

KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 37 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Solar Car team in 9th place despite clouds

By Allie Garza
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UK's Solar Car team made the cut last Thursday and began their race to Calgary on Sunday. After two days of qualification trials, the Gato Del Sol III was assigned the fifth position in the race.

The Gato Del Sol III is the product of UK engineering students and runs solely on solar power.

After passing scrutineering last week, the UK Solar Car team had to complete 60 laps on a 1.7 mile road course that had been set up at the Texas Motorsports Ranch in Cresson, Texas last Thursday. By Sunday morning the team had qualified to start in fifth place and left Plano, Texas.

"When we took off, I told the team their theme was 'Living on the Edge,'" said Scott Stephens, a mechanical engineering professor.

The team encountered early problems but were able to work through them before beginning the race, Stephens said.

"Calculations showed that it would last half the race," Stephens said. The team worked until 3:30 a.m. to fix the problem, identifying circuits in the battery box that were needed, and began the race at 9:00 a.m.

On the first day, the Gato Del Sol III made it to the checkpoint in McAlester, Okla., 154 miles from the starting line. After staying at the checkpoint for 30 minutes, the team continued on to Neosho, Mo., and was forced to stop 50 miles short of the checkpoint because the North American Solar Car Challenge forces all contestants to cease driving at 6:00 p.m.

Currently the team is in ninth place and headed for Sioux Falls, S.D. and will be finishing the entire race on July 22 in Calgary.

"So far there has been no issue or problems," said Anthony Robertson, a mechanical engineering student and driver for the UK Solar Car team.

"I can't really complain," said Matt Hatfield, a mechanical engineering senior and project leader of the team. "The car is still working and the race officials are surprised we haven't had any major trouble."

For the team, their main concern has been cloud coverage and storms.

"If we can get a good break in storm weather, we'll be pulling up in front of the pack," Robertson said. Cloud coverage has been an issue for the team since the first day.

Robertson admitted that the team is worried about the next two legs of the race. Due to the clouds, the Gato Del Sol III has relied on a battery pack for some of the race to power the car. Today the team will continue to use the battery pack, which will have them driving 25 mph for an estimated 150 miles.

Stephens, who has advised the UK Solar Car team since 1999, said that despite their setbacks, the team is thrilled for how far they've made it.

"They're all worked to death from lack of sleep," he said. On average the team is resting between four and five hours.

"We're running when I think we should be running," Stephens added and said he believes the team is doing very well.

"The cars that are in the lead cost about ten times more than ours cost to build," he said. For UK, it's tough to compete with the technology that the leader from the University of Michigan has.

"Personally, I didn't have any expectations coming in," Hatfield said. "All I wanted to was finish." Hatfield noted that the team is on track, despite the weather.

While the cars leading the race were able to

See **Solar Car** on page 3

Beshear appoints alumni to UK Board

By Blair Thomas
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Gov. Steve Beshear appointed two UK alumni to positions on the UK Board of Trustees, replacing two members whose terms have expired.

For Britt Brockman, a Louisville eye surgeon and alumnus of the UK College of Pharmacy, being a member of the board is "an honor he gets to experience a second time around."

"I sat on the Board of Trustees as the student representative during my time in '81 and '82 as student body president," Brockman said. "When I left that year I vowed to give back to UK just part of what it has given to me and I'm really excited about this opportunity to do that."

Brockman, who received a medical degree from the University of Louisville, was selected by the governor from a list of nominees from the bi-partisan Postsecondary Education Nominating Committee. While he has a passion for healthcare, particularly healthcare for Kentucky citizens, he said he will start his six-year term without any biased views.

"I think it's best for a new board member to come into the position with an open mind, without any preconceived notions of issues on the table," Brockman said. "I don't come in with an agenda or claim to know all the issues that we will deal with, but I plan to learn."

Brockman said he also takes a strong interest in Student Affairs and issues of concern for students because of his time at UK.

"I get passionate about student issues and I won't hesitate to address anything or any problem that might come up," he said. "I certainly didn't hesitate when I was a student here."

Brockman replaces Billy Wilcoxson whose term on the board has expired.

Jo Hern Curriss, director of Spouse Programs for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities in Washington, D.C., was the second appointment made by the governor late last week. She will represent UK alumni and will be selected from a list of nominees

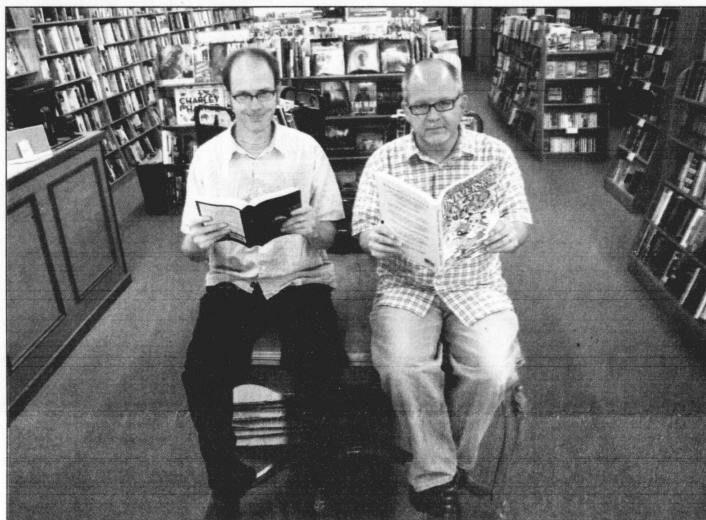
from the UK Alumni Association.

Curriss, of Chevy Chase, Md., received her bachelor's degree in political science and economics and a Juris Doctorate from the UK. She replaces Myra Leigh Tobin whose term on the board expired.

Both new appointments will serve on the Board of Trustees until June 30, 2014.

Board member Frank Shoop's term was extended until June of 2014. Shoop, of Georgetown, Ky., has served on the board since 1991.

Of the 20 members of the Board of Trustees, 16 are appointed by the governor, two are elected UK faculty representatives, one is an elected UK staff representative and one is the president of Student Government.



Hap Houlihan and Wyn Morris of The Morris Book Shop have been working with books since their time as students at UK 20 years ago. PHOTO BY ALLIE GARZA | STAFF

Getting back to the books

Morris Book Shop reopens 3 decades later with old-time feel

Allie Garza
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A small wooden stool sits behind the counter of the newly opened The Morris Book Shop on Southland Drive.

It's been over thirty years since a Morris Book Shop has been open in Lexington and little remains of the old bookstore once located downtown. But the small wooden stool, a remnant of what once was, is a remnant of the shop that Wyn Morris and Hap Houlihan named their small store after.

Morris, who bears no relation to original bookshop, said the person who pur-

chased the stool at the closing of the original shop, gave it to him as a gift when he and Houlihan opened their store.

"While the store is thirty years gone, there's still so much goodwill that the old bookshop left behind," Morris said.

Located at the corner of Southland Drive and Southview Drive, The Morris Book Shop is much smaller than its larger competitors. With some 17,000 square feet and 20,000 books, the shop offers many popular titles ranging from every genre. And with Houlihan and Morris' book background, their knowledge will help lead customers to finding the perfect book.

"We've got room for more books, but what's the point?" Morris asked. Patrons have asked if the two plan on expanding, but both Morris and Houlihan agree that if the shop were any larger, it would spoil the feel.

"I can find books and we can holler at one another across the shop," Houlihan replied.

Houlihan and Morris are long time friends and have worked together since their days as DJs at what was then the newly established WRFL.

The pair have worked together at Joseph-Beth Booksellers and at University.

See **Bookstore** on page 3

NEWBERRY ICE CREAM



Mayor Jim Newberry speaks to incoming pre-economic freshman Jessica Spurlock and her parents Jerni and Lornie on Monday at Triangle Park. During this summer's advising conferences, students have been touring downtown Lexington and stop at Triangle Park for an ice cream social.

First issue free. Subsequent issues 25 cents.

Conference to reduce engineering impact

By Blair Thomas
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With the World Equestrian Games arriving in Central Kentucky in 2010, urban planning has been a subject of discussion lately; mountain top removal mining, however, has been a subject of much debate for environmental clubs and state legislators for years.

These are just two of several environmental issues that will be discussed at Engineering Earth: the Impact of Megaengineering Projects, a conference early next week hosted by the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Geography.

Megaengineering projects are engineering jobs that are huge in scale or in cost. Scholars from 10 countries including Australia, China, India and Nigeria will present on the effects of these mega projects such as hydroelectric dams, irrigation systems, coastal

reclamation, river diversion, deforestation, ocean mining, military ecologies, and construction of tourist developments.

"My goal for this small international conference is to get together people from different areas of expertise — engineers, architects, environmentalists — to talk about projects and develop collaborations," said Stanley Brunn, UK geography professor.

Many of these professionals operate in parallel universes, for example engineers aren't always aware of the social impacts, so making these professionals sensitive to other points of view is a great step."

Brunn said while megaengineering projects are massive, everything is based on a matter of scale.

"It doesn't matter if it's tearing down a house or building a huge skyscraper, these projects make an impact on us whether

they're engineering, social or environmental," Brunn said.

In addition to urban planning and mountain top removal, the issues of ecotourism, global warming, water diversion and irrigation, highways and transportation and the social impact of megaengineering projects will also be the subject of this three-day conference beginning Monday.

Pertaining to the local issue of surface mining, the film "Mountain Top Removal," will be shown and followed with a discussion from filmmaker and environmental activist Michael O'Connell.

The Engineering Earth conference begins Sunday at 7 p.m. with a reception and presentations begin at 8:30 Monday morning after a welcome from UK Provost Kumble Subbaswamy. All events will be held at the Hilton Suites and are free and open to the public.

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Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black

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

Aries (March 21 - April 19) Today is a 6 — To advance your pet project, you may have to do without something else. It could be time, not money.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Today is an 8 — You'll have to schedule carefully in order to get it all done. That refers to the errands as well as to your social obligations.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) Today is a 6 — Your savings should be doing well. If they're not, put in the correction. You can find a couple of ways to increase your income.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Today is an 8 — What looked like a disaster turns out remarkably well. It wasn't the way you expected, but that's OK.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Today is a 6 — Before you launch into the job, better check again. The person who asked you to do this may have changed their mind.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Today is a 7 — Your determination is gaining you many admirers. One in particular will soon be facing a difficult problem.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Today is a 6 — Everybody wants something of you. It's hard to decide which way to jump first. Hide out and think it over.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Today is an 8 — The challenge you're facing now is all about logistics. How do you get all your errands run in the least time, for the least money?

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Today is a 7 — As you consider your wants and needs, you're able to be more objective. This is good, because there are lots of items on your lists. So many things, so little time. Set priorities.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Today is an 8 — You're better able to express yourself, although not always with words. Your actions reveal your intentions.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Today is a 7 — It's enough to keep up with the new work that's coming in. How can you clean up any of the older stuff that's stacked up?

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Today is an 8 — You're so popular, you hardly have time for yourself. Schedule in as much as you can. You can sleep over the weekend or even later, when you're very old.

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THE DISH

KATHERINE & JOSH
 Always on Her Side
 Josh Kelley has Katherine Heigl's back. After the actress, 29, came under fire for dissing Grey's Anatomy writers, her singer husband, 28, told Us, "I'm always supportive of Katie, no matter what she does." Part of his support plan? A getaway to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. "We needed time away from work and industry hassles," he explains. "We chilled out, ate a lot of food. I didn't even bring my golf clubs!" And when they returned for his concert at L.A.'s Hotel Cafe June 20, Heigl was front-row, singing along. During one song break, Kelley even joked about "learning how to do Katherine's curls. She taught me how to do it, and if you are wondering why my guitar sounds weird, it's because I burnt my pinkie on the curlers."

DAX & KRISTEN'S
 High-Speed Love
 They've been dating only seven months, but Kristen Bell is already serious with actor Dax Shepard. "She has gotten - insanely close to Dax," an insider says of Bell, 27, and her beau, 33. "He has a place in L.A., and she basically moved in right away." The pair, currently filming *When in Rome*, frolicked on the beach near the Italian city June 18. His last romance, with Kate Hudson in 2007, fizzled, says the pal. "Because Kate had a lot of emotional baggage." But with Bell, "they are comfortable wherever they are."

GAME NIGHT FOR BLAKE & PENN!
 As Gossip Girl stars, Blake Lively, 20, and her beau, Penn Badgley, 21, may get invited to the hottest parties, but on June 17 the low-key pair took themselves out to play a round of bingo at NYC eatery Tortilla Flats. Says a source who spotted the duo laying down their chips: "They were cuddling and laughing at the game. You can tell they are friends as well as being a couple."
JENNIFER & MARC
 Nanny-Free and Loving It!
 Four months old and already jet-setting around the world! Jennifer Lopez, 38, and Marc Anthony, 39, wrapped twins Max and Emme in \$100 his-and-hers Melissa Masse blankets after arriving in Belgium for Anthony's June 19 concert. And they're traveling light: Lopez's rep confirms to Us that she still has no nanny. "The whole 75-pieces-of-Louis-Vuitton-luggage thing is just not happening now," a Lopez confidant tells Us (but those \$695 YSL Tribute shoes — long gone in stores — could be a nod to vintage J. Lo). "Being a mother has completely changed Jennifer."
SYTYCD CHOREOGRAPHERS
 Inside Our Marriage
 "I don't mean to sound cheesy, but I am crazier about him than ever." So You Think You Can Dance's Tabitha D'Umo, 34, tells Us of her co-choreographer and hubby of 10 years, Napoleon, 39. "Every year that goes by, it just gets better." The duo, who met at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (where he

LOVE LIVES

Hollywood's happiest couples are proving that love can survive!

was premed!), work really hard, says Napoleon, "but what better work can you ask for than to be with her?"

ASHLEY OLSEN'S BRAND-NEW RELATIONSHIP

"It's sweet and new," a source close to Ashley Olsen, 22, tells Us of the fashionista's latest love: 29-year-old National Treasure star Justin Bartha. The pair, who've been dating for about a month (they attended a party together in NYC May 28), are not rushing into anything. "Ashley's very shy when it comes to public relationships," says a Bartha friend. "They've had long conversations, and they're really in the getting-to-know-you stage."

THE BACHELOR'S MATT & SHAYNE
 Fight the Rumors!
 Despite talk of a broken engagement, "we are going strong," former Bachelor Matt Grant tells Us of his relationship with actress Shayne Dahl Lamas, 22. "It wasn't easy coming into into that mad frenzy, but we are doing really well." The Brit financier, 27, says the rumor started when he moved out of Lamas' apartment, but he insists they had agreed living together was just temporary while he looked for his own place in L.A. "It was a stopgap," he says. "We love one another. We don't want to ruin this, so it's space." Seconds Lamas: "We're committed to our engagement 100 percent, and the wedding will be in the future."

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BOOKSTORE

Continued from page 1

ty Press before Morris began to seriously consider opening a bookstore of his own.

"It was something that I either needed to stop talking about and move on, or actually go ahead and do it," he said.

After the loss of parents for both of them, Houlihan and Morris dealt with what Morris called an experience in which their "mortality became quite visible." It was then Morris realized opening a bookstore was what he wanted to do.

"We both fell into (starting the book shop) and it, in turn, became something much more than that," Houlihan said.

The official grand opening of the store was Saturday. Rob Schneider of the Apples in Stereo performed, along with other local acts. Author Jeffery Scott Holland of Weird Kentucky signed copies of his travel guide and a local bakery provided treats for the guests.

Houlihan said he realizes there are at least two other large bookstores in Lexington, but believes the location and size of The Morris Book Shop will draw in all consumers

from the area.

"Besides the strip of stores by campus, there really isn't a place that people walk by in Lexington," Houlihan said of the Southland shopping district. Houlihan and Morris agree that the community feeling of the Southland district and age range of the shoppers will be a benefit to the bookshop.

"Southland is the only place like this in Lexington," Houlihan said.

In continuing with the old Morris Book Shop, Houlihan and Morris hope to offer a personal connection to their customers with the smaller shop.

"It's a very old-fashioned thing we're doing," Morris said. "In Lexington there is a novelty to it."

For many in Lexington, Houlihan believes that the bookshop will either be a rediscovery of the small boutique or a return to what the old shop once was.

"It's been fun," Houlihan said. "We've had nothing but good feedback."

The Morris Book Shop is located at 408 Southland Drive, across from the Good Foods Co-Op. The bookstore is open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. To reach the Morris Book Shop, call 859-276-0494.

NEWS BRIEFS

Robinson Scholars showcase original works

Students in the Robinson Scholars Program will join with authors Maurice Manning, Rebecca Gayle Howell and Nickole Brown to share original works with the public for the first time in the history of the program.

The public reading will be at 3:30 p.m. on Friday in the W.T. Young Library auditorium. The event, which is free and open to the public, will feature writings from high school juniors and seniors in the program.

The Robinson Scholars Program is a scholarship that selects eighth grade, first generation college-bound students from Appalachian Kentucky and works

with them until they complete college.

5th annual classic car show to benefit Children's Hospital

The Fifth Annual Keeneland Concours d'Elegance to benefit the UK Children's Hospital begins today and will continue over the weekend.

The event's popular classic car show, held at Keeneland Race Course, will showcase 100 historic automobiles on Saturday and will feature Cadillac as the guest marque.

Last year's event raised \$25,000 for the Children's Hospital.

For more information on the four-day event, visit the Keeneland Concours Web site, (www.keenelandconcours.com).

New bill leaves schools preparing for veteran student enrollment

By Lisa M. Krieger
San Jose Mercury News

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Schools are preparing for an influx of student soldiers after lawmakers overhauled the GI Bill, making higher education essentially free to veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The new benefit pays for four years at a soldier's in-state college, and it includes housing and other education benefits.

California campuses are launching programs to ease the move from combat to college, offering aid ranging from sympathetic ears to early course placement.

"There's been a fundamental shift. Now, education can be your full-time job," said Patrick Campbell, a UC Berkeley graduate who was a medic in Iraq and now works for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, based in Washington, D.C.

The legislation signed into law June 30 was the biggest overhaul since the 1944 GI Bill turned college education into a right. However, the benefits failed to keep pace with soaring tuition.

"Until now, the money paid by the GI Bill barely paid for community college. Now, you can go to any California State University or University of California campus for free," said Campbell, who borrowed about \$100,000 to attend law school. "Thousands of vets can go to the best school — not just the cheapest school."

The new provisions go into effect in August 2009.

"I am ecstatic. It will make college so much more easy, and appealing, for vets," said Joshua Karrasch, 27, a pre-med student at UC Santa Cruz who was a medic with the Expeditionary Medical Force in Kuwait.

To pay for school, Karrasch took a job with an ambulance company. He cashed out his military retirement plan, bought a 1972 camp trailer and moved to a trailer park.

Colleges are also offering veterans preferential help — saying they

deserve a reward for their sacrifices. Admission officers promise to look at their applications not once, but twice. Like athletes and handicapped students, veterans will have priority when picking classes. Mentoring and counseling services are available.

Veterans have not had much of a presence on California campuses. Of the 4.3 million students in the higher education system, an estimated 21,000 are veterans on the GI Bill. Most, about 16,000, attend community colleges.

The new law will swell the four-year ranks, Campbell predicted. He calculated that it will bring about \$432 million in educational benefits to the state.

"The number of veterans at UC Berkeley increased this year, and we're likely to see that number grow," said Ron Williams, campus coordinator of Re-entry Student and Veterans Programs and Services.

About 150 Berkeley students have identified themselves as veterans and are majoring in subjects ranging from engineering and languages to philosophy and peace and conflict studies.

While campuses may be centers of dissent, veterans say fellow students criticize policymakers, not soldiers.

"A lot of people at UCSC dislike the military, but I feel very welcomed. I have never been asked inappropriate questions," Karrasch said. The schools say that veterans enrich campus life. They are more focused and bring a wealth of real-world experience to classroom discussions, educators say.

Most importantly, they help educate civilians about the military — at a time when few young people, especially the educated elite, interact with former soldiers.

"Veterans bring leadership, maturity and life skills that make for highly successful students," UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Birge-neau said in a letter to Congress earlier this year urging support for expanded benefits.

SOLAR CAR

Continued from page 1

get ahead of the storms the UK Solar Car team will face in Sioux Falls, Robertson acknowledged that everyone has a tough few days ahead of them.

"Everyone is in the same boat once we get to Sioux Falls."

To continue watching how the UK Solar Car team progresses in the North American Solar Car Race, visit the team's Web site (<http://www.engr.uky.edu/solarcar/>).

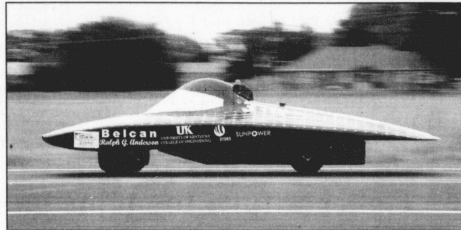


PHOTO PROVIDED BY SOLAR CAR TEAM
The Gato Del Sol III, designed, built and driven by students from the College of Engineering, is currently making its way from Plano, Texas to Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The UK Solar Car team is currently in ninth place.

Congress looks to take the mystery out of college; may start blacklisting schools with high tuition

By Amanda Erickson
Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON — Thirteen thousand dollars.

That's the average cost of a year of college for in-state students. Make it more than \$32,000 for those attending private schools.

But thanks to complicated financial aid formulas, what undergraduates really pay for their degree is a much more complex equation. Now Congress is trying to take the mystery out of the forever-rising costs of higher education by mandating that colleges provide students and their parents more information about how much the average student pays for school, what kind of tuition help they might be able to secure and which universities offer the best bang for the buck. Congress is also calling for an annual "blacklist" of schools with the steepest cost increases.

Critics wonder whether the measures will provide real financial relief or just create extra paperwork for colleges. "A list that has the impression of a good guys list ... can make a modest difference," said Robert Shireman, president of the Institute for College Access and Success, an organization that researches ways to make college more attainable for students. But, he added, it probably would not by itself greatly reduce the financial burden many university graduates face.

The measure is now in conference committee as lawmakers seek to iron out the differences between House and Senate bills. If approved, it would create an online database with information

on how much colleges cost and what an average student would end up paying after financial aid is doled out. The site would also provide data on schools' graduation rates and faculty and student demographics, much as numerous college guide books already do.

The federal report would also highlight the schools whose costs have gone up the least and most. Universities with the biggest increases would be required to explain to Congress how they would cut future costs.

The form the government uses to calculate financial aid would be reduced from seven pages to two, a move that will save time for students and parents. The bill also proposes a pilot program that would provide students a college aid estimate during their junior year of high school, rather than having to wait until their senior year. That would give families an earlier prediction of how much assistance they might receive.

This legislation comes on the heels of other federal efforts to reduce the cost of loans. In 2007, Congress passed a law that will cut the interest rate on federal student loans in half over the next four years. Students who have worked in public service for at least 10 years after graduation may also have the rest of their debt forgiven.

In May, the Department of Education purchased some college loans after private lenders said they would not be able to make loans to other students because of the credit crunch.

The average cost of a public four-year school for the 2007-08 school year was \$13,589 for an in-state student. The private college cost averaged \$32,307

this past school year, up 6 percent from the year before, according to the College Board, which administers the SAT test used by many colleges to help gauge the quality of applicants.

Some college officials applauded the new federal effort aimed at disclosing more college cost information.

"The bill has a strong emphasis on transparency of costs," said Scott Sudduth, assistant vice president of federal relations at the University of Chicago. "We think that it's going to help make a more informed consumer."

But other college officials worry that the new reporting requirements will raise costs, not lower them.

Sarah Flanagan, vice president for government relations at the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, said colleges have been hard hit by the rising costs of fuel, technology and labor, and that Congress should address those problems rather than adding additional reporting requirements that would require staff to crunch numbers, resulting in a cost that has to be passed on to students.

"What is government's role?" she asked. "To add to or alleviate costs?"

She and others noted that Internet sites already offer tables on how much different colleges might cost students at different family income levels.

Melissa Wagoner, spokeswoman for Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., said Congress tried to minimize any added burden by ensuring that most of the additional requirements make use of data that colleges already provide the Education Department. She said only two of the 26 information provisions are new.

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As oil prices beat retreat, hopes rise for relief

By Kevin G. Hall
McClatchy Newspapers

Oil prices fell sharply Wednesday for the second consecutive day, and the cumulative drop of \$10.58 a barrel for crude has sparked hopes that this year's steep rise in prices finally may be reversing.

Contracts for next-month deliveries of oil, called futures contracts, settled down \$4.14 to \$134.60 in Wednesday trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. That was on the heels of a drop of more than \$6 a day earlier.

It's too early to say whether the sudden drop reflects the start of a massive selloff that could bring down oil prices on a sustained basis to less-punishing levels.

But oil analysts think that the trend will be down soon, whether or not this week marks the turning point.

"Two days does not make a trend. But obviously the chances to put in a top (ceiling) are very good right now, because it is obvious to everyone who is watching that we are seeing clear

signs of demand destruction for oil," said Phil Flynn, an energy analyst with Alaron Trading, a commodities brokerage in Chicago. "I think there is a certain realization that we may have hit the point of pain where demand is going to go away."

Economic theory holds that prices can rise only so high before customers are no longer willing or able to pay for a product, a phenomenon called demand destruction. In the United States, the world's largest energy consumer, the high gasoline prices — a result of high oil prices — have led to a 2 percent drop in gasoline consumption this summer and a 2.6 percent drop in oil demand this year.

The coming weeks should signal whether oil prices remain volatile, swinging \$10 or more up or down in a period of days, or whether they're on the way down sharply.

Flynn and others suggest that traders are watching for psychological break points: \$135 a barrel and higher for an oil rally to resume or less than \$130 for sharper downward corrections ahead.

"Anybody who doesn't think that the overall Federal Reserve don't have an impact, well, those charts don't bear that out."

PHIL FLYNN
Energy analyst

for oil will fall off.

"The contraction in the U.S. is looking to be much steeper than earlier assessments. Demand destruction looks pretty lasting," said Halff, adding that Europe and the United States are in periods of unusually slow growth and big developing na-

tions such as China and India are expected to experience some slowdown too. "You see significant decrease in demand across the board."

The decline is due to a combination of factors. The spark Wednesday was a government report showing unexpectedly high inventories of oil. A drawdown was expected, but instead inventories grew by 3 million barrels for the week ending Friday.

The biggest factor appears to be Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's congressional testimony Tuesday and Wednesday, in which he warned of significant risks of a protracted economic slowdown that creates a global slowdown.

"Anybody who doesn't think that the overall financial conditions and the Federal Reserve don't have an impact on oil prices, well, the charts don't bear that out," said Flynn, the Chicago analyst. "The Fed is not going to let oil go up without trying to fight inflation by raising interest rates."

deuts are linking to the Second Life world not only to socialize but also to study. It's all legit.

Biology professor "and resident computer geek" Mary Anne Clark is the owner and designer of Genome Island, where the Wesleyan students are working.

She's part of a new generation of educators turning to Second Life as a means to energize her course material. The school is paying for the island's " upkeep."

For a science teacher, the program is especially helpful, Clark said.

As designer, Clark can manipulate time, size, light and other factors on Genome Island.

That means students can replicate the famous 1928 Griffith experiment on mice — otherwise impossible at Wesleyan, which has no animal lab.

In minutes, her students finish the cross-breeding field experiments that took Gregor Mendel eight years to complete.

"It's fun," Rodriguez said. At Genome Island, the scrolling sign reads over and over: "Science is the next best thing to recess...."

The International Space Museum is just a couple of islands over," Clark said. "I fell off Jupiter while I was there — and it was a long way down."

Many schools use Second Life primarily for group meetings.

Colleges turn to online game to conduct the experiments too difficult for real life

By Bryon Okada
McClatchy Newspapers

FORT WORTH, Texas — Judith Kung Fu may be just one of more than 14 million computer-generated characters in the 3-D online game Second Life. But with her help, her creator may one day save your life.

In Second Life, Judith has walked through the walls of a human cell.

She has, in a flash, conducted complicated science experiments that took the world's best minds years to complete.

She has helped her creator, 21-year-old Jacqueline Rodriguez, a senior biology major at Texas Wesleyan University, take crucial steps toward becoming a doctor.

"I can visualize everything," said Rodriguez, who took an advanced genetics course last semester that featured lab experiments conducted in the Second Life world.

"When we're going over an idea, you can simply walk over and see what you're learning."

As computer games have become more sophisticated, their ability to mimic real life — and manipulate reality — has also become more convincing.

"Massively multiplayer online" games, played simultaneously by thousands of people, offer their own economies, sports, business opportunities, places to socialize,

brushes with culture and just about anything under the sun — or inside it or beyond.

Each player is represented in the Second Life world by an "avatar," a computer-generated character that can be made to resemble the user — or anything else he or she wants. Most players seem to prefer beautiful humans, although you'll run into the occasional angel, mythological creature — or something weirder.

Because Second Life allows players to communicate directly, as well as to design and build whatever they choose, the more inventive players have developed practical uses for the game.

Marketing, business applications, medical conferencing, teaching — all have emerged in Second Life.

It's made the game a darling of mainstream media. And it's undeniably popular. An estimated 14.2 million people have signed up for Second Life since 2003. About 1.2 million have actively used their accounts in the last two months.

Artists make art. Business types do business. And, not surprisingly, teachers teach.

Log onto Second Life, hit Search and type in the name of just about any university and you'll get hits. Visit Southern Methodist University's Dallas Hall. Or the UCLA Library. Or Harvard Law School.

In Fort Worth — inside a computer system at Texas Wesleyan to be exact — stu-

McCain, Obama pledge more troops for Afghanistan

By Warren P. Strobel
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — With the war in Afghanistan worsening by almost every measure, the often-overlooked conflict jumped to the center of the U.S. presidential campaign Tuesday as John McCain and Barack Obama both promised to send more U.S. troops.

They continued to differ sharply on Iraq.

In a Washington speech intended to burnish his credentials as a potential commander in chief, Democratic contender Obama repeated his pledge to remove U.S. combat troops from Iraq within 16 months after taking office. He pledged to send at least two more combat brigades to Afghanistan to quell the growing Taliban insurgency.

The Iraq war "distracts us from every threat that we face and so many opportunities we could seize," said Obama, who's preparing his first trip overseas.

"As president, I will make the fight against al-Qaida and the Taliban the top priority that it should be. This is a war that

we have to win." McCain, at a town hall meeting in Albuquerque, N.M., parried Obama and implicitly distanced himself from President Bush's handling of Afghanistan.

"The status quo is not acceptable. Security in Afghanistan has deteriorated, and our enemies are on the offensive," the Republican candidate said.

But McCain said Bush's buildup of troops in Iraq last year — which Obama opposed — was the right strategy, and should be replicated in Afghanistan. He pledged three more combat brigades of about 3,500 troops each, and proposed doubling the size of the Afghan army.

The sudden shift of emphasis to Afghanistan underscored that as security improves in Iraq, the next president's major challenge may lie in the revived Islamist revolt in Afghanistan and Pakistan's tribal areas next door.

Violence is up sharply across much of Afghanistan, threatening the fragile, Western-backed government of President Hamid Karzai, and U.S. military

officials say that al-Qaida and its allies have been able to re-establish a sanctuary across the border in Pakistan.

On Sunday, Taliban fighters attacked and nearly overran an outpost in Nuristan province manned by U.S. and Afghan soldiers, killing nine Americans, one of the war's highest death tolls in a single incident.

NightWatch, a respected report compiled by former defense intelligence official John McCrea, said in a dispatch Monday that violence in Afghanistan set a new high in June.

Attacks in a sampling of Afghan districts were up 50 percent over May, which had set the previous high.

"The fighting set new records for intensity, scope and frequency of attacks," the report said.

"In several attacks (Taliban fighters) stood and fought NATO forces in conventional firefighting until air power arrived. The last time they did that was in 2001."

The report noted "a measurable increase" in foreign fighters coming from Pakistan. "Uninhibited access to Pak-

istan as a safe haven and base area will have a transforming effect on the insurgency and makes it impossible to contain the escalation," it said. "Parts of Pakistan must be considered at war with NATO in Afghanistan."

Top U.S. commanders have said that three combat brigades, or roughly 10,000 troops, are needed on top of the some 49,000 U.S. and allied troops who are there now.

Marvin Weinbaum, a former State Department intelligence analyst specializing in South Asia, said it was "almost a given" that the next president would have to shift more resources to Afghanistan.

"A new president is going to have to... reassess the whole situation there: How are we going about this?" said Weinbaum, who's now a scholar at the Middle East Institute.

In a sense, Obama, McCain and Bush all are open to criticism for their actions or positions on Iraq or Afghanistan.

Even Bush on Tuesday acknowledged setbacks in Afghanistan, where he began his "war on terrorism."

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OPINIONS

The opinions page provides a forum for the exchange of ideas. Unlike news stories, the Kernel's unopinionated 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

UK grad student can help students reach Frankfort

Earlier this summer the UK Board of Trustees set the budget for the 2008-09 school year and raised tuition by 9 percent. For many students this is old news and for many, the question of what can be done might be running through their minds.

Last week the Kernel reported that Gov. Steve Beshear appointed UK graduate student Chris Crumrine to the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.

Crumrine, the 2007-08 Student Government chief of staff, is essentially a UK student's (and students across the state) direct line to the CPE in Frankfort.

For those unsure of what the CPE is, the council, among other things, monitors and approves tuition rates at public postsecondary institutions and produces and submits a biennial budget request for public funding of postsecondary education. In wake of the budget cuts seen across the state, this year the council will be focusing on keeping tuition affordable for students.

This year, more than ever, it will be imperative for students to inform the council on their opinions, comments and suggestions regarding the consistent rise in tuition.

The reality of the situation is, tuition will keep rising. According to last week's article in the Kernel, it will be the CPE's focus this year to develop a system for determining fu-

ture tuition rates.

UK students have a unique advantage over many students in the state because the student member of the CPE is currently a student at this university.

Crumrine is on campus and aware of the situation many UK students are facing. He is accessible to students via the online directory on UK's Web site, (www.uky.edu) or other online social networks. Students can also contact Student Government and their college senators at the SG Web site, (www.uksga.org) to stay in contact with Crumrine and other officials in Frankfort. By going through SG or directly to Crumrine, students can voice their opinion.

He is an excellent resource for students and should be utilized throughout the year.

In addition to Crumrine, students should never hesitate to contact the CPE. This year more than ever tuition increases should be a top priority for students, and making their voices heard through letters, phone calls and messages is a must.

Students can contact the CPE at (502) 573-1555 or at their mailing address:

Council on Postsecondary Education, 1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 320, Frankfort, Ky. 40601. More information about the council is available on the CPE Web site, (<http://cpe.ky.gov>).

UK students have a unique advantage over many students in the state because the student member of the CPE is currently a student at this university.

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Todd not listening to voices of disgruntled

Just out of curiosity, as an avid UK fan, mother of a former student and employee of UK, what's up with the fact that in a time of budget cuts due to funding and raising student costs the only one person ranks a bonus when all those hard working employees making him look so good don't even get their modest 2 percent raise?

Does President Lee Todd not open the windows of his ivory tower long enough to hear how disgruntled most of his employees and students really are? The budget cuts in the departments that may not put UK in the top-20 bracket, but they have brought the university quite a bit of versatility and notoriety.

I'm not against someone coming into his or her own, but don't step on the "little people" who helped you on your way up.

Don't hurt the ones whose futures are in your hands by making it impossible to come to the university in the future. Do people really buy the nobility of turning down \$50,000, but accepting \$95,000 for someone who is the spokesman and is already paid a healthy salary for the position? Many people work so much harder, and the administration would be a mess if those that bust their tails and get so little for it simply walked out. Appreciation and compensation go a long way. Wake up ivory tower; step out on your balcony and listen. Just remember it's not a wise idea to utter the words, "Let them eat cake!"

Humbly submitted for those too intimidated to speak up...

DJ Lanham
UK parent

Gas prices force citizens to know neighbors

I am more and more thankful for rising gas prices.

America has dug itself into an abyss that has been built on our lifestyles revolving around cheap gas. Should we be allowed to complain for putting ourselves in such a situation? Probably not. The better question is how can we constructively morph our current situation? Just the fact that we are fighting to gain access to an exorbitantly expensive, non-renewable resource makes the situation hopelessly dismal. Where is the light at the end of this tunnel?

As an optimist, I pondered this question while pumping unleaded into my "fuel-efficient" Hyundai Sonata. I realized shortly I would owe the gas company an arm, leg or my first born by the end. As I waved to a neighbor passing by it suddenly dawned on me: Why not cut down on our gas consumption by visiting the people around us, rather than traveling across town to meet with friends? What ever happened to getting to know our neighbors, block parties, neighborhood cookouts and the lemonade stands hosted by the youth of the cul-de-sac? Many of my best school friends live right in my neighborhood, yet I never knew to walk down the street to say hello. I believe, however, that this will partially be reborn in the wake of rising gas prices. By driving away from those who live right around us we have unconsciously eroded the sense of community that was once prevalent across America. Rising gas prices solves this problem.

Though America may still be afraid of our international neighbors, it is comforting to know that gas prices will force citizens to walk out of their front doors and down the street to ask for that cup of sugar instead of squandering precious gas to buy it at a grocery store.

Katelyn McManara
Biology Freshman

Submissions

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

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com



Don Wright, The Palm Beach Post

Downtown wireless network a move in right direction

Late last month, the city of Lexington announced that it would do something innovative with existing infrastructure. No, of course I don't mean preserving historically or economically significant buildings and local businesses; I would never think to do that.

Instead, I'm referencing the city council's decision to transform the wireless internet infrastructure left by SkyTel into a high-speed wireless network downtown for use by city and university public safety officials.

To backtrack to 2005, SkyTel used Lexington as a site for its wireless pilot program. At either an hourly, daily or monthly fee, downtown Lexington was to be your own personal WiFi hotspot. But two years later, SkyTel abandoned their project and left the wireless infrastructure, selling it to the city for just \$10. Now the city is doing something useful: increasing the communications ability of Lexington police, firefighters and EMS in our downtown. Lexington needs to, however, go one step further.

Perhaps the city could take a lesson from Philadelphia? In the past couple of years, the city of

Philadelphia has made efforts to go from one of the nation's largest and least-connected cities to the most connected of any city in the country. How are they doing this? Initially, the project was a collaboration between the non-profit Wireless Philadelphia and EarthLink. As has become the norm with large corporations, EarthLink failed to come through on its end of the bargain, so the venture was left to the city and the non-profit pioneers. What was once a venture that would only create a blanket network across the city has become something completely new. Now, wireless is free in Philadelphia. You don't have to pay for it. At all. Novel idea, huh? Perhaps Lexington could spend up to \$70 million that would otherwise go to building a jumbotron on the CentrePointe tower to invest in a free, all-encompassing wireless network for citizens.

Maybe this is just the pipe dream of a college student who doesn't like having to pay the outrageous rates required by telecommunications companies for broadband Internet service. Or maybe it is just one of the many missing pieces in the puzzle that will eventually show Lexington to be the kind of world-class, mid-size city that it can be. But our city officials have been too caught up in the effort to appear world-class in time for the 2010 Equestrian Games, without actually doing anything to become world-class. And no, al-

lowing a whole block in the center of downtown to be destroyed to make room for an out-of-scale tower meant for the unhealthy sprawling metropolis of Atlanta doesn't equate with making progress towards "world-class status." In fact, it is quite the opposite.

Part of former Mayor Teresa Isaac's reasoning for attracting the SkyTel pilot program was because wireless Internet has become a defining feature of innovative and intellectual cities, allowing startup businesses to cut costs and be globally connected with less effort and expense. For many, this is reason enough to invest in a wireless infrastructure. But perhaps, among other things, free wireless Internet throughout Lexington's downtown would be a boon to our culture, as well as our economy.

Rather than being forced to stay at home or in the office to connect, the average Lexingtonian could sit in front of the courthouse, finally turning the plans for an innovative public space into something of a reality. And with each and every Lexingtonian being saved from hundreds of dollars annually in Internet fees, such money could be invested in a locally-grown, locally-owned and locally-operated economy. Now that is novel thinking. Perhaps Jim Newberry, President Todd, Dudley Webb and the Downtown Development Corporation could use some of it.

Summer and school blend together, offer little relief to busy students

Summer has blended so much with my school year, I'm not sure I even remember when one ended and the other started.

As soon as our spring semester was over, I had one weekend to rest before I had to start class again the following Tuesday for UK's four week session. One week after my class began I was locked into my full-time internship.

I did have a responsibility-free trip to Spain, France and Italy with my sister; exquisite food, the most beautiful artwork you can imagine, more unforgettable food and some of the most recognized landscapes in the world. But by the end of the two weeks I was exhausted and needed a vacation from my vacation. Didn't happen.

I had to work the day after get-

ting back from 26 hours in planes and airports, which I have now sworn off. After one remotely slow week at my internship, I put in over 60 hours the following week. And that's when it hit me.

This is more what my school year is like.

Since when is being a student easy anyhow? We get all of the real world pep talks about needing to prepare for real life. Well I can't imagine working as many hours in a week in "real life" as I do in college. It's not unusual for me, and other members of the Kernel staff, to put in 60 hours in the basement of the Grehan Building working to put out the news while trying to go to 15 hours worth of classes in between.

But it's not just us.

The pharmacy students are pulling 20 and 30 hour low paid internships while working jobs that actually pay and taking some of the hardest classes available at UK. Nursing students fluctuate in and out of some of the toughest schedules a student can imagine, full of 5 a.m. wake-up calls and unpaid

work in random assigned hospitals, all to graduate and then take the hardest test of their life. The law students spend their entire semester preparing to take one test per class. I've found myself wandering over to their library at the end of the semester to just to gawk at the stacks of books and mounds of fast food bags.

And it's not like these majors are the only demanding ones. It's college in general. There is no such thing as an easy major. While trying to make the grades, get the internships and squeeze in a phone call to the parents here and there, we also need to step back and breathe. Because this is the most opportune time to have fun in your life, and it's easy to skip the fun for the library. But sometimes, the most beneficial thing can be to close the books, make a few calls, and head over to Pazzo's.

Brad Luttrell is a journalism senior and editor in chief of the 2008-09 Kentucky Kernel. E-mail him at bluttrell@kykernel.com



BRAD LUTTRELL
Kernel columnist

'The Dark Knight' true thriller, minus geeky Gotham

By Rene Rodriguez
McClatchy Newspapers

"The Dark Knight" is such a moody, dramatic, dead-serious affair that it feels more like a noirish crime thriller than a superhero movie. Everything in the movie is played straight and aimed at grown-ups (or at least older kids). There is no geeky joy in Gotham City, no trace of the gee-whiz wonder most comic book pictures trade on for effect. At times, when Batman pops up onscreen in all his high-tech gothic regalia, you wonder, "What's that clown doing here?"

That's not to say director Christopher Nolan, who has gotten noticeably better at orchestrating action since 2005's "Batman Begins," skimps on the comic book hijinks. All of "The Dark Knight" is paced at a furious clip, but there's a methodical structure to the script. By the last hour (yes, it's a long one) the picture builds up such intensity and suspense that it leaves you feeling bruised. It's something of a wonder — a Batman movie maintaining such a

high dramatic pitch in an era when pop culture deems everything and everyone worthy of satire and mockery.

Crucial to the film's success is Nolan's decision to make "The Dark Knight" a laugh-free zone: There are practically no light moments in this story, and what little uneasy humor exists comes courtesy of The Joker (the late Heath Ledger), who puts you on edge every time he enters a scene, even when he's wearing hospital-nurse drag. Ledger's take on the Joker is an extraordinary feat of acting: With his smeared grease paint, scarred face and yellow teeth, he looks like a clown left out in acid rain.

But it is Ledger's frightening, darting eyes and warbling, choked voice that makes The Joker seem as if he were rotting from the inside as well as the outside. The character is an anarchist — unlike most comic book villains who have a master plan, he bombs hospitals and kills people just for the hell of it — and Ledger makes you feel like he's capable of anything. He's at his scariest when he's sitting calmly in-

side a jail cell, apparently caught and defeated, but looking like he's patiently waiting for something.

Compared with him, the good guys — billionaire Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale), police lieutenant Jim Gordon (Gary Oldman) and crusading D.A. Harvey Dent (Aaron Eckhart) — can't help but seem a little bland. Even the casting of Maggie Gyllenhaal as Bruce's ex-girlfriend Rachel Dawes (played by Katie Holmes in "Batman Begins") doesn't really pay off until she's targeted by the Joker as a way of drawing out Batman. The acting in "The Dark Knight" is superb: Eric Roberts is terrific in a small role as a smirking mob boss, and Eckhart brings heart to Dent's do-goody politicking, which makes his eventual transformation to the monstrous Two-Face all the more tragic. But it is Ledger's Joker who keeps the picture thrumming. If every superhero movie is defined by the greatness of its villain, then "The Dark Knight" has to rank among the all-time best.

Nolan, who co-wrote the screenplay with his brother Jonathan, uses the story

to explore the nature of heroism and the futility of playing by the rules in a world that has no use for them. In "The Dark Knight," doing the right and proper thing often backfires on the good guys, and it's the extremes to which Nolan pushes this idea that gives the film its subversive streak. By downplaying the fantastical elements of the scenario — Gotham City has never looked this much like a real city, with practically no computer-generated embellishments — the filmmakers give "The Dark Knight" an urgency and gravity that is uncommon to comic-book pictures. It's telling that even when Batman whips out one of his cool Bat-toys (new this time: the Bat-cycle), the movie barely makes time to properly show them off.

"The Dark Knight" is dark, all right: It's a luxurious nightmare disguised in a superhero costume, and it's proof that popcorn entertainments don't have to talk down to their audiences in order to satisfy them. The bar for comic book film adaptations has been permanently raised.

If you go

What: The Dark Knight

Where: Cinemark Fayette Mall, 3800 Mall Road
When: July 18, starting at 12:01 a.m., 12:05, 12:10, 12:11, 12:12, 12:15

Where: Cinemark Movies 10 Woodhill, 425 Codell Drive
When: July 18, starting at 12:01 a.m., 12:10

Where: Regal Hamburg Pavilion 16, 1949 Starshoot Road
When: July 18, starting at 12:01 a.m.

Where: Lexington Movie Tavern, 133 N Locust Hill
When: July 17, starting at 11:59 p.m.

Compiled from movies.yahoo.com

Rolling Stone: Ledger's role as Joker in new Batman movie is 'Mad-crazy brilliant'

By Julie Hinds
Detroit Free Press

Being bad may never have been this good before. The early consensus is Heath Ledger is nearly perfect as the Joker in "The Dark Knight," the new Batman movie that opens this week.

Ledger is "mad-crazy brilliant," according to Rolling Stone. "He's out-villained Hannibal Lecter," raved Gary Oldman, who plays Lt. Jim Gordon in the film, to Access Hollywood.

For once, the hype seems deserved. The glowing praise is fueling speculation that Ledger, who died in January, could be nominated for a best supporting actor Oscar.

The buzz also is a reminder that villains are crucial to the success of superhero movies. The good

guys in tights may get all the glory, but their cinematic franchises would be nothing without the evil adversaries.

Villains are tricky roles, as misfires like Arnold Schwarzenegger's Mr. Freeze in 1997's "Batman & Robin" prove.

Those who've seen previews of "The Dark Knight" say Ledger immerses himself in the Joker, nearly disappearing into melting makeup that reeks of moral decay, creepy lip-licking mannerisms and an eerie, taunting voice.

Instead of being afraid of comparisons to Jack Nicholson's Joker in the 1989 "Batman," Ledger tackled the role with the same intense dedication he brought to films like "Brokeback Mountain," creating a character whose mayhem is all the more terrifying because his motivations are so mysterious.



Heath Ledger stars as The Joker in Warner Bros. Pictures' and Legendary Pictures' action drama, "The Dark Knight."

PHOTO BY STEPHEN VAUGHAN
WARNER BROS.

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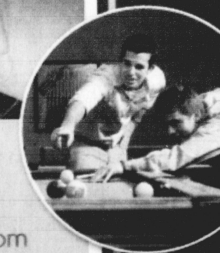
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SPORTS BRIEFS

Track athlete, coach join Olympic team

UK track and field coach Erin Tucker and hurdler Mikel Thomas have been invited to the Olympics in Beijing, joining several other Wildcats.

Tucker, the assistant spring coach will join the Venezuelan Track and Field National Team as a guest coach for Jose Acevedo, a UK track member already dubbed for the Olympics. Tucker just finished his fifth season coaching sprints, hurdles and relays at UK.

Thomas holds the UK varsity record in the 110m hurdles and won a gold medal in the event in the Sagico/NAAA National Senior Open Championships in Port of Spain, Trinidad, in late June.

These track and field athletes join UK alum David Freeman who ran at UK from 2001 to 2004 and will be representing Puerto Rico.

Football Fan Day set for Aug. 9

UK football Fan Day is scheduled for Aug. 9 at Commonwealth Stadium. Gates 4 and 9 open at 6:30 p.m. and posters and schedule cards will be given away. The first 2,000 fans will receive a coupon for a free hot dog and drink.

Activities on the stadium concourse include inflatable games for kids and an equipment stand where fans can try on UK helmets and shoulder pads. UK athletic trainers will also be set up demonstrating ankle taping and other activities.

Coach Rich Brooks and the team will be introduced at 7:15 p.m. followed by an autograph session with coaches and players that concludes at 9 p.m. with a fireworks show.

American League prevails in 15th, wins 4-3

By Todd Zolecki
The Philadelphia Inquirer

NEW YORK — Clint Hurdle found Brad Lidge early Tuesday afternoon inside the visitors' clubhouse at Yankee Stadium and told him to be ready to pitch the ninth inning Tuesday night. If the National League had a lead over the American League in the All-Star Game, he wanted the ball in his hands.

But Lidge did not pitch until the 15th inning — after he had warmed up in the bullpen numerous times — and allowed the winning run in a 4-3 loss to the American League. The game was the longest in All-Star Game history at 4 hours, 50 minutes. It also tied for the most innings played in the 15 innings played in 1967.

The victory gave the AL home-field advantage in the World Series, and extended its unbeaten streak against the NL to 12 games.

The NL has not won since the 1996 All-Star Game at Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium.

Lidge allowed a leadoff single to Minnesota's Justin Morneau and another single to Tampa Bay's Dioner Navarro to put runners on first and second with one out. Lidge then walked Boston's J.D. Drew, the game's MVP, to load the bases. Michael Young of the Texas Rangers hit a sacrifice fly to right field to win it.

But even then, the play at the plate was ridiculously close as Morneau just beat the throw by Milwaukee's Corey Hart.

It ended a night that started wonderfully.

Forty Hall of Famers were on the field for a memorable pregame ceremony, including Phillies great Mike Schmidt.

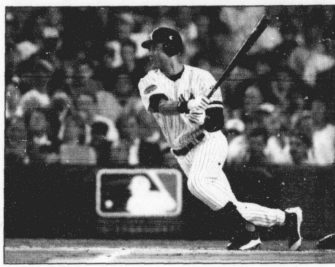


PHOTO BY AUDREY C. TIERNAN | NEWSDAY

American League All-Star Derek Jeter singles against the National League in the first inning at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, New York, Tuesday, July 15, 2008.

Steve Carlton and Robin Roberts. Yankees owner George Steinbrenner presented balls for ceremonial first pitches to Yankee Hall of Famers Yogi Berra, Whitey Ford, Goose Gosage and Reggie Jackson, who threw to current Yankees greats Alex Rodriguez, Derek Jeter and Mariano Rivera and Yankees manager Joe Girardi.

But after the living legends had been paid their respects, the NL tried to break its run of futility against the AL.

Chase Utley did his part. He went 1 for 3 with a single in the sixth inning that helped the NL score its second run to make it 2-0. The inning started with Hanley Ramirez's single to center. Utley followed with a single to right to move Ramirez to third. Ramirez scored on Lance Berkman's sacrifice fly to center.

Edinson Volquez allowed a two-run homer to Drew in his first-ever all-star at-bat in the seventh to tie it, 2-2. But the NL came back in the eighth when Miguel Tejada singled, stole sec-

ond, and advanced to third on a throwing error. Tejada scored on Adrian Gonzalez's sacrifice fly to center.

But Billy Wagner allowed a run in the eighth to tie it again. And that's where the score remained until the 15th. Both teams had a chance to win it earlier — mostly notably in the 10th when Florida's Dan Uggla bounced into an inning-ending double play and committed two errors in the bottom of the inning to help load the bases with no outs.

Uggla later committed a third error.

The American League responded with three straight groundouts as Colorado's Aaron Cook wriggled out of the jam.

On a night when pitching was needed, the National League was without San Francisco's Tim Lincecum, who was treated for the flu and dehydration at a Manhattan hospital and did not make it to the stadium.

Because of that, he was the only pitcher on either roster who did not pitch.

Morneau wins All-Star Home Run Derby

By Joe Christensen
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

NEW YORK — Minnesota Twins first baseman Justin Morneau had the big silver trophy from the All-Star Home Run Derby standing in front of his locker Monday night and a theory about how the event will be remembered.

"When it's on ESPN Classic," he said, "I'll say, 'Hey, I was in that, too.'"

Josh Hamilton amazed the crowd with a record 28 home runs in the first round, including 13 in a row and a few that almost left Yankee Stadium.

Morneau smashed eight home runs in the first round and nine in the second, before stunning the crowd with a 5-3 victory over Hamilton in the finals.

Morneau became the first Twins player to win the derby. Afterward, he was asked he had just pushed the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team's upset of the Soviet Union to No. 2 on the all-time upset list.

"I think (Hamilton) just got tired," Morneau said, after a hearty laugh. "He's the one that put on the show tonight. I think everyone will remember Josh Hamilton's 28 home runs, more than they'll remember that I won the thing. But I'm just glad I was a part of it."

For Hamilton, the first round was like living a dream. The first part of a dream, anyway.

The Texas Rangers outfielder said he dreamed in his sleep one night in 2006 about getting interviewed after participating in the home run derby at Yankee Stadium. In the dream, he didn't see himself hit.

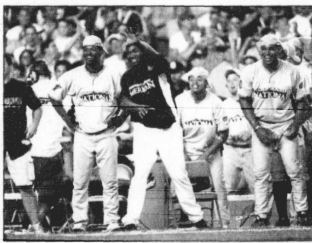


PHOTO BY PAUL J. BERESWILL | NEWSDAY

David Ortiz (center) reacts to Josh Hamilton's 18th home run during the 2008 All-Star Home Run Derby at Yankee Stadium on Monday, July 14, 2008, in the Bronx, New York.

Maybe that's why the stadium was pinching itself watching his first-round performance.

In the dream, Hamilton said, "I was able to show everybody how I was there, why I was there, and that was because of God's grace."

A recovering drug addict, Hamilton was out of baseball in 2006. He returned last season and has emerged this year as the story of the season.

On this night Morneau stole his thunder. He was the 2006 American League Most Valuable Player, but proof that he's still largely unknown came when the man representing the event's sponsor called him "Jason" during the trophy presentation.

Morneau wasn't even invited to participate in the derby until Sunday — after Alex Rodriguez, Jason Giambi, Vladimir Guerrero and Ichiro Suzuki declined invitations. Suzuki's last

36 hits have all been singles, but is known for some prolific home run displays during batting practice.

"They ran out of all the good players, and then they asked me," Morneau said.

Earlier Monday, Morneau's father said he wasn't worried about his son's swing suffering from the derby this time.

"I think he's smarter now," George Morneau said. "He knows he has to stay within himself."

George Morneau spent a few minutes chatting with Cal Ripken Jr., who relayed his own derby experiences.

In 1985, when Minnesota last played host to an All-Star Game, Ripken hit only one home run in the derby at the Metrodome. He didn't compete again until 1991, when he won the event with 12 homers at Toronto's SkyDome.



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