

KENTUCKY KERNEL

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Beshear set to speak tomorrow at SG forum

Fletcher declines invitation to attend forum, saying it conflicted with prior obligations

By Katie Saltz
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Student Government invited both candidates for governor to speak on campus tomorrow, but only one accepted.

Steve Beshear, the Democratic candidate, will be speaking at the second annual Gubernatorial Forum tomorrow in the Worsham Theater at noon. His

Republican opponent, Ernie Fletcher, will not participate because of other commitments, a representative from his campaign said.

The forum was organized to get students more politically involved, said Nate Simon, SG's deputy chief of staff for policy. The forum is sponsored by SG, the University Senate and the Staff Senate.

Fletcher will not be at the forum

because of scheduling conflicts, said Jason Keller, communications director for Fletcher's campaign.

"There were unavoidable scheduling conflicts that we could not overcome," Keller said.

Robbie Rudolph, secretary of the Executive Cabinet and Fletcher's running mate, was unavailable as well. Despite his absence at the forum, Fletcher does not believe his re-election chances with UK student voters will be hurt, Keller said.

"Gov. Fletcher is very focused on postsecondary education," Keller said. "We are confident that voters at UK

will decide he is the right man for Kentucky for the next four years."

Although students will make up a majority of the audience at the forum, SG chief of staff Chris Crumrine said Fletcher is missing an opportunity to speak with the entire UK community.

"The forum is a university-wide event," Crumrine said. "His not being there is unfortunate because it is an opportunity to cater to not just students but the entire university crowd. It can only affect him negatively."

It would have been beneficial to Fletcher to attend the forum, Simon said.

"We would like to have someone there to represent his views and his standpoints," Simon said. "It would have been a more developed conversation."

In addition to the forum, SG is also trying to stir political activism on campus with a letter-writing campaign. Laptop computers will be available outside White Hall Classroom Building today for students to send a pre-written e-mail to their representatives.

The e-mail focuses on how the upcoming legislative session will make a budget for the next two years and

See **Candidates** on page 10



Andy Mains, an agricultural economics junior, pulls a wagon on his tractor last Saturday when he returned home to house tobacco on his dad's farm.

PHOTOS BY ELLIOTT HESS/STAFF

Drought calls students home

Heat and lack of rain make for extra labor on Kentucky farms

By Diane Dawson
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Instead of joining masses of other students to cheer on UK football at Commonwealth Stadium, Andy Mains has spent his weekends housing tobacco in Northern Kentucky.

Mains, an agricultural economics junior, and his brother Roy, a plant and soil science senior, travel home to Pendleton County every weekend to help out on their family's tobacco farm, one of the many farms affected by this year's drought. Farming families like the Mainses have had to put in extra work to try to battle the hot, dry weather that has gripped the Southeast.

Farmers are playing everything by ear right now because they don't know what step to take next, said Val Shields, a UK cooperative extension agent for Pendleton County.

"The times are just bad," he said. "Some farmers don't have city water, and they are worried that their ponds and streams are going to dry up."

If that were to happen, farmers who live about 10 miles out of Falmouth would have to pay \$250 to haul water from the city back to their farms, Shields said.

See **Drought** on page 10



Roy Mains, a plant and soil science senior, works in a 10-acre barn hanging tobacco to dry.

Women Writers Conference returns this weekend

By Bailey Johnson
news@kykernel.com

UK is looking to spark some new interest in an old literary tradition.

The Kentucky Women Writers Conference, the oldest event of its kind in the nation, is coming to Lexington again Friday and Saturday.

"Our mission is to contribute to a world-class literary culture in Kentucky," said Julie Wrinn, director of the conference. "Kentucky has an unusually rich literary history, so it's an easy match."

The conference started in 1979 at

UK and has remained a UK-affiliated event ever since. Paying attendees take part in a series of writing workshops, ranging in topics from poetry to film writing. Other events will be free to the public.

The conference's keynote presentation will be given by Palestinian-American poet Naomi Shihab Nye in conjunction with producer, poet and playwright Nathalie Handal on Saturday at 7 p.m. in Memorial Hall. The speech is free to the public and will address the importance of mentors and friends during the writing process.

Vaughan Fielder, the program co-

ordinator of the event, is particularly excited about Nye's appearance at the conference.

"(Nye) is a brilliant poet," Fielder said. "Her voice goes beyond boundaries and is appealing to a global audience."

Nye relies on her heritage and her world-traveling experiences to create literature focusing on "shared humanity," according to the conference's Web site (www.uky.edu/WWK). She has received a number of awards for her poetry anthologies and children's literature.

Other presenters on the conference's lineup include publisher,

poet and spoken-word artist Jessica Care Moore and novelist Helen Oyeyemi.

Moore, who will perform Friday at Transylvania University, reached celebrity status after winning five consecutive weeks of Amateur Night during "Showtime at the Apollo." Her performance of "The Soma Series," which begins at 7 p.m. in Carrick Theater, honors Sonia Sanchez, a multicultural and human-rights advocate in Lexington.

Students can check out her work, including her poems "Black Statue of

See **Conference** on page 10

Senators appointed to monitor ethics code

By Katie Saltz
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Seven Student Government senators were nominated last night to serve on the Impeachment and Censure Committee, a move that was unrelated to the recent controversy over concert ticket resales, said Senate President Tyler Montell.

"The timing could not be worse, but this is pure coincidence," Montell said. "This has nothing to do with the events of this week."

The committee is responsible for handing out punishments based on Ethics Committee reports in the event of a senator committing an ethics violation.

Before the committee was created, Sen. Jesse Parrish read his letter to the editor from yesterday's Kernel to address the events of the past week concerning his and Sen. Blake Burnett's purchase and resale of tickets to the Corey Smith concert.

"I must express my extreme disappointment in the comments by Senate President Tyler Montell and Student Government President Nick Phelps in a Kernel article yesterday," Parrish said. "Although they are correct that senior Student Government officials lacked knowledge of my or Burnett's actions, that does not justify implying our conduct to be in violation of the Student Government Code of Ethics."

Other agenda items included changes to the SG Constitution.

The first amendment changed the number of signatures required for a graduate student to run for a Senate seat. Originally, a candidate had to obtain either 25 signatures or 2 percent of the number of students in his or her college, whichever was greater. That was

See **SG Senate** on page 10

Harvard prof: Case proves racism lingers

By Kayla Charleston
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America still has a long way to go in its efforts to dissolve racial turmoil, said a Harvard criminal-justice professor who spoke at UK last night.

"Our history has taught us in order for us to understand where we are and where we're going, we are going to have to understand where we've been," said J. Soffiyah Elijah, deputy director of the Criminal Justice Institute at Harvard Law School.

Elijah spoke last night at Worsham Theater about the San Francisco 8 and their relevance to contemporary issues in the black community.

The San Francisco 8, most of whom were members of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, are awaiting trial regarding the charges of the 1971 murder of a San Francisco police officer.

In 1973, several of the men were arrested and tortured into confessing numerous crimes, including the police killing. After the confessions, charges were brought against the men but were

See **Elijah** on page 10

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Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black

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

Aries (March 21 - April 19) Today is a 7 — For the next several weeks, it's best to keep your cards close to your chest. Don't let anybody know what you have, or what you intend to do with it.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Today is a 5 — You don't have to say a thing, but make very sure the person who's speaking for you has your best interests at heart. You'll be able to tell.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) Today is an 8 — Devote more time to planning for the next several weeks. You'll be able to see what parts of your routine are inefficient. Get rid of the stuff that's slowing you down.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Today is a 5 — Don't carry the burden all by yourself. Confide to a person you trust. You don't have to tell everybody your woes, but it's sure good to share with a friend.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Today is an 8 — Don't tell everybody about your great ideas yet. There are still quite a few bugs to work out. Better wait until the product's finished. Avoid unwanted criticism.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Today is a 6 — You've been plagued by distractions lately, as you may have noticed. That condition is starting to pass. It's becoming easier to stay on track.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Today is an 8 — You'll think of new ways to make money in the next few weeks. You'll be thinking about it in your sleep, which increases your study time.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Today is a 6 — You're entering a phase that will last for several weeks, wherein you have super-human cognitive powers. That means you'll be extra smart. Use these talents to benefit others, as well as yourself.

of course.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Today is an 8 — You're not the best person in the world to trust with a secret. Your mission in life is to disperse information, but you could try. That's one of your lessons to learn in the next two weeks. Practice discretion.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Today is a 6 — You're in a difficult situation. You may not know quite what to do. Consult your friends and family. They'll set you on the right path.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Today is an 8 — The material you're studying now is the sort that makes dreams come true. You have the picture in your mind. Learn how to draw it on paper or whatever.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Today is a 5 — The check comes in, just in the nick of time. Now you can fix that thing at home that's just about to fall apart. Don't know what? Look around.

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THE DISH

Drew & Justin — Getting Serious

She played the field all summer, but Drew Barrymore may be falling in love this fall. The star, 32, continues to rev up her romance with her He's Just Not That Into You costar Justin Long, 29. The duo, first linked in August, enjoyed a weekend-long PDA-fest at the Austin City Limits Music Festival in Texas, where "they were making out all over the place," says a source. On September 15, they smooched through a bush for Arcade Fire at the Belvedere Music Lounge; the next night, they got cozy at a Wilco show.

"They were like kids in love," an onlooker tells Us. Back on the L.A. set of their comedy — where they have yet to share a scene — Barrymore texts Long during breaks. Says a source, "She's really into him." (Of course, just months ago she seemed really into director Spike Jonze, 37, "but she was never monogamous," says a pal.) With Long? "You can definitely tell that she likes him!"

Heath Ledger's New Gal!

It's been only a month since Heath Ledger split from Michelle Williams, and he's not wasting any time! The actor, 28, was spotted "making out" with supermodel Helena Christensen during dinner on September 11 at NYC eatery Wakiya, according to the New York Post. Later that night, they arrived together at the premiere of Eastern

Promises (starring another Ledger ex, Naomi Watts, 38). "They started holding hands. And as the night wore on, they got cozier," a source tells Us. "She was following him around — a total cougar," adds the observer of Christensen, 38. The pair have been friendly since at least last November, when Hot Stuff spotted them chatting at the NYC premiere of his flick Candy — where she waited for him to put on his coat before they walked out together!

Scarlett: Diva Alert!

They're just not that into Scarlett Johansson on the L.A. set of He's Just Not That Into You. A source tells Us that on her first day, the star, 22, had a driver shuttle her the 100 yards to the set, while costar Drew Barrymore simply walked the distance. (Johansson also asked for three assistants to shield her with umbrellas.) "Scarlett's a total diva," the insider tells Us. "Some people are cool, and others are not." A production source says, "We prefer talent use vans when filming on public streets, and Scarlett has only been professional."

Ellen Pompeo — Not Into Big Nuptials

Has Ellen Pompeo had it up to here with elaborate celebrity weddings? At Los Angeles Confidential's Emmy party on September 11 in L.A., the Grey's Anatomy star, 37 (engaged to Chris Ivery, 39, since last No-

vember), told Hot Stuff, "I don't need a big dress or 400 people there to declare my love." She tells Us of the day they finally tie the knot: "I don't think it's going to change how we feel about each other."

VIP Scene

Vince Vaughn hanging with a buddy at Rose Bar in Manhattan. Eva Mendes shopping at Krisol in Los Angeles.

Cynthia Nixon eyeing Symantec software at the Style Villa in Las Vegas.

Ashley Judd and Dario Franchitti dining at the Rockit Bar & Grill in Chicago.

Debra Messing picking up Klipsch speakers and Jenna Fischer looking at AG Jeans at the HBO Luxury Lounge in Los Angeles.

George Clooney chatting with Ashley Olsen at 3:30 a.m. at Bungalow 8 in NYC.

Diddy watching the Heatherette fashion show.

Chris Rock dancing up a storm at the BMI Urban awards in Las Vegas.

Tommy Lee leaving a \$300 tip at Pacha in NYC.

Paula Abdul checking out the Silver Spoon gifting suite in Los Angeles.

Nis and Kelis smuggling the XBox Oasis at Tao in Las Vegas. Jamie-Lynn Sigler bungee-jumping at the 42 Below Cocktail World Cup in New Zealand.

Kate Walsh at L.A.'s Kate Somerville gifting suite.

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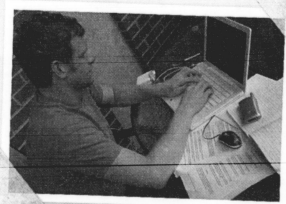
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kernel POP

LEXINGTON'S OTHER VINTAGE LOCATIONS

- **CD Central** — It may not have 100,000 slabs of vinyl, but CD Central carries its weight in used, new, rare and unique CDs. CD Central is located at 377 South Limestone Street.
- **Goodwill** — Located in the same shopping strip as POPS on Leestown Road, this store offers records and used books, and students can browse the racks for vintage clothes and even purchase furniture. Other Goodwill stores are located at 130 West New Circle Road and 3101 Clays Mill Road.
- **Salvation Army** — Similar to Goodwill in its myriad of choices, Salvation Army offers plenty in the way of shoes, furniture and clothes. The Salvation Army in Lexington is located on 338 East New Circle Road.
- **Plato's Closet** — Although record collectors won't find any music to add to their stock, Plato's Closet does offer a variety of name-brand, lightly worn clothes. Plato's Closet is located at 2200 Nicholasville Road.

POPS goes the resale shop

Music collectors flock to Lexington used-records store from all over the world

By Emily Coover
ecoover@kykernel.com

Every Friday morning at 11, Robbie Fultz is in the same place, looking to get his records fix for the week.

Fultz, a Lexington resident, is one of several collectors waiting to dig through the weekly set of new arrivals at POPS Resale Shop. The store, with a supply of about 100,000 records, doesn't just have a dedicated local fan base — it attracts record-hunters from all over the world.

"We have regular customers from Germany, Japan, England and New York," said POPS owner Daniel Shorr. "It's hard to believe that there's nothing like this up in New York, but most of these guys tell me the same thing."

"When (foreign record collectors) are planning a trip, they plot their trip from one coast to another," Shorr said. "We're lucky to be one stop along the way."

Fultz, who started his record collection last Christmas when he received a record player as a gift, said there has only been one time in the past six months that he has walked out of the store without buying anything.

"They have decent prices, and the records are in good condition," Fultz said. "They always take care of me."

POPS stocks an eclectic variety of musical genres and will purchase most kinds of records, Shorr said.

"Almost anything that is not multimillion-dollar sellers from the '50s, '60s and '70s, we'll



Daniel Shorr, the owner of POPS Resale Shop, stands among the hundreds of records the store has available.

ED MATTHEWS | STAFF

buy," Shorr said. "Punk and progressive can sell well."

Records aren't the only attraction at POPS, which stands for "previously owned products." The store also sells vintage clothing and assorted knick-knacks like candles, ceramic sculptures, clocks and posters — or whatever people

bring in.

"There's no place I know of in town where you get the assortment you get here," Shorr said. "It's hard to find somewhere that sells cast-iron skillets, comic books and DJ equipment."

"One time we had someone bring in a zebra skin," he said.

"I think it sold for \$125, but I had no idea what to ask for it."

But the record section, vintage clothes and video games are the biggest draws for students, Shorr said.

"Most students come in here looking for (those items)," he said. "They're not looking for planners or stereo gear."

The staff at POPS is personable, said art history senior Evan Phillips.

"They have a really cool atmosphere and the same three or four people working," he said.

"They remember your face and your taste in music," Phillips said. The prices are another reason he shops at

POPS. Records cost \$3 on average, Shorr said.

"We have records starting at 25 cents and run all the way up into the thousands," he said.

But the pressing and cover of the record could make it worth a lot more, Shorr said, listing the Beatles' "butcher cover" record as one that could be worth \$300 or more.

"Usually (prices are determined by) past experience," Shorr said. "Sometimes you get something in and you know you only have one and you'll only have one for a long time."

Not all the music at POPS is pressed on vinyl — the store hosts live performances too. POPS recently hosted Quiver of Jasper, a local band, and will feature other bands in the coming weeks. A calendar of events, which also includes information about special sales, is available on POPS' Web site (www.popsresale.com).

Shorr said he opened POPS in May 1996 after he left his job as a manufacturer's representative in the electronics industry for health reasons. Initially he thought about opening up a flea mall and renting booths, but opted to open up his own store instead.

"My wife visited lots and lots of flea malls," Shorr said. "And it (looked like) more hassle than it was worth between collecting all that rent and evicting people and stuff like that."

POPS is located at 1423 Leestown Road, and is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call 254-7677 or visit POPS' Web site (www.popsresale.com) for more information.

In Sweden, snuff replacing smoking; U.S. cigarette makers take notice

By Tom Hundley
Chicago Tribune

SUNDSVALL, Sweden — Freddie Edlund started snusing when he was 7.

His initiation began the usual way: "My best friend's older brother and his gang were all doing it. They were about four years older than us and we wanted to be tough guys like them, so we started doing it," Edlund recalled.

He kept sneaking snuff until he was 10. Then one day, on a dare, he swallowed a big wad of the stuff.

"I barfed my brains out. Never been so sick in my life. Couldn't even look at snuff again until I was 12," said Edlund, a factory worker and part-time musician.

But aside from that brief preteen hiatus, Edlund, now 29, has been a daily and enthusiastic user of snuff, a pouch tobacco product that in little more than a generation has radically transformed the tobacco consumption habits of Swedish men and, according to a growing stack of medical research, has significantly lowered their risk of smoking-related diseases.

The popularity of snuff in Sweden has kindled a debate among public health officials here and elsewhere in Europe about

whether snuff should be encouraged as a safer alternative to smoking, or discouraged as just another harmful addictive tobacco product.

And as Americans by the millions continue to turn away from cigarettes, the biggest cigarette marketer in the U.S., Philip Morris, is dipping its fingers into the market too, launching a snuff product in Texas under its mega-cigarette brand name Marlboro.

Such a move is controversial but a necessity for U.S. tobacco companies as pressure mounts to find new avenues of growth in the face of a continual slide in the number of smokers in the U.S. Philip Morris says its interest in snuff was "natural" because "the smokeless tobacco category in the U.S. market has been growing for a number of years." Rival R.J. Reynolds already has introduced a similar product under its Camel label.

But at \$3 billion, the smokeless market is still tiny compared to the \$70 billion cigarette market, making it essential for companies to ramp up new products.

Snuff, the Swedish word for snuff — is what the tobacco industry describes as a "spit-free" smokeless tobacco product. Swedish snuff delivers a powerful nicotine

punch, but with far lower levels of carcinogens than cigarettes.

Swedish snuff is moist, finely ground tobacco typically sold in round plastic or metal containers about the size of a hockey puck. The actual snuff comes in two forms: loose or in little paper sachets that look like miniature tea bags. You tuck the sachet or a glob of loose snuff behind your upper lip.

Thirty years ago, 43 percent of Swedish males smoked; today the figure is 14 percent, the lowest in the industrialized world. Health experts credit the drop to aggressive anti-smoking campaigns and the growing popularity of snuff as a replacement. During this same period, daily snuff use among males grew from 9 percent to about 23 percent.

Overall tobacco consumption in Sweden has not dropped much, but researchers are impressed by a significant statistical decline in lung cancer and other smoking-related diseases among Swedish men.

In Sweden, the main argument in favor of snuff is that it seems to help people quit smoking. It satisfies their nicotine craving with a tobacco product that is just as addictive but far less harmful than cigarettes.

ontap | For the week of SEPT. 27 - OCT. 3

TONIGHT
Chris Duarte w/ Blue Stone
8 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$10.

FRIDAY, Sept. 28
Kelly Willis
8:30 p.m., The Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$17 in advance and \$20 at the door.

Will Hoge
9 p.m. at Headliners, Louisville. Tickets cost \$11.

VHS or Beta
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$10.

SATURDAY, Sept. 29
Kelly Willis
7 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$15.

Noisycrane w/ Bedtime and Tina Cofer
8 p.m., The Icehouse. Tickets are free, but donations are suggested.

Sounds Mary Three
8 p.m., Phoenix Hall Tavern, Louisville. Tickets cost \$16.

VHS or Beta
10 p.m., Headliners, Louisville. Tickets cost \$16.

TUESDAY, Oct. 2
Dirly Dozen Brass Band
8 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$12.

Hurt
8 p.m., Headliners, Louisville. Tickets cost \$13.

Deerhunter w/ Mallory
9 p.m., The Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$8.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 3
The Samples w/ Bump and Alex Wilkinson
9 p.m., The Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$13 in advance and \$15 at the door.

The Arcade Fire w/ LCD Soundsystem
7:30 p.m., The Waterfront, Louisville. Tickets cost \$36.

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3. Chromeo — "Fancy Footwork" (Vice)
4. Flight Of The Conchords — "The Distant Future" EP (Sub Pop)
5. Spoon — "Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga" (Merge)
6. Animal Collective — "Strawberry Jam" (Domino)
7. Gogol Bordello — "Super Tarantula" (Side One Dummy)
8. White Stripes — "Icky Thump" (Warner Bros.)
9. Justice — "1" (Vice)
10. Architecture In Helsinki — "Places Like This" (Polyvinyl)

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- 1. Swing Your Partner**
Dance to your heart's content at Contra Dance at ArtsPlace on Sept. 28 from 8 to 11 p.m. Beginners are welcome, and a beginner lesson will be offered from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. No partner is required, and participants should dress for energetic activity. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$4 for students and first-timers. For more information, call 552-5433.
- 2. A-maze-ing**
The Bi-Water Autumn Fest will feature a five-acre corn maze, spooky farmhouse and fresh produce. The event will be held Sept. 29 and Sept. 30 at Bi-Water Farm in Georgetown, Ky. For more information, call (502) 863-3676.
- 3. Hair-raising**
"Hairspray" goes back to Baltimore in 1962 when 16-year-old Tracy Turnblad dances her way onto TV's most popular show — and into the heart of her crush. This Tony Award-winning musical starts at 8 p.m. in Newlin Hall at Centre College in Danville, Ky., on Sept. 29. For more information, call (877) 448-7469.

America's obsessions with pets and products give rise to new 'Pupperware' party fad

By Cynthia Hubert
McClatchy Newspapers

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Kristina Andersen sure knows how to bring a party to life. "Carrot, vanilla or peanut butter?" she shouts, holding up cellophane bags of bone-shaped cookies.

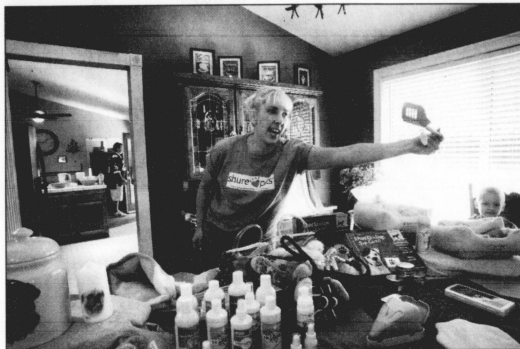
Immediately, Andersen is mobbed. A barkfest breaks out. Laughter fills the room. "Pupperware, anyone?" Andersen, a perky Citrus Heights, Calif., animal lover, is hoping to cash in on America's obsession with its pets. People have long sold cookware and cosmetics in their homes, she reasons. Why not leashes, squeaky toys and doggie breath mints?

The time is right, industry insiders say. Domestic critters inhabit 63 percent of households in the country, or more than 71 million homes, according to the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association. This year, Americans will spend an estimated \$41 billion on their animal companions, nearly double the amount we shelled out a decade ago.

Our powerful bond with pets is not lost on the nation's business moguls. Upscale hotel chains like Kimpton now plug their pet-friendly policies. More mainstream companies, from Omaha Steaks to Old Navy, are marketing pet products. At specialty stores and even at Target, customers can buy all manner of doggie and kitty couture, from hipster lumberjack vests to fetching Halloween costumes. There are feline spas, canine yoga sessions and designer cages for very special birds.

One of the hottest new concepts in Critterland is the home pet party, a gathering of animals and the people who are willing to open their wallets for them. The events are ringing up revenues for companies like Shure Pets, based in Chicago, and Andersen hopes, for individual sellers like herself.

"The pet economy is on fire," said Andrew Shure, president and founder of Shure Pets. "Our society is more affluent, people are marrying later and maybe not having kids, and they tend to treat their pets like their children," said Shure, whose mixed breed dog, Cailou, comes to work with him



Pet-care consultant Kristina Andersen shows off a scooper to a small audience at a pet party in Antelope, Calif., on Aug. 25.

most days. "We want to pamper them." Shure launched his company in 2003 and has seen revenues increase every year, he said. Shure Pets has 1,600 "independent pet consultants" throughout the country, in all 50 states. "We're growing, though we're still a tiny company," he said.

On average, parties ring up about \$400 in sales, said Shure, and consultants such as Andersen earn 25 percent commission. Party hosts earn credits toward merchandise. Andersen is throwing her debut party on a warm Saturday afternoon at her sister's home in Antelope, Calif. Human guests have been encouraged to bring well-behaved pets, who are allowed to sample some of the wares.

Among the attendees are a tiny black pug puppy wearing a collar studded with roses, a 160-pound mastiff, a glossy Weimaraner whose toenails are painted pink, a Doberman pinscher and a miniature dachshund. "Someone asked about bringing a cat, but I didn't think it was a good idea," muses Sherry Langbein, Andersen's sister and proud owner of Chloe, the sweet but massive mastiff.

Langbein's living room, guests munch on snacks and sip punch, keeping an eye on their animals while perusing the 2008 Shure Pets Cat-alog. They find shampoo for dogs, cats and even ferrets. Scented

spritzers to freshen stinky canine coats. Pet dental kits and "calming elixirs." Signs that announce "It's the Cat's House." Bowls and beds and brushes and chew toys.

"This is the best day of my whole entire life!" Andersen gushes, standing behind a table where she has laid out a sampling of products. "I am so excited!" She extols the virtues of several items, including a sturdy plush tug toy that she claims has far outlasted similar items she has purchased elsewhere for her two Chihuahuas, Chico and Chewy.

"These guys can tear up anything," she said. "Most toys don't last two hours in my house." Yet Tango the Tug Monkey is still intact after two months, she boasts. At \$15, she said, Tango is the bargain of the century. Andersen holds up a yellow Frisbee-like "fling thing" that even her pit bull, Dallas, has been unable to shred. She urges guests to sniff mastiff Chloe's coat, as she has just had a bath with Vivid Vanilla Therapy shampoo and smells heavenly.

Though she has never been an Avon lady or sold Arway, Andersen seems to know how to work a crowd. She tells her audience of a dozen people that many Shure Pets products are organic and all natural, and most are made in the United States.

"Let's buy American!" she said. "Her pitch seems to be working." Amy Shafer, a pet sitter and dog walker by profession, fills out an order form, purchasing everything from super-absorbent towels to spray-on "boo-boo bandages" for a few of her more than 100 clients.

Business at her company, About a Dog, is booming, she said. Her clients include nurses who work 12-hour shifts and busy attorneys who are more than willing to spend money on their four-legged pals. Kristen McCullough, whose Weimaraner, Misty, has enthusiastically devoured several "jerky log dogs" at the gathering, is ordering a sturdy new brush and a container of waterless shampoo.

"It's just what we need," said McCullough, whose family includes a Queensland heeler, Bella, and a cat, Lily. "We all love our animals," she said, as Lucy the pug zips past her in a blur. "This is a really fun way for everyone to shop for them."

At the kitchen table, Andersen is presiding over a growing pile of orders and a stack of greenbacks. She's sold \$600 worth of products, has booked two more parties and earned her sister \$80 in credits. "I feel really good!" she said. "I feel great! Now, I'm gonna go home and collapse."

Court documents suggest outlaw Jesse James couldn't fight his way out of a lawsuit

By Brian Burnes
McClatchy Newspapers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Robert Ford, the coward, shot Jesse James.

But before that, Henry McDougal, the lawyer, sued Jesse. And won.

McDougal, practicing in Daviess County, Mo., appears to have prosecuted the only successful lawsuit against James, obtaining a judgment, collecting — and living to tell about it. Barely.

Jim Muehlberger, a Kansas City, Mo., lawyer, last month discovered documents detailing the litigation. The papers suggest that the contemporary fascination with James — which continues with the recent release of the Brad Pitt movie "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford" — deserves a tweaking.

But according to the papers recovered by Muehlberger, James and his brother Frank — at least once — were forced to account for their actions in court.

"It's an example of equal justice under the law," Muehlberger said. "The criminal justice system would be completely unable to deal with Jesse James for about 10 years," he said. "But here the system worked, in a civil case, through the courage of a very young lawyer."

On Dec. 7, 1869, two men walked into the Daviess County Savings Association in Gallatin, Mo. The cashier, John Sheets, was shot and killed.

The two men emerged and mounted horses. One horse bolted and its rider was dragged in the street, his foot in a stirrup. Soon he freed himself and jumped on the back of his companion's horse.

The two rode out of town, where they met a solitary rider, Daniel Smoote, a Gallatin farmer. At gunpoint, Smoote gave up his horse. The two men then galloped off.

Left behind in the town square was an especially fine mare.

"It was like leaving a Ferrari in the middle of a small town," Muehlberger said. The horse quickly was identified as belonging to Jesse James of Clay County, Mo.

Smoote, angry at his loss, sought legal representation. No lawyer accepted the case except McDougal, who in December 1869 was 25 years old and had been a lawyer for 13 months. In January 1870, McDougal filed a lawsuit against Jesse and Frank James, seeking attachment of the mare, saddle and bridle. Smoote estimated the value to be \$223.50 — roughly \$3,200 in today's money. The litigation continued for 21 months. Jesse and Frank, regarded in legend as so above the law, nevertheless retained an attorney. That was Samuel Richardson, a Kentucky native and a well-connected Gallatin resident. With Richardson representing them, the James brothers dodged and weaved. In April, Richardson filed a motion to quash a service of the complaint to the James brothers, saying it was unclear whether the two brothers actually had been served the papers.

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Private security firms provide half of U.S. presence in Iraq

By Scott Canon
McClintock Newspapers

It's the other army. The private one, perhaps 160,000 strong in Iraq alone, armed, sometimes dangerous, often sloppy with tax dollars, and without which U.S. troops would represent a far less formidable force.

The coalition of willing contractors has swallowed more than \$100 billion of U.S. spending on the Iraq war. More than 1,000 of its ranks have been killed since the 2003 invasion. Today, there is a U.S.-paid contractor — doing everything from mopping a machine gun to cleaning toilets — for virtually every soldier tromping around the country.

Like never before in modern conflicts, military analysts say, war has become a corporate affair.

"We've gone too far in shipping out this work," said Peter Singer, who studies foreign policy and security issues at the Brookings Institution think tank. "It's created a big mess."

Yet without this civilian corps of gunmen, mechanics and pencil pushers, experts say, Washington would either need to send twice as many troops or settle for half the muscle.

With the outsourcing of so many war-fighting functions, the Pentagon risks a drop in the prestige and opportunity that military service has long promised. Many of the better jobs — ones that hone specialized skills in demand in the private sector — are being turned over to contractors.

A shootout this month involving Blackwater USA security guards left nearly a dozen Iraqi civilians dead and prompted the Baghdad government to revoke the firm's license. That, in turn, has raised anew concerns about whether armed squads move about Iraq answerable not to generals or governments, but only to their paymasters.

Still, gun-toting private security forces represent just a sliver of the massive force of

contractors that free American troops for the work of combat.

By serving the meals, driving the trucks or consulting with the newly elected politicians, private firms handle many tasks that in previous wars might have tied up soldiers. In employing those contractors, the military can make more troops available for fighting.

The Pentagon is unsure of precisely how many private citizens are working in Iraq at Washington's behest, although estimates range from 125,000

to 180,000 people drawn from at least two dozen countries and working for roughly 300 companies. Americans can expect to make twice their U.S. wages in Iraq, much of it tax-free. Some recruited from India or Indonesia can earn much more than they could make at home, but still pull in less than American minimum wage.

About 30,000 of those are employees of security companies. Even at its peak, the Vietnam War saw less than half as many contractors.

"This is the best-supported military operation in history," said Doug Brooks, a spokesman for the trade group International Peace Operations Association. "When soldiers come back from patrol, they don't have to clean the latrines. They only have to focus on the soldier part of their jobs."

On the ground in Iraq today, contractors are an inescapable presence. Pakistani laborers, sun-burned engineers and burly security guards with rifles slung over their shoulders dominate the heavily fortified Green Zone in Baghdad and all but the most remote bases where troops are mustered.

Yet back in the U.S., contractors' role in the war is largely unseen.

A recent study of 100,000 news media accounts of the Iraq war found mention of contrac-

tors in less than 0.25 percent of those stories.

Still, contractors make it possible to man the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan without dramatically increasing the size of the armed forces.

Recruiting is already a struggle, and neither commanders in uniform nor politicians in Washington hold any enthusiasm for a draft. By delegating tasks to the private sector, Uncle Sam avoids making obligations of employment and veterans' benefits to hundreds of thousands

of people. The question today is whether the American military has hit the right balance between soldier and civilian.

Most analysts think the Pentagon has little choice. There's simply not enough manpower in uniform to cover the tasks already consuming troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and tackle the many logistics needed to support a military occupation.

Contractors pose an imperfect solution to the shortage. Critics say their presence masks the true level of commitment war requires. They complain that heavy dependence on contractors can lure away the military's most highly skilled professionals, can demoralize troops working for lower wages than their private counterparts, and can create any number of legal ambiguities that alienate the local population.

In a paper written for the Combat Studies Institute at Fort Leavenworth, Deborah Kidwell concluded that reliance on contractors "has altered significantly, some would say irrevocably, the American way of war."

"Chronic problems," wrote the military historian at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, "include fiscal abuses and nonperformance ... ineffective management (and) cost overruns."

"We've gone too far in shipping out this work. It's created a big mess."

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FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

Woodson: I didn't know I broke the record

By Travis Waldron
twaldron@kykernel.com

When Andre Woodson's 272nd consecutive pass without an interception fell to the turf during Saturday's game at Arkansas, he passed former Fresno State quarterback Trent Dilfer for the most consecutive pass attempts without being picked off.

And Woodson didn't even know it.

"I didn't even hear them announce it," Woodson said. "I didn't know until after the game. A lot of people were talking to me about it and told me I had eventually broke the record on a missed pass. I thought that was pretty funny."

Woodson said he wasn't even aware that the streak was a possibility until before the Louisville game, when quarterbacks coach Randy Sanders told him he was within reach of the Southeastern Conference record.

"The Streak," as it has become known among UK fans and media, hasn't put a burden on Woodson, he said.

"I haven't thought about it at all," Woodson said. "I never plays into my mind at all. I just try to do a good job taking care of the ball."

UK head coach Rich Brooks wants Woodson to keep taking care of the ball, too.

"Hell no," Brooks said, when asked if he'd be relieved if the streak ended. "I'd like to see that streak end at the end of the season. I don't want him to throw one."

Woodson's streak, now at 296, may get its biggest test yet this weekend against Florida Atlantic.

The Owls are second in the country in takeaways, and cor-



UK senior running back Rafael Little attempts to break a tackle in UK's game against the University of Louisville on Sept. 15.

nerback Tavious Polo has six interceptions in four games.

Though Woodson has entered the Heisman Trophy race in the eyes of much of the national media, UK cornerback Trevar Lindley is still skeptical.

"He wouldn't have that streak against us," the soft-spoken Lindley said with a laugh. "But I guess on other people, he can have that streak."

Injury report

Only one of the multiple Cats who sustained injuries against Arkansas will not play this weekend, Brooks said. Running back Alfonso Smith, one of three UK backs injured Saturday, is out for this week and doubtful for the Oct. 4 match-up with South Carolina.

Smith has a high-ankle sprain. Rafael Little and Tony Dixon, the other injured UK running backs, returned to practice this week, as did Lindley and cornerback Paul Warford.

Wide receiver Keenan Burton had a full week of practice

this week for the first time in two weeks, Brooks said.

Locke: I'm a football player

With all three running backs in front of him on the depth chart sidelined by injury, freshman Derrick Locke got his first taste of SEC football in the win against Arkansas on Saturday.

Without hesitation, he put the Cats on his back.

Locke rushed nine times for 48 yards in the second half, including a two-yard touchdown that cut Arkansas's lead to 29-27.

The Oklahoma native runs track and plays football for UK, but football is his No. 1 priority, he said.

"A lot of people think, 'He's a track star,'" Locke said. "But I'm a football player first."

Many players may have had butterflies as true freshmen on the road in the SEC, but Locke said he was confident in his abilities.

"I'm not trying to sound conceited," he said, "but when you get the ball, all you can do is run, no matter what the competition is."

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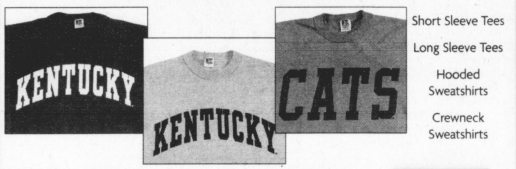
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Asst. coach's career comes full circle

By James Pennington
sports@kykernel.com

In the snap of a finger, men's soccer assistant coach Matt Wilkerson's career as a soccer player ended, and his coaching dreams immediately reached to reality.

Actually, it was more like the snap of the tibia and fibula bones in his leg.

Wilkerson lettered for UK's soccer team in 1996 and 1997 after spending his freshman and sophomore years at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Once he left UK, Wilkerson played for one season in the Eastern Indoor Soccer League.

While in the EISL, Wilkerson suffered the leg injury, and since then his sights have been on coaching the game he loves.

"That was a good reality check," Wilkerson said. "I was never really good enough to make it professionally as a player anyway."

College athletics have always been a part of Wilkerson's life. Growing up in Iowa City, Iowa, Wilkerson spent his childhood on the doorstep of the University of Iowa.

"I grew up a Hawkeye fan, and I've always been interested in college sports," he said.

Wilkerson's coaching career began in 2000 when he took over as head soccer coach at his alma mater, Iowa City West High School. In his first season, he led the team to the Iowa Class 2A State Championship.

Now in his fourth season as an assistant coach for the Cats, Wilkerson works alongside head coach Ian Collins and assistant coach Jeff Chaney. Collins and Chaney both coached Wilkerson during his time as a player at UK.

"You obviously look at your coaches in a different light than you do your peers," Wilkerson said. "But that change in relationship was made

really easy because of how great Ian and Jeff have been to me."

Adding a former player like Wilkerson to the veteran coaching staff added a strong sense of continuity and stability.

"This coaching staff knows exactly what it takes in order to win," senior defender Nathan Marks said. "Coach Wilkerson's role to the team is crucial. We can relate to him because he knows what it's like to play under Coach Collins and Coach Chaney."

The relationship between Wilkerson and his coaching colleagues proved to be different for Wilkerson in at least one way.

"When I mess up," he said, "I don't have to run as much."

Through his playing days and his current coaching position, Wilkerson has developed a great respect for Collins.

"Ian is a great coach, a great colleague and he's my mentor," Wilkerson said. "He's closer to me than anyone else outside of my family."

As an assistant coach, Wilkerson said he is determined and specific in what he wants to achieve.

"Whether we're winning or losing, there are two things that I have to do every day," Wilkerson said. "I have to make sure the players know that I believe in them, and I need to make sure that we all bring the same high level of energy every day."

The mission that Wilkerson has set for himself is evident to the players in his coaching style.

"He is willing to help the players succeed in any way that he can," Marks said.

Wilkerson has lofty goals for the future of both his coaching career and the Cats.

"I love this school and I don't think I could coach anywhere else," Wilkerson said. "My goal is to win a national championship, and after we do that, I'll think about my own future."

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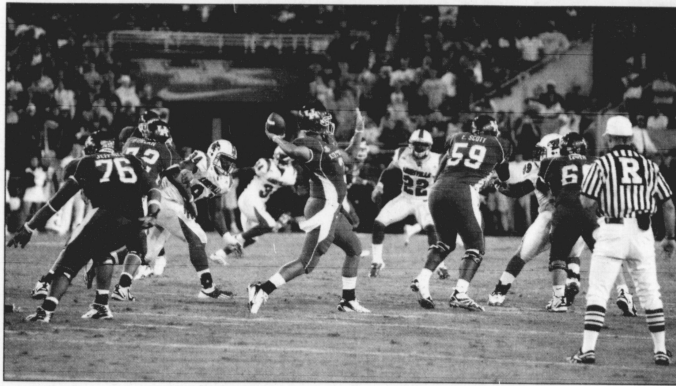
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UK quarterback Andre Woodson prepares to throw a pass during UK's 40-34 win over Louisville on Sept. 15.

KEITH SMILEY | STAFF

Woodson's streak in jeopardy Saturday

Notes to quench you on this Thirsty Thursday:

Could Saturday be the day when Andre Woodson's streak finally comes to an end?



CHRIS DELOTT
Kernel columnist

The UK quarterback broke the NCAA career record for consecutive passes without an interception during Saturday's win at Arkansas, but the continuation of that streak faces a huge challenge on Saturday.

Florida Atlantic cornerback Tavious Polo leads the country with six interceptions in his team's first four games. No doubt Polo knows about the streak and will come to Commonwealth with designs on stopping it.

"He's a ballhawk, obviously," UK head coach Rich Brooks said. "He's got good hands, and he just makes great breaks on the ball. I don't think I've ever heard of anybody getting six picks in four games."

That's a very impressive stat at this point in the season.

Prediction: The streak won't end Saturday, but instead will come to a halt early in the Thursday-night ESPN special against South Carolina on Oct. 4. Why? Because the Worldwide Leader will spend so much time playing up the streak in the days leading up to the game that South Carolina's defense (and the rest of us) will be tired of hearing about it.

In Rich we trust?

Think back to 2003, the year Brooks took over at UK and the Cincinnati Bengals hired Marvin Lewis. At the end of 2005, after three seasons at the helm, Brooks' record was 9-24. Lewis was 27-22 and had just led the Bengals to a division championship and the organization's first winning record since 1990. Which man's stock were you buying then?

Fast forward to today. Brooks' team is ranked No. 14 in the country and has won nine of its past ten games. Lewis' star, on the other hand, is fading in the Queen City.

Last week's loss in Seattle left the Ben-

gals 6-10 since the beginning of October 2006, and with the unstoppable machine that is the New England Patriots coming to town for Monday Night Football this week, count me among those who would be shocked if that record doesn't become 6-11.

Barnhart deserves credit

And finally, with all the mea culpas raining down from local and national media members who opined that Brooks would never win at UK, how about a hand for athletic director Mitch Barnhart?

Barnhart took bullets for the coaching search that ended with Brooks' appointment, for the disappointing first three seasons and for allowing Brooks to return for a fourth season.

Now that the football program has entered the national consciousness, you don't hear much about Barnhart, which is just how the low-key leader likes it.

But that doesn't change the fact that you can now add football to the long list of programs (baseball, volleyball, women's basketball, women's soccer) that Barnhart's decisions have helped rebuild.

Volleyball wins third straight against Vols

By Kenny Colston
kcolston@kykernel.com

For the second straight year, the UK volleyball team defeated Southeastern Conference rival Tennessee (30-28, 30-28, 22-30, 30-24) last night in Memorial Coliseum.

The win extends UK's streak over the Volunteers to three matches and UK's overall record to 38-23 against Tennessee.

For UK, the more wins against a rival, the better.

"(Tennessee is) our biggest rival in the SEC," junior libero Alisa Pierce said. "A win against a rival is always exciting, especially at home."

The win also gives UK (13-3, 4-1) its best start in the SEC since 1996.

"I love it," senior middle blocker Nicole Brittenriker said. "Any 'W' in the SEC is a great one."

UK came out firing on all cylinders in the first game, but Tennessee matched the Cats point-for-point, eventually taking a 16-13 lead, which caused head coach Craig Skinner to use a timeout.

After the timeout, the Cats came roaring back to put the score at 21-20. That momentum helped the Cats eventually put down the Volunteers 30-28. Sophomore outside hitter Brooke Bartek and freshman middle blocker Lauren Rapp led the Cats with four kills each in game one.

UK found itself behind early again in game two. The Cats trailed 13-9 before pulling within 2 points. But the Volunteers opened the lead up again, pulling ahead 21-16 and causing a UK timeout.

But the break was all the Cats needed, as they came back

to rattle off 5 straight points and tie the game at 21. After battling for the last 9 points, UK won 30-28. Brittenriker led UK with four kills in game two and a 300 hitting percentage.

"We were able to keep our composure, which was good in games one and two," head coach Craig Skinner said.

But the Volunteers weren't ready to go home just yet, leading the Cats the entire time in game three.

Tennessee used a 400 hitting percentage to keep its hopes alive. UK was paced again by Rapp, who had five kills and a .455 hitting percentage in game three. The lapses of focus have plagued the Cats for the entire season, something Skinner said the team is still working on.

"We need to grow as a team," Skinner said. "We need to work on concentrating for two hours."

"Definitely had a lack of focus," Brittenriker said. "Up 2-0, we were unfocused."

Game four belonged to the Cats, who led the entire game, winning 30-24. Brittenriker and sophomore setter Sarah Rumbley both recorded double-doubles for UK.

"It was super-hot, and we played against a tough team," Skinner said. "Physically we played very hard, which was evident by how tough we played."

Yet even with UK second in the SEC East and possessing wins over division foes Georgia and Tennessee, the players are reluctant to say the division is down to a two-horse race between UK and No. 6 Florida.

"It's still day-to-day," Pierce said. "We can't relax."

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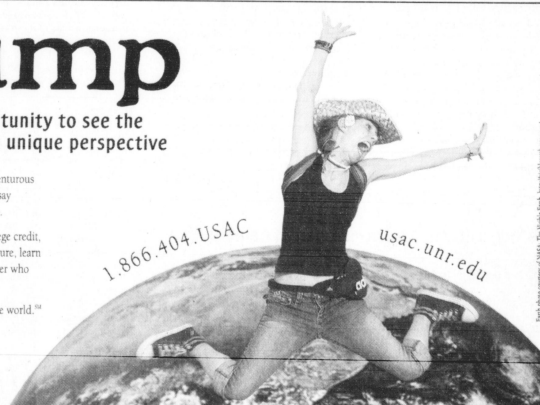
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KERNEL EDITORIAL

Veteran UK faculty deserve higher pay for their loyalty

"Believe in Loyalty" has been a great slogan for UK football this year. But while UK's loyalty to its athletes has been ample, the university's treatment of loyal faculty has been sorely lacking.

Many faculty members are "mad as hell," faculty trustee Ernie Yanarella said in a story in Monday's Kernel, about the university's current structures of salary compression and salary inversion.

Their anger is justified. Salary compression brings professors' salaries very close to even, while salary inversion allots higher pay to new faculty than to senior faculty. Current faculty members can receive raises through UK's "fighting fund," but much of that money is reserved for attempting to keep faculty members who get offers from other universities.

It is clear, then, that the biggest losers under the current structure are faculty members who have long been loyal employees and do not threaten to leave UK. Lost in the mad dash to top-20 status are the long-standing faculty members who have no interest in leaving UK, but only want to be paid a fair, competitive wage.

All three current initiatives in faculty pay leave those veteran faculty members feeling underappreciated. Salary compression and salary inversion reward new professors while individuals who have devoted their professional lives to UK see their salaries stagnate.

The fighting fund is the ultimate example of squeaky-wheel-gets-the-grease management. When only

those faculty who spend time hunting for new jobs — looking to leave UK — are rewarded with increased pay, professors who don't want to leave are forced to accept paltry raises. That's backwards.

UK should be rewarding faculty who love this institution and want to be a part of the ascension to top-20 status, not pulling out the stops for professors who want to use the university as a stepping-stone. It's time for the UK administration to follow the message that drapes off of Commonwealth Stadium — to believe in loyalty not just on the football field, but in the classroom.

The biggest problem with faculty salaries is that the problem is far from clear-cut. Few people at UK are likely to criticize the administration for offering competitive salaries to potential faculty members. Many of these recruits could earn significantly higher salaries in the private sector, and it is essential that UK do all it can to woo the most qualified individuals to its campus.

On the other hand, UK must realize the value of the countless professors who have been with UK for most of their professional careers. Veteran faculty provide unique experiences that benefit students, the campus in general and even newer faculty members looking to learn from their experienced peers.

If UK is to achieve top-20 status, it must show a willingness to reward loyalty among its faculty, while at the same time constantly recruiting new talent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Add recycling bins to tailgaters' area

I attended the UK-University of Louisville football game Sept. 15. With a record attendance, there was a lot of trash on the ground outside Commonwealth Stadium. Most of the trash was recyclable cans and bottles.

The problem is that there are not a lot of recycling bins conveniently placed in the parking lots outside the stadium. Since most tailgaters were having a little too much fun, they were not going to go out of their way to find bins to dispose of their recyclables.

The recycling bins could be

placed at more convenient places for the tailgaters, like near each section marker. The fans and ticket holders could be alerted to these locations in their season ticket packets and on the ticket itself.

The addition and relocation of recycling bins would be economically advantageous. This would save the university from paying workers overtime to pick up the recyclables and would also contribute to the greening of our campus.

Jesse Yan
Communication junior

Safety requires cyclist-pedestrian compromise

As a freshman, I do not know of "the iteration of the same anti-cyclist rhetoric in the Kernel" run every year that Brian Vincent spoke of in his Sept. 4 letter "Don't blame cyclists for safety problems."

But after reading the Sept. 20 editorial "Summit ideal example of town-gown cooperation" and experiencing the cyclist-safety issue firsthand on campus, I have realized that nothing will be achieved if walkers and cyclists alike don't start working together.

My first encounter with the cyclist-safety issue happened Sept. 18 on my way from the Biological Sciences Building to my next class. A cyclist ran into a student walking on the crosswalk at Washington Street.

I only turned around in time to see the walker sprawled across the intersection and the cyclist scrambling to make sure the walker was not injured. It dawned on me then that not

only is the issue of cyclist safety relevant, but so is walker safety.

Vincent mentioned that students talking on cell phones often decide to cut across the street without checking to make sure the cyclist path is clear.

I agree completely with him because many times walkers do not pay enough attention to their actions. In the same way, sometimes cyclists are obviously not paying a responsible amount of attention, like in the incident I witnessed last week.

Instead of playing the blame game and holding the walkers accountable for bike-safety issues or blaming bikers for all walker-safety issues, students who walk and bike alike should realize that it is their responsibility to make sure that their means of transportation are safe for all people traveling through campus.

Julie Rosing
Journalism freshman

Weekly Poll Question

Should SG take action regarding the purchasing and reselling of tickets to the Corey Smith concert by two SG Senators?

Vote online at www.kykernel.com

Submissions

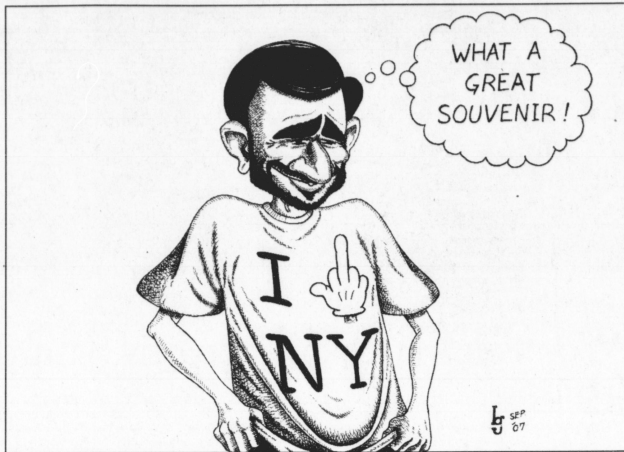
Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Chad Reese. Please limit letters to 350 words or fewer. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

Cartoonists Needed

The Kernel is looking for a cartoonist to draw pieces for the Opinions page on a regular basis. Those who have an interest in campus and local issues will be given special attention, although cartoonists of all interests will be considered.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com



BRIAN GOODLEY, Kernel cartoonist

Columbia University lost chance to demonstrate dignity to world

For those who have followed his ascent to the presidency and his continued drive towards an increasingly fanatical mentality, there are few obstacles to stability in the Middle East more frightening than the rising influence of Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

For a man who once said, "Israel should be wiped off the map," there is, thankfully, little he can say or do to remove his stigma in the international community as, at best, absurd, and, at worst, a demented sadist.

Columbia University, however, did its very best to help him accomplish that during his visit to the campus Monday.

As the Associated Press reported on Tuesday, Columbia President Lee Bollinger was viewed, particularly in Iran, as overly harsh and unfair to Ahmadinejad.

You may, at this point, be intensely curious as to how anyone could draw criticism for being rude to a man who frequently evokes images of Hitler.

The answer lies in the very nature of Columbia's invitation to Ahmadinejad, and in its motivation for doing so.

Despite intense protests during Ahmadinejad's visit to the university, a Sept. 21 AP article quoted several

students still voicing support of Columbia's decision to invite him, citing his importance in the international community as a world leader — and they were absolutely right.

He may be crazy. He may be sadistic. He may be the Antichrist himself. But he is still a man of intense influence who represents a part of the world currently engaged in a bitter cultural struggle with the United States and most of the civilized world, and that means we should strive to understand him.

What we should not do, however, is lower ourselves to the level of bully, chastising him during his visit and refusing to maintain class. But that's exactly what Bollinger chose to do.

Telling Ahmadinejad that he shows "all the signs of a petty and cruel dictator" as a distinct lack of reserve and tact — something absolutely necessary when dealing with world leaders.

If Columbia's goal in bringing Ahmadinejad was, as the university claimed, merely to further the admirable scholarly goal of engaging a variety of voices in worthwhile debate, then Bollinger had a responsibility not to give the Iranian president the role of victim for the evening.

If there is one thing that Ahmadinejad neither deserves nor needs, it is sympathy from anyone.

Martin Luther King Jr. fought oppression by maintaining class and dignity in the face of outright violence and hate. Mohandas Gandhi led the way to Indian independence from British colonial rule through

quiet determination. Great leaders throughout history have realized that the moments where reserve and class are most absent are the very moments when they are most needed.

The entire academic community, Columbia included, has a higher calling in our society than merely jumping on political bandwagons and delivering soapbox speeches to appease the media and public opinion.

Columbia had a unique and invaluable opportunity to display a level of dignity unknown to Ahmadinejad, and could — indeed, it *should* — have criticized Ahmadinejad by asking challenging questions that the university knew he would be unwilling or unable to answer.

When asked whether he believed Israel should be, as he had previously said, "wiped off the map,"

Bollinger should have demanded an answer instead of permitting the evasion offered by Ahmadinejad.

Bollinger could have been an international hero of academia, boldly and brilliantly standing up to a dictator with class and reserve, using Ahmadinejad's own words against him.

Instead, he and Columbia chose to waste this chance and provide fodder for Ahmadinejad's anti-American propaganda machine in Iran.

If America truly wants to stand up to tyranny in the world, we must start by proving we possess the dignity to wield the standard of freedom.

Chad Reese is a philosophy and political science junior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

Jena 6 case shows racial inequality in U.S. criminal-justice system

We would all like to believe that racism and racial injustice are things of the past. Racial problems were issues our parents and grandparents faced. They fought valiantly and overcame nasty prejudices that have existed since the beginning of our country.

Unfortunately, every once in a while we are reminded that this is not true — we are going to have to fight just as hard for racial justice in our generation as our parents did in theirs. I was reminded of our responsibility again when I saw the protest on campus last week on behalf of the Jena 6.

If you are not familiar with the story of the Jena 6, here is a short synopsis of their situation: Some African-American students in Jena, La., asked the principal of their school for permission to sit under the tree that the white students usually sat under, according to a BBC News story. The principal told the African-American students that they could sit "wherever they wanted to."

The day after the African-American students sat under the tree, there were three nooses hanging from the tree, according to an NPR report. The students responsible for the nooses — all white — were given three days of in-school suspension, an Associated Press report said.

After this occurrence, there were several altercations and fights between whites and blacks, culminating in the assault of Justin Barker, a Caucasian, by six African-Americans, according to a Newsweek story. Barker was making fun of a friend of the six who had been beaten up by a white person and allegedly called the students the N-word, according to the "Free the Jena 6" Web site (<http://jena6.vesana.com/thecase>). Barker was treated for his injuries and released later that day to attend the ring ceremony at the high school, the Washington Post reported. Five of the six were charged as adults with attempted second-degree murder.

One of the students, Mychal Bell, was tried and convicted of two felonies by an all-white jury. Bell currently faces more than 20 years in prison, and the other five are still awaiting trial. Bell has been set so high (above \$90,000) that the students have been waiting for months in prison for their families to raise enough money or go into debt to free them, the AP reported.

I first heard about the Jena 6 on NPR when the students were applauded at the situation and also

shocked that something so obviously unjust was not receiving more media attention. Luckily, the mainstream media finally began covering the events, and a major national movement has started to seek real justice for these six individuals.

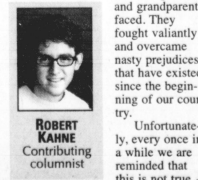
It is a shame that over the summer we had to rely on public radio to inform us about these occurrences while hearing plenty about Paris Hilton's jail stay, Lindsey Lohan's driving and Britney Spears' custody battles in the mainstream press.

I don't want to excuse the behavior of these six guys — what they did was wrong. Under no circumstances should taunts or jeers cause violence. However, the charges should fit the crimes committed. Although there were two sides to this fight, only one side was charged with any wrongdoing.

The entire story from Jena is rife with evidence that there are surely two systems of justice — white and black.

Let us never forget the words of Martin Luther King Jr., who said injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Our greatest responsibility is towards a goal that has yet to be reached — liberty and justice for all.

Robert Kahne is a political science and economics junior and president of UK College Democrats. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.



ROBERT KAHNE
Contributing columnist

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The Hyatt Regency Lexington is getting a \$16.4 million facelift that will make it "the premier convention hotel in the state of Kentucky."

Hourly Positions

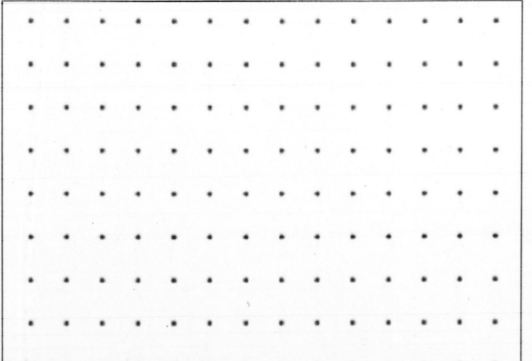
- Front Office Supervisor
- Night Auditor
- PBX Operators
- Bellman/Valet
- Housekeeping Supervisor
- Convention Services Supervisor
- Convention Services Set-Up
- Banquet Servers & Bartenders
- Restaurant Servers & Cashiers
- Purchasing Clerk
- Stewards
- Cooks I & II

Management Positions

- Assistant Outlets Manager

EOE/AA/ME/DFV
Hyatt Hotels promote a Drug-Free Workplace

Bored? Have some Fun!!!



- CROSS**
- "Let us know," on an invitation
 - Utterly defeat
 - Scannable mds. bars
 - To ___ perfectly
 - 15 Fanfare
 - Neither partner
 - Insufficient, as one's best
 - 19,1,060, to Caesar
 - Ready-made computer graphic
 - Shipping route
 - 23 So's sound
 - 24 Sammy with three 60-homer seasons
 - 26 Jets and Sharks
 - 28 "Golden Boy" dramatist Clifford
 - 30 Take dead aim at
 - 33 Half a bray
 - 35 One million
 - 36 Number-picker's game
 - 37 Invalidated, as a contract
 - 40 Somaian supermodel
 - 42 Compass dir.
 - 43 Lodge brother
 - 44 Portable backup device
 - 46 How to start a collect call
 - 50 Perfumer Lauder
 - 51 Govt.-certified, as a patent
 - 54 PC linking acronym
 - 55 Giving one's walking papers
 - 58 Like Simba
 - 60 Garment border
 - 61 "Piece of cake!"
 - 63 Buzz in a hive
 - 64 1966 musical about a marriage
 - 65 Crock-Pot concoction
 - 66 Pigs out (on), briefly
 - 67 Iced drink brand
 - 68 Town name ending

- 2 Nemotional
- 3 Grand Canal city
- 4 Chick's cry
- 5 Detailed, briefly
- 6 Owl sounds
- 7 Baseball's Maris, to pals
- 8 Mil. letter drops
- 9 Fruity grin
- 10 Alternated, with "at"
- 11 Like peopless spacecraft
- 12 Multisided shape
- 13 '80s-'90s Honda sports car
- 18 Graduation dangler
- 22 Hawaiian surfing mecca
- 25 Paul of the PGA
- 27 ___Cat: winter vehicle
- 29 Lightening follower
- 31 Finish
- 32 Speak enthusiastically (about)
- 34 K-12, in the ed biz
- 37 Tots' rest periods
- 38 Truly, madly or deeply: Abbr.



- 39 Pooch beyond trick-learning years, supposedly
- 40 Verb ending for ion or atom
- 41 Copier problem
- 45 Try to control, as a runaway horse
- 47 San Francisco mayor, 1968-1976
- 48 Big name in copiers
- 49 Punch sequence
- 52 Omit in pronunciation
- 53 Type of salami
- 56 Lymph ___
- 57 Pontiac muscle cars
- 59 U.S. accident investigator
- 60 "Cur Your Enthusiasm" network
- 62 Google's success

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DOWN
1 ___Curnongra, Calif.

DROUGHT

Continued from page 1

Rainfall in Northern Kentucky has been 13.6 inches below average this year, according to the National Weather Service. This August, the hottest and fourth driest on record, has contributed to the severity of the drought, and the combination of the heat and little to no rain has put the tobacco crop at risk of being burned to the ground.

"This is the worst drought in 113 years," Shields said. "There is no pasture or hay, and farmers have to feed what they do have like it's the middle of winter."

The drought has also caused the tobacco plant to be small and light. Because tobacco farmers make their money by the pound, lightweight tobacco leads farmers to suffer a loss of money, time and resources.

"This drought has caused many farmers to sell their cattle early, because it is cheaper to take the loss on selling cattle right now than it is to keep feeding the cattle," Shields said. "It costs anywhere from \$1,300 to \$1,500 for one truckload of large square bales that weighs approximately 22 tons."

Mains misses out on social activities, such as football games and agriculture-related events, because he goes home to work on his family's farm. He

typically works all day out in the sun, so when he goes in for the night, the last thing he wants to do is homework.

"I try to get all of my work finished before I head home for the weekend," Mains said, "but if I don't, I sit down on Sunday nights and finish what needs to be done."

He goes home on the weekends every year during tobacco housing season, when tobacco plants are hung up to dry, but this year has been worse because of the drought. He has had to spend more time irrigating the fields, and some of the tobacco had to be housed early because it was about to be burned down by the extreme heat and scarce rain.

CANDIDATES

Continued from page 1

talks about the rising cost of tuition, Crumrine said. The process of sending the e-mail is easy, he said, and volunteers will be there with contact information for every representative.

"We'll make sure the e-mail is loaded, and all they have to do is enter in the information," Crumrine said. "Just give us two minutes of your time. This is a chance to be directly involved with a limited time commitment."

Political awareness is the overall goal, but not just for national politics, Crumrine said.

"This is our opportunity to inform students about the importance of voting in local elections," Crumrine said. "Local politics affects people on a daily basis more than national politics."

It is important for students at

a state institution to be politically involved, Crumrine said, especially because the General Assembly will be writing the budget this year. The state budget allocates money to each public university in Kentucky.

"It comes to issues like tuition and bonding authority," Crumrine said. "This makes it hard to do things like renovate Blazer or put air conditioning in the dorms."

A good dialogue between SG and Frankfort can benefit students in many ways, Simon said.

"Something we want to do is extend the relationship between the UK SG and Frankfort," he said. "A strong relationship with Frankfort is beneficial to students."

A possible issue SG will bring to the General Assembly is how to cut the cost of education, including subsidizing textbook costs, Crumrine said, calling it a hard issue to resolve.

"It's a battle that is difficult to win," Crumrine said. "But

that doesn't mean we're not going to try to win it."

The SG office is asking students to stop by and submit a question for Beshear to answer at the forum. Simon encouraged students to write questions so they feel more involved with the process.

"This is a chance for them to voice their opinion on an immediate level," Simon said. "It gives a chance to interact with officials."

Faculty can submit questions to the UK Senate, and staff can submit questions to the Staff Senate.

A voter registration drive will be happening along with the forum, running through Oct. 10, and SG will provide student information about the candidates.

"We're giving students a crash course in who is running and what they are running on," Simon said. "If we can help in any way, we can increase a more informed voter turnout."

SG SENATE

Continued from page 1

changed so that a candidate must now only obtain 25 signatures or 0.5 percent of the number of students in his or her college, whichever is greater.

The other amendment made changes to the Executive Representative Council, now called the Leadership Development Program. The change increased

the number of members allowed and made the program a responsibility of the vice president. SG Vice President Brittany Langdon said the first meeting of LDP was held on Tuesday night, adding that all 40 freshmen involved seemed excited about the program.

The Senate passed a special project sponsored by Montell to fund the Clothesline Project, which is a display of T-shirts created by those affected by violence against women. The Violence Intervention and Preven-

tion Center will be sponsoring the project again this year, and SG will fund supplies for the center.

SG will also partly fund an event called Operation Send Support through a Senate special project by Sen. Lauren Anker. A student organization called Honor Our Military Everywhere is hosting the event, which will collect donated items for care packages to send to soldiers overseas. A Facebook event lists all the items that can be donated, Anker said.

CONFERENCE

Continued from page 1

Liberty" and "Hip-Hop Cheerleader" on YouTube.com.

By the time she was 19, Oyejemi had completed her first novel. She has since published another, reaching a huge level of success at a young age.

This year's conference will also take a new focus on journalism.

Sally Jenkins, a sportswriter for the Washington Post and co-author of the best-selling memoir "Lance Armstrong: The Next About the Bike," will be teaching a workshop and participating in a panel on sportswriting.

"UK has such an incredibly exciting (football) team this year," Wrinn said. "I think the timing of this couldn't be better."

Michelle Slatalla, another featured journalist, hails from Martin, Ky., and currently works as a columnist for The New York Times. Her book, "A Town on Beaver Creek," was named Kentucky Book of the Year.

Wrinn hopes that this year's presenters appeal to UK students and older literary enthusiasts and that the conference will present a personal approach to literature.

"It's something very exciting for students to have these writers descend on Lexington at the same time," Wrinn said. "We spend so much of our lives online making contact with people across computer screens that the opportunity to be part of a group of people with similar interests and loves is even more important now than it was a decade ago."

Students can find out more and register for workshops on the conference's Web site (<http://www.uky.edu/WWK/>) and purchase two-day student passes for \$60.

ELIJAH

Continued from page 1

eventually dropped because of coercion.

More than 30 years later, in 2003, the case was reopened, and the men were subpoenaed to appear back in court. In 2005, the men were held in contempt and jailed, despite the absence of new evidence against them, Elijah said.

The racial injustices that took place in the '60s — police brutality, inadequate health care, inadequate schooling and an illegal and immoral war — are still going on now, Elijah said. "Legacy of Torture," a brief documentary that was shown last night, was an attempt by the affected men to pass the torch so that others could do their part to combat the unfortunate reality.

"We need to learn how to stand up and take action to things that are going on around us," said Veleshia Smith, director of the Martin Luther King Cultural Center.

While not everyone can take the stance of a militant Black Panther, Elijah said, people must use what they have to build onto others' efforts. Activists do not have to be aggressive but should stand up for those who are, she said.

For fighting for social justice, Elijah said she agrees with the late Malcolm X's "by any means necessary" approach. She relates the stand-

point to the Boston Tea Party, stating that the people involved did what they saw fit to keep from paying unfair taxes and are now known in the history books as heroes.

Elijah also warned the audience not to let fear impede action.

"There is something bigger than fear, and that is knowing you're doing the right thing," she said.

People do not study history to be afraid, she said. Societies study history to make sure it doesn't happen again. People cannot let fear stop them, she said.

About 30 people turned out for the event and responded by wanting to know more about what can be done and how to become better educated on current issues.

"It helped us all learn and see things that we really don't see as students," said Lamair Seargent, a business management senior.

When a student in the audience asked Elijah how she would feel were her name to go down in history, she responded by giving homage to her ancestors. She said she was fully aware of the multitude of people who came before her and gave her the opportunities she has.

Elijah said she wants to see the liberation of black people and feels it's her duty, as well as others', to push for it.

"We're not a people of quitters — we're survivors," she said.


Correction

In yesterday's article "Local comedian turns life's woes into jokes," the birthplace of Roy Haber was misstated. Haber was born in Israel and grew up in Lexington.

To report an error, call the Kentucky Kernel at 257-1915 or e-mail editor@kykernel.com.



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