

Copy 2

HOME VISITOR

THE **Kentucky Kernel**

PAGE 3 **NAKED MASCOTS** Current and former UK mascots share stories of life inside the suit

Friday, April 28, 2006 Celebrating 35 years of independence www.kykernel.com

UK begins renewable energy initiative

Green Thumb will work with UK to create student committee

By Megan Boehnke
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

University administrators have begun the framework to help push forward a renewable energy initiative — including the creation of a student committee that will begin investigating energy conservation projects and give recommendation to the university.

In the Student Government elections in late March, about two-thirds of voters cast ballots to support the creation of a \$6 to \$8 increase in student fees per semester to help the university finance renewable energy sources.

"This has been our goal for the past two years," Tiffany Thompson, president of Green Thumb, said of getting the referendum passed. "We're excited that the university is taking steps to move forward to use the work we've done."

Because the Board of Trustees passed next year's budget about three weeks before the SG elections, the new student fee will not take effect until Fall 2007 at the earliest.

While the initiative will be student-led, the university will have to establish guidelines, open university accounts, evaluate university regulations and take other steps to help students achieve their goal, said Ben Crutcher, associate vice president for Auxiliary Services and chair of the UK Sustainability Task Force, in a university press release.

In the meantime, Green Thumb will work with the Sustainability Task Force over the summer to draft a report detailing how the student committee will be formed, said Thompson.

The committee will be supervised by university administrators and faculty members and will help govern how the money raised from the student fees — about \$318,000 to \$24,000 — will be spent.

"The group will have to review the university's existing energy-efficient projects, agree on a list of conservationist programs and craft the language for a proposal to the board," Crutcher said.

"It is extremely important for universities to step up because they have a huge economic buying power and what they do matters to the community," Thompson said. "It's going to improve our air quality greatly and the state. It's a way to invest in a cleaner community."

E-mail mboehnke@kykernel.com

Expert: UFOs are real

By Keith Brooks
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

There is an abundance of evidence that not only proves the existence of UFOs, but the government has been hiding classified documents for decades, an expert told students last night.

Robert Hastings, independent UFO researcher who claims to have first spotted UFOs at Malsstrom Air Force Base in 1967, spoke last night in Memorial Hall at a lecture entitled, "UFOs: The Hidden History." The event marked the last installment of Theoretical Thursdays, hosted by the Student Activities Board.

Since 1981, Hastings has spoken at more than 500 universities, presenting a great deal of documents and evidence many people have never seen.

"Many citizens are led to believe that the unidentified objects are nonsense," he said.

Hastings mentioned an organization called NICAP which helps to distribute information about UFOs with the help of the Freedom of Information Act. Since 1973, Hastings has interviewed military personnel who have confirmed undisclosed reports.

"What the documents indicated beyond

See UFO on page 8

dedicated to dissent



PHOTOS BY KEITH SMILEY | STAFF

Above: The view from the southeastern side of Lost Mountain in Perry County, Ky, shows the blasted mountainside in the distance and the valley fill that surrounds it. Top: Erik Reece, a UK lecturer, spent a year observing the strip mining of Lost Mountain before writing a book and Harper's Magazine article about the process.

UK lecturer witnessed the death of a mountain, shares lessons learned

By Sean Rose
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Erik Reece never wanted to write about coal.

Which is a little odd, considering the year the UK English instructor spent visiting Perry County, Ky., weaving through briars and underbrush, ducking between boulders and hiding from miners to chronicle a mountain crumbling because of the coal below its surface.

"It's not something I ever wanted to write about," Reece said. "It's something I felt like I had to write about."

Today, the mountain Reece studied for a year — Lost Mountain, fittingly enough — has giant stair-steps carved from its sides, ridges dipping into sheer rock walls, a valley more similar to a crater than a forest. All this is surrounded by hills of boulders and blasted

rock, crisscrossed with makeshift roads. Aside from an occasional beetle or the non-indigenous grass on some reclaimed mine sections, there is little sign of life. Reece estimates the summit is 100 feet lower now.

An assignment from Harper's Magazine took Reece to Lost Mountain in 2003. What he saw evolved into a book depicting the destruction radical strip mining wreaks on the environment and the people of the region, as well as the corrupt practices that seem to find footholds in many coal businesses.

The book, "Lost Mountain: A Year in the Vanishing Wilderness," was scaled down for the Harper's article that ran last April, and was released in January 2006.

On the 13th floor of the Patterson Office Tower, Reece, 38, peeled his attention away from

his grade book and e-mail to answer questions in his cluttered office. He leaned back in his chair and crossed his arms across his yellow plaid shirt, then explained how a Virginia boy who grew up in Louisville became wrapped up in an issue largely ignored on a national level.

"I think one thing a writer has to do is take responsibility for injustices that they perceive," Reece said. "I did start to feel a responsibility. Obviously, the land can't speak for itself, so you have to speak for the land. And I'm not trying to speak for the people of Appalachia, but I am trying to let them tell their stories through me."

But Reece didn't feel compelled to write about strip mining until he began teaching at UK in 1996. Five years ago, he took students in his nature-writing class to UK's Robinson

Forest in Jackson, Ky. There, a view from a fire tower sparked his interest in mountaintop removal when he saw the forest surrounded by barren hills.

"I began to realize that I couldn't really write about the beauty of the forest without writing about all these forces that are at work to destroy it," Reece said.

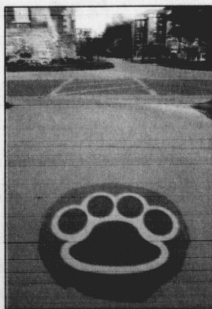
Reece received the go-ahead from a Harper's editor to follow the destruction of a mountain for a year. During his research, Reece learned for himself the consequences of strip mining.

"Once I got really involved in the research, I realized that people really are suffering incredibly," he said. "Their water's toxic, their air's toxic, these coal trucks are illegally overloaded and they're killing people. I began to really understand that the people in the re-

See Reece on page 8

Completed CATS Path offers safety at night

By Julian Vachon
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL



ED MATTHEWS | STAFF
This blue pawprint marks the sidewalk as part of UK's CATS Path.

UK is taking one of many steps toward improving safety on campus with the completion of a new safe walkway through campus today. The university is showcasing the new CATS Path at 2 p.m. in front of the Main Building.

About 70 blue and white paw prints have been laid along the path, and signs have been hung on light posts marking the CATS Path, which is a well-lit, monitored path running through the entirety of central campus, according to Carol Jordan, director of UK's Center for Research on Violence Against Women.

Along with extra lighting and increased police patrol, the path's landscaping was improved and cleared of overgrown shrubbery to create a safe, visible walkway for people

to use at night, Jordan said.

The CATS Path is part of an initiative headed by the Women's Safety Advisory Council to improve and promote women's safety on campus. The initiative is drawing from a \$1.25 million fund established by UK in September 2005.

The path has been getting positive feedback from students, Jordan said.

"People like the idea of a visible path through campus where they can walk and feel safe," she said.

Although it is set and ready for use, Jordan said it is still not handicap accessible. Curb cuts will be added to Rose Street over the summer to address this problem.

Jordan also hopes to one day expand the path as funds allow. "Students aren't going to walk on a safer path if it's way out of their way," she said.

"This is just the beginning."

UK Police Maj. Joe Monroe said the police department received two donated golf carts to help focus on patrolling the path and campus.

The police department also used a portion of the \$1.25 million to hire an additional officer to increase the number of officers on campus, Monroe said.

"We understand the complexity of improving women's safety on campus," Jordan said. "The CATS Path is not the only thing needed to improve women safety but it is a great start."

UK Women's Place also received a portion of the funding to increase programming and hire a full-time professional services coordinator.

Dorothy Edwards, director of UK Women's Place, said Jennifer Wies was promoted to victim services coordinator and

See Path on page 8

SUDOKU

Go to www.kykernel.com for the solution

9								2
	1	9	7		3			
4		8			1	7		
	9		1	8				
		4	7	9	2	6		
			5	6			2	
	2	5		9				4
		7		3	1		9	
1								8

TODAY'S SUDOKU SPONSORED BY

GREEN'S

SUZUKI

GREAT PEOPLE GREAT CARS.

Offering **\$500 OFF** for college graduates on select Suzuki vehicles

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 7 - If you're so smart, why ain't you rich? Why not, indeed! You silly goose! You are, of course.
Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 7 - You're becoming more confident. It shows, in your demeanor. You're just as cute as you can be, in a strong, reassuring way.
Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 5 - Make sure important people hear about your recent success. Put it on your resume, maybe even in a press release. Well, you decide what will work best.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is an 8 - Finally, the pressure's easing. Your sense of humor comes back. Your friends invite you to come and play, and you can make the time. It's even getting easier to travel from here to there. Enjoy.
Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 7 - The next couple of days could be very profitable for you. Somebody else's money is involved, and possibly somebody else's labor. You can take a leadership role, for which you'll be well reimbursed.
Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is an 8 - Go ahead and brag about a great deal you just made. The other friendly frugalists will give you a round of applause.
Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 5 - Listen intently to one who demands more of your attention. This will help you discover a better way to do your job.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is an 8 - You judge people more by what they do than by what they say. By now it should be obvious which ones you can trust.
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 7 - Soon you'll be up to taking on a new challenge. Never fear, there's one waiting right around the corner. Never a dull moment.
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is an 8 - Conditions for love are excellent, both today and tomorrow. If you're self-employed, arrange to take your week-end early.
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 5 - Stay home for the next few days, or at least as much as you can manage. If you can work from there, fine. If not, sleep.
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is an 8 - Invest some of your newfound wealth in your own education. The more you know, the more you can take care of yourself and your family.
© 2006 Tribune Media Services, Inc.



Nick and Jess — their secret dinner date

Exes Simpson and Lachey have rendezvous in her home

THE DISH
Now that she has wrapped filming of her comedy *Employee of the Month* in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Jessica Simpson can finally settle into the \$5.5-million Beverly Hills mansion she bought one week after filing for divorce from Nick Lachey in December. And it was there, in the comfort of her home, that Simpson had her ex-husband over for their first post-split "date," the same week Lachey had aired their dirty laundry and shown his broken heart in a bombshell *Rolling Stone* interview. Sources say Simpson wanted to talk to Lachey about his loose-lipped ways in the run-up to the April 22 MTV release of his video for "What's Left of Me," an obvious homage to the end of their marriage. Says a Simpson pal, "They promised each other they wouldn't do this - kiss-and-tell."

always tried to keep my professional and personal life separate," Lachey said. "But I knew [after the breakup] that that was going to be virtually impossible. ... I certainly don't mean anyone any harm by anything I say or write, and Jessica knows I still love her."

Marsh Reality

Still, sources say Lachey foresaw that Simpson might react badly to his recent public heart-to-hearts. "Nick called Jessica before the story came out to give her the heads-up," says a Lachey pal. (Sniffs a Simpson pal.) "Their conversation was heartfelt, but distant.") And so, in an act of solidarity, Simpson put her 3.5-carat diamond wedding band on a chain around her neck less than a week before the story was published. "She told him to look out for her way of support," says another friend of the star. "She wore the ring on her neck as a private message between the two of them, letting him know she loved him too and is happy they are beginning to heal." (Good-intentioned, says etiquette expert Gloria Starr, but a little showy. "I think it is tacky. She might consider wearing the ring on her right hand.") But once Lachey's words went public, Simpson abruptly removed the ring.

Heartbreak Kid

With "What's Left of Me" on No. 34 on Billboard's Pop 100 chart and MTV putting the video in its top 10 of heavy rotation, Lachey's openness seems to be paying off. "It is suspicious timing to Simpson that Lachey is doing this right before his album is out," says a Simpson source. "All he is talking about is Jessica. . . . And she knows he is talking like this to sell albums." Larry Rudolph, who managed Britney Spears at the time she was the subject of her ex Justin Timberlake's "Cry Me a River" video, says it will give Lachey a similar boost. "Definitely," says Rudolph. "Controversy is always good. It will always help sales."

So will Simpson respond in kind? "She doesn't want to come out with an answer to Nick's heartbreak song," says a friend.
First published in *Us Weekly Magazine*. Distributed by Tribune Media Services.

Horoscopes Sponsor either the daily horoscope or daily dish for just \$10 a day! call 859-257-2872

Today's Dish **CHARLIE BRONN'S** Restaurant and Lounge 816 Euclid Ave. 269-5701 **PATIO OPEN**

FREE EVENTS AT YOUR STUDENT CENTER
SPONSORED BY THE STUDENT CENTER DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

TV JUMBLE by David L. Hoyt

Wildcat Wheels Bike Library
"Cleaner*Healthier*Cheaper*Faster*"
FREE bicycles for UK faculty, staff and students
Available in the Student Center Cats Den

Sponsored by: Student Government, Resident Student Association, UK Health and Wellness, The Sustainable Campus Interactivity Program (SCIP), and The National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology Program.

BUYBACK Special!
Sell us \$50+ in textbooks and get \$10 off your next textbook purchase of \$25 or more.
Buyback Special offer valid once per visit.

New & Used Textbooks and More...

- officially licensed UK merchandise
- school supplies
- graduation gifts
- always free blue books

WILDCAT TEXTBOOKS

Open Extended hours for BUYBACK!

Mon May 1st	Thu May 4th	8-5pm
Saturday May 6th	12-5pm	
Sunday May 7th	9-5pm	
Mon May 8th	Thu May 11th	9-8pm
Friday May 12th	9-4:30	

www.wildcattext.com
563 S. Limestone St. (across from B&E Bldg.)
859-225-7771

Apply Now For Summer School

Check out the summer classes at Bluegrass Community & Technical College. During the summer we offer four week, six week and eight week class schedules. You choose the one that best fits your lifestyle!

- Summer classes will be held at our Lexington, Danville, Lawrenceburg and Winchester-Clark County campuses. Summer sessions begin May 9, June 8, June 9 and June 22.
- General Education courses transfer to UK to other four-year institutions in Kentucky. Bluegrass Community & Technical College offers one of the lowest tuition rates in the state.
- Now is the time to apply for summer and fall semesters!

Find out more by calling 859-246-6200 or visit our web site at www.bluegrass.ctc.edu for class schedules, application and registration information.

Bluegrass Community and Technical College

kykernel.com

HOME VISITOR

THE

People we won't mention in this issue: Ossie Bleuge, Rush Limbaugh, Connie Mack.

SportSpeak

“Women really have an eagerness to hit things.”

— Gary Cooper, head coach and general manager of the proposed Lexington entry in the National Women's Football Association

Out of LEFT-CENTER

THIS WEEK'S TOPIC: Potpourri. Everyone else is doing it. Why can't we?

1. The End. Finally, it is all over: This day could not come soon enough. The final day of classes? Oh, no. The end of the Spring Meet at Keeneland. And not a day too soon. Sure, it's great scenery, a fun time, a nice break from classes. But after yesterday's uninspired performance, I have gambled away my whole April paycheck from the Bruce Pearl. The definition of insanity is doing the same thing repeatedly and expecting different results. Color me a loon, then, because each time I head to Keeneland, I dutifully pick up a copy of the Daily Racing Form the day before, scout it out, prepare my picks and then, over the course of nine races, watch my wallet die a slow death. But, hey, at least the burgoon's good.



Chris DeLottel
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

2. The Reds. Who said you need pitching? If the Reds were a college basketball team, they would be coached by Bruce Pearl. They just go outdoors people, and they've done it to the tune of the second-best record in baseball so far. New general manager Wayne Krivsky is looking like a smart man. Bronson Arroyo, the pitcher Krivsky acquired from the Red Sox in exchange for talented but lazy outfielder Wily Mo Pena, has started the year 4-0, including an eight inning, one hit gem Wednesday against Washington. And Brandon Phillips, who Krivsky poached from the Indians for a few bags of sunflower seeds, was National League Player of the Week last week after driving in 17 runs in seven games.

3. Sandy Bell. The associate athletic director has weathered quite a storm recently. Former UK football assistant coach Claude Bassett made life miserable as he tried to drag her through the mud in his failed attempts to sue UK and clear his name. As if that wasn't enough, Bell then had to spend the first half of this school year bogged down in the NCAA bureaucracy of the Randolph Morris ordeal. She handled it all with class. Bell received a well-deserved Lifetime Achievement Award at Tuesday's CATSPY Awards for her 17 years of service at UK.

4. NFL Draft. What other event could captivate millions in front of the television for eight hours on Saturday to watch a man announce names at a podium? There are parties for this thing. Nobody does it like the NFL. From the release of the schedule, to the draft, to training camp and preseason games, it has become a year-round occupation to follow an NFL team.

5. WWE Backlash. The wait is over. Sunday night, Rupp Arena hosts big dose wrestling's annual pay-per-view special. I'm holding my breath to see what will happen in that John Cena-Edge-Triple H match for the heavyweight championship. It's almost like they're making this stuff up. If I didn't know better, I'd say it was fake.

E-mail: cdelottel@kykernel.com

Recent UK athlete honors

Baseball

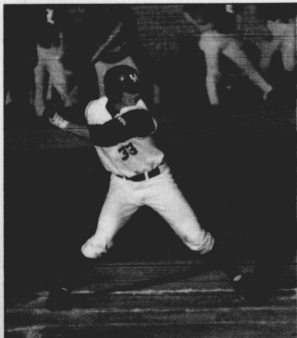
John Shelby (shortstop) — SEC Player of the Week

Ryan Strieby (second base) — added to national player of the year awards watch list

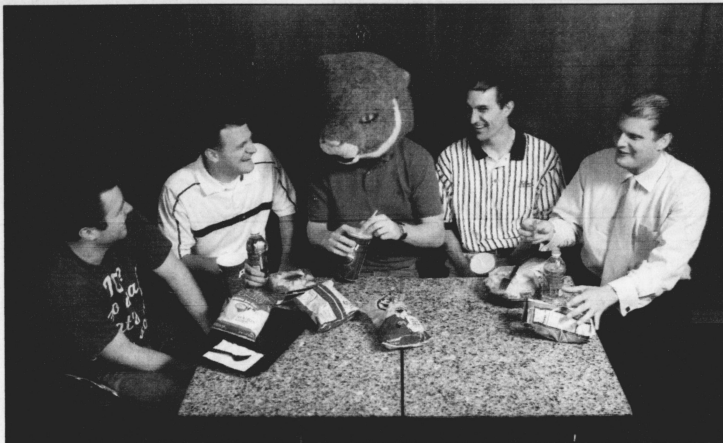
Greg Dombrowski (pitcher) — named to Roger Clemens Award list for best college pitcher

Tennis

Bruno Agostinelli — SEC Freshman of the Year
Alex Hume — All-SEC First Team



THOMAS SANDS | STAFF
Ryan Strieby was recently added to the Dick Howser Trophy watch list for the nation's best collegiate player. See page 4.



SEITH SMILEY | STAFF
Former and current UK Wildcat mascots cut up at Ovid's. From left: Clay Duerson (mascot from 2003-5), Gavin Duerson (1996-9), David Hanson ('05-current), Brent Claiborne (1994-6), and Jay McChord (1988-91).

The Cat Club

Every once in a while, current and former Wildcats get together to talk about their wild experience in the blue and white. But these aren't athletes, these are the goodwill ambassadors who visit children's groups and fans around the state and country in between entertaining at each football and basketball game.

An Ovid's worker walks by after his shift and notices the camera equipment trained on five guys sitting in the corner seat, one of which is wearing the UK Wildcat mascot head.

"Hey, man, are you the new mascot?" he asks.

"Ye a h," Gavin Duerson, the mascot from 1996-99, replies as current Cat David Hanson takes off the fuzzy suit head.

"We're actually putting together a swimsuit calendar."

He begins rubbing his chest, mimicking the application of tanning lotion.

The rest of the group joins

the Ovid's employee as he laughs all the way out the door.

The five guys in the corner, Jay McChord (mascot from 1988-91), Brent Claiborne (1994-6), Gavin Duerson (1996-9), his brother Clay (2003-5) and Hanson (2005-6), are the current and former UK Wildcat mascots.

They're doing what they do when they get together, which is about once a month: tell jokes and reminisce about the wild, wonderful life they've all led as the premier goodwill ambassador, and comedian, of UK athletics.

Throughout their combined terms, they've been to thousands of events and functions, ranging from UK basketball and football games to area elementary school visits.

The Wildcat has talked to hundreds of children's groups,

done thousands of one-armed pushups at football games, and entertained millions of fans.

"The state's had a love affair with the Wildcat," McChord said. "You're a quasi-celebrity inside state borders."

"Everybody loves you when you're in the suit," Hanson said. "Outside nobody knows you. Or cares."

The Wildcat has gotten un-sportsmanlike conduct penalties during football games.

He once dressed up as a Christmas tree and left garland strewn all over the Rupp Arena floor right before the Louisville game.

He's gotten lost headed to games, left behind by the cheerleading squad, and walked right through the front gate of the stadium with the fans and no ticket.

He's been threatened multi-

ple times by administration officials, from athletics director Mitch Barnhart on down, that if his antics don't continue he'll be fired.

"Lots of people's jobs are on the line, it's so serious, with all the TV and money," McChord said. "Then you throw in a guy whose job is to basically mess everything up."

"They don't tell you what you can and can't do," Gavin Duerson said. "When I'd suggest something I was thinking about doing (to a higher-up), usually it was 'I didn't hear that' or 'we never had this conversation.'"

"I proposed to my wife during a timeout at Rupp Arena," Duerson said. "I knew if I asked permission to do that, I'd get shot down."

"I wore a shirt that said See Mascots on page 4

“It's so serious, with the TV and money, then you throw in a guy whose job is to basically mess everything up.”

— Jay McChord, former UK mascot.

Ready for some (women's) football?

By Chris Miles
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The UK football team might soon have to share its fan base.

A new pro football team has set its sights on Lexington for a possible home in 2007. It won't be the NFL or another indoor football team coming to town, but a team in the National Women's Football Association, a female pro football league.

"It's the biggest sport nobody's ever heard of," said Gary Cooper, the head coach and manager of the possible team. "We're just trying to spread the interest."

The NWFA consists of 32 teams around the nation and is the biggest female pro football league in the world. Louisville, Cincinnati and Knoxville all currently field NWFA teams. The NWFA plays by the same rules as the NFL and is organized in a similar way. Teams play eight games per season, which runs from early April until June.

The NWFA teams have sim-

ilar uniforms and pads as their male counterparts. The games are full contact and have the same physical flare as men's football.

"Women really have an eagerness to hit things," Cooper said. "These girls are athletes."

One of the only significant differences of the pro women's league versus the NFL is that they use a smaller ball.

NWFA officials said Lexington is an attractive candidate for a team because the city hasn't been touched by pro sports yet, and would enjoy having a pro football team.

Debbie Lening, the vice president of the NWFA, said people in Lexington have expressed some interest in forming a team. She said some women from Lexington currently travel to Louisville to play for Louisville's NWFA team, the Karma.

"There is some interest in this town," Lening said. "We want to throw it out there and see what happens."

The team still has some lo-

gistical problems to tackle including finding an owner, sponsors, and fields to play and practice on.

The team will probably play at high school stadiums, Cooper said he contacted the Athletic Department at UK, but his calls were not returned.

"I'm not too sure UK would be willing to let us use their fields, even the practice field," Cooper said. "We wouldn't be a problem. Our season doesn't overlap with the men's."

When the team is able to procure use of a feasible venue the NWFA will hold open try-outs for all interested women.

"If they like it, they can stay on the team. If they think it's not right for them, they have no obligations," Lening said. "We teach the girls how to play football. We teach them everything they need to know. Some coaches even start out by liter-

ally saying 'this is a football.'" At least one UK student is planning on joining the squad.

"I think it's a great idea," said Jodee McElfresh, a communications and German senior. "Why can't women play football?"

McElfresh said she thinks there is a social stigma against women being rough and flag football and we're pretty rough with one another. I think (the team) could get a following.

Cooper believes the team will be a hit in Lexington.

"We're only looking to have fun," Cooper said. "It will be fun. I can guarantee that."

E-mail: cmiles@kykernel.com

“We want to throw it out there and see what happens.”

Debbie Lening

Vice President of NWFA on the idea of a Lexington franchise

FINAL INTRAMURAL ROUNDUP — Congrats Kappa Sig and AOP1, 2006 Champs

FRATERNITY	TENNIS	GOLF	SOFTBALL	H2O POLO	FRISBEE	FALL PTS.	OVERALL TOTAL
Kappa Sigma	45	49	150	82	55	915	1,581
Sigma Alpha Epsilon	85	47	135	35	45	877	1,569 (-12)
Phi Delta Theta	71	51	60	125	82	923	1,527 (-54)
Alpha Tau Omega	41	14	45	82	35	664	1,123 (-358)
Sigma Nu	-15	31	60	130	110	592	1,092 (-491)
Sigma Phi Epsilon	-15	27	107	35	-20	702	1,004 (-577)
Sigma Chi	33	43	35	35	-20	542	950 (-631)
Delta Tau Delta	5	32	-10	0	-20	647	948 (-633)
Pi Kappa Alpha	-8	55	90	55	-20	741	935 (-646)
FarmHouse	0	16	-30	55	35	406	872 (-709)
Phi Gamma Delta	0	2	50	35	0	576	839 (-742)
Phi Kappa Tau	27	27	80	-20	125	419	831 (-750)
Lambda Chi Alpha	0	32	50	55	55	475	722 (-859)
Delta Sigma Phi	-8	-10	25	35	-20	531	675 (-906)
Alpha Gamma Rho	-15	12	60	35	-20	491	648 (-933)
Triangle	31	0	0	0	82	245	516 (-1,065)
Kappa Alpha	35	33	0	0	0	251	428 (-1,153)
Pi Kappa Phi	0	0	0	0	0	230	326 (-1,255)
Phi Sigma Kappa	0	0	0	35	0	114	209 (-1,372)
Phi Kappa Psi	0	0	0	0	0	55	115 (-1,466)
Sigma Pi	-20	2	-15	0	0	0	82 (-1,499)

SORORITY	TENNIS	GOLF	SOFTBALL	H2O POLO	FRISBEE	FALL PTS.	OVERALL TOTAL
Alpha Omicron Pi	35	0	70	80	70	629	955
Alpha Gamma Delta	27	0	80	65	70	287	866 (-89)
Kappa Delta	0	40	145	0	0	434	831 (-124)
Delta Zeta	57	0	-25	0	85	448	625 (-330)
Kappa Kappa Gamma	0	0	80	0	42	475	612 (-343)
Pi Beta Phi	0	-10	40	0	0	347	467 (-488)
Alpha Delta Pi	0	0	30	0	0	272	387 (-568)
Sigma Kappa	0	0	0	0	0	182	384 (-571)
Chi Omega	0	0	10	0	0	242	357 (-598)
Tri Delt	0	0	0	0	0	140	140 (-815)
Delta Gamma	0	0	-30	0	0	159	109 (-846)
Kappa Alpha Theta	0	0	-10	0	0	128	108 (-847)
Ceres	0	0	0	0	0	105	105 (-850)
Phi Sigma Rho	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (-955)

SEC baseball title run gets no easier

By Eric Lindsey
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

There's hot. And then there's scorching. Don't know the difference? Just look at the resume of accomplishments UK's baseball team has compiled so far this year and it's easy to understand why the Cats are regarded as one of the hottest teams in the nation.

The Cats enter this weekend with a 32-10 record that record includes an 11-7 mark in the Southeastern Conference. UK has vaulted into a tie for first with South Carolina in the East, a team which UK swept this past weekend.

Their No. 13 ranking is the best in school history and highest ranking since being No. 14 in Feb. 1994.

The Cats' seven game winning streak is their second-longest of the year, which has earned them the honor of being named the National Team of the Week

CollegeBaseballInsider.com. Red-hot you say? Try scorching.

The offensive numbers alone are staggering enough. The Cats lead the SEC in almost every category, including home runs (65), RBIs (327), runs (360), doubles (105) and slugging percentage (.524).

To go along with their offensive onslaught, UK's pitching staff is second-best in the SEC with a 3.49 ERA.

Enter No. 21 Vanderbilt. In what is arguably the most important series for UK all year, the Cats will travel to Vanderbilt and put their red-hot streak on the line when they face off with the Commodores (25-15, 10-8) today at 7 p.m. for the first of a three-game set.

With 12 games remaining in the league, Vanderbilt trails UK and South Carolina by just one game.

As hot as the Cats have been recently, head coach John Cohen refuses to be

satisfied with the success his team has had and wants more for his talented group of players.

"We're going to have to play better than we did tonight," said Cohen shortly after the Cats swept Murray State on Wednesday night. "We can't always rely on putting up a bunch of runs, so we have to do a better job of doing the little things."

"Those little things will have to go a long way when the Cats face Vandy pitching phenom David Price, who comes into the game with a modest 5-3 record and 3.39 ERA.

"We are excited to play one of the best teams in the league and country," said Cohen at a press conference on Thursday. "Spending the summer with David Price, I know he's a phenomenal talent and we will have our hands full this weekend."

UK will look to battle the tough opposition with two

of the hottest hitters in the league.

Junior second baseman John Shelby was named SEC Player of the Week Monday and followed the honor up with a 2-run shot on Wednesday night against Murray State.

The Cats will have even more reason to back up their artillery of firepower after first baseman Ryan Striety was just added to the watchlist for the Dick Howser Trophy. The award is given to the top player in collegiate baseball.

Striety on the year is batting .350 with a team-leading 12 home runs and 55 RBIs.

"Taking the mound for UK will be Aaron Tennyson (4-1, 3.30 ERA) who takes on the task of trying to guide the Cats to their eighth straight victory."

E-mail
sports@kykernel.com

Mascots

Continued from page 3

"Real men don't wear Red" for the Indiana game," said Claiborne, who originated the idea for the mascots to wear clothing on top of their suits. "I was walking over to the Indiana bench, kind of showing them the shirt, and someone said, 'Real men don't wear mascot suits.' I was like, OK, see you later!"

These events, and more, are regarded to other members of the group at their monthly meetings.

The group started in the mid-1990s, when McChord and Claiborne (the nephew of former UK football coach Jerry Claiborne) decided to

brainstorm Claiborne's routine for the mascot national championships. They found themselves together again each time nationals rolled around, and as other mascots came and joined the pair for expertise, it grew to several.

Soon they realized they enjoyed getting together, and started to do it more frequently.

When they're all in the same room, it has an Old College Buddy feel to it; they all laugh at the same stories they've heard multiple times, finish some of each other's sentences, and spend most of their time acting foolish, just hanging out.

"Even though there's a wide age-range here, we're all acting like we're in high school," Hanson said.

The former and current Cats attended Southland

Christian Church, and say their faith is one of the common grounds of their relationship. They were and are involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, where they interact with the athletes even more than they generally do on the field, which is hardly at all save a pre-game high five.

The main place the mascots and athletes spend time together is in the shower.

"I couldn't find the shower after a game once," Gavin Duerson said. "Somebody pointed me in the direction, so I'm taking my gear off and I round the corner, and there's the entire basketball team. They knew me enough to know who I was, but we weren't on showering terms."

Each story is met with

more laughter; and say reminiscent of the reunion of a band or classmates. Everyone remembers what's going to happen, but the tide of memories that comes along with it rises and rises.

"You're wearing a carpet in the middle of the summer," McChord said. "You're just hoping they don't score so you don't have to do one-handed pushups."

Everyone nods in agreement.

So even being the biggest cheerleader sometimes doesn't stop one from rooting against his team?

"You get to trading stories that only you can appreciate," Hanson said.

It's a brotherhood forged in fur.

E-mail
cjohnson@kykernel.com

THE KETCH

Monday's 50¢ Oysters

wednesday's Half Lb Shrimp \$4.95

saturday & sunday Brunch 9-2

Benedicts - Waffles - Belanets

Lexington's Premier Seafood Restaurant

277-5919
2012 Regency Rd

Advertising Associate Position Available - Summer Internship

Responsible for developing advertising materials (brochures, direct mail items, display graphics) to promote REGISTRAT branding, including all necessary activities from concept through completion of art/graphic work for both print and electronic media. Directs any necessary ancillary functions (digital photography, print production, management of electronic files from all vendors, photo file management, presentation materials, etc.) related to branding. Maintain standards of excellence and conscious focus on deadlines. Understand REGISTRAT's business and goals and generate design ideas which integrate these concepts into product features and functionality. Provide strong support with outside advertising, promotion and design firms to maintain brand and image guidelines and meet creative expectations of the group.

Minimum requirements:
Experience in graphic arts and advertising design
Ability to work independently. Strong graphic design and layout skills.
Understanding of 4-color printing process and print production. Headline copy-writing and concept development skills

Contact:
careers@registrat.com
REGISTRAT, Inc.
2343 Alexandria Drive Suite 400, Lexington, KY 40504
Phone 859-223-4334 Fax 859-514-4350

Don Carlos Mexican Restaurant

NOW OPEN!
ALL DAY \$1 MARGARITAS
WEDNESDAY LADIES
THURSDAY COLLEGE STUDENTS
FRIDAY SENIORS
SATURDAY TEACHERS
HAPPY HOUR 4-7
GRAND OPENING MAY 5TH
LIVE MUSIC 6-9 PM

199-0270 • 721 RED MILE RD

YOUR AD SHOULD BE HERE!

FOR DISPLAY ADVERTISING

Call: **257-2872**

THE CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF CENTRAL KENTUCKY

Presents
Nathan Cole, violin
with the Chamber Players

Sunday, April 30 at 7:30pm

Recital Hall, Singletary Center for the Arts
Tickets \$22 adults, \$7-10 children and non UK students
UK students admitted free with valid ID. Box office 257-4929
Made possible by a grant from the UK College of Fine Arts

The Kappa Alpha Theta
Advisory Board
would like to wish the
ACTIVE MEMBERS OF
KAΘ
GOOD LUCK
during finals week!
HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

THE KENTUCKY
214 E. Main St. • 231-6997 • www.kentuckytheater.com
FREE PARKING weekdays and all day Sat/Sun • City Hall Annex Garage, next to Police Dept.

STARTS TODAY!
FRI: 5:30 7:35 SAT/SUN: 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:35

A Twisted Thriller With Puzzles Inside of
Puzzles! Mystery Fans Are Cheering!

5 WINNER EUROPEAN FILM AWARDS
BEST PICTURE BEST DIRECTOR BEST ACTOR

"Grade A. Be Prepared to Gasp."
-Lisa Schwarzbaum, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

DANIEL AUTEUIL JULIETTE BINOCHE

CACHÉ (HIDDEN)

A FILM BY **MICHAEL HANEKE** FESTIVAL DE CANNES • BEST DIRECTOR • MICHEL HANEKE
CLOSING NIGHT SELECTION - NEW YORK FILM FESTIVAL 2005

STARTS TODAY!
FRI: 9:45 Midnight SAT/SUN 9:45 Midnight Sat

Live on our stage! **LIQUID GREY IN CONCERT!**
Friday Night at Midnight Showing Only!

"WILL MAKE EVEN HORROR BUFFS FLINCH!"
"A SORCERESS OF GREAT EVIL AND TOTAL FOXINESS!"

TAMARA
REVENGE OF THE SILENT WOMAN

"THANK YOU FOR SMOKING" R
FRI: 5:30 7:40 9:40 SAT/SUN 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:40 9:40

Midnight Show! Fri Only! "Corpse Bride" PG13
Midnight Show! Sat Only! "Rocky Horror Picture Show" R

For all weekend times call theatre

Opinions

Editorial Board
Adam Sichko, Editor in chief
Tim Wiseman, Managing editor
Andrew Martin, Asst. managing editor
Brenton Kenkel, Opinions editor

Wes Blevins, Asst. Opinions editor
Chris Johnson, Sports editor
Crystal Little, Projects editor
Doug Scott, Features editor
Josh Sullivan, Staff columnist

IN OUR OPINION

Radio Eye service benefits Kentuckians

The way UK serves the region and state is often judged in terms of the big things — agricultural programs, breakthrough medical research, job creation, and so on. But sometimes, the small things matter much more. That's the case with UK's provision of space in the M.I. King Library for Central Kentucky Radio Eye, a radio reading service for the region's blind population.

Volunteers for the station, which runs 24 hours a day, read local news from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and national news, magazines and books for the rest of the day. If it weren't for Radio Eye, many Central Kentuckians who are visually impaired would not be able to remain connected with events and culture in the area and world.

"Life would be a lot less pleasant without (Radio Eye)," said Franklin McGuire, a retired minister who uses the service, in yesterday's Kernel.

Radio Eye — along with the 2,000 or so people who use it — has greatly benefited from UK's largesse. Although the station has an operations budget of about \$35,000, UK has allowed it to stay in the King Library at no cost.

That almost changed last sum-

mer, when UK sent Radio Eye an eviction letter, informing the station that it had to start paying or get out, as the space was needed to accommodate UK's growing enrollment and research programs.

Having to pay for its own space would have killed the station, said volunteer executive director Margaret Chase to the Lexington Herald-Leader last July.

"If we had to pay rent and utilities, we could not stay in business," Chase said.

Trying to kick Radio Eye out was a heartless and wrongheaded move on UK's part. The station's presence accounts for only a minuscule proportion of UK's budget, and the benefit it provides to Central Kentuckians is well worth the price.

Luckily, UK decided to go back on the planned eviction and allow Radio Eye to stay without paying rent. That was the right decision — even if it took some public outcry to get UK to make it.

In the future, when UK is looking at ways to cut its budget, administrators need to make sure Radio Eye does not once again end up on the chopping block. It provides a valuable service for Kentuckians, and it is well worth keeping.

UK should keep providing the Central Kentucky Radio Eye stations with free rent and utilities

Hey Kids!
What's COOLER than AIR CONDITIONING KEENLAND HALL, way NICER than any CAMPUS RENOVATION, and the best possible investment for 10 THOUSAND DOLLARS?



TONY FISHER, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Vazmina's narrow focus was self-serving

In response to Megan Vazmina's April 24 column, "TAs stick to geography, check your opinions at the door," I would like to ask you, Megan, to do the same — that is, check your opinions at the door. Your column directly criticizes the opinions of only three teaching assistants on UK's campus, all of whom have taken a liberal stance on the current war in Iraq. However, if you truly believe that there is a moral dilemma in integrating personal opinions into classroom lesson plans, I ask you to evaluate the rest of UK's faculty as well. In particular, I would ask you to evaluate the incorporation of personal beliefs into classes by UK's many conservative faculty members.

I find it hard to believe that your goal is to prevent opinions from being "indoctrinated upon

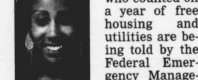
students," but rather that your goal is to further only those opinions in which you happen to believe — which happen to be on the farthest right extreme of the political spectrum.

In seeking the truth on any issue, war or otherwise, one must be exposed to a variety of opinions, and one goal of institutions of higher learning has been to provide a setting for such interaction. Your opposition to the opinions of these teaching assistants undermines this goal. I would personally like to applaud the TAs of the geography department for taking the stance they have, for it is the progressive voices of this campus that have been muted for so long.

TAYLOR SHELTON
political science and economics freshman

Katrina victims still need help.

According to The New York Times, "thousands of hurricane evacuees who counted on a year of free housing and utilities are being told by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that they are no longer eligible for such help and must either pay the rent themselves or leave."



Jenisha Watts
KERNEL COLUMNIST

But where can they go? It infuriates me how screwed up this government is. How do they expect blacks to catch up with white America? Leave it to Beaver. I mean Bush ... I guess he will figure it out. He and his golfing buddies, along with the crooks at FEMA, are forcing families out — which means children, too.

What happened to George W. Bush's favorite saying — "No Child Left Behind"? Evicting these families, however, pushes children further behind. And they wonder why our

test scores are low! In a broader sense, you have children who will want to attend college but have to work harder because their families — about 55,000 of them — are being pushed out of their homes.

I understand no one is per-

We're being all too complacent by not helping while Katrina victims' lives are being ruined

fect, including baby Bush. Running a government is hard work, and they never will get everything right — such as Hurricane Katrina victims, the disparity between black and white schools, and why the poor continue to stay at the bottom.

OK, I got a little sidetracked. Anyway, the notices FEMA gave to the evacuees didn't even give a deadline. They simply said, "You will not be asked to leave before April 30," according to The Times.

Um, isn't it interesting that they don't deserve to know exactly when they'll be asked to leave? To me, this shows what the government really thinks about the less fortunate individuals. It is bad enough that victims will be kicked out on the street, but they also have to deal with the emotional weight of even more uncertainty. But "we" know "all men were created equal."

Maya Angelou said it best: "Someone was hurt before you; wronged before you; hungry before you; frightened before you; beaten before you; humiliated before you; raped before you; yet someone survived."

Let's help them survive! There are opportunities to help rebuild the Gulf Coast and New Orleans. Talk to student organizations that have helped, such as the Black Student Union, Campus Crusade for Christ, and Habitat Humanity. You can send money, donate clothes, shoes, food, money, find organizations that you trust, or gather a group of friends and take a trip — split gas and serve in local churches around the area.

Again, let's help them survive. Jenisha Watts is a journalism junior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

To stop terrorism, U.S. should live up to its own ideals

Although it existed before things got completely out of control five years ago, there has been an understandable rise in pro-American rhetoric as the United States has pursued the "war on terror" and furthered the "spread of democracy." Although one could argue that this sort of talk is necessary for national unity and keeping morale up at home and on the battlefield, there comes a point when boosting patriotism can be perverted into overt propaganda.

Since Sept. 11, Americans have been patting themselves on the back for being a free society and a democracy, despite having atrocious voter turnout and the horrendous collusion of military and industry. It's been amazing to watch — people being proud of themselves for not really doing anything other than buying into the idealistic pap belted out by the Bush administration and putting yellow-ribbon magnets on their cars. Granted, there are those that make incredible sacrifices for this

country, but most of them aren't driving a Ford Excursion covered in "My Car Hearts Iraqi Oil" and "W" stickers. All of this post-Sept. 11 rhetoric really reached its zenith with the "they hate us because we're free" speeches that Bush and his ilk started delivering en masse in order to keep support for military action up. It has been the aim of this administration and others before it to depict the United States as the innocent victim of international terrorism that has done nothing to provoke such action. If only that were true.

Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Robert Bowman a Vietnam veteran who flew 101 combat missions during the Vietnam War and is now a Catholic bishop, responded to the 1998 terrorist attacks in Tanzania and Kenya in an article in the National Catholic Reporter by saying this:

"We are the target of terrorists because, in much of the world, our government stands for dictatorship, bondage and human exploitation. We are the target of terrorists because we are hated. And we are hated because our government has done hateful things. We are not hated because we practice democracy, freedom and human rights. We are hated because our government denies

these things to people in Third World countries whose resources are coveted by our multinational corporations. That hatred we have sown has come back to haunt us

in the form of terrorism — and in the future, nuclear terrorism." The answer to the sort of terrorist action the United States endured in 2001 has always been military force. The United States responded to the terrorist attacks in Tanzania and Kenya by attacking Sudan; the Israelis have repeatedly sought revenge on Palestinian terrorists by attacking in kind with helicopters and missiles. Yet, despite our military might and the billions of dollars we give to Israel each year to maintain its military, the violence continues. It seems beyond the mental grasp of our government and pro-war conservatives that violence incurs violence, and that unless we can discover a diplomatic alternative this vicious cycle will continue.

It's a shame that this country can't live up to the ideals that are instilled in each of us from our childhood history classes. President Bush, in a letter introducing his second-term National Security Strategy on March 16, said: "The ideals that have inspired our history — freedom, democracy, and human dignity — are increasingly inspiring individuals and nations throughout the world. We choose leadership over isolationism, and the pursuit of free trade and open markets over protectionism. We choose to deal with challenges now rather than leaving them for future generations. We fight our enemies abroad instead of waiting for them to arrive in our country. We seek to shape the world, not merely to be shaped by it; to influence events for the better instead of being at their mercy."

What the president is saying has some merit when you're talking about ideals, but Bush has a penchant for speaking in terms of ideals in lieu of speaking in terms of reality. The grave reality of U.S. foreign policy is that we misuse military and economic might to manipulate other nations into adopting policies that will favor the United States, and in return we turn a blind eye to abiding nations while they imprison dissenters, maintain tyrannical

regimes, and abuse human rights. As long as a country such as Saudi Arabia maintains policies that suit American interests — oil trade, allowing U.S. bases on Saudi soil — our government will be found as a pound. But if you are a country that deviates from the straight and narrow path that the United States has bound you to, the government will, like one gentleman who e-mailed me last week, threaten to "crush" you.

This flawed approach to foreign policy won't be remedied overnight, and more than likely not at all. The unfortunate reality is that there is too much capital at stake, both in the government and business sphere, to not embrace our current doctrine. But before you discount this column as bleeding-heart liberal trash, consider this: Do you want to live in a country where companies benefit when war is waged? Do you want to live in a country that places its interests overseas higher than the lives of innocent women and children? Do you want to live in a country that will only intervene in cases of human-rights abuse when it has the potential to further its interests?

You're living in it. God bless America. Doug Scott is a journalism senior. E-mail dscott@kykernel.com.

can't live up to the ideals that are instilled in each of us from our childhood history classes. President Bush, in a letter introducing his second-term National Security Strategy on March 16, said: "The ideals that have inspired our history — freedom, democracy, and human dignity — are increasingly inspiring individuals and nations throughout the world. We choose leadership over isolationism, and the pursuit of free trade and open markets over protectionism. We choose to deal with challenges now rather than leaving them for future generations. We fight our enemies abroad instead of waiting for them to arrive in our country. We seek to shape the world, not merely to be shaped by it; to influence events for the better instead of being at their mercy."

What the president is saying has some merit when you're talking about ideals, but Bush has a penchant for speaking in terms of ideals in lieu of speaking in terms of reality. The grave reality of U.S. foreign policy is that we misuse military and economic might to manipulate other nations into adopting policies that will favor the United States, and in return we turn a blind eye to abiding nations while they imprison dissenters, maintain tyrannical

Submissions
Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Brenton Kenkel or Assistant Opinions Editor Wes Blevins. Please limit letters to 350 words or fewer. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions.

E-MAIL opinions@kykernel.com

Note to Readers
The Opinions page provides a forum for the exchange of ideas. Unlike news stories, The Kernel's unsigned editorials represent the views of a majority of the editorial board. Letters to the editor, columns, cartoons and other features on the Opinions page reflect the views of their authors and not necessarily those of The Kernel.

Columnists Needed
The Kernel is looking for new columnists to write for the Opinions page on a regular basis next school year and this summer. Columnists of all interests will be considered, but The Kernel especially seeks those who have an interest in campus and local issues. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com if you are interested.

Path

Continued from page 1

works with men and women who have been impacted by violence against women.

Edwards said money also went to the center's victims' assistance fund, which is specifically used to provide resources to victims of violence. Money goes toward costs ranging from victims' direct living expenses to workbooks, printed materials and victim assistance plans in the center.

"This funding is utterly imperative. It's been immediately utilized," Edwards said. "Imagine students. How much money do they have flowing out of their pockets to pay for things such as unique housing needs?"

The Women's Place is brimming with activity with at least 140 students actively involved or on call, Edwards said.

"Do I think women are safer on campus? Absolutely and unquestionably yes," Edwards said. "Do I think we still have a long way to go? Absolutely and unquestionably yes."

E-mail
news@kykernel.com

UFO

Continued from page 1

reasonable doubt that these unidentified flying objects exist," Hastings said, citing that 100,000 documents were obtained by FOIA.

Hastings presented a 25-minute slide show that documented the history of UFOs from 1947 to 1985. One of the highlights of the video included a cover up of aircraft that circled the White House in 1952, in which the Pentagon called the incident a "temperature inversion." In addition to that, observers were told not to disclose any information under a military order called AFR 200-2. The slideshow even mentioned a UFO that malfunctioned with a Canadian relay that caused the infamous Northeast Blackout in the late 60s.

"Scientists had been informed no more or less than the average citizen," said Hastings.

E-mail
features@kykernel.com

Reece

Continued from page 1

gion are suffering just as much as the land and the animals are."

Over the next year, Reece ignored warning signs on Leslie Resources' property at least once a month to document the mining process. He justified his trespassing by reasoning that the coal company only owned the mineral rights below the surface.

He was careful not to be seen by miners on his trips to Lost Mountain; he'd read and heard stories of documentary filmmakers who've been on the wrong side of beatings and property damage because they were filming on mine sites.

He spoke solemnly behind his closed office door of people whose houses were burned down for speaking out against the coal industry.

A lot of people still have jobs in the industry obviously," Reece said. "And a lot of people think that the only jobs they've ever had in Eastern Kentucky are coal-related... they see somebody like me writing about this as somebody who's putting their job in danger. From my perspective, I'm just trying to show that people in the region are suffering both health consequences and suffering some political injustices."

"I'm certainly not trying to take anybody's job away, but that's a lot of times the way the industry sort of spins it," he said. In his office, he quietly related the harassing phone calls he received when the article came out. He changed his number to an unlisted one.

Still, the threat of physical harm constantly hung over his head, Reece said.

"There's always the possibility that you're going to get roughed up by somebody," he said. "There's still a bunch of thugs in the industry."

Reece would be more concerned if he lived near Lost Mountain.

"Living in Lexington, I think I had enough distance from it," he said, then his voice dropped. "Hopefully, I have enough distance from it

— my house is wooden."

In their Lexington home, Reece's wife, Mary Bolin-Reece, waited alone for her husband to return from week-ends spent at Lost Mountain each month. She said her feelings were mixed at that time; she was excited because of Reece's passion for the subject, but often worried for his safety.

"To me, anything you do that matters in your life, there's going to be a cost," said Bolin-Reece, the director of UK's Counseling and Testing Center. "My hope is that people can argue with a war of words instead of hurting people." She admitted that her husband could've been seriously hurt during his work, but she couldn't dwell on the possibility.

"I just have to hope that doesn't happen," Bolin-Reece said.

Reece received a letter recently from a woman who lives below Lost Mountain thanking him for writing his book.

"She said, 'I'm right in the middle of everything you're writing about,'" Reece said. "The blasting shakes my house, pictures fall off my walls."

Reece said he's also gotten positive responses from a national audience who wasn't aware of the issue.

But there have been negative responses, too — mostly from the mining industry.

"Mr. Reece is a very talented writer, but he needs to work a little more on his facts, on his story," said Bill Caylor, president of the Kentucky Coal Association. "It was full of inaccuracies that could have been prevented."

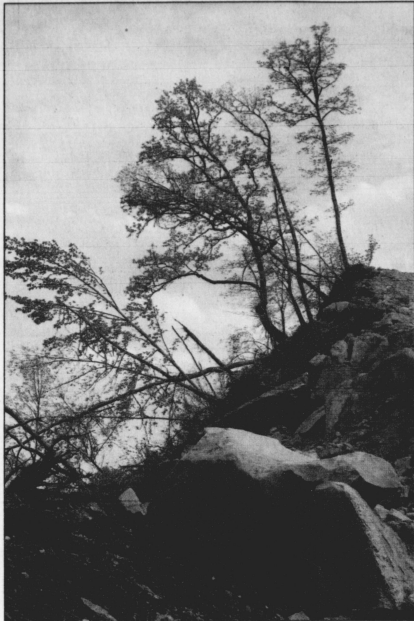
Caylor is quoted in Reece's story and book but wasn't directly interviewed.

Reece said he was aware of Caylor's position from public hearings and didn't need to interview him.

"It's fair game to make your emotional statement — that you don't like a particular form of mining — but at least we need to work to keep (the) facts in line with (the) story," Caylor said.

Reece criticized Caylor for dismissing his work as "emotional."

"That's a funny word that they always use to suggest that you don't have your facts right or something," Reece said. "All my facts are right;



Trees cling to the side of a ridge that was cleared as part of the strip mining of Lost Mountain in Perry County, Ky. UK English instructor and author Erik Reece estimates that Lost Mountain's summit is about 100 feet lower than it was three years ago because of the mining.

KEITH SHIRLEY | STAFF

they've been fact-checked. "I don't know how you can look at the devastation and not get emotional, if you have a heart."

Much of the positive response over Reece's work has been from a national level, something that heartens him. He wanted to raise awareness in other cities that use Appalachian coal.

"In a way, I feel like I wrote the book for people who live in cities to understand what's going on in the countryside that they never visit," he said. "The first thing I wanted to do is just for people to be aware that it's going on, and for people who live in urban areas like Louisville and Lexington to understand that when they buy bigger houses and more appliances and don't turn off their lights that mountains are being leveled — there's a connection between urban consumption of energy and rural loss of resources, loss of land, loss of quality of life."

But back on Lost Mountain, pickups cruise over the mine site and down onto the state roads below. The scalped plain of what was the summit peeks through

two ridges torn to cliffs from blasting and overlooks state Highway 80. Coal trucks rumble down the roads, shaking cars as they speed past.

Reece's work has transformed him from a writer, journalist and professor. Now, he's an advocate.

"I call what I do 'activism sitting on my ass,'" he said, "because I find that the most effective thing for me to do is to write about these things."

"I see my writing as activist work in that sense. And I do feel like I've seen so much and I've seen so much of the destruction that I really do need to be an advocate."

Reece said he hopes he can continue to balance his teaching and writing in his future and wants to make conservation an important part of UK's push to become a top-20 public research institution by 2020.

Walter Foreman, associate chair of UK's English department, said Reece is an asset to UK because he brings a "commitment to making writing meaningful to the world at large; writing that can potentially change the world for the better."

"It's nice to have someone in the department whose work (has an impact) in the community at large," Foreman said.

But no matter what's in his future, Reece said he doesn't think he'll ever be able to walk away from his commitment to Appalachia.

"I feel like it's always going to be a part of my job, almost, to talk about it, to write about it," he said. "I think I'll always be fighting this fight and I want to be. I'm glad I am — I'm glad I'm in a position where I can say something productive."

Ultimately, Reece wants to see strip mining stopped, but he's not naive enough to expect it soon. While he's raising awareness in urban communities, explosives and bulldozers are still carting away 300-million-year-old hills.

So will strip mining ever stop completely? Reece stared down at his desk, thinking silently before answering.

"I don't know," he said after a pause. "I'm hopeful that it will be."

"It's not too late." E-mail
srose@kykernel.com

With over a decade of experience we @ Expert Financial Services specialize in

- *debt consolidation
- *business
- *home
- *refinance
- *school
- *mortgage
- *personal
- *car
- *equity
- *many more

Call today and apply toll free 1-800-375-1449.
Or apply online. www.expertfs.citymax.com

SPACE CENTER STORAGE

STUDENT SPECIAL

Use our FREE Move-In Truck

No Deposit 24 Hour Access

Climate Control We Sell Boxes

7 Lexington Locations - Call 254-4455.

255-5656, 425-1129, or 276-2114

Or visit us @

www.spacecenterstorage.com

STUDENT LIVING DONE RIGHT

NOW LEASING FOR 2006-07

GREAT LOCATION – less than five minute walk to class	24-hour emergency maintenance	Full-size washer & dryer in each unit
Swimming pool	Private bedrooms available	Full kitchen
Fitness center	Fully furnished units	Cable television & high-speed internet available
On-site management	Individual leases	



ROYAL LEXINGTON

695 Winnie Street | 859.226.9068 | royallexington.com

VOTED #1 Apartment Community by UK students 3 YEARS IN A ROW

Owned and professionally managed by ILL AMERICAN CAMPUS COMMUNITIES