

KENTUCKY KERNEL

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Phelps apologizes for anti-Muslim e-mail

By Juliann Vachon and Katie Saltz
news@kykernel.com

Student Government President Nick Phelps opened yesterday's SG meeting with a public apology, saying he never intended to offend students with an e-mail he forwarded that described Barack Obama as a Muslim and derided the religion.

"I was wrong in sending out and forwarding the e-mail," Phelps said during the full SG Senate meeting last night. "And I was wrong to not realize the implications of my actions."

About 30 non-SG students attended the meeting. Many students who spoke called for action by the Senate to either impeach or censure Phelps.



Phelps

German senior Rob Colston said he met with Phelps earlier in the day and felt Phelps was not genuine in his apology. Colston asked the Senate to take some sort of action.

"Removal might be a little extreme, but a censure is my recommendation," Colston said. "(Senators) are bound in duty to uphold accountability so this road is not taken again."

In the apology, Phelps said he would be working to improve diversity at UK. Lauren Biggs, a classics and history senior, said Phelps didn't seem to understand the issue of diversity on campus.

"It really bothers me that in this apology he spoke of two sides to the issue," Biggs said. "In campus diversity there is only one side. I feel (senators) as a

body should consider removing him from office."

SG Attorney General Beau Baustien said the concerns about diversity on campus were being turned into a personal attack on Phelps' character.

"Punishments are handled in context, and we'd like to punish Nick for an institution of racism that is, by no fault of his own, here (on campus)," Baustien said. "I feel like everything tonight has been an attack on his character."

Senators should take Phelps' situation as a lesson in judgment, said Sen. Justin Stewart.

"We need to remember as student leaders that it is important that we all be cognizant of our actions," Stewart said. "We need to slow down and think twice

See Phelps on page 5

Parrish resigns during meeting

STAFF REPORT

The resolution concerning an ethics violation by Jesse Parrish was withdrawn when Parrish resigned from the Senate during last night's meeting.

Parrish said the Senate had a "Greek country-club feeling" and that he was tired of being part of it.

Parrish said he was wrong in his actions concerning the ticket controversy in September, when he and former Sen. Blake Burnett resold tickets for an SG-sponsored concert for profit, and felt the need to resign.

"When a leader makes a mis-

take and no longer has the accountability to lead, they need to step aside," Parrish said.

Parrish also invited SG President Nick Phelps to join him in resigning from SG, saying he was tired of senators "trying to act like leaders but really doing nothing."

"Let's no longer be a part of the hypocrisy, and just be part of the student body," he said to Phelps.

Vice President Brittany Langdon said Parrish's exit was in poor taste, and Phelps said it was important to remember that Parrish did "good things" for the Senate in his three terms served.

PICKING UP THE PIECES



Brittany Jarog, an English sophomore, calls a tow truck for her car, which was smashed by a tree limb on Linden Walk during a storm that moved through Lexington early yesterday. Jarog said she moved her car to Linden Walk from Maxwell Street the night before to avoid getting a ticket on street-cleaning day.

UK Alert's first run reveals problems

By Alice Haymond
ahaymond@kykernel.com

When a tornado warning was issued for Fayette County early yesterday, UK used its new rapid-alert system to notify about 7,000 members of the campus community, but more than a third never received the message, while some others received it only after the storm had passed.

In its first activation since the Jan. 14 launch, UK Alert sent thousands of text messages, e-mails and voice recordings in 27 minutes, said Christy Giles, director of UK's Office of Emergency Management. It reached about 4,500 people, which is 61 percent of the users who were registered correctly.

However, delivery of the alerts was slowed by delays in the Wide Area Rapid Notification system, heavy traffic on the phone network, downed power lines and spotty cell phone service, Giles said.

The notification process started at 1:21 a.m. yesterday, when the National Weather Service first issued a tornado warning for Fayette County. UK police dispatchers activated the warning system and sent out the first alert messages two minutes later, Giles said. They restarted the process seven minutes later when they realized the message did not include when the tornado warning would expire.

Some recipients were notified within a few minutes of the initial warning, while others did not receive a message until the last batch of notifications went out about 30 minutes later. The delays can be attributed to differences in how messages are delivered to different devices, Giles said.

When users sign up for UK Alert, they choose one or more ways to be contacted, such as by text message, e-mail, cell phone, landline phone, fax or pager. If the infrastructure those devices rely on is disrupted, such as by a major storm, then delivering messages can be difficult, said Don Griffin, president of WARN.

"Every network in the area, probably within a 100-mile radius, probably had some type of power or communications problems," Griffin said.

"Where networks were open and available, we were getting good delivery," he said.

Griffin said signing up to get notices through more than one device is the best way to ensure everyone is contacted during an emergency "because you never know what's going to be disrupted."

See UK Alert on page 6

UK Alert sign-ups

If you have signed up for UK Alert and have had problems, please let us know. E-mail news@kykernel.com or call 257-1915.

To sign up for UK Alert go to www.uky.edu/EM/UKAlert/

Storms tear through Lexington

High winds damage Lexington homes, leave 7 dead elsewhere in Kentucky

By Jill Laster
jlaster@kykernel.com

Paula Stumbo was outside trying to find her cat when the worst of the storm hit her home early yesterday. "It went black, and I could hardly breathe," she said. "And then I started running."

Stumbo shouted for her husband, a heavy sleeper, but he did not answer. With her dog over her shoulder, she began running down the stairs to the basement of her home on Linden Walk, just a few blocks from UK's campus.

She only made it about six steps before a tree branch fell and hit the roof, breaking through the storm door and landing in her front hall.

"I thought we were dead," she said. "I thought we were all dead."

Her husband and pets made it fine through the night.

Yesterday's storms passed through nearly all of Kentucky, said Buddy Rogers, public information officer with the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management.

"We have several thunderstorms and tornadoes every month of the year. February is no exception," Rogers said. "The difficulty with this storm is the strength and severity."

Seven people died during the storm in Kentucky: four in Allen County and three in Muhlenberg County, Rogers said. The number of people injured and the amount of property damage from the storms may not be known for several days.

About 15,500 homes that receive electricity from Kentucky Utilities did not have power as of 5:30 p.m. yesterday, down from 66,000 at the height of the storms, according to the company. About 3,000 additional homes that receive electricity from LG&E were without power as of 5:30 p.m., down from 10,000.

UK's campus had several downed trees and minor damage to a few buildings, said Bob Wiseman, vice president for facilities management.

The Matthews Building had roofing and shingles blown loose, as well as some bricks. The German



Chris Williams, an integrated strategic communications junior, take pictures with a camera phone of a tree that fell near Memorial Hall during yesterday's storm.

House also had some roof damage, he said.

"Overall we were lucky," Wiseman said.

Damage surveys are still being taken, so the exact number of tornadoes in Kentucky yesterday will not be known for a few days, said An-

thon Richey, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. Richey said he counted more than 100 storms across Kentucky that qualified as severe, with winds of at least 58 miles per hour.

"That's an extremely large

See Damage on page 6

"We have several thunderstorms and tornadoes every month ... The difficulty with this storm is the strength and severity."

— Buddy Rogers, public information officer with Kentucky Division of Emergency Management

POP

NEW MOON, NEW YEAR: Chinese celebration comes to Lexington this weekend See page 3

Blue streak: Cats beat Tigers for 4th-straight conference win See 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 an 8 — Your team is on a quest to find another elusive prize. Discipline is required, of course, but so is assertive behavior. This one won't come to you; you'll have to go get it.
Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Today is a 5 — A leader is having trouble making an important decision. Suggest the option that benefits you, and see what happens next. Odds are in your favor.
Gemini (May 21 - June 21) Today is a 9 — Make up a list of all the things you want to accomplish. The

odds are in your favor now. Write it all down, and catch the moment.
Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Today is a 4 — Don't rush into a new endeavor. Finish old business first. This may not be as much fun, but it's a more practical choice.
Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Today is a 7 — An enthusiastic coach can get your team motivated. They're tired of hearing you tell them what to do. Get somebody else to tell them what you always tell them.
Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Today is a 6 — Important decision-makers are impressed with your attitude, especially when you find mistakes. You don't whine, you put in the correction.
Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Today is a 9 — Physical exercise is highly favored! You should be able to do more pushups and walk an extra mile. Or if you're a couch potato, start with around the block.
Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Today is a 5 — You could make your next

million from the privacy of your own home. Put your extra skills to work to benefit your family.
Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Today is an 8 — The competition is fierce. You're calm, cool and collected. You don't let emotions interfere.
Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Today is a 6 — You've got a good plan, so work it.
Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Today is a 6 — There are a few more things you need to fine-tune your working space. Don't wait around until somebody else does it for you; they won't. Take the initiative.
Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Today is a 9 — You continue to make a good impression on a person who has very discerning tastes. Stand up tall. You have reason to be proud.
Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Today is a 5 — Don't talk about unfinished work. You don't really know what your results are going to be, but the odds are favorable. Keep at it. Prove your point.

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THIS MINUTE

Jessica's baby joy

THE DISH

Alba talks pregnancy, cravings, playing blind and mastering the violin with Us

Whoa mama! it's been an exciting few months for Jessica Alba. The actress is not only newly engaged to her producer beau, Cash Warren, 29, she's also five months pregnant with their first child.

To top it all off, Alba is starring in new horror flick *The Eye* (out Feb. 1) as a blind woman who has supernatural visions after regaining her sight from a corneal implant. The Pomona, Calif., native, 26, gives Us the scoop.

Q: In *The Eye*, you play a blind woman who plays violin. Which was harder to master?

A: The violin was definitely more challenging because to be a soloist, you have to be pretty phenomenal. Accomplished musicians practice eight to 12 hours a day. I practiced for about six months at lunch, every break that I had and when I got home. I had three different violin teachers.

Q: So are you ready to go pro?

A: Yeah, right! When I play, my dogs run away from me — they try and cover their ears. I'm like, "I'm sorry!" I can play "Happy Birthday." That is the least offensive thing that I can play.

Q: You're part of Holly-

wood's baby boom! What's been the best part of your pregnancy?

A: No good comes to mind! It's more like something is taking over my body. You can't believe you have something inside of you that's growing. It's the most incredible thing in the world, and at the same time, it is very emotional and bizarre.

Q: Any cravings yet?

A: Lemonade. I drank a lot of coffee, so I've replaced it with lemonade.

How to sweat like a star

Who says you can't work it while you work out? When Trista Sutter suited up to burn off her baby weight, no boring black would do: The Bachelorette strapped on a Suunto heart-rate monitor in her signature color — pink! "It helped me keep in my target fat-burning zone," she tells Us. "And it has a cute watch that goes along with it!" Meanwhile, Nicolette Sheridan (who tells Us "comfortable running shoes" are a must) shows her taste for the traditional, foregoing chic sneakers for tried-and-true Asics.

J. Lo's sexy fragrance ad

Jennifer Lopez is celebrating another bundle of joy: her eighth perfume, *Deseo*. "I smelled 25 to 30 submissions before picking the final scent," Lopez, 38, tells Us of the bamboo leaf and freesia mix (\$46, macys.com). As for the print ad campaign,

Lopez wanted "unrefined luxury, so we mixed a glamorous chandelier with an island-y hammock."

Mira Sorvino: Hot guest star on 'House'

Mira Sorvino was on a Roman holiday when she got the "House" call: "I was like, 'We have to go home!' I'm a huge fan," the New Jersey native, 40, tells Us.

The married Sorvino (husband is actor Chris Backus) plays a sick doc stranded in Antarctica on the post-Super Bowl episode (Fox, February 3). She talks to Us.

Q: Too bad you didn't film hospital scenes with the cast.

A: I liked that I wasn't just lying there in the hospital! And Hugh (Laurie) showed up on my set a lot and read his lines to me off camera, which was incredibly kind.

Q: Why have you taken so much time off lately?

A: I limit work so I don't miss time with my kids (Mattea, 3, and Johnny, 20 months). They are wonderful and fun.

Q: You wore a gorgeous Giorgio Armani gown when you won your Oscar in 1996. Where is it now?

A: Mr. Armani let me keep it just in case my daughter wanted it someday. I actually just looked at it a few weeks ago and had a little stroll down memory lane.

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THURSDAY,
February 7,
2008

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Emily Covert
Features Editor
Phone: 257-1915
ecovert@kykernel.com

kernel POP

“Thank goodness I have a male assistant. Otherwise, Ashton would have gone from being a single guy with a male roommate to being overloaded.”

— Demi Moore on outnumbering husband Ashton Kutcher with her three daughters

TIPPING THE SCALE

Stop waiting for perfect time to start dieting

After Thanksgiving and Christmas, I always find myself needing to start over and get my eating back in check.

The new year appears to offer that chance, with no major holidays in sight for at least a few months.

But then the Super Bowl rolls around, and I permit myself to eat a little extra. And then a few weeks later it's Valentine's Day. One box of chocolates won't hurt, right? Pretty soon it's Spring Break and midterms, then Easter, and then finals. In between these seemingly big events are, of course, parties, with alcohol, punch, chips and cookies, celebrating everything from getting an internship to just being glad it's the weekend.

The truth is, there's never a good time to start "dieting." There is always a reason to cheat, to eat a dessert you aren't hungry for or munch on french fries instead of apple slices.

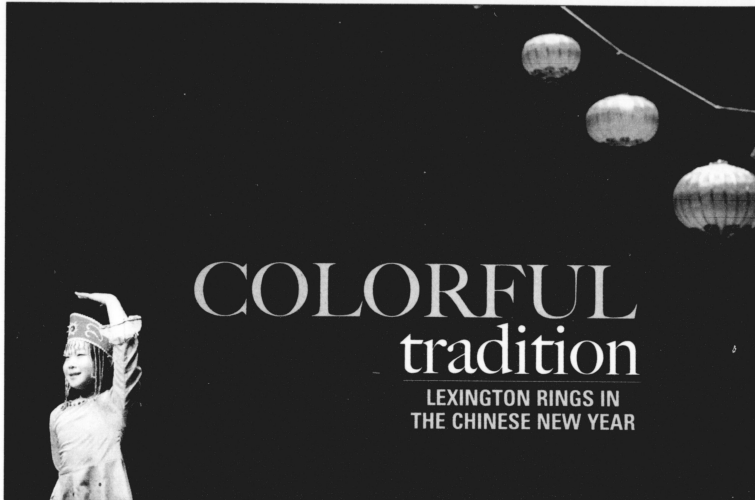
Maybe it's to reward yourself for a job well done on a chemistry exam or to get you through five hours of homework without falling asleep.

It's taken me years to realize that I have to change my whole approach to food if I truly want to succeed. I have to take each day one at

See Covert on page 4



EMILY COOVERT
Kernel columnist



COLORFUL tradition

LEXINGTON RINGS IN THE CHINESE NEW YEAR

PHOTOS BY EMILY COOVERT | STAFF

Above: A girl dances to "Flying Across the Prairie," a Mongolian dance at the Chinese New Year celebration at the Singletary Center for the Arts on Saturday.
Below: Yan Chen, Cheryl Pan, Liping Peng, Mickey Xun, Li Zheng and Michelle Wu dance the "Umbrella Dance from Southern China" at the Singletary Center on Saturday.

By Kelly Wiley
features@kykernel.com

It may be February, but billions of people are celebrating a new year today.

Celebrations of the Chinese New Year are taking place across the world today, and Lexington is no exception.

"The Chinese New Year is the biggest holiday of the year for people of Chinese ancestry," said Changzheng Wang, secretary of the Kentucky Chinese American Association. "Basically, in terms of importance, it is paramount to Christmas."

Because it is based on the lunar calendar, the Chinese New Year isn't always on Feb. 6; it takes place sometime in the last two weeks of January or the first two weeks of February.

Each year is associated with an animal, revolving on a 10-year cy-

cle. The year beginning in 2008 is the year of the rat.

Outside of China, the holiday is traditionally celebrated in countries with a significant Chinese population, like Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia. However, people of all backgrounds celebrate the Chinese New Year, Wang said.

"The Chinese New Year has truly become a celebration for the whole community rather than just Chinese Americans," Wang said.

People customarily spend Chinese New Year's Eve with family members and celebrate the new year with a big feast, Wang said. Meals can vary among families, but one of the traditional dishes is fish, which symbolizes abundance.

One of the more well-known traditions is for married couples or older people to give red packets to unwed people, Wang said. The packets are passed down usually

If you go

■ Chinese opera, drum and dance performance hosted by the Explorium, 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday. Lexington Children's Theatre, 418 W. Short St. Tickets: \$12, available from the Explorium's Web site (www.explorium.com) or by calling 258-3253.

■ Lanterns, Starlight, and the Chinese New Year. 6 to 8 tonight. Living Arts & Science Center, 362 N. Martin Luther King Blvd. The center requests a donation of \$1 for participants age 5 to 11 and \$2 for those 12 and older.

with \$8 in them because eight is considered a lucky number, while four is unlucky.

The Explorium, a children's museum downtown, is celebrating the Chinese New Year this week-

end with a Chinese opera, an all-girls' drum group and a wide variety of dances. The performances include dancers and acrobats who have flown in from Harbin, China, said Deanna McDaniel, marketing director for the Explorium. The performances are at the Lexington Children's Theatre (see "If you go" box for details).

The Living Arts & Science Center at 362 N. Martin Luther King Blvd. will also be holding a Chinese New Year celebration at 6 tonight.

The event will feature sword dancers, lantern making and a STARLAB planetarium show, which will focus on Chinese astronomy, said Katherine Bullock, education outreach coordinator for the center. Any person who makes a lantern will be able to take place in the lantern parade, which will take place later on in the evening depending on the weather.

BOUTIQUE OF THE WEEK



CHRISTINA LAYTON | STAFF

Bella Rose, located between campus and downtown, offers dresses for a variety of occasions.

Name: Bella Rose

Location: 126 W. Maxwell St.

Hours: Open Monday through Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Accolades: Recognized as "Best Boutique" by Kentucky Monthly and won "Best Women's Clothing" in the Lexington Herald-Leader.

Why it's cool: The owner, Betty Spain, has been in business for 28 years, and Bella Rose has dresses that cater to three generations of women.

These clothes have staying power in a woman's closet. If you haven't picked out a spring dress for Keeneland, you can find labels like Milly, French Connection, ABS, Laundry, Free People and David Kahn Jeanswear. Also, Bella Rose features clothing by top designers like Vera Wang and Nicole Miller, and the boutique offers a 10 percent discount on bridesmaid dresses if you are looking for more elegant attire.

So you've got the perfect outfit — what's next? Accessories. Bella Rose has jewelry by Sorrelli and Robin Haley, and purses for the finishing touches of your outfit. Shipments come in daily, so they've got you covered for almost any occasion.

"We can dress you from the first date to your honeymoon," Spain said.

“The Chinese New Year has truly become a celebration for the whole community rather than just Chinese Americans.”

Changzheng Wang, secretary of the Kentucky Chinese American Association



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Muslim students to fight stereotypes in first 'Faithbusters' installment

By Wesley Yonts
wesyonts@kykernell.com

Despite its name, the Faithbusters discussion series isn't about disproving religion. Instead, organizers of the series hope to dispel stereotypes and misconceptions surrounding religions that Americans typically know little about. Islam is the topic of the first Faithbusters installment, tonight at 6:30 in the W.T. Young Library Auditorium.

"We hope to educate people on Islam and ourselves," said Yahya Ahmed, president of the Muslim Student Association, whose members will be discussing their faith at the event.

"When we conduct these

kinds of dialogues, we really emphasize the point that there are no controversial questions," said Ahmed, a biology and Islamic studies senior. "There's nothing that's off-limits or off-target. The more questions you have, the better understanding you can come to."

After the discussion, the traditional Islamic dessert ashure, or Noah's pudding, will be served in the gallery next door.

Although the event will serve to highlight common misconceptions surrounding Islam, it is also intended to educate students on many of the basic beliefs and tenants of the religion, such as the five daily prayers, fasting during the month of Ramadan and the

haji, or pilgrimage, to the holy city of Mecca.

"As a Muslim, every question is like, 'Where did you hear that?' Especially if it's like, 'Do you guys worship the moon god?'" Ahmed said. "There's so much nonsense and so the reaction of, 'That's an unusual question,' that kind of left me long ago."

Islam is the second-largest religion in the world today, in addition to being the fastest-growing one, which makes events like this particularly important, said Matt Longacre, a management sophomore and MSA member who will be on the panel tonight. The less people know, the less they are able to interact with the world around them, he said.

"People have this view that somehow terrorism or violence is inherently connected to Islam, and that really isn't the case," Longacre said.

The Faithbusters series, which is sponsored by Student Activities Board, will continue throughout the semester with a lecture on Scientology later this month, followed by discussions of Judaism and evolution in April.

"The goal is to enlighten and educate students, and we're not trying to convert them to a certain religion — it's just to bring light to myths or questions you may have about religion," said Meghan Bostic, the director of engaging issues for the Student Activities Board.

MAKE YOUR WEEKEND PLANS

- 1. Arts for cheap**
There's something for everyone Saturday and Sunday at the fourth annual Arts Showcase Weekend. Come take part in events including Argentine Tango, writing workshops and hands-on art activities for children. The showcase is free and will be held at ArtsPlace. For more information, call 255-2951 or visit the LexArts Web site (www.lexarts.com).
- 1. Tune from the heart**
UK's new Music and Operetta Organization will debut their show "Love in the Time of Music" at Natasha's Café. The group takes stage at 8 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are free, but a \$5 donation is suggested. For more information, call 259-2754 or visit the Web site (www.beetnik.com).
- 3. Slippery search**
Explore the great outdoors and look for some creepy crawlies with the staff of Raven Run Nature Sanctuary. Anyone can hunt for salamanders and other aquatic creatures in the sanctuary's creek from 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 272-6105 or check out the Web site (www.lfucg.com/parks/raven.asp).

ontap | For the week of FEB. 7 - FEB. 13

- TONIGHT**
Lotus w/ Telepath
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$10.
- FRIDAY, Feb. 8**
Caldera w/ Sonic Epitaph
7:15 p.m., Headliners, Louisville. Tickets cost \$10.
- The Phat Mavericks**
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.
- Ghost Monster**
9 p.m., The Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$5.
- SATURDAY, Feb. 9**
Psychofest featuring Corpse Show Creeps, Al and the Black Cats and Rumble Club
9 p.m., The Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$5.
- 8:30 p.m.**, The Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$12 to \$15.
- MONDAY, Feb. 11**
Sundown Service w/ Macon Greyson
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$3.
- TUESDAY, Feb. 12**
Goodnight Forrest w/ Cold Holiday and Dustin Milan
8 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.
- WEDNESDAY, Feb. 13**
A Portion For Rueben
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$3.
- Ryan Malott**
9 p.m., The Southgate House, Newport. Tickets are free.

COMPILED BY ASST. FEATURES EDITOR WHITNEY WATERS

Dating Game entrants seek true love in a bar

By Kelli Long
kellilong@kykernell.com

David Barry might find the love of his life tonight without ever seeing her face.

The Dating Game, sponsored by Budweiser, Tops on Campus, Cricket Wireless and Saddle Ridge is giving eight contestants the chance to win prizes, including free T-shirts, tanning visits and Krispy Kreme doughnuts.

And then there is that chance that contestants could find "the one."

With a similar set up as the television show, "The Dating Game," three ladies will be on stage with Barry, but will be separated from him by a wall, preventing

them from seeing each other. He will ask the women questions to help make his decision. A female contestant will also have the same opportunity to ask questions to three lucky guys. The finalist picked for a date wins a grand prize of a limo ride and dinner for two at deSha's Restaurant and Bar.

This isn't Barry's first shot at finding love as part of The Dating Game. He was one of three male contestants last time the event was held at Saddle Ridge but wasn't chosen for a date.

"It was a fun experience," said Barry, a 2003 UK alumnus. "I had never done anything like that before, and it was very entertaining."

Three guys and three girls were chosen

to play the game through Tops on Campus, after applying online and answering questions about themselves, said Erin Hurst, intern and marketing coordinator at Tops in Lexington, and a coordinator of The Dating Game.

"Everyone in Saddle Ridge feels engaged as part of this event," Hurst said.

During the game, the audience will also have the chance to win tickets to the upcoming George Strait concert.

The Dating Game starts at 9:30 p.m. at Saddle Ridge, located on South Broadway.

Barry isn't expecting to find true love tonight but still hopes to have a good time.

"You never know what might happen," Barry said.

'Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins'

By Colin Covert
startribune@minneapolis.com

What will be the worst Martin Lawrence movie of the year? The competition is always fierce and it's still early, but we may have a winner in "Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins." A groundbreaking achievement in blandness, the film has nothing other than a few ethnic references to distinguish it from the next lazy family comedy from Steve Martin.

Lawrence plays R.J. Stevens, a popular television relationship counselor who returns to his Southern home for his parents' 50th anniversary, reconnecting his upscale celebrity with his down-home relations. The reactions of James Earl Jones, Cedric the Entertainer, Mo'Nique and the rest of the clan range from reserved to openly hostile. They think that he's grown too big for his britches, with his finicky, high-maintenance fiancée Bianca (Joy Bryant, "Antwone Fisher") and his big-city ways. Let the grow-whacking commence!

Written and directed by Malcolm D. Lee (Spike Lee's cousin), the film tapers between neo-minstrel humor and sappy sentimental-

ty. Lee was much funnier with his spy spoof "Undercover Brother" and more likable with the skate-dancing toss-off "Roll Boogie," here he flailing attempts to grapple with questions of racial identity. Roscoe has abandoned the family name for a presumably more media-friendly one, he shows up for the party in hideous plaid golf pants that scream WASP and his relatives accidentally-on-purpose mispronounce his girlfriend's name "Blanca."

Will R.J. be able to stick to Bianca's string-bean cuisine diet, or will he throw her over for his salt-of-the-earth ex-girlfriend (Nicole Ari Parker) and heaping plates of fried chicken? If you can't predict the answer, how are you reading this newspaper?

Modestly budgeted and massively dumb, "Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins" belongs to the sassy sistas and blinged-out playas school of comedy (maybe it's a pre-school, come to think of it). It's great to see a studio release with so many black people in front of the camera and behind, but it would be so much more satisfying if the project was something to be proud of. Isn't good comedy a civil right?

COOVERT

Continued from page 3

a time, and not give in if I have a bad day or a bad week, or if I gain a pound despite working hard to lose.

But how do you pick yourself up and brush yourself off after a bad day? It's easy to just give in to the "I'll start again on Monday" mentality. The key is being prepared.

Like many other Americans, I eat what is most convenient. I want what I want and I want it now. If I can't have it within five minutes, I don't have time for it and don't want it. If picking up a McDonald's cheeseburger is faster, that's what I'll do.

To stop myself from eating what is usually a less healthy alternative, I've stocked my fridge with items that are easy to grab and usually don't require cooking. I buy veggie trays to save myself from the hassle of chopping and cleaning vegetables. I buy pre-sliced apples and light frozen dinners that are easy to zap in the microwave.

The biggest help, however, is

cooking on Sundays. If you can take the time out to bake a chicken pot pie or make a big pot of chili, you can avoid going out in the middle of the week. With easy, tasty dinners on hand, you're less likely to give in to the pizza or Chinese take-out your roommates order.

Another good way to be prepared is to get rid of foods that are temptations for you and find suitable alternatives. If you can't control yourself around potato chips, guacamole, cookies or ice cream, throw them away. If you like crunchy foods, seek celery and light ranch dip or baked tortilla chips and salsa. If you crave something sweet, eat an apple or a small handful of chocolate.


There's no easy way to lose weight, and there's no easy way to keep from cheating. Don't deprive yourself of the occasional treat, but if you know you can't control yourself around a certain food, don't keep it in your pantry. Keep foods on hand to help keep your urges in check, and you're much more likely to have success.

Emily Covert is a journalist junior. E-mail ecovert@kykernell.com.

Recipe for the Week Light Chicken Pot Pie

1 Pillsbury pie crust
1 chicken breast
1 10 oz. can of chicken w/ herbs
2 bags of SteamFresh mixed vegetables
A dash of rosemary
A dash of thyme
Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Put one bag of veggies in microwave for 5 minutes. After you remove the veggies, cook chicken in microwave on 50 percent power until cooked (8-12 minutes, depending on your microwave). Cook next bag veggies. Dice chicken. Mix chicken, veggies, spices and soup in bowl. Spread crust in pie plate. Pour chicken and vegetable mix on top. Cook for 25 minutes at 400 degrees, then an additional 15 minutes at 350 degrees. Add salt and pepper to taste. Done!



BILL HOGAN | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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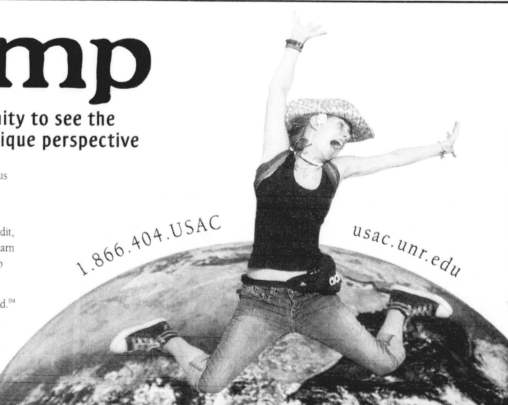
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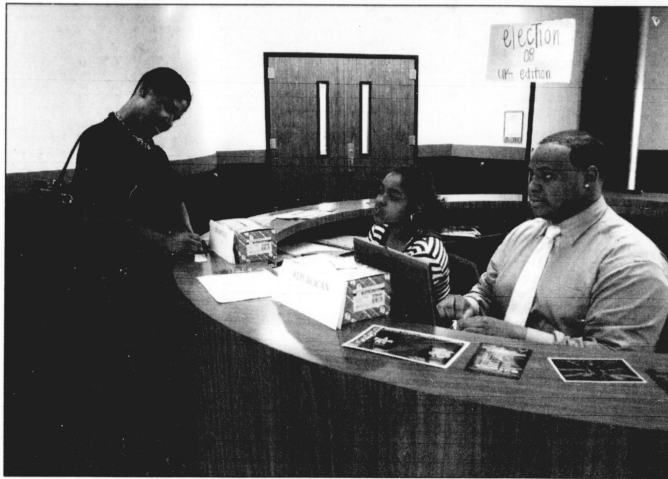
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PRACTICE AT THE POLLS



SABRINA HOUNSHELL | STAFF

Sade Jackson, left, an agriculture economics senior, fills out a ballot form in the Student Center during yesterday's mock election held by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and the Black Student Union. Crystal Beatty, center, a pre-nursing freshman, and Chris Harper, right, an agriculture communications senior, both members of the Black Student Union, watched over the ballot boxes. Out of 200 voters, 156 voted Democrat and 44 voted Republican. Sen. Barack Obama took the Democratic vote with 63 percent and Sen. John McCain won the Republican vote with 59 percent. According to Harper and Beatty, the election was held to see how students would vote if the Kentucky primaries were held earlier than May.

UK battles negative perceptions with minority recruitment program

By Rebecca Sweeney
rsweeney@kykernel.com

When she was a senior in high school, Asia Payne attended Come See For Yourself and saw herself at UK.

"Come See For Yourself was a big factor in my decision to attend UK because I met people like me doing well on such a big campus where there aren't so many people like me," said Payne, a black student and an integrated strategic communications sophomore.

Come See For Yourself takes minority students around UK's campus. The purpose is for volunteers on the tour to let visitors know UK is interested in having them as students, said Buzz Burnam, UK's director of

recruitment and diversity initiatives.

These visits made prospective students realize that the campus was much different than the negative images of UK told to them by parents, grandparents and fellow students, Burnam said.

"They need to see that they are not excluded but very much included in the ongoing academic and non-academic organizations and activities and events that take on the UK campus," he said.

The eight events during the fall semester this school year were opportunities for potential students to learn about financial aid and retention programs, interact with current undergraduate students of diverse back-

grounds, and talk to faculty, staff and advisers, Burnam said.

"UK is a predominately white institution," Burnam said. "Come See For Yourself allows students to see a mirror of themselves while visiting campus."

Come See For Yourself began in 1992 as a program for the Office for Minority Affairs after counselors began talking to enrolled black students about their decision to attend UK, Burnam said.

"The clear reason that they chose to attend to UK was because they took it upon themselves or a family relative to actually visit UK," he said.

A rap written about the program by a Come See For Yourself student, who is now a UK alum, gives Burnam reassur-

ance of the program's value.

"I never say it out loud, but it continues to motivate me with the fact that the events are making a positive difference in the college decision-making process of diversity students that participate in the events," he said.

Currently enrolled students and several organizations work very closely with making Come See For Yourself meaningful and relevant to visiting students, Burnam said.

Burnam encourages student groups and individuals interested in being a part of the Come See For Yourself events throughout the year to sign up in his office in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions in room 100 of the Funkhouser Building.

PHELPS

Continued from page 1

make progress with this problem UK is battling."

At the SG meeting, Kahne called for Phelps to create an official document detailing exactly what would be done to resolve the situation.

D.J. Lacy, an agricultural communications sophomore, said the problems with diversity on campus that existed before were only made worse by this e-mail.

"The true problem here lies with simple ignorance," Lacy said. "It's quite disrespectful. That e-mail represents institutionalized racism, and I'm hurt."

Phelps said that last night was the best Senate meeting he has ever been to because of the willingness of students to voice their opinions on the issue.

"I appreciate the honest feedback," Phelps said. "I will sleep wonderful tonight knowing something I've done sparked this reaction and a positive force from this campus."

Yalya Ahmed, president of UK's Muslim Student Association, said he met with "a very apologetic" Phelps yesterday before the SG meeting. The MSA is also looking at the situation as an opportunity for education and awareness of the ignorance at UK.

"A lot of people I talked with were ex-

pecting Muslims to be angry," Ahmed said. "But most Muslims take these things in stride and look for ways to grow from the situation."

Pat Terrell, vice president of Student Affairs, said one student upset by Phelps' distribution of the e-mail is one too many.

In a statement issued Tuesday, Terrell said Phelps' forwarded e-mail "perpetuated offensive stereotypes regarding race, religion and ethnicity that have no place in civil discourse or on a university campus where values of tolerance and mutual respect should be cherished."

Terrell said she and Dean of Students Victor Hazard are holding a closed meeting tonight with students who are concerned with the e-mail. The students called the meeting, and Terrell said she would meet with anyone else who wanted to talk with her.

While Student Affairs has not set up anything specifically to address the situation, the office will take cues from the students and follow their lead, Terrell said.

"We want (students) to feel free to speak freely," she said. "If they have good ideas, you'll be hearing about them."

5

KENTUCKY KERNEL

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Two men gather branches from the yard of a home on Linden Walk that was damaged by a tree that fell during yesterday's storm. The storm downed trees and power lines throughout Fayette County and left thousands of homes without electricity.

DAMAGE

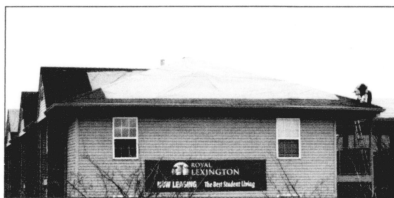
Continued from page 1

amount of severe weather for February," Richey said.

Road and forestry crews were in Lexington throughout the day to clear the streets of debris, according to a news release from the city. Significant damage to homes and other buildings, especially along Winchester Road and in the Garden Springs area, were reported.

English sophomore Brittany Jarog woke up yesterday morning to an e-mail saying that if she left her car on Linden Walk, she should check and make sure it wasn't damaged.

Jarog walked down to the street.



A worker stretches a tarp over the roof of Royal Lexington Apartments yesterday afternoon following an early-morning storm that caused heavy damage in Lexington.

littered with debris. A tree branch had fallen on the roof of her green Ford Taurus, crushing the top of the car. The back window had been shattered.

"I immediately started crying,"

Jarog said. "I didn't know how to handle it."

Jarog immediately called her mother, whom she was planning to visit in Illinois this weekend. Car insurance would make things better, Jarog said, but the damage still stunned her.

"It didn't even cross my mind that trees would be falling on my car," Jarog said.

As the tow truck prepared to drive away with Jarog's car, neighbors came and talked to Stumbo over the noise of the chainsaws cutting fallen trees in her yard. The mailman handed her mail and started a conversation.

"I know it's a tough day," he said. "Boy, that's an understatement," she replied with a small smile.

Steam pipe explodes on campus

STAFF REPORT

An underground steam pipe ruptured yesterday, blowing a large hole in a parking lot outside the Kentucky Tobacco and Research Development Center and leaving nearby cars covered in dust and gravel.

The explosion most likely happened when rainwater from yesterday's heavy storms came into contact with the pipe, said Jack Applegate, director of UK Physical Plant Division.

"Once you get moisture near a really hot steam line, it gets violent," he said.

The pipe, which was about six to eight inches in diameter, provided steam for heating and hot water to three nearby buildings. Two of them, the Plant Science Building and the Gluck Equine

Research Center, had service restored to them yesterday from other pipes because they also use steam for sterilization. E.S. Good Burn should get service back today, Applegate said.

The pipe could have been weakened from corrosion caused by ground water, said Bob Wiseman, vice president of facilities management.

"This was one we were watching closely and were concerned about," Wiseman said, adding that they were lucky no people or cars were directly over the pipe when it burst.

Wiseman's office monitors all underground pipes on campus, and he said larger pipes that serve more of campus were replaced in front of the Main Building last year. Wiseman said maintaining

the steam infrastructure is a "critical issue" and that the pipes are replaced as funds become available.

The steam pipe that ruptured yesterday was relatively new compared to others on UK's campus. It was installed in the late 1980s, Applegate said, and the university has steam lines that are "a lot older."

However, UK has wanted to replace the pipe for almost four years but has not had the funding, Applegate said. He said he hopes that state budget cuts don't hinder the replacement.

In general, steam pipe ruptures are rare, Applegate said, and are "not too big of a concern."

"It's no more dangerous than walking under a power line or anything else that can fall on you," he said.



Physical Plant workers gather around the hole left by a steam pipe that ruptured yesterday in the Kentucky Tobacco Research and Development Center parking lot.

Tornadoes devastate Southeast, killing at least 54

By Dahleen Glanton
Chicago Tribune

LAFAYETTE, Tenn. — Donald Thompson had settled into his favorite chair in front of the television set, just as he does every night, when the tornado warnings began appearing on the screen. Then, suddenly, everything went black.

Normally, he said, he would have just stayed put. But this time, something told him to get up and go into a closet in the back bedroom. Less than a minute later, he said, the roof and walls came tumbling down.

"Everything just collapsed around me and blew away," said Thompson, 60, as he sorted through the rubble Wednesday that had been his two-bedroom mobile home. "I thought I was gone, but I managed to dig a hole and crawl out from under the debris and get out."

Thompson and his neighbors here in Macon County were in the path of a barrage of tornadoes that swept across the south late Tuesday and yesterday, killing at least 54 people in Tennessee, Arkansas, Kentucky and Alabama and injuring hundreds of others. It was the deadliest string of tornadoes to strike the U.S. in almost a quarter century.

His rented trailer was at the center of a 20-mile long path of devastation in rural Macon

County, where at least 13 people were killed and more than 70 were injured. Officials said rescue workers, aided by the team from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, continued to go door to door in the sparsely populated community looking for more victims, including at least 10 who have been reported missing.

This rural area of hills and valleys near the Kentucky border seemed to be a magnet for the tornadoes that scattered debris over a mile-wide swath. Along Akersville Road, one of the hardest hit areas, house after house was destroyed, leaving nothing but the foundation in some cases and a crumbling frame in others.

Abandoned horses and livestock roamed in the pastures, where metal roofs from nearby barns dangled on downed utility lines. Battered cars and trucks sat idle in the driveways, stuck in puddles of mud or smashed by uprooted trees and furniture.

Electricity was out in the entire county, affecting 22,000 households. Authorities set a 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew to curtail looting that began as soon as the tornadoes had passed.

"We are doing all in this rural community that we can do," Keith Scruggs, chief of the county's emergency management office, said, adding that the county had no tornado

Behind the deadly storms

A probable cause of the tornadoes that swept across the South Tuesday is La Nina, the cooling of the tropical Pacific Ocean.

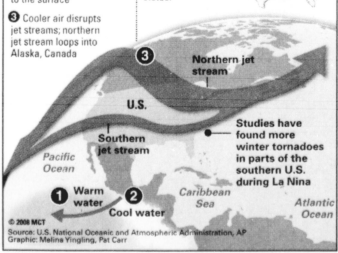
The La Nina effect

"The little girl"

- 1 Strong Pacific trade winds blow warm surface water westward
- 2 Cold water rises to the surface
- 3 Cooler air disrupts jet streams; northern jet stream loops into Alaska, Canada

Where the tornadoes hit

Storms left a path of death, destruction across these five states:



sirens. "You never think this will happen at home and you are never prepared. It's a wake-up call."

President Bush planned to visit Tennessee on Friday. Elsewhere in the state, a fire erupted at a natural gas pumping station in nearby Hartsville and dormi-

toriums were destroyed at Union University in Jackson, sending 50 students to the hospital.

Thompson, a retired truck driver, returned to his trailer Wednesday afternoon hoping to find his wallet and medication for high blood pressure and diabetes. He found them beneath an

overturned kitchen table. He also found his dentures, a few clothes and a half-full bottle of tequila. He considered himself lucky.

"Right now, I am just glad to be alive," he said. "I was lucky compared to a lot of people."

In a community where everyone knows their neighbors, they all, it seemed, had a story to tell of someone who had died. There was the 80-year-old neighbor who was found in the rubble of her home's foundation. And there was the woman who had sought shelter at a nearby church and died when the tornado destroyed the structure.

Bary Newberry was one of the first people to arrive on Akersville Road after the tornado hit. What he saw left him stunned.

"Everybody was running around like they were drunk. They were just dazed and devastated," said Newberry, a constable who got there around 11 p.m. Tuesday. "It was dark and everybody was hollering and flashlights were flashing everywhere. I told them to hold hands, and I started corralling them down the highway to safety. Then we started lining up school buses to come and pick them up."

Newberry said he helped rescue workers recover at least five bodies in the area. "We've never seen anything

UK ALERT

Continued from page 1

Phone calls and pagers were least effective yesterday, Giles said. Most people who registered their pagers never received a message because the numbers have to be entered into the system in a special way, Giles said her office would contact those people to work with them individually.

Meanwhile, voice messages take longer to process because of the extra steps required in making a phone call, such as getting a dial tone, waiting for the user to answer and playing the entire message, Griffiths said. The system can potentially send upward of 10,000 e-mails or about 30 text messages in the time it takes to make a phone call, he said.

Phone calls also have a disadvantage because they have to travel through communication carriers that are not as reliable as e-mail, Giles said. Because of network problems, "message delivery could be delayed seconds, minutes, even hours."

"We want them to receive that as quickly as possible, but it gets out of our control once we push that button and once it leaves the WARN system," Giles said.

To find ways to improve the turnaround time, Giles first contacted WARN at 4 a.m. yesterday, and other UK officials joined her for a conference call with the company later that morning. WARN agreed to add an updated phone dialing service to UK's system at no cost.

UK will test those changes in the next week, Giles said, and will publicize in advance the date and time of the test.

Almost 2,000 of the 9,100 people who have signed up for the system did not receive any messages because they did not enter any numbers or e-mail addresses, Giles said. Some of them did not realize their contact information was not registered until they called the Office of Emergency Management yesterday, she said.

UK Alert has received a significant amount of interest in its first few weeks, Griffiths said, which means a large number of people in the campus community can be contacted quickly. However, he said, no single system or form of communication will be perfect for every situation.

"Emergencies never follow the plan," he said. "You can have plans, but when an event unfolds, it never follows exactly the way you would expect it to."

STAFF WRITER KEITH SMILEY CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT

SPORTS

Matthew George
Asst. Sports Editor
Phone: 257-1915
mgeorge@kykernel.com

Smith's injury leaves void at Cats' point guard position

By James Pennington
jpennington@kykernel.com

More devastating than the UK women's basketball team's loss at No. 2 Tennessee on Sunday was the injury freshman point guard Amber Smith suffered in the game's first half.

Smith hurt her knee while attempting a layup with 5 seconds left before halftime. She sat out the rest of the game and after it was over, found out she had torn the anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee — an injury that will sideline her for the rest of the season.

"She is one of the special people on our team with a very strong, competitive fire burning, and it burns hot," head coach Matthew Mitchell said. "It was definitely a big blow to her when she got the news, but she has already bounced back.

The competitive fire in her will now be directed towards rehabilitation."

The significance of Smith's injury is amplified because of the increased role she played on the floor since a foot injury sidelined junior guard Carly Ormerod in December. Ormerod has not logged a minute of playing time since the Louisville game on Dec. 20 due to sesamoiditis.

The team has only had two practices to cope with its losses and prepare for tonight's game against the Ole Miss Lady Rebels.

Smith started all 12 games in Ormerod's absence and provided a steady hand to guide the Cats' offense, averaging 6.8 points and 2.8 assists per game. With Smith gone for the season and Ormerod out indefinitely, Mitchell will look for a host of

players to fill the void.

"Coping with the loss of Ormerod was a bit easier because we knew Smith was going to be solid at the point guard," Mitchell said. "Now we're left without a true point guard. We're going to have to come together and do it by committee. That's tough, but I think our players are ready to step up.

Despite a depleted roster, Mitchell said his team has what it takes to remain competitive in the Southeastern Conference.

"In order for us to win against Ole Miss, some players are going to have to fill roles they don't normally fill," Mitchell said.

The first-year head coach also said his team was inspired by their upset of then-No. 17 Georgia on Jan. 31.

"You don't believe a team could go on the road in this conference and beat a ranked team by shooting 30 percent from the field," he said. "We did that last week against Georgia, so this team has done things outside of the norm. I won't ever put anything past this team, because they've proved a lot of people wrong."

After a brutal non-conference schedule, in which UK finished with a 6-8 record, Mitchell said he was pleased at how his team has turned the tides on its season. The Cats have won five of their first eight SEC contests.

"We told the team yesterday that we've come a long, long way," Mitchell said. "We're in a position to do some very good things this season, and we're not going to turn back now."



Amber Smith attempts a steal against LSU on Jan. 27. The freshman guard tore the anterior cruciate ligament and lateral meniscus in her right knee against Tennessee on Sunday and will miss the remainder of the season.

Boyd headlines UK's 'speediest recruiting class in recent years'

By Eric Lindsey
elindsey@kykernel.com

With a solid recruiting class already in the works, the UK football team waited anxiously yesterday morning to see if Aaron Boyd, a prized Lexington prospect, would commit to the Cats.

Boyd, a wide receiver from Henry Clay High School and brother of former UK quarterback Shane Boyd, narrowed his choices down to UK and Oregon before his news conference at 10:30 yesterday morning. As family members, coaches, high school teammates, teachers and fans waited for word of Boyd's destination, the 6-foot-3, 210-pound receiver gave the audience a little surprise.

The senior picked up an Oregon hat and started to place it on his head. But as soon as the anticipation in the room disappeared, Boyd pulled out a black UK hat, choosing the Cats.

Boyd highlights a 20-man recruiting class that head coach Rich Brooks and recruiting coordinator and quarterback coach Randy Sanders announced yesterday on NCAA National Signing Day.

Boyd is one of four wide outs in the 2008 class that also includes six high school seniors who have played quarterback at some point in their careers. The recruiting class, made solely of high school seniors, is one of UK's speediest recruiting classes in recent years, Brooks said.

"I'm very pleased obviously that we were able to get maybe one of the most athletic and faster recruiting classes that we've signed since I've been here," Brooks said. "As you know, five years ago one of my biggest statements is what our team needed was speed. This class has a lot of that in it."

Among UK's most heralded recruits are defensive back Winston Guy, wide receiver and defensive back E.J. Fields and quarterback Randall Cobb. Cobb played multiple positions in high school and Scout.com projects him to be a defensive back for UK.

Guy recorded 75 tackles, 7.5 sacks and forced two fumbles last season at Lexington Catholic High School; Fields recorded eight interceptions on defense at Frankfort High School in Frankfort, Ky.; and Cobb, a dual-threat quarterback, threw for 1,765 yards and ran for 793 yards at Alcoa High School in Alcoa, Tenn.

The Cats also signed several athletic linemen

that could play either offense or defense, Brooks said.

Although the Cats added highly touted local recruits and quickness to help compete in the always-speedy Southeastern Conference, the incoming class was only ranked No. 50 by Scout.com and No. 58 by Rivals.com. Scout.com, which ranks players on a scale of one to five stars, rated only three players in the four-star range and awarded zero five-stars.

But Brooks has never put much stock into rankings.

"When you talk about the star rankings on recruits, I never really get carried away with that," Brooks said. "If you look at the guys that we just lost in our senior class and a lot of our guys that are playing at a lot four- and five-star guys in those guys but they played like four- and five-stars."

And though UK did not have a top-25 recruiting class, Miller Saffir, a recruiting analyst for Scout.com, said UK put together a solid class.

"It is a good class," he said. "From top to bottom I thought they did a good job of filling holes, especially at the wide receiver position."

Boyd, helps fill the Cats' biggest hole going into next year. With the loss of wide receivers Keenan Burton and Steve Johnson to graduation, UK will likely count on at least "one, if not two" freshman wide outs to play a significant amount of time.

"The people that are going to line up at wide receiver in this freshman class have the biggest opportunity to have an impact next fall because we have a hole there, we have a need there," Brooks said.

Boyd, the No. 1 prospect in Kentucky by Rivals.com and Scout.com, caught 55 passes for 1,157 yards and 15 touchdowns during his senior campaign. At his news conference yesterday morning, Boyd said he hopes to catch "70 to 80" balls next year.

While that number might be a little premature, he has a chance to compete for a starting spot, Brooks said. Fields could also be in the mix for playing time at the wide receiver position, Brooks added.

"Offensive coordinator Joker Phillips is going to get me the ball, and I trust him," Boyd said.

STAFF WRITER TRAVIS WALDRON
CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS

20	5	4	1,157	1
Number of total recruits signed by UK on Signing Day	Number of in-state recruits signed by UK on Signing Day	Number of wide receivers signed by UK on Signing Day	Number of total receiving yards Aaron Boyd recorded last season	Aaron Boyd's ranking among Kentucky prospects as rated by Scout.com and Rivals.com

Pau Gasol gives Lakers extra dimension

By Kevin Ding
The Orange County Register

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Kobe Bryant couldn't score, and the Lakers still won.

"We couldn't have done that in the past," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said.

Well, maybe in the long-gone past, when Shaquille O'Neal was Bryant's teammate. Amid reports that O'Neal was on the verge of going to Lakers rival Phoenix for Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks (which was consummated on Wednesday), the Lakers won their first game with their trade coup, Pau Gasol — pulling away from the New Jersey Nets, 105-90, on Tuesday night.

Gasol had 24 points on 10-of-15 shooting, 12 rebounds and four assists in 35 minutes.

In the fourth quarter, he shot 5 for 5 from the field with two assists. And with that the Lakers' evolution away from being a sans-Shaq one-man team took a giant leap. This was a comfortable victory despite Bryant scoring six points in 40 minutes — by far the lowest per-minute production of his career.

When told after the game that O'Neal was reportedly on the verge of going to Lakers rival Phoenix for Marion and Banks, Bryant said: "I know he likes warm weather." Beyond that, Bryant said he could only concentrate on advancing the Lakers' game with his new 7-footer, Gasol. Even with Bryant struggling this game, in part because of a dislocated right pinky finger, Lakers co-captains Bryant and Derek Fisher both used the same

word to describe playing with Gasol.

"He made the game extremely easy," Bryant said.

"Really easy," said Fisher, who scored a game-high 28 points without committing a turnover.

Coming from the different perspective of having played with a young, confused Memphis team, Gasol still saw things similarly, saying: "It always makes the game much easier when five guys on the floor know what they're doing." Gasol's over-the-head pass out of a double team to a concentrate on advancing the Lakers' game with his new 7-footer, Gasol. Even with Bryant struggling this game, in part because of a dislocated right pinky finger, Lakers co-captains Bryant and Derek Fisher both used the same

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- disinterest
- difficulty concentrating
- irritability
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- mood swings

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This screening day is provided by the Counseling & Testing Center and the College of Medicine.



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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.

■ KERNEL EDITORIAL

Raise cigarette tax to offset budget cuts for higher education

With state universities facing 12 percent cuts in the governor's proposed budget, Kentucky should raise its cigarette tax to fund higher education.

A proposed law filed Friday would raise the tax on a pack of cigarettes in Kentucky to \$1, a 70-cent increase, the Kernel reported Monday.

The increase is long overdue, especially since Kentucky's cigarette tax is one of the lowest in the country.

Kentucky's rate of 30 cents per pack ranks the fifth lowest out of all states, and raising the tax to \$1 would place Kentucky 20th on the list, according to the Federation of Tax Administrators Web site. If passed as it is, the proposed bill would raise \$200 million a year, said state Rep. David Watkins, D-Henderson, one of the bill's co-sponsors.

That sum would be more than enough to cover Beshear's proposed \$160 million cut for higher education in 2009-10.

However, the tax increase will not pass without the governor's approval, and spokeswoman Vicki Glass told the Kernel that Beshear would not support a cigarette tax increase at any level.

"He believes Kentuckians are taxed enough as it is," Glass said in the article.

Beshear may be right about the amount of taxation Kentuckians face,

but desperate times call for desperate measures. And for state universities, the proposed budget cuts would put them in desperate situations.

If the legislature does not restore funding for universities, UK will have to consider "layoffs, salary and benefit freezes, and program closures," as well as steep tuition increases, President

Lee Todd said in a campuswide e-mail after Beshear's budget address. With such negative consequences for the quality of education impending, it is irresponsible for Beshear not to even consider a cigarette-tax increase.

Chances are that, if an increase were to pass, it would be less than the steep hike proposed by Watkins. But as Rep. Kathy Stein, D-Lexington, told the Kernel, a 70-cent increase is just a figure for the discussion to start with.

An increase of about 30 cents and it would raise more than half of the revenue required to cover the cuts in higher education.

Lastly, the final version of the tax bill must state explicitly that the revenue raised would be used for funding higher education only. The bill's sponsors proposed the cigarette-tax increase in the name of bringing financial relief to the state's college students, and they must make sure that the money raised would do just that.

With state universities considering layoffs, hiring freezes and steep tuition hikes, it is irresponsible for the governor to take a cigarette-tax increase off the table.

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kernel's reporting one-sided, dishonest

I'm all for the press acting as a check on government and leadership, but the Kernel needs to keep a check on itself. It has absolutely failed to present an honest, multi-sided argument in the uproar over Student Government President Nick Phelps.

As any journalist knows, news stories begin with the most important details and throw in the specifics later on. However, in yesterday's cover story, the Kernel presented every argument for how horrible a human being Nick Phelps is and then buried the counterarguments on the next page.

Not only that, but the headline ("SG president's anti-Muslim e-mail draws fire") could even be construed as libel, because it insinuates that he wrote the e-mail, ignoring the fact that it was forwarded from a personal e-mail account to the cabinet as a joke. The sub-headline hints at part of this, but it's in a smaller print and ignores important details.

Mr. Phelps obviously lacked any common sense in sending it in the first place, but the Kernel could at least act independently of the sham of an organization that is the UK College Democrats. I'm a liberal Democrat planning to vote for Barack Obama, and I find this whole situation, and the uproar, rather ridiculous. However, I find the Kernel's totally one-sided reporting totally despicable.

Andrew Waldner
Journalism and economics senior

Keep Boyd and Jewell halls open

The closing of Boyd and Jewell halls next year seems to be the inevitable result of the construction of the new residence halls on South Campus. If the money spent to build those dorms had been spent either on improving Boyd and Jewell or on something else altogether, then low occupancy would not be a problem.

I also find it odd that there is the problem of low occupancy in the residence halls on this campus when this year it seems like the place has been overflowing with new students, especially when recently such a big deal has been made regarding increasing admissions for "diverse" students. It would seem that if one wanted to bring a larger group of students to the university, one would keep the housing options a little more flexible.

Paulo Stochaj
Biology and English senior

Improve safety near parking garage

I would like to invite President Lee Todd and the head of Parking and Transportation Services to make an evening visit to the spillover parking lot behind Garage No. 6 on Press Avenue so they can see for themselves what a truly uncomfortable place it is to park.

Anyone who leaves their car there and works beyond 6:30 p.m. has to return to a darkened lot with several shady ditches and tangles of bushes where a criminal could be lying in wait. Worse still, it is open to the railroad, giving any criminals a perfect escape route. Do I need to remind anyone in the UK hierarchy that this is the exact spot where the railroad killer claimed one of his victims?

It is only a matter of time before someone gets attacked here. Please put up a fence and improve the lighting!

In Stewart
Biology graduate student

Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Linsen Li. Be sure to include your full name, class, major and phone number (for confirmation).

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com



WAYNE STAYSKAL, The Tampa Tribune

Why spend half a billion dollars on elections instead of solutions?

With the dust still settling from this week's Super Tuesday, I thought it might be appropriate to take another look at the candidates for the presidency of the United States.

Not the candidates themselves, mind you. Not their Hollywood smiles and defined jaw lines, their made-for-TV looks with hearts of gold.

And not their ideals, their values or how they stand on the issues, either. I want to look at what really qualifies a candidate for a run at the presidency: money.

It could be said that there's no stronger measure of authority in this country than the almighty dollar. It's certainly true in politics. You ever seen a poor man running for president? Me neither. At least not one who makes it very far.

And when you look at the fundraising totals from the campaign, it's obvious why.

In total, about \$594.9 million has been raised by presidential campaigns this election cycle, according to the Federal Election Commission.

The economic recession gets a lot of attention from the media right now. Maybe inflation has something to do with the number of dollars raised. And maybe not.

President George Bush had more than \$192 million to his name during his first run in 2000 and more than \$367 million in 2004. His challengers fared almost as well: Al Gore raised over \$132 million and John Kerry raised more than \$300 million, according to the commission.

I don't have a plan to yank the American economic engine out of the road or advice for my niece on avoiding being buried in debt when she is in college 18 years from now. And as an editor and news reporter at the Kernel, I am not given the luxury of voicing my personal opinion on current issues in my column.

But I do know a few places where a half-billion dollar pool of money could do much more positive work outside the pockets of politicians and their campaign managers.

The \$594 million in presidential campaigns would considerably close the gap in the \$886 million shortfall in Kentucky's budget over the next two years that the Kernel reported Jan. 30.

Speaking of Kentucky, the campaigns' funds are enough to give 78,825 non-Kentucky residents a full ride at UK.

Some politicians have argued that tax refunds could spur the economy. With the median household income being just over \$44,000 dollars, according to a 2004 estimate from the U.S. Census Bureau, the presidential candidates could afford to sprinkle a little financial gift to millions of Americans — or at least afford to meaningfully invest in valuable national social programs.

Readers, brace yourselves for a while longer. Steve Beshear and those sharing his stance on this crucial issue would like to allow Kentucky's cigarette tax to remain among the lowest in the nation while public universities are forced to raise tuition and enter hiring freezes. Put simply, they favor cheap cigarettes at the expense of public education.

However, perhaps due to my disappointment on how I see my tax dollars currently being spent, I remain skeptical of any tax increase that views a solitary group as an opportunity to solve financial problems that would have been avoided by any responsible administration. It is not fair to solely burden smokers and tobacco farmers under the banner of providing funds for higher education and positively impacting the health of Kentuckians.

While tobacco is certainly among the leading causes of health problems in Kentucky, obesity is also at the top of that list and should be addressed in legislation as soon as possible.

In my opinion, the best way to do this would be to split the proposed tax increase into a 35-cent-per-pack cigarette tax and a 35-cent-per-meal fast-food tax.

Neither the industries nor their consumers would be overburdened by this increase — and Kentuckians would be forced to recognize and consider the negative effects that cigarettes and fatty processed foods have on our quality of life. At the

same time, the money generated would allow Kentucky's universities to proceed with their scheduled budget.

But let's be realistic for a second and not the blind, democratic idealists that many politicians would like us to be. This money has the potential for real change, or at least the betterment of individuals and social programs, but instead it goes to TV attack ads and flashy signs for supporters to wave during rallies.

And let's not forget that only one person wins the seat in the White House. What happens to the other millions of dollars? Not much besides waste.

If only American corporations and individuals found such noble generosity besides every leap year.

Sean Rose is a journalist and English senior. E-mail: searose@kykernel.com.

Split the tax burden between Ky.'s two biggest public-health threats

Unfortunately for current and future college students in Kentucky, it appears that our government is preparing to defeat progressive legislation that would benefit a majority of residents.

Despite the support of many members of the House, the office of Gov. Steve Beshear has made it clear that he does not support a proposed 70-cent tax increase on cigarettes. The revenue generated by this tax would provide income to help alleviate our state's budget deficit and possibly provide money to higher education that would otherwise have to be cut, as was noted in the Kernel on Monday.

Senate members were also cited as being opposed to the legislation, presumably to avoid any controversy that would jeopardize their chances for re-election in November. This desperate attempt to maintain the status quo and allow political ambition and partisan agendas to so deeply influence policies that affect the health and educational opportunities of Kentuckians is pathetic, although not surprising.

However, it is the message that will be sent by not passing this legis-

lation that is the most deplorable. In effect, Steve Beshear and those sharing his stance on this crucial issue would like to allow Kentucky's cigarette tax to remain among the lowest in the nation while public universities are forced to raise tuition and enter hiring freezes. Put simply, they favor cheap cigarettes at the expense of public education.

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It is not fair to solely burden smokers and tobacco farmers under the banner of providing funds for higher education.

gets, and Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship money would be available to the students who depend on it for tuition, textbooks or rent.

Kentucky is home to tobacco, bourbon, thoroughbred racehorses and Kentucky Fried Chicken. These things are recognized and associated with our state all over the world, and are a source of pride and pleasure for many Kentuckians.

By failing to increase taxes on a lethal product like cigarettes and letting obesity steadily rise in our state, we not only have something to be ashamed of, but also risk emphasizing a misconception held by many outside the state: Kentuckians are unhealthy and uneducated, and they don't care much about fixing either one.

Mark Wetherington is a journalism junior. E-mail: opinions@kykernel.com.

UK 66, AUBURN 63

Cats eke out win at Auburn, extend streak to four games

By Travis Waldron
twaldron@skynet.com

UK extended its winning streak to a season-long four games, defeating the Auburn Tigers 66-63 last night at Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum in Auburn, Ala.

The Cats (11-9, 5-2 Southeastern Conference) shot 66.7 percent from the field to eke by the Tigers despite playing without senior guard Ramel Bradley and sophomore guard Jodie Meeks.

Though they shot the ball well, turnovers kept the Cats from putting Auburn away.

UK came out of the gate hot, making 13-of-19 field goals in the first half but had 11 turnovers, and an Auburn 3-pointer at the halftime buzzer tied the game at 34.

The Cats came out on fire again in the second half. UK made 8-of-10 shots to start the second frame, pushing its lead to 46-37 with 16 minutes to play. But the undermanned Tigers, playing without post players Josh Dollard, Boubacar Sylla and Korvotney Barber, who are all out with injuries, still didn't go away. The Tiger's comeback was aided yet again by UK turnovers.



Patterson

Auburn pulled within 64-61 with 29.5 seconds left, and another UK turnover allowed a lay-in to cut it to 64-63. Sophomore forward Ramon Harris sunk a free throw to give the Cats a 65-63 lead, and sophomore guard DeWayne Reed missed a 3-pointer with 3 seconds to play. A Patrick Patterson free throw provided the final points, sealing the win for the Cats.

Overall, UK turned it over 24 times, but hot shooting from the freshman forward Patterson and senior guard Joe Crawford helped the Cats pull out the win. Crawford made 8-of-12 shots to lead UK with 20 points, and Patterson added 19 points on 8-of-10 shooting.

Patterson, who also led the Cats with 8 rebounds, fueled the UK offense early, making 6-of-7 first-half shots. UK's front court dominated an under-sized Auburn team all night, as sophomore forward Perry Stevenson added 10 points.

The four-game win streak — including UK's first two road wins of the year — has put the Cats in prime position in the SEC with the halfway point of the conference schedule in sight. With Florida's loss at Tennessee Tuesday and UK's win last night, the Cats are now alone in second place in the SEC Eastern Division.

A CROSS TO BEAR



SABRINA HOUNSHELL / STAFF

UK alum David Salas receives the distribution of the ashes during the Ash Wednesday Mass at the Newman Center last night.

Ky. colleges invite back students who fell just short of graduating

By Ashton Smith
news@skynet.com

Just when he was considering other possibilities for his future, Andrew Slayton received a letter from President Lee Todd inviting him to come back to school.

For Slayton, who left UK without a degree 10 years ago, going back seemed overwhelming until he realized how little he had left to finish.

"Life got in the way earlier, but I just felt like I had some unfinished business at school," Slayton said. "Turns out I only had two classes left to take."

Project Graduate, a program launched by Kentucky's Council on Postsecondary Education in November, has found 11,000 students like Slayton, and is trying to help them get back to colleges and universities across the state to finish their degrees and raise the number of Kentucky college graduates.

The program has sent letters to approximately 950 former

UK students between 25 and 50 years old who have previously earned 90 or more credit hours, inviting them to come back, said Cecile McKinney, Project Graduate's UK representative. About 100 people have responded to the letters, she said.

The project tries to make the transition easier by providing academic advisers trained specifically for non-traditional students and a special degree audit to help adult learners figure out what classes they still need for graduation, McKinney said.

The CPE hosted an Adult Learners Summit in Lexington earlier this week to discuss how to make atmospheres conducive to nontraditional students' learning needs.

Jim Applegate, vice president for academic affairs at the CPE, said non-traditional students' lifestyles often make it hard for them to return to school because of scheduling and atmospheric issues. Many campuses, including UK's, are

geared more toward traditional student lifestyles. Applegate said, something that people with day jobs may find difficult.

"Financial aid and scholarships are often geared for out-of-high-school seniors," Applegate said. "Changing this and adding flexibility to the traditional college life will appeal to these students."

This week's summit explored some of those problems, and nontraditional students assessed how well colleges are accommodating them.

Those assessments will hopefully help schools understand how to cater to their adult students, Applegate said.

Although the transition has been challenging, Slayton said the initiatives Project Graduate has taken have already made a difference.

"It's somewhat of a balancing act, between school, the kids and a job," he said. "I will have some juggling to do, but this was 10 times easier than before."

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