitations. For example, the government must establish a legitimate state interest in denying GLBT people's marital rights.

So far, the only arguments that have been given in favor of state and other discriminations of members of the GLBT community are ideologically or religiously based. Simply put, there is no reason to

deny members of the GLBT community the same rights as heterosexuals happy with their gender identity and performance, outside of theories rooted in religion. Last I checked, religious condemnation was not reason enough to justify a discrimination of a group of people. Other-

The time has come to recognize that homosexuality and gender diversity are not a threat to the fabric of our society, despite what fundamentalists may have us think.

wise, adultery and fornication would still be criminalized.

The time has come to recognize that homosexuality and gender diversity are not a threat to the fabric of our society, despite what fundamentalists may have us think.

Here we are, on the verge of the next significant civil rights movement, and we have the chance to put candidates in office who want to work toward change. Look beyond the narrow scope of the present and consider a candidate who will promote change in the future.

Carrie Bass is an art history senior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

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Woody Harrison, left, stars as Ed Morix and Will Ferrell, center, stars as Jackie Moon in "Semi-Pro."

COURTESY OF NEW LINE CINEMA



framebyframe | This week's box office hits and misses

Ferrell film needs more to reel in viewers

By Ricky Simpson
rsimpson@kykernel.com

Semi-Pro

Starring Will Ferrell, Woody Harrison, Andre Benjamin
Short shorts, puffy hair and a great free throw shooter: This was basketball in the 1970s and a perfect description of the New Line Cinema comedy.

This film is childish, but has a lot of adult material in it and is nothing but an adult comedy. Nevertheless, if you enjoy Ferrell as an absent-minded, under-dressed doofus, this film has a story to go along with the immature comedy.

Grade: C-
Playing at Cinemark Fayette Mall, Regal Hamburg Pavilion, Movies 10 Codell Drive, The Lexington Movie Tavern

Opening Today
10,000 BC
Starring Camilla Belle, Steven Strait, Marco Khan
The trailer resembles "Apocalypse" and holds much of the prehistoric, epic-like quality. Even though the plot is a little hazy, this Roland Emmerich (Independence Day) film looks to be an action packed drama worth a watch.

Grade: C
Playing at Cinemark Fayette Mall, Regal Hamburg Pavilion, Movies 10 Codell Drive, The Lexington Movie Tavern

College Road Trip
Starring Raven-Symone, Martin Lawrence
An ambitious high school senior (Raven-Symone) and her obsessive-compulsive father travel across the country to find the perfect college. This film looks to be a slapstick comedy but may bring in some family values for good measure.

Playing at Cinemark Fayette Mall, Regal Hamburg Pavilion, Movies 10 Codell Drive.

ven plot than most comedies. The telling of the end of the ABA adds to the film as they use actual teams from the league and show some game changing events, such as the integration of the first alley-oop.

This film runs only 90 minutes and is rated R for adult language, sexual content and mature material.

Grade: C-
Playing at Cinemark Fayette Mall, Regal Hamburg Pavilion, Movies 10 Codell Drive, The Lexington Movie Tavern

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Playing at Cinemark Fayette Mall, Regal Hamburg Pavilion, Movies 10 Codell Drive.

The Bank Job

Starring Jason Statham, Saffron Burrows
Based on a true story, Terry (Statham) is hired by the British government to break into a bank to retrieve incriminating information about the royal family. Not until Terry finds what he has been hired to steal does he double cross his employers.

Grade: C
Playing at Cinemark Fayette Mall, Regal Hamburg Pavilion

Upcoming DVDs

No Country For Old Men

(March 11)
Starring Javier Bardem, Tommy Lee Jones, Josh Brailin

This best picture Oscar winner is full of heavy themes and stiff subject matters. Adapted by the Coen Brothers, the story follows a ruthless killer (Bardem) and his persistence to recapture a briefcase of money. This drama is eerie and captivating, and no doubt one of the best of 2007.

Beethoven

(March 11)
Starring Jerry Seinfeld
DreamWorks put a lot of money into marketing this animated flick, but the film fell short of anticipated gross and, even with Seinfeld at the wheel, was snubbed by the Academy and was left out of the Best Animated Feature category.

Dan in Real Life

(March 11)
Starring Steve Carell, Juliette Binoche, Dane Cook
Every year, you can find a low-budget gem that seems to slide through the year unnoticed. "Dan" is a wonderful romantic comedy that everyone can enjoy. With good laughs and sentimental family moments, this film has an extra dimension that makes it one of the best comedies of 2007.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Renovated Boone Center hosts event

After being closed four years, the Hilary J. Boone Center will open its doors today for a small group event.

The Boone Center, located across Rose Street from the Chemistry-Physics Building, was closed for a \$6.2 million renovation project in 2004. It was scheduled to reopen in February for faculty events and conferences.

The center's official opening date has not yet been set; it could open as early as next month, though the opening might be delayed until after school year ends, said UK spokesman Jay Blanton. Events in the next few weeks will only be small gatherings that were already scheduled. They will be used to test Boone Center services like catering, he said.

On March 1, the parking lot behind the Boone Center switched to visitor parking for Boone Center customers. During construction, the area was an E lot for employees. Employees are encouraged to park in one of the campus' 49 other employee lots.

Visitors to the Boone Center must have their parking validated by staff, and overnight parking is prohibited.

New director appointed for School of Library and Information Science

The School of Library and Information Science has appointed one of its alumni to be the new

director beginning Aug. 15.

Jeffrey T. Huber graduated from UK's library and informational science program in 1987. Since then he received a doctorate degree in library science from the University of Pittsburgh and has been teaching at Texas Woman's University since 1998. Huber was a unanimous choice of the selection committee, said David Johnson, dean of College of Communications and Information Studies, in a news release.

The current director, Timothy Sineath will continue until Huber takes over in August. Sineath, who is phasing into retirement, will then work in a part-time faculty position.

UK official earns humanitarian award

Anthony Beatty, UK's public safety director, won the first Lexington Humanitarian Award for his service in the Lexington community.

Before beginning his position at UK in January, Beatty was chief of the Lexington Police Department, where he started as an officer in 1973 and took over as chief in 2001. He initiated a language program to expand officers' Spanish skills so they could understand and better serve the Hispanic community. He also established the Anthony and Eunice Beatty Foundation, which offers financial assistance to youths who face obstacles in achieving their dreams.

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