



KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 36 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Suit likely to resume against Ragland

By Juliann Vachon
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Shane Ragland may have only two days left of home incarceration before he is free, but after admitting Monday that he killed Trent DiGiuro, Ragland will likely face a wrongful death civil suit from the family of the former UK football player.

Ragland was awaiting his second murder trial when he pleaded guilty to second-degree manslaughter of DiGiuro Monday morning.

The guilty plea came more than 13 years after the former offensive lineman died from a gunshot to the head on July 17, 1994 while celebrat-

ing his birthday on the front porch of his Woodland Avenue home.

In exchange for the plea, prosecutors recommended that Ragland serve an eight-year sentence. Ragland will receive credit for more than four and a half years served in prison as well as 14 months of home incarceration while he was out of prison on bond. He will finish his sentence Thursday.

With the criminal case finished, the DiGiuro family can now revisit a civil suit filed after Ragland's first conviction in April 2002 when he was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

The Kentucky Supreme Court overturned the conviction and ordered

a new trial in March 2006 after research indicated that bullet lead tests that connected Ragland to the crime in the original trial were unreliable.

Trent's father, Mike DiGiuro, said he hasn't discussed the lawsuit with his lawyers yet but will probably revisit with the wrongful death suit now that the case has been settled.

While Ragland might not have the money to pay for potential damages, DiGiuro said he could at least try and stop the UK graduate from getting a large inheritance from his father Jerry Ragland.

"The main reason we would do this is to keep Shane Ragland from getting his father's money," DiGiuro said. "I don't expect to get any money out of this. But I don't want him to have it. And I can't say that his lawyers aren't smart enough to find ways around it. But we can at least make his father give (the money) to someone else."



Ragland

Ragland's attorney, Steve Romines, said his client will probably not defend the suit. The case has never been about money.

See Ragland on page 4

SG set to approve smaller budget

By Katie Saltz
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Student Government plans to spend less money this year, but President Nick Phelps doesn't think the Senate will have any problems approving the 2007-08 proposed operational budget when it votes at its first full senate meeting tonight.

"There's less money to go around, but we worked hard to find more," Phelps said. "I don't think there can be too much negative response."

The organization's overall budget is \$130,000 less than last year, but there were few drastic changes, Phelps said.

The budget proposal passed unanimously at the Appropriations and Revenue Committee meeting Monday night, and Senate President Tyler Montell said he does not expect there to be any serious opposition.

"This is an SG budget we're all really happy with," Montell said. "I don't see anyone walking away opposed to it."

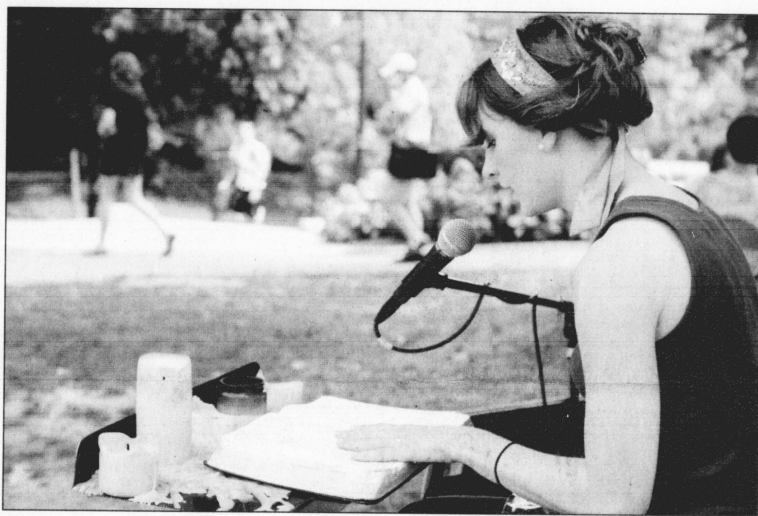
A&R Chairman Jesse Parrish showed concern at Monday night's meeting over the proposal to remove salaries for chairs of SG committees.

Phelps said the decision of cutting the salaries has been made but was still being worked out Monday.

The budget is a process that is constantly being changed, Montell said.

"It's a refining process to make the budget as good as it can be," Montell said. "We want a dialogue to be had with

See SG on page 4

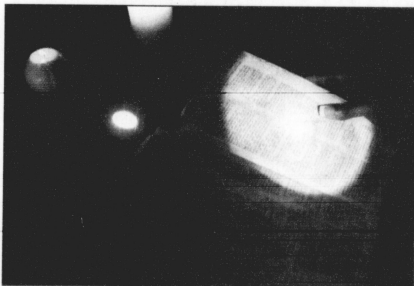


Bethany Scales, a senior Spanish major, takes a shift reading the Bible yesterday in front of the Student Center. Scales is a member of the University Christian Fellowship, which has been reading the Bible straight through since Sunday night.

Three days and three nights

From sun up to sun down and all through the night the words of the Bible were heard around the Student Center. Students in the University Christian Fellowship decided on a whim to read the Bible to UK's campus community and have been doing so since 10 p.m. Sunday. By the time the last words are spoken, over 40 different readers will have taken a turn at the microphone. Two readers switch back and forth every fifteen minutes and after an hour two new readers take the stand.

"My throat got a lot drier than I thought it would," said Bethany Scales, a senior Spanish major and group member. They estimated that reading from cover to cover should take around 70 hours, which will end sometime on Wednesday evening.



Brittany Buchanan, a social work junior, reads from the Bible by candle and flashlight last night in the free speech area in front of the Student Center.

Staff, students impressed with Blazer renovations

By Brad Luttrell
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Cecil Wiggins carefully placed a ham and bacon sandwich into a new Lincoln Impinger pizza oven and turned to begin the next order when he saw a group of students heading for the exit.

"Goodbye ladies," said the dining services employee of 22 years. "You all have a good evening."

Some dining employees have experienced a new pride this year because of the remodeled Blazer Cafe on north campus.

"I love it," said Doris Cowan, who has worked for UK Dining Services for 22 years. "It makes me look forward to coming to work."

After 1.4 million dollars in renovations this summer, Cowan looks forward to an abundance of changes in the cafeteria.

New cooking stations, or "display cooking," let students watch their food being prepared.

It also lets customers know that the food they eat is fresh, said Roger Sidney, assistant director of dining services.

The stations include a new charbroil grill, a pizza and international area with new pizza ovens and a deli.

See Renovations on page 10

Students buy record number of football season tickets

By Travis Waldron
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The UK Athletics Ticket Office announced yesterday that it had sold a record number of student season tickets for the 2007 football season.

As of 3 p.m. yesterday, students had bought over 4,800 season tickets, a number that was "still rising," said Joe Sharpe, an assistant athletic director who heads the ticket office.

Sales shattered the previous record of 3,549 tickets in 2005

and increased from 3,100 last year.

Deputy Director of Athletics Rob Mullens said he expected the increase in student ticket sales to help provide a more imposing crowd at Commonwealth Stadium this fall.

"In college sports, students play a leading role in creating home-field advantage," Mullens said. "We've had fantastic student support. We need them to show up and create that home field advantage now. We just need them to come out on Saturdays and be

loud."

Education senior Kyle Board, a four-year season ticket holder, said a schedule full of quality teams and higher expectations were responsible for the increase.

"It's a combo of both," Board said. "But after the bowl season (in 2006) it's obvious that the program is going in the right direction."

General admission season ticket sales also increased this season. UK sold over 51,000 season tickets, about 14,000 more than 2006 sales.

Student season tickets cost \$40 and are available for sale until 6 p.m. Friday, which is also the deadline for students to pick up their tickets for Saturday's contest against Eastern Kentucky.

Students can purchase single-game tickets at the UK Athletics Ticket Office in the Joe Craft Center at \$5 each, limit one per student.

Season tickets can be purchased at the ticket office as well. Single game student tickets for UK's first three home games against ECU on Sept. 1, Kent State on Sept. 8 and Louisville on

Sept. 15 are still available according to UK Athletics.

Student guest tickets will go on sale today for the first three games (EKU \$30, Kent State \$30, Louisville \$70). Fans can also purchase tickets online at www.ukathletics.com, www.ticketmaster.com and TicketMaster outlets statewide.

Any student or guest ticket for the UK-Louisville game not claimed by 6 p.m., today will be available to the general public for \$70, with a limit of two tickets per person.

For tickets

Students can purchase tickets for all UK home football games at the ticket office in the Joe Craft Center.

Tickets are \$5 for students, limit one per student ID.

Guest tickets are \$30 for the ECU and Kent State games, and \$70 for the Louisville game.

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Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black

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

Aries (March 21 - April 19) Today is an 8 — Don't second-guess your orders, just make sure you know what they are. Conditions are changing quickly. Be watching your six and your twelve.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Today is a 7 — The controversy rages. You don't have to get involved in the actual conflict. Listen to all sides and learn a lot. Don't make your decision yet.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) Today is a 7 — You don't have to take the very first thing that comes along. The choice that's best for you will

be very obvious. Keep the faith.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Today is a 7 — You're impatient to go but one thing or another gets in the way. Don't be frustrated. Better to be delayed in a familiar place.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Today is a 7 — It's not a good time to gamble. Postpone a romantic interlude. Don't even buy yourself a treat. Exercise self-discipline.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Today is a 5 — The situation looks difficult now but it won't be this way forever. Don't stress about the costs; start thinking of ways to earn the money.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Today is a 5 — You'll have to come up with a few different ways of doing things, to succeed. Several methods you try won't work, even if you found them in books. Adaptation will be required.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Today is a 7 — You'd like to do everything for everybody, but you can't. Tell

them you'll think it over and duck out of the meeting early.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Today is a 5 — You'll have to be creative to profit during this confusion. Luckily, you are. You do some of your best work under pressure. Get on it.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Today is an 8 — You're in a tough situation but you're also up for this. You're quick, imaginative, and you refuse to be intimidated. You'll do fine.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Today is a 5 — The money's coming in but it's not reliable. You need someone you can depend upon. And, meanwhile, don't waste what you have.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Today is a 7 — As you finish one job, you should start planning out the next. List what worked and what didn't so you can make all new mistakes next time.

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LOVE LIVES

Matt Damon gets personal

THE DISH

Matt Damon jetted to London for *The Bourne Ultimatum's* August 15 U.K. premiere, and he told Us he was experiencing the city quite differently than he did in his bachelor days. "In 2002, I lived in an apartment [in the Soho area], and every night I was out at the jazz clubs," confessed the father to 14-month-old daughter Isabella, with wife Luciana, 31. "But this time I had to curb my ways. I'm a dad now! I thought, Hey, no more, not until my child can get into the music." But that doesn't mean the couple has just been sitting at home. Before hitting the English capital, the actor, 36, and his girls indulged in a little R&R in Malaga on Spain's Costa del Sol. "I was told before Isabella was born to make sure you get enough sleep," says the star. "And, my goodness, that was good advice." Though, he jokes, aging has still taken a toll: "I have way more gray hair than Brad Pitt!"

Nines), is game to give his time to whatever project Johansson, 22, has in the works. Exhibit A? He spent two weeks visiting her in Louisiana this summer while she logged 12-hour days recording an album of Tom Waits covers. Soon after, he jetted all the way to Spain to hang with her on the Barcelona set of the 2008 Woody Allen flick she's filming with Penelope Cruz.

Jimmy Fallon's Getting Married!

When Jimmy Fallon filmed 2005's *Fever Pitch*, he confessed, "My dating experience is so sad. . . . This movie makes me want to be more romantic in real life." Mission accomplished: The weekend of August 11, the actor, 32, proposed (at sunset, no less!) to love Nancy Juvo nen, 40 — who produced the flick and is business-partners with its other star, Drew Barrymore — at her family's home in New Hampshire. "He's had the ring for a while," says a pal. "But he was waiting for the perfect moment."

Keira's Friend, Indeed!

One hot summer for two hot stars! For the last few months, couple of a year and a half Keira Knightley and Rupert Friend have been glued to each other's sides in the U.K., where he's filming *The Young Victoria*. What is it that makes the actor such a fine fit for Knightley, 22? "I want someone I can talk to about anything," she's said of

her —romantic requirements. "Someone who's going to make me laugh a lot."

Kelis & Nas' Birthday Bonanza

What better way to celebrate a singer's birthday than with a serenade? That's exactly what "Milkshake" crooner Kelis' hubby of two and a half years, rapper Nas, did to ring in her 28th at Miami Beach club Cameo on August 17. While his wife downed S'mores Source cocktails, Nas, 33 (who also presented her with a Miami Ink tattoo gift certificate), belted out "Happy Birthday" as Cisco Adler spun music on the turntable. "Kelis danced all night," says a source. "She didn't leave until 4:30 a.m."

Sacha & Isla's Prebaby Prep

Isla Fisher and Sacha Baron Cohen aren't expecting their baby until winter, but they're already busy nesting! During brunch at Cheebo in Hollywood August 18, an onlooker tells Us the funny finances spent most of the meal talking about house-hunting and held hands the entire time. "They were very lovey-dovey," says the witness. "He was feeding her breakfast!" The parents-to-be tour continued the next day, too, when the *Hot Rod* star, 31, and actor, 35, went shoe shopping at L.A.'s Undeated. A source says, "They were totally cute together."

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Mandatory restrictions force UK to cut back on outdoor watering

By Blair Thomas
bthomas@kykernel.com

UK cut back on watering the campus lawns and flower beds after restrictions were put on Lexington's water supply yesterday afternoon.

The Grounds Department cut nearly 100 percent of lawn watering and will only tend to newer plant beds, said George Riddle, superintendent of the Grounds Department.

"We'll focus on new shrub beds and those plants that were planted since last fall," Riddle said. "We have been abiding by the recommended restrictions even before they became mandatory."

Kentucky American Water Co., which owns Lexington's water supply, declared a water

shortage partial alert yesterday due to long-range weather forecasts showing little precipitation and declining river flows, said Kentucky American spokesperson Valeria Cummings Swope.

The average amount of water flowing into the Kentucky River pool this week, where the company gets most of its water, was 77.5 million gallons per day, down about 350 million gallons from the usual water flow at this time, Swope said.

The last time the Lexington area was under a mandatory water restriction was in 1999 when outdoor watering was banned completely.

The restriction asks Lexington residents to limit their outdoor watering to hours between 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. to

10 p.m. on designated days, Swope said.

Addresses ending in odd numbers are permitted to water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Addresses ending in even numbers are permitted to water on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

UK divided campus buildings into numbered areas that it will be watered in accordance with the restrictions.

The Grounds Department plans to use wastewater from UK's cooling plants in an effort to cut down on its water use.

"This wastewater is used at the cooling plants for chilling purposes and is perfect for our uses," Riddle said.

"We're really cutting back on the areas that we're watering," Riddle said. "Most build-

ings don't have new plants so they won't get watered."

Those who want to be exempted from the restrictions can appeal to a board made up of the mayor, vice mayor, Kentucky American president, police chief and the commissioners of health and public works, Swope said.

Riddle said UK has no reason to ask for an exemption.

"Water conservation is as important on campus as it is in the community," Riddle said. "We want to keep our flower beds looking good, but we are looking at plans to do that with the water supply we already have."

More information on the restrictions is available at the Kentucky American Water Co. Web site (www.kawc.com).

'I am not gay,' Idaho senator insists

By Greg Hahn and Erika Stolstad
McClatchy Newspapers

BOISE, Idaho — Sen. Larry Craig insisted Tuesday "I am not gay" and lashed out at the Idaho Statesman newspaper for a "witchhunt" that he said led him to plead guilty to a disorderly conduct charge — a plea he hoped would make the charge go away.

Meanwhile, newly released police records of the bathroom incident that led to Craig's arrest show that Craig revisited the Minneapolis airport 11 days later to complain about how he had been treated by police. He said he wanted information so his lawyer could speak to someone, according to a police report.

Craig, an Idaho Republican, said Monday that he did not seek legal counsel before deciding to plead guilty to disorderly conduct, Tuesday, Craig said he has hired a lawyer to advise him what to do next.

Craig was arrested June 11

by an undercover police officer who said Craig made a sexual advance toward him in an airport men's room near Minneapolis.

He held a nationally televised news conference Tuesday in Boise, but did not talk specifically about what happened in the men's room and did not take questions.

"I overreacted and made a poor decision," Craig said.

Craig said he still planned to announce next month his decision on whether to run again in 2008.

"Please let me apologize to my family friends and staff, and fellow Idahoans, for the cloud placed over Idaho," he said. "I did nothing wrong and I regret the decision to plead guilty and the sadness that decision has brought on my family, friends, staff and fellow Idahoans, and that I apologize."

"I chose to plead guilty to a lesser charge in hopes of making it go away," he said. Not seeking counsel was "a mistake and I deeply regret it."

Craig said his state of mind was troubled then because of an Idaho Statesman investigation into rumors circulated by a blogger and published by many other papers in the state. The newspaper, which is owned by The McClatchy Company, printed nothing until news of Craig's arrest became public Monday.

Craig said he and his family "have been relentlessly and viciously harassed by the Idaho Statesman." He called the Statesman investigation a "witch hunt."

"Let me be clear," he said. "I am not gay. I never have been gay."

"I love my wife, my family, I care about friends and staff and Idaho, I love serving this great state," he said. "There are still goals I would like to accomplish and I believe I can still be an effective leader for this state."

He said he had made a mistake when he pleaded guilty to a disorderly conduct charge earlier this month. "I was not in-

involved in any inappropriate conduct," he said.

Craig also apologized to his family, friends, staff and Idahoans Tuesday afternoon regarding his disorderly conduct charges.

In response to Craig's remarks, Bill Manny, the Statesman's managing editor, released the following statement:

"As our story today demonstrated, we followed leads and asked questions. We worked hard and behaved responsibly, not publishing a story until it was ready. We didn't print anything until the senator pleaded guilty. Our story outlined what we've done and it speaks for itself."

"After his June 11 arrest, Craig revisited the Minneapolis airport June 22 to complain about how he had been treated by police. His spokesman said he was on his way to Idaho from Washington D.C., a trip he takes through the Minneapolis airport most Fridays when Congress is in session."



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SG

Continued from page 1

many people."

Several different people worked with SG on the budget, Phelps said, including leaders from many student organizations.

"We worked on club funding, organization funding and special projects," Phelps said. "The executive and legislative (branches) are pretty happy."

The budget currently includes cuts in funding for some campus services including money given to the Peer Tutoring Program and the Violence, Intervention, and Prevention Center. The Senate will discuss these changes tonight.

Phelps said this budget covers a diverse initiative because it still includes a high number of student organizations.

"We met with dozens of organizations," Phelps said. "Hopefully they can receive funding on Thursday morning."

The first budget meeting is exciting for Phelps, he said, and this year he hopes to focus on furthering two projects funded by SG, DanceBlue, a 24-hour charity dance marathon, and Channel 50, a student-run TV station.

The full Senate meeting is tonight at 8 in the Student Center Small Ballroom and the agenda is the only item on the agenda.

"We're going to keep it simple and do the budget," Phelps said. "It's not going to be easy but by the end of the night SG will have a budget for the school year."

RAGLAND

Continued from page 1

Romines said, but rather making sure his client was not in prison the rest of his life.

By admitting guilt in his criminal case, Romines said Ragland established liabilities that would be difficult to defend in a wrongful death suit.

"The only thing to defend the civil suit would be to say that Trent DiGiuro's life wasn't worth anything," Romines said. "And we're not going to take that position."

The criminal case went unsolved for five years after DiGiuro's death until Ragland's former girlfriend, Aimee Lloyd, came forward telling police that Ragland confessed to her in 1995 that he had shot DiGiuro.

Ragland has maintained that he is innocent since he was arrested in 2000, and if asked, would still say that he did not kill DiGiuro, Romines told the Kernel Monday.

But under the strong advisement of his attorney, Ragland admitted to the sniper-like shooting of DiGiuro to avoid another trial, Romines said.

"I advised him very strongly (to plead guilty)," Romines said. "If he would have lost, he would have gotten life in the penitentiary."

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY CRIME REPORT

UK Police reports from Aug. 22 to Aug. 27.

- Aug. 22** Theft reported from Agricultural North Science Center at 6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 22** Terroristic threatening reported from the Seaton Center at 9 a.m.
- Aug. 23** Theft reported from Agricultural North Science Center at 9:10 a.m.
- Aug. 23** Theft reported from Parking Structure No. 3 at 11:30 a.m.
- Aug. 23** Theft reported from UK Hospital at 1:55 p.m.
- Aug. 23** Theft reported from W.T. Young Library at 2:45 p.m.
- Aug. 23** Theft of bicycles reported from Commonwealth Village at 12:30 p.m.
- Aug. 23** Theft of bicycles reported from Kirwan Tower at 6:05 p.m.
- Aug. 23** Theft of bicycles reported from Nutter Football Training Facility at 4:05 p.m.
- Aug. 23** Theft reported from Dickey Hall at 4:35 p.m.
- Aug. 23** Theft reported from Whitehall Classroom Building at 6:26 p.m.
- Aug. 23** Burglary reported from the Sigma Chi House 5:15 p.m.
- Aug. 24** Burglary reported from Greg Page Apartments at 3:55 a.m.
- Aug. 24** Theft of bicycles reported from Kirwan Tower at 8:45 a.m.
- Aug. 24** Theft of bicycles reported from Kirwan I at 11:30 a.m.
- Aug. 24** Arrest for possession of marijuana on Elizabeth Street at 11:43 p.m.
- Aug. 25** Possession of a destructive device reported on Virginia Avenue at 11:31 p.m.
- Aug. 26** Theft of bicycles reported from Greg Page Apartments at 2:55 p.m.
- Aug. 26** Theft reported from W.T. Young Library at 3:15 p.m.
- Aug. 26** Theft from a car reported from Parking Garage No. 4 at 7:30 p.m.
- Aug. 26** Drug and marijuana use reported from Greg Page Apartments at 10:48 p.m.
- Aug. 27** Terroristic threatening reported from Funkhouser Building at 7:15 a.m.

Compiled from reports at UK Police Department.
Compiled by staff writer Alice Haymond.
E-mail ahaymond@kykernel.com.

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SPORTS

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POSITION PREVIEW: DEFENSIVE BACKS

Lindley grows with UK defense

By Kenny Colston
kcolston@kykernel.com

For a defense that ranked second to worst in Division I last year, there is always room for improvement.

But for a secondary that returns all but one starter and had a knack for forcing turnovers last year, improvement is expected.

"As a group, we expect (the defensive backs) to improve on last year's mistakes," defensive backs coach David Lockwood said. "To play as a unit, play hard and make plays."

Making plays and forcing turnovers seemed like a habit for the secondary last year. The defensive backs forced 10 interceptions, nine forced fumbles and 23 pass break-ups while helping the Cats' defense put up a plus-15 turnover margin, the second highest in the country.

If the Cats hope to be as fortunate with turnovers this year, they will rely heavily on their No. 1 cornerback and a player head coach Rich Brooks referred to as a "shutdown corner" — redshirt sophomore Trevard Lindley, a freshman All-American last year.

Lindley started in all 13 games last year as the second corner opposite of graduate Karl Booker. Lindley recorded a team-high 12 pass break-ups to go along with two interceptions, including the game-clinching interception against Georgia.

With the big-play ability that Lindley displayed last year, Lockwood expects nothing less from his soft-spoken cornerback.

"I expect him to pick up



BRAD LUTTRELL | STAFF
Sophomore cornerback Trevard Lindley tackles a South Carolina player on Oct. 7, 2006, at Commonwealth Stadium.

Coming up
Tomorrow: Quarterbacks
Friday: Pigskin Preview

where he left off last year," Lockwood said. "He held his own last year as a redshirt freshman. (Lindley) needs to pick up where he left off and eliminate mistakes he made a year ago."

With Booker gone, Lindley will face the daunting task of matching up with some of the best wide receivers in the SEC, including potential first round draft picks Early Doucet

of LSU and Earl Bennett of Vanderbilt.

"To have a guy that has good size and long arms and runs smooth, we expect him to match against the top receivers we're facing," Lockwood said.

The bigger question is who will fill the second cornerback position opposite Lindley this year. Sophomore E.J. Adams topped the depth chart out of spring practice, but junior Ahmad Grigsby Jr. and sophomore Paul Warford are contending as well.

While junior Marcus McClinton returns at free safety, se-

nior Roger Williams is battling to remain a starter in favor of up-and-coming sophomore Ashton Cobb.

"The competition and talent at corner is the best since I've been here," he said.

The competition battles are a big reason why the Cats believe they can improve a defense that was gashed at times last season, McClinton said.

"I believe it'll make all the (defensive backs) better players," McClinton said. "We don't just need four starters, we need depth. We need at least eight starters so when someone needs a break, the talent level doesn't go down and we have that depth right now. I expect us to be playmakers, I expect us to be depended on."

McClinton thinks Lindley is one of those playmakers to depend on. Lindley believes that between himself and McClinton, the Cats will have a dangerous one-two punch in the secondary.

"(McClinton) had a lot of interceptions and I had a lot of pass deflections, so we are a pretty good team (together)," Lindley said.

While everyone is praising Lindley for his play last year, the redshirt sophomore is trying to downplay his new reputation as a shutdown corner.

"I don't think teams will throw away from me," Lindley said. "They'll probably think I'm just another corner."

Lindley is banking on that logic from opposing teams this year in hopes of creating even bigger plays in 2007.

"I like for teams to throw to my side anyway so I can make plays over there."

September ends summer boredom

Thoughts as I plan my kickoff party for tomorrow night's college football season opener between Tulsa and Louisiana-Monroe:



CHRIS DELOTTTEL
Kernel columnist

■ You can have March Madness, just give me September.

As we close out the dog days of this boring sports month of August, we are about to enter the most exciting month on the sports calendar. The confluence of seasons always adds intrigue to the sports world, but no more than this weekend.

As the calendar turns, the highly anticipated (at least in this state) college football season kicks off while the most exciting, emotionally draining pursuit in sports — the MLB pennant race — heats up. Let us forget about the NFL, which begins its season two weeks from tomorrow.

And it couldn't all come at a better time. We like sports for the games, for the emotional investment in our favorite teams and players. We like sports because there's no form of entertainment that can provide anything close to the joy of your team winning a big game, and because the only feeling worse than getting beat on a last-second

field goal is the apathy that comes with not having a team to care about.

We don't like sports to mirror the ills of society; we like sports to help us forget them. So farewell to those dreary tales of cheating referees, dog-slaying quarterbacks and steroid-injecting sluggers. And hello to you September, with your college football optimism, NFL excitement and glorious grind of meaningful baseball every day. Bring on the games.

■ What's in a preseason?

If you're like me, you watched Monday night's Bengals-Falcons preseason game in total disbelief as another pair of crummy quarterbacks shredded the helpless black-and-orange defense. I'll even give you Joey Harrington, playing with the adrenaline rush (calm down, Joey, it's the preseason) that no doubt comes with a third chance at being a starting quarterback.

But then Chris Redman came in and torched the Bengal defense, marching the Falcon second-stringers up and down the field in the second half. I know he was a star at Louisville, but he hasn't thrown an NFL pass since Bobby Petrino was taking covert trips to Auburn. Chris Redman!

■ And the winners are...

This week's list comes just in time to whet your appetite for the Kernel's college

football preview section, which will be included in our Friday paper. The projections for the Southeastern Conference will be unveiled then, but for now, here are my projected winners of the other Bowl Championship Series conferences:

- ACC — Virginia Tech
- Big 10 — Michigan
- Big 12 — Texas A&M
- Big East — South Florida
- Pac 10 — USC

■ Can you pick 'em?

When the Kernel's college football preview section comes out Friday (did I mention that already?), you'll see the return of the popular feature you'll find only in the pages of Kentucky's only independent student newspaper (that's what our letterhead says): The Krystal Ball. We'll have five Kernel "experts" (read: hacks who think they know what they're talking about) making projections for six games each weekend.

But as we move to becoming a more interactive newspaper, we'd like to add a student member to our dynamic pool of soothsayers. So, if you're interested, please send me an e-mail with the subject line, "Krystal Ball," and give me your qualifications.

You could win it, or at least finish second to me.

Kernel sports editor Chris DeLottel is an education senior. E-mail cdelottel@kykernel.com.

Pierce fills void left by volleyball star

By Kenny Colston
kcolston@kykernel.com

When former volleyball player and All-Southeastern Conference selection Jenni Casper graduated last year, the UK volleyball team was faced with a huge hole to fill in their defense.

After watching Casper anchor the defense for the past two seasons, junior Alisa Pierce won the starting libero job at the beginning of the season, all but anointing her as the replacement to Casper.

"I know I have very big shoes to fill," Pierce said. "Jenni was a great libero and I learned a lot from her."

For Pierce, it was learning to be aggressive from Casper that has helped her in her transition.

"Jenni was a fighter and was always in every play," Pierce said. "I make that my goal now."

With UK already three games into the season, Pierce has already put her goal into action leading UK in digs at 4.36 a game. Pierce credits her statistics to what Casper taught her in addition to her own drive.

"I like to work," Pierce said. "I don't want anything given to me."

That attitude is what brought Pierce to

UK, even though she knew Casper wasn't going to lose the libero job.

"It was a challenge to see what type of player it was," Pierce said. "I had to work and it showed me what kind of player I could become."

Replacing a four-time All-SEC player is no easy task, but according to team captain and senior middle blocker Nicole Brittenriker, Pierce is making Casper's departure a lot smoother.

"Pierce has done a great job so far," Brittenriker said. "She works hard to make plays and has done a great job filling (in)."

As for anchoring the defense, Pierce has had few problems.

"(Pierce) takes control of the defense," Brittenriker said. "She's always back there and we always hear her voice."

But things weren't always clear for Pierce. She had to battle sophomore Bri-Anne Sauer to win the libero job, edging the sophomore out after weeks of competition and leadership but the battle is still wide open, said head coach Craig Skinner.

"The statistics were close," Skinner said. "Pierce was slightly better and she was great with leadership."

The expectations Pierce faces aren't just

from the UK uniform, but from her hometown as well. Both Casper and Pierce played junior high volleyball in Louisville, which isn't unusual to Skinner.

"Louisville high school programs are deep and talented at the defensive positions," Skinner said. "It's the first place we'll look (for defense)."

But Skinner doesn't want to put too much pressure on Pierce too fast.

"I want Pierce to be the best she can," Skinner said. "She's composed and confident right now. She's glad to put on the Kentucky uniform."

Pierce will suit up for the Cats tonight as they take on in-state opponent Western Kentucky at 8 in Bowling Green, Ky. For Skinner, it's another opportunity for the team to improve.

"We've asked the girls to concentrate longer," Skinner said. "And we've made some progress."

UK will have it's hands full with WKU who boasts a two-time All-American and Sun Belt Conference player of the year in junior middle blocker Megan Argabright. But the Cats aren't ready to back down.

"We're going to compete to win," Skinner said. "To play hard and play UK (volleyball)."

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2007



CHRISTINA LAYTON | STAFF

The Petal Power exhibit features several diverse pieces of art work varying from different artists such as Vincent Van Gogh and Andy Warhol. The Petal Power exhibit is on display at the UK Art Museum through November 1st.

Never before shown art displayed at UK flower art exhibit

By Laura Pepper
features@kykernel.com

Similar to the glowing rose in Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," Leonard Lehrer's "Persian Rose" is held captive in a glass dome, waiting to be held. Walking up the stairs in UK's Art Museum, the "Persian Rose" is the first piece of artwork that visitors see in the museum's new Petal Power exhibit. The color lithograph on paper changes color from the top of the flower to the bottom of the stem. The Petal Power exhibit arrived June 3 and will run through Nov. 1 at UK's Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts. The exhibit is free of charge and is open Tuesday through Sunday from 12 to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 12 to 8 p.m. The exhibit features works from famed pop artist Andy Warhol and

glass artist Emile Galle and is host to a variety of works representing a broad range of moods, feelings and time periods. "When you turn the corner, (Warhol's painting) is the first one that you see," said Bebe Lovejoy, registrar at the UK Art Museum. "He is the most recognizable as far as the artists." Lovejoy said the pieces within the gallery are very diverse. "We have Warhol with really bright colors that are uplifting and contemplative, sedate and quiet pictures," she said. Many pieces at the exhibit have never been displayed before and Lovejoy said she found them while she was searching for art pieces featuring flowers in a database. "My first criteria when I look for pieces for an exhibit is to have two or three that have never been shown,"

Lovejoy said. Lovejoy said something unique about this exhibit is the number of interpretations that are presented for an object as well known as a flower. "There are so many different ways of approaching it," Lovejoy said. Chemical engineering freshman Kirsten Graves, who took art classes in high school, was excited to hear about the exhibit, especially the vases, bowls and jars. No matter what students are interested in, be it pots or vases of flowers, bold prints or detailed intricacies, Lovejoy said the Petal Power exhibit has something for everyone. "Here you put very different things together and are getting different approaches of the artists within a theme," Lovejoy said. "Each one has an interesting kind of approach. They exhibit a different brevity of life."

'Idol' not glitzy for UK staffer

By Whitney Waters
features@kykernel.com

Thirty seconds is all the time it would have taken Donald Mason to go to the glitzy and glamour of Hollywood.

American Idol offered him that time, but not much more.

Mason, a 26-year-old administrative assistant in the college of communications and information studies, drove over eight hours and 500 miles from Lexington to Charleston, S.C. to audition for the 7th season of Fox's famed reality show.



Mason

which made protecting it interesting, he said.

Luckily, the hotel had a shower cap that could be used to wrap around the wristband for protection," Mason said. "I was nervous that I was going to wake up and that I would have had ripped it off in the night and that I'd have to re-register because I had an itch on my hand."

The day of the audition, Mason said he was put into a group where he waited several hours to sing in front of the show's producers and not the judging team of Randy Jackson, Paula Abdul and Simon Cowell.

Mason said he learned that Idol was truly a television show rather than a true venue to display his talent.

"You could have been the next Justin Timberlake or John Legend, but it didn't matter," Mason said. "The way the producers did it, our whole group could have been superstars and they could have cut us."

Singers were divided into groups of three for the audition. But when the group before him was picked to face the judges, Mason knew that his group would be cut.

Mason's prediction came true as the group was told that they were not going to the next round.

That was especially hard to hear after he had seen a Lil' John impersonator and a girl that did handstands move forward to the next round, he said.

"When handstand girl made it, my stomach turned," Mason said.

For the few that actually get to display their vocal range, it was just by the luck of the draw, Mason said.

"The thing is you only get 30 seconds and I did everything that I could possibly do," Mason said. "It's disappointing that it didn't come down to my performance, but it was just a numbers thing and you kind of have to deal with that."

"If anything happened to the wristband, you had to re-register," Mason said. Some people at the audition chose not to wash their entire arm to protect the wristband. It wasn't waterproof.

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■ KERNEL EDITORIALS

Don't let student involvement end at national politics

For a generation often characterized by political apathy, last weekend held some hope for the future.

When Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama visited Lexington last Sunday, UK students took full advantage of this rare opportunity to see the Illinois senator and made a strong showing at the rally. This type of student involvement is particularly encouraging, as it provides an excellent example of UK students and their willingness to be involved in national politics.

Still, the benefits of this rally go beyond an encouraging scene of politically involved students and signals that politicians at all levels of government are willing to cater to a younger crowd.

Specifically, the relatively low cost of tickets to this event made it surprisingly accessible to interested students. While not a free event by any means, students are seldom afforded the chance to see top-tier presidential candidates in person for less than thirty dollars per ticket. By providing such an affordable event, Sen. Obama's campaign may have also stimulated political interest in students who would not have been willing to pay a high ticket price.

Events like this one, along with the high level of student involvement,

should not be limited to the 2008 presidential race. On the contrary, students would do well to focus on the various events and appearances by candidates Steve Beshear and Ernie Fletcher just as much, if not more than the presidential race.

Granted, there is nothing at all wrong with students taking an interest in national politics, but it is often easy to ignore a less glamorous campaign for governor when a high-profile presidential race is already well underway. Students will be better served by holding both gubernatorial candidates accountable for issues that directly affect them, such as the funding of higher education and the defining of the relationship between Kentucky universities and the state government. Students can accomplish this either by working for the campaigns or by attending rallies and other events held by the candidates.

By continuing to provide a strong student presence, members of the UK community have the opportunity to alter the political landscape of the state in their favor. With constant activism on the part of its young people, our political leaders will be forced to address issues that are important to the students, faculty, and staff of universities across the state.

K Week improved by recent changes

Current UK students really did provide the "best way to get started at UK" for incoming freshmen last week. As fresh faces filled campus the weekend of Aug. 17, they were welcomed by a new and refreshing lineup of events.

Typically, freshmen are encouraged to experience Kentucky Welcome, a week-long orientation program, but this year Kentucky Welcome was replaced by K Week. We feel this replacement was a step forward for the campus and more than just a name change.

K Week maintained some of the original and long-standing traditions of the old welcome week, such as Campus Ruckus and the Student Center Spectacular, but added twists that helped keep students focused on UK.

Like usual, Campus Ruckus took place on Haggin Field the Saturday before classes started. Students could enjoy free pizza, music and a chance to meet representatives from campus organizations.

In the past, local radio station WLKT 104.5, The Cat, has provided music. This year, however, K Week organizers decided to keep it in the family and allow WRFL 88.1, the student-run campus station, to provide music.

This was a positive step because not only did it offer incoming students an opportunity to experience unique music that can typically only be found on a college radio station, but it also let them put faces with the DJs they will be hearing when they tune in. This also benefits the radio station because they can network with new students

who may be interested in working for the station. Similar to other years, freshmen were encouraged to attend all the events and to stay on campus during the weekend. Students don't tend to be bed very early in the evening, though, and there's always the possibility for freshmen to attend parties and start college off with underage drinking instead of safer activities.

Members of K Week recognized this as a problem and ensured there were events scheduled late, such as midnight movies or open houses that didn't end until 1 a.m. Although that did not guarantee students would stay on campus all evening, it did provide those who wished to stay with a variety of activities.

Finally, members of K Week provided a very positive addition that allowed students to observe and experience the diverse cultures UK can provide with the "We are UK" event.

This multicultural program took place on campus behind Memorial Hall and celebrated the different cultures students represent. Free food from around the world was provided, and traditional dances and folklore entertained curious students.

With the push for UK to increase diversity on campus, it was very encouraging to see an event where people from different backgrounds came together to celebrate their cultures.

All in all, K Week's additions to welcome week portrayed a positive image of UK to new students and allowed them opportunities to find their niche early in their college careers.

■ LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Give Michael Vick another chance

After six successful seasons in the National Football League, Atlanta Falcons Quarterback Mike Vick may have to trade his helmet and shoulder pads in for a collar and chain.

Vick pled guilty to charges of dog fighting, a crime frowned upon by today's society. Over the past few weeks, this former superstar and role model has faced many obstacles. The NFL suspended Vick indefinitely without pay, Nike withdrew their endorsement deal and his name has been tarnished throughout the country.

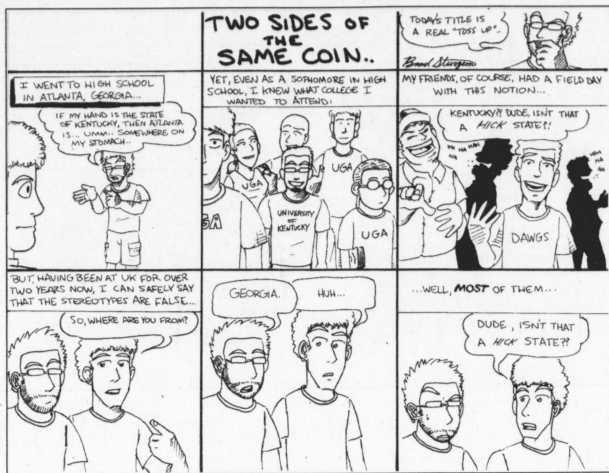
I agree that dog fighting is wrong and appalling, but what about all of the other cruel things in our culture that go without punishment, like abortion and bullfighting. Both of these could be viewed as similar to dog fighting, both include death and abuse.

On Monday afternoon, Vick appeared before the media speaking about the incident. This man apologized not only to the owner of the Atlanta Falcons and the commissioner of the NFL, but also to the children that had looked up to him. This man went up there and took full blame of all charges. This man went up there and admitted that he chose bad judgment and was immature throughout his entire life. This man went up there, and proved that he was a man.

The federal government agreed to recommend a sentencing at the low end of the guideline range, which is a sentence of 12 to 18 months in prison. This is compared to the five-year maximum in prison that the judge could sentence.

Vick was wrong and committed wrongful acts that should be punished. However, I don't believe that he should face extreme charges of more than two years in prison or more than two years suspended from the NFL. Although many kids view him as a role model, he is still a human being that makes mistakes. Throw the guy a bone, and give him a break.

Mitchell Hammond
Freshman



BRAD STURGEON, Kernel cartoonist

Diversity issue more complex than just skin color

The only thing more common on campus than Starbucks these days is hearing people blather on about "diversity."

Pseudo-intellectuals love talking about it. It's like they're competing for a prize given to whoever can solve the most campus related problems by linking them to diversity.

UK dropped 10 places in the national rankings. Let's increase diversity! Student government isn't living up to expectation? Increase diversity!

Don't get me wrong — diversity is absolutely one of the most important aspects in fostering a healthy education. The problem is our careless definition of the word.

To UK, diversity is defined by the color of your skin. When it comes to college applications, no one wants to admit to racial profiling, but that's exactly what diversity goals are.

And it's this type of mentality that's dangerous to an otherwise noble cause.

In 1978, U.S. Supreme Court

Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr. wrote a majority opinion for a landmark case about educational diversity. It was his opinion that schools should be permitted to take race into consideration when admitting students, noting that learning "is widely believed to be promoted by a diverse student body."

While few would argue with Justice Powell's belief that higher education benefits from diversity, it's becoming increasingly difficult to overlook the shallow and misguided aims by this university to promote it.

Focusing on the number of minorities admitted to UK as a means of assessing progress is indefensible. It screams of racism and hinders any attempt at attaining a truly diverse student body.

But the problem isn't nearly as simple as those who complain about "reverse discrimination" would lead you to believe.

For starters, we are blinding ourselves to the real cause of cultural differences in America: socioeconomic status. Real diversity doesn't come from skin color, but from class.

The Caucasian and the individual belonging to a racial minority who grew up on the same street are going to have a lot more in common with each other than the white student who grew up in poverty, and the white student who didn't. By using

skin color as a determinant for achieving diversity, we're making racial assumptions — and isn't that wrong?

Even more, this narrow-minded focus on color diminishes the role that international students play in creating a diverse atmosphere. Defining racial diversity as the color of your skin oversimplifies the problem, and makes it too easy for administrators to pat themselves on the back for reaching out to minorities.

Are we suggesting that the African-American I went to high school with creates the same sense of diversity as an international student from Kenya?

The idea that the color of one's skin is any accurate measure of intellect, ability or social upbringing is an archaic idea we've been trying to abandon for over 50 years. We need to move past the idea that increasing color increases diversity, and turn our focus toward ways of creating a truly diverse campus.

It might be harder for us to brag about how diverse our campus is when we don't have a number to gloat about, but the educational benefit from creating real diversity overshadows that.

And isn't that what it's all about?

Brett Nolan is a philosophy sophomore. Email at opinions@kykernel.com

There's nothing 'EXPRESS' about modern check out lanes

I usually reserve my writing for commentary on major sports events and issues, but today, we venture outside the happy, hot-topic bubble of popular sport to focus instead

on an arena of activity in which nearly all of us participate: the grocery store check-out line.

Not the walking down the aisles grabbing milk, pretzels and Lean Cuisine, but the sporty part of shopping that comes in the check-out lane, or more specifically, the EXPRESS lane. The 15-items-or-less EXPRESS lane used to be fast when actual people worked in it. Now, however, it is the "do-it-yourself" 15-items-or-less EXPRESS lane. Aside from, I presume, remote places at the ends of the earth — like Mali, Morocco and Mississippi — all Kroger stores are equipped with computers for EXPRESS checkout, and these high-tech grocers have turned the EXPRESS lane into the checkoff equivalent of a drive down Nicholasville Road in mid-afternoon.

My recent trip to the grocery store, to pick up essentials like Oreos, Twizzlers and M&M sugar cookies was turned into an hour-long adventure as I waited in line (with my 15-items-or-less) at the EXPRESS lane.

At the Kroger on Nicholasville, there are four separate computers — each with its own high-tech, high-pitched, female robot voice — in the checkout. Each of the four was in use, and none of the four was cooperating.

To my immediate right stood an old man who just could not get the bar code on his jar of applesauce to scan. Back and forth he swung that jar, front and back, right and left. He looked like a bald, skinny pendulum, twisting in the wind. Finally, after some act of divine providence, the machine beeped its successful beep (you know the sound) and the item registered.

But to my horror, I watched him set the jar down on the counter and attempt to pick up his next item. It was like watching a tornado barrel toward my house — I knew what was coming, and I could do nothing to stop it. Suddenly, the machine-robot woman screamed, "Please place the item BACK in the bag!" The man, totally clueless, ignored the machine and tried to ring up the next item.

But the robot voice wasn't just going to let this act of EXPRESS lane insubordination go unpunished. As the man began his pendulum act again, the voice repeated, "Please place the item BACK in the bag!" Never mind that the applesauce wasn't in the bag in the first place, that robot wanted it back.

To my immediate left, a college-aged girl stood, dumbfounded, after ringing up a small container of pink

sprinkles. The sprinkles, I later found out, were supposed to be on sale, but rang up for the regular price. Of course, she couldn't ask the computer what to do, so she sent a guy who was with her back to the aisle. He came back, announcing that it was only rainbow sprinkles that were on sale. Satisfied with the explanation — and eager to save 33 cents — the girl wanted to make the sprinkle switch.

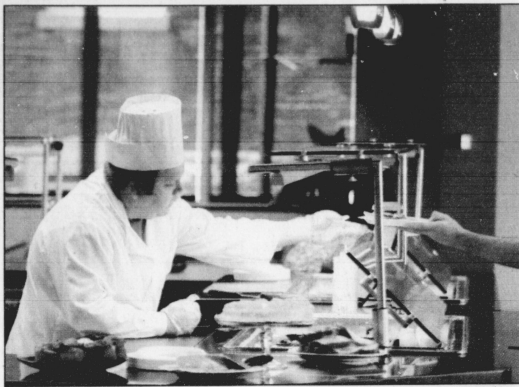
Unable to communicate her intentions to the robot-lady-voice, the girl pulled the pink sprinkles out of the bag. And I knew it was coming again.

"Please place the item BACK in the bag!" The look on her face told the story. She looked like she'd been asked to do a back flip through a ring of fire. And then she did what any normal person would do.

She put the item back in the bag. Somewhere along the line, we decided that avoiding face-to-face human communication made life easier, and sometimes it does. We can schedule classes on the Internet, order dinner over the phone and find relationships on match.com. But in the process, we lost the value — and purpose — of basic communication. Small talk is harder to generate, and friends are harder to meet. The necessity of human interaction has gone the way of the easy technological fix.

And that's one item we should all place back in the bag.

Chris DeLottel is an education senior. E-mail at opinions@kykernel.com



PHOTOS BY BRAD LUTTRELL | STAFF
Cecil Wiggins, a UK Dining Services employee for 22 years, gives a student a sandwich made in the new deli station at Blazer Cafe on Aug. 22.

RENOVATIONS

Continued from page 1

They bring more options to the cafeteria, such as fresh sautéed vegetables, new pizza products, paninis and sea food, Sidney said.

Students are taking notice of the changes at Blazer. "They have healthy food and

good service," said Franklin Baker, a business management freshman. "Everybody in there is nice."

Dining services also made changes to menus at The Lemon Tree and the Ag North Deli, added "display cooking" at the Commons Market, changed the night specials at K-Lair, added a "grab and go" facility in the Gatton College, and painted and

revised menus at Ovid's, without raising the price of meal plans or individual menu prices, Sidney said.

Their goal was not only to focus on food improvements, but also improve students' experiences while dining, Sidney said.

"We want to create a community atmosphere within our facilities where students want to hang out and have a great dining experience," Sidney said. "Our overall goal is to help the University achieve its goals of attracting, retaining and educating its students."

Students' reception of the new renovations has been positive overall, the staff said. "Everybody is coming through the door with that 'wow,'" Cowan said, "especially those who were here last year." Sidney believes the reactions will help create a new standard as UK Dining Services moves forward.

"We try and improve each area a little bit each year," Sidney said. "We hope to break ground on a Subway franchise this fall at Student Center with a spring semester opening."



Tim Finley, left, and Doris Cowan work in the new pizza cooking station at Blazer Cafe on Aug. 22, the first day of classes. Cowan has been a UK Dining Services employee for 22 years and worked at Blazer for two years. "I love it," Cowan said of the renovated cafeteria. "It makes me look forward to coming to work."

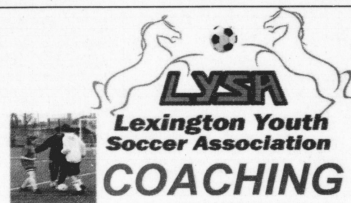
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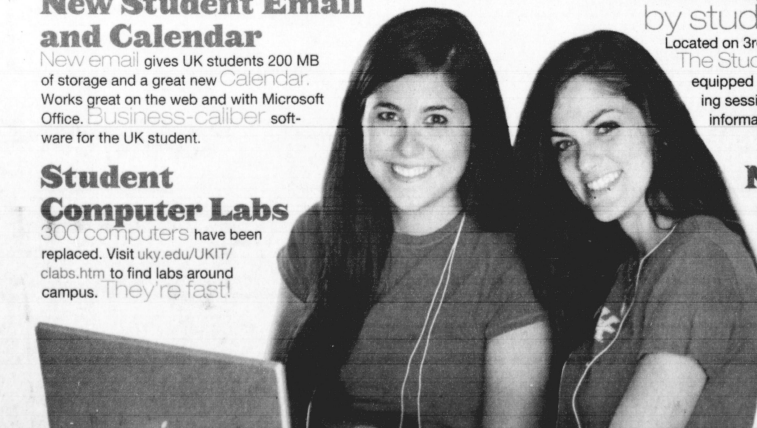
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