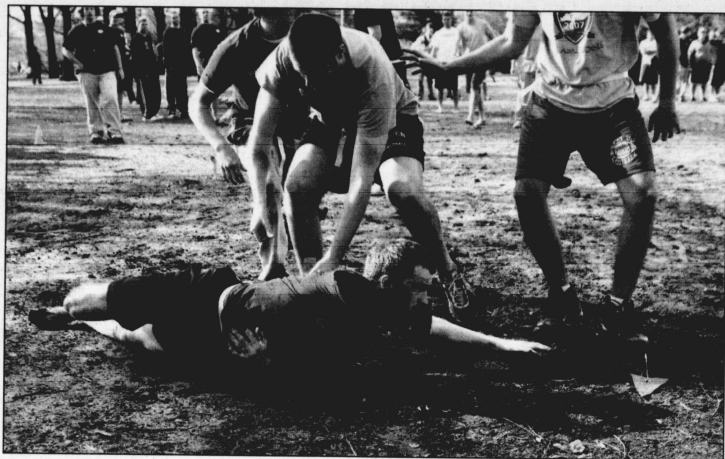


KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 37 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

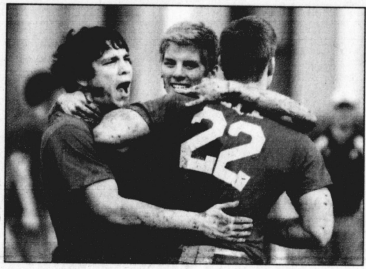
DOWN AND DIRTY



Above: Marty Dunning, an agricultural engineering freshman, dives for the flag during yesterday's capture the flag tournament on South Campus. **Below:** Undeclared freshman Cameron Merae, left, marketing sophomore Kyle Sailor, center, and health and nutrition freshman John Eberhart, all members of Sigma Pi, celebrate after winning a round of capture the flag yesterday afternoon.

PHOTOS BY BRITNEY MCINTOSH | STAFF

Mud flew through the air as members of several sororities and fraternities fought for the title of capture the flag champion during a tournament hosted by Kappa Kappa Alpha and Kappa Kappa Delta yesterday afternoon on South Campus. The capture the flag tournament was a fundraiser for the Greek chapters' philanthropies.



Interior design studio remodels for Hope

By Laura Chandler
news@kykernel.com

Interior design students have learned plenty about designing rooms and rearranging spaces. Before graduating in May, the students in the senior interior design studio class will use their skills to help blueprint and remodel the lives of others in the community.

Throughout the semester, the class has discussed issues facing the homeless and is planning to volunteer at the Hope Center, a Lexington social service agency aimed at helping homeless people get off the streets.

The studio group will make renovations to the basement of the Hope Center Emergency Shelter, which interior design senior Kristi Buchler described as "a total mess." Part of the assignment's challenge is to use only the pre-existing materials and furniture in the basement, most of which are donated items.

The week before Spring Break, students in the studio toured the facility, located at 360 W. Loudon Ave., where they studied the space and available resources, and how those resources could be made more beneficial to the center, Buchler said.

"They use this space as storage, so there's a lot of pieces to the puzzle," Buchler said. "We're just trying to find the best one."

Kenneth Newton, director of plant operations at the Hope Center, said the project will have a great impact on the shelter, which provides emergency housing for homeless men.

"It is major to us," he said. "Every inch of this building is used for the people. This gives us more space to help."

Besides storage, the basement includes classroom areas and is sometimes used as spillover living space when the facility's 116 beds are full. The average number of homeless men staying in the shelter has increased by almost 50 percent in recent years, according to the Hope Center's Web site, leading the shelter to house as many as 230 men per night.

Rob Call, the teaching assistant for the studio class, said design students will also benefit from the project.

"Real-life, hands-on situations are very important," he said. "When you are actually in the space and can visualize, you work out the things you've been taught. You see your mistakes and learn from them."

Call described the enthusiasm of the class, and he said they have already gained from the experience.

"The students have caught fire and taken the initiative," he said. "We have a hope. We want to make a difference."

Buchler said that seeing the space used more efficiently will be the most rewarding part of the experience.

"I hope that people will be able to have a better living and learning environment as a direct result of design," she said.

Students lend a hand on taxing paperwork

By Susannah Marlowe
news@kykernel.com

With the stress building up over the end of the semester and approaching finals, many students would rather not be reminded that taxes are due in less than a month. But unlike those final papers and projects, it's okay to get a little help from another student on tax returns.

Nine UK law students are offering a helping hand to lighten the stress of taxes. As part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program through the UK College of Law, the volunteers are helping other students and Central Kentucky citizens with the difficult paperwork.

The consultations take place Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3 to 6 p.m. in the basement of the Law Building. The program runs from the beginning of March until April 15, when all tax forms must be postmarked.

The program was founded at UK by law professor Douglas Michael in the early 1990s. As a law student he had volunteered to help people with their tax forms, and as a professor he wanted to provide the same volunteer opportunity to other students.

In past tax seasons, about 20 students have volunteered to serve an average of 500 people. This year, however, fewer students have volun-

Getting tax help

With the April 15 deadline for federal and state taxes approaching, UK law students are offering free consultations to anyone who needs help preparing a tax return.

The program is available from 3 to 6 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from now until April 15 in the basement of the Law Building.

teered, so Michael estimates that the program will reach about 300 people.

"A large number of the people we help are foreign grad students," said Jason Sauer, a third-year law student.

Working with non-residents can be a difficult task for the students, and Michael provides a special training course to prepare the volunteers for the tax forms involved, which he said are often more complicated.

Though the volunteer program is open to students of all majors, the majority of the volunteers come from the law school.

Filing for taxes is not something law students are typically trained to do, and the student volunteers do not

receive any credit hours for their time volunteering.

"The compensation that they (students) get is that they're here to these people. It's a lot of work for nothing except the satisfaction of a job well done," Michael said.

Sauer has volunteered in all three of his years at UK law school. This year he is volunteering twice a week in three-hour shifts and estimated that he assists six to 10 people with tax forms each week.

"It's surprisingly fun," he said.

To volunteer, students take online training courses through the Internal Revenue Service and supplementary courses taught by Michael at UK. They must pass three IRS-administered tests to be certified, and the certification must be renewed every year.

Undergraduate and graduate students of all areas of study can participate.

"I could use twice as many volunteers," Michael said. "The training doesn't assume you know anything."

Training sessions usually begin in January for student volunteers, and the program ends in mid-April.

For more information on volunteering or help with tax forms, visit the Web site (www.uky.edu/law/tax) or contact Michael at michaeld@email.uky.edu.

UK Relay for Life looks for fundraising help from a toilet

By Melissa Vessels
news@kykernel.com

Students who wake up with a big purple toilet in their yard are probably not hallucinating — they just may help fund the cure for cancer.

The traveling purple toilet has been a major fundraiser across the country for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. This year, the UK Relay Committee decided to take advantage of it.

"It's a fundraiser that is fun and gets everyone involved," said Lindsey Berlin, committee chair and an integrated strategic communications junior. "It makes light of a tough situation."

Relay for Life is an annual walk that honors cancer survivors and pays tribute to those who have died from cancer. Last year, it raised over \$405 million worldwide in 2007, according to the national Relay for Life Web site.

During the next two weeks, the toilet will be placed in various yards around campus. To remove the toilet, the resident must donate \$10.

Residents who donate \$25 can have the toilet moved to a yard of their choice. The committee will move the toilet each day until the relay March 28 and 29.

The relay, which will be held at Goodbarn Field from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., will include a speech by Mayor Jim

Newberry, a comedy show and decade-themed dance parties through the night.

Qdoba has donated food, and all of the proceeds from the \$5 all-you-can-eat food will benefit the American Cancer Society.

This will be the sixth year for the event at UK. So far, there are more than 160 participants and 28 teams, according to the UK Relay for Life Web site (www.events.cancer.org/rflukky). The purple toilet fundraiser is a way to help the school reach its goal of \$19,000. As of now, the participants have collected about half of that goal, according to the Web site.

There will also be a Luminaria Ceremony, which is a common aspect of all Relays, in which lighted bags are used to represent people affected by cancer.

"They usually spell out 'HOPE' (with the bags)," said business freshman and cancer survivor Christina Rohan. "It helps the participants realize that their time and effort is helping others in this world. There is hope. You've just got to believe."

To get involved or donate, visit the Relay for Life Web site (www.events.cancer.org/rflukky). To have the toilet placed in someone's yard, contact Amanda Bibb of the American Cancer Society at (859) 260-8289.

Fashion show to help students dress for success in interviews

By Autumn Riddle
and Megan Wimpy
features@kykernel.com

For students seeking help in deciding what to wear to a job interview, a fashion solution will travel down the runway tonight to help them achieve a professional appearance.

Students will strut down a runway wearing fashionable business clothes at "See Blue on You" at the E.S. Good Barn on

University Drive at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$2.

The show will help students who are about to enter the job market learn how to prepare for interviews and internships, said Julie F. Johnson, interim career counselor for the College of Agriculture.

"It is imperative that students dress professionally as they go on job interviews or even employer site visits," said Johnson, who is helping coordi-

If you go

What: "See Blue on You" fashion show
When: Today at 6 p.m.
Where: E.S. Good Barn
Admission: \$2

nate the show. "Your professional attire states to prospective employers that you respect their

organization, their time and, most importantly, yourself."

Student Activities Board, the Stuckert Career Center, and the Merchandising, Apparel, and Textiles Club are sponsoring the show. Dillard's is providing the clothing, which MAT Club members will show off on the runway.

How people dress affects others' perceptions of many things, including their responsibility and work ethic, said Cara

Drury, president of the MAT Club and a merchandising, apparel and textiles junior.

"As students, we are used to getting out of bed, throwing on some sweats and a T-shirt and make our way to class," Drury said. "This is a very careless way of representing ourselves."

The show will offer tips on how young workers can present themselves well, said Lauren Baxter, SAB's director of pop culture.

"People should come to the fashion show to learn about the best way to dress professionally as a college student," Baxter said. "The show will feature clothes that would be appropriate for an interview."

Attendees should arrive early, Johnson said, because there will be a raffle for door prizes. The MAT Club also encourages guests to bring gently used business clothes to donate to the Dress for Success charity.

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Wreck your room...Not your car

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 — As you get to work on a new project, things may not go according to plan. Value what your own eyes tell you over a good idea, even if it was your own.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Today is an 8 — It's nice to be so popular, but it's also important for you to have some personal space. Protect your private time by knowing when to say "no."

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) Today is a 5 — There's a lot of action, but is anything really happening? Don't go racing off yet, or jump to a hasty conclusion. Wait until the dust clears.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Today is a 7 — Your research leads to several rather noteworthy surprises. Discover the dangers that might be out there before leaving your safety zone.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Today is a 6 — There are plenty of opportunities to squander your money now. Resist the temptation to gamble or buy lots of things on credit. Great self-discipline is required.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Today is an 8 — Be on the alert for an error in judgment. You probably won't make it, but you can be very helpful. Put in the correction before damage is done.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Today is a 5 — It's perfectly OK to hide out for a while. It's easier to concentrate when you're by yourself sometimes. This is one of those times.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Today is a 7 — Be careful when trying out new ideas. One of them, at least, is defective. It's good to be innovative.

but you also should be cautious. **Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)** Today is a 6 — It's easier to make changes now, at work and also at home. So get rid of stuff that's in your way and make life more comfortable. That might include getting a different job.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Today is a 7 — Don't go racing off in pursuit of new objectives yet. You haven't done enough homework. You could get into trouble out there.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Today is a 6 — Unexpected costs could put a dent in your savings. Look around to find a way that won't be so expensive. Discuss it with an expert.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Today is an 8 — Finally, you're getting some of the assistance you need. You are if you let it in, that is. Don't stubbornly refuse a genuine offer to help.

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THE DISH

Responders rush to Locklear's home when call says the actress is suicidal, but leave after finding 'no problem'

Talk about prime-time drama! Emergency responders raced to Heather Locklear's L.A.-area home March 8 after getting a 911 call warning the actress, 46, was suicidal. While TMZ.com reports it was her psychiatrist, a source tells Us it was Locklear's general practitioner who called after she asked for sleeping pills. A Ventura County Fire Department rep tells Us they left after finding "no problem," but a source tells Us Locklear (who is linked to Jack Wagner, 48) "is despondent because her career seems to be over." Still, her rep assures Us, "She is fine. No psychiatrist called on (her) behalf."

New Arrivals

Brooke Burke, 36, and fiancé David Charvet, 35, welcomed a son (their second child together) in L.A. March 5. ... Shark's Kevin Alejandro, 31, and his musician wife, Leslie, had son Kaden in L.A. February 22.

Country Crooners

Taylor Swift, 18, and Miranda Lambert, 24, top the list of female nominees for the Academy of Country Music Awards, with three nods each. Kenny

THE RECORD

Heather's odd 911 call

Chesney, 39, scored 11 nods for the men. ... Brad Paisley, 35, and band Sugarland lead the pack of Country Music Television Awards nominees, with four nods. Miley, 15, and Billy Ray Cyrus, 46, will host the ceremony in Nashville April 14.

Greenlight!

Justin Timberlake, 27, has teamed with Reveille to coexecute-produce a pilot adaptation of the Peruvian comedy *My Problem With Women for NBC*.

Bump Watch

Kimora Lee Simmons, 32, and Dji-mon Hounsou, 43, are expecting their first child together, per the New York Post. Her rep had no comment. ... Model Alessandra Ambrosio, 26, and beau Jamie Mazur are expecting a baby. ... Today coanchor Natalie Morales, 35, is three months pregnant with her second child with husband Joe Rhodes, 37.

Bad Driving

Scott Weiland, 40, pleaded not guilty to DUI in L.A. March 5, stemming from his November 21 arrest. ... Jason Davis, 23, was charged with felony heroin possession and DUI in L.A. March 6 from his February 29 arrest.

Secret Battle

Minority Report's Samantha Morton, 30, revealed she was

"near to death" after suffering a stroke in spring 2006 as a result of head injuries and hid her condition for 18 months for fear of how it would affect her career.

Powered Up

Reese Witherspoon, 32, visited the U.N. March 4 to promote Avon's \$3 Women's Empowerment Bracelet. Proceeds go to ending violence against women worldwide.

Released!

Rapper The Game, 28, was released from an L.A. jail March 9 after serving only eight days of his 60-day sentence for pleading no contest to gun possession in a school zone.

Courtroom News

Bai Ling, 37, pleaded guilty to disturbing the peace March 5 and was fined \$700 for her February 13 arrest at Los Angeles International Airport for stealing \$16.22 of goods, including two magazines and a pack of batteries.

A Fair Act


Heath Ledger's father, Kim, said in a statement that Heath's ex Michelle Williams, 27, and their daughter, Matilda, 2, will be "taken care of," though they were left out of the will he wrote in April 2003, in which he left everything to his parents and older sister.

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GPAC (Greek Political Action Committee)

Question and Answer session with Student Government Presidential Candidate

Date: March 20th
Time: 7-8 pm
Where: Worsham Theatre

THE INDICATORS



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Environmental and Social Justice in Asia

Thursday March 20
7:00 pm Keynote address by writer, TATEMATSU Wahi

Friday March 21
8:45 am Opening Remarks, Provost Kumble SUBBASWAMY
9:00 am Miranda SCHREURS- "Environmental Policy Issues in Asia"
10:00 am Judith SHAPIRO- "As China Goes, So Goes the Planet"
11:00 am Brett WALKER- "Insect Technologies, Eco-System Accidents, and Environmental Toxicology in Japan"
1:00 pm Kaori SUNAGAWA- "The Experience of an Activist"
2:00 pm MA Tianjie- "Environmental Activism in China: Political Space, Strategies and Challenges"
3:00 pm Closing Panel Discussion

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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY CRIME REPORT

UK Police reports from
March 11 to March 17

- March 11** Arrest following alcohol intoxication reported from Samaritan Hospital at 2:57 a.m.
- March 11** Assault reported from UK Hospital at 11:05 a.m.
- March 11** Theft reported from Shawneetown Apartments at 12:13 p.m.
- March 11** Theft of drugs reported from UK Hospital at 8:28 p.m.
- March 11** Theft reported from UK Hospital at 9:01 p.m.
- March 12** Theft of office supplies reported from Funkhouser Building at 11:22 a.m.
- March 12** Theft of ladder reported from UK Hospital at 4:28 p.m.
- March 12** Arrest following theft of money reported from UK Hospital at 9:04 p.m.
- March 13** Theft of \$68 from ticket office reported from the Student Center at 11:17 a.m.
- March 13** Alcohol intoxication reported from Samaritan Hospital at 4:02 a.m.
- March 14** Arrest following traffic stop reported from Nicholasville Road and Alumni Drive at 12:54 a.m.
- March 14** Arrest following traffic stop reported from South Limestone Street and Avenue of Champions at 1:47 a.m.
- March 14** Arrest following traffic stop reported from South Limestone Street at 2:57 a.m.
- March 14** Arrest following traffic stop reported from Samaritan Hospital at 4:05 a.m.
- March 14** Theft of cell phone reported from the Johnson Center at 4:16 p.m.
- March 14** Arrest following traffic stop reported from University Drive and Cooper Drive at 11:58 p.m.
- March 15** Alcohol intoxication reported from Samaritan Hospital at 4:06 a.m.
- March 15** Arrest following alcohol intoxication reported from UK Hospital at 4:41 p.m.
- March 16** Alcohol intoxication reported from Virginia Avenue at 3:21 a.m.
- March 16** Theft of bike reported from Kirwan II at 2:28 p.m.
- March 16** Theft of DVD player, CD player and DVDs reported from Greg Page Apartments at 6:01 p.m.
- March 16** Arrest following traffic stop reported from South Limestone Street and Administration Drive at 11:35 p.m.
- March 17** Theft of laptop reported from Ralph G. Anderson Building at 3:24 p.m.
- March 17** Theft of bike reported from Kirwan II at 4:17 p.m.
- March 17** Fire reported from UK Hospital at 5:31 p.m. regarding a possible vehicle fire.

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

NEWS BRIEFS

UK Hospital ranks in top 100

UK Chandler Hospital was named one of the United States' top 100 hospitals yesterday by Thomson Healthcare in its "Top Hospitals National Benchmarks" program.

This is the fifth time UK Hospital has received the award in which hospitals are evaluated in four areas: clinical process and outcomes, patient safety, operational efficiency and financial stability. Top performing hospitals are identified using the two most recent years of data.

Black Panther founder's visit rescheduled

Bobby Seale, one of the founders of the Black Panther Party, will be speaking at UK on March 31 at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Grand Ballroom. He will discuss the impact of advocacy and why it is important for college students to stand up against oppression and discrimination. He was initially scheduled to speak on Feb. 21, but the event was canceled at the last minute due to inclement weather. The event is free and open to the public.

'NY's Finest' marks return of the Rock

Hip-hop's finest producer, Pete Rock, has been a prominent figure in hip-hop's pantheon since the early '90s. Getting his start with long-time friend and fellow New Yorker CL Smooth, Rock has produced bangers for nearly every heavy hitter in the game, including Run-D.M.C., Public Enemy, Nas and many more.

After he split with his rhyming counterpart in 1995, Rock released a slew of solo projects, including the critically acclaimed instrumental album "FeteStrumentals." Rock also released two "Soul Survivor" albums, on which he invited some of the greatest MCs of that time to rhyme over his beats. Nearly four years after the release of "Soul Survivor II," Rock comes out the woodwork with "NY's Finest."



LANDON ANTONETTI
Kernel columnist

"NY's Finest" is a compilation of some of today's hip-hop elite with both underground favorites like Little Brother and Torae to some of mainstream's most seasoned MCs, like Jim Jones, Styles P and Redman.

The album begins with the infectious track "We Roll," featuring Jim Jones and Max B. I've never really been a Jim

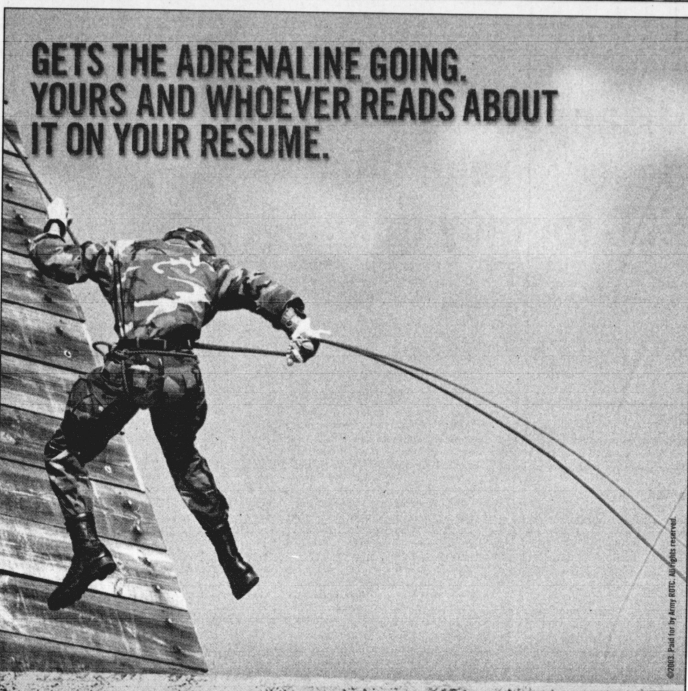
Jones fan — although I'll admit "Ballin'" is one of my all-time biggest guilty pleasures — but both Jones and Max B make this track worthwhile, along with Kool and the Gang-laced beats.

The next three or so tracks feature hot verses from the likes of Styles P, Sheek Louch and Redman, with Rock rhyming solo in one track. We don't really get to the "meat and cheese" until later in the album when some of my all-time favorite MCs come through and tear it apart — in a good way. The boys of Little Brother deliver a stellar performance on the track "Bring Y'all Back," as well as Rakwon and Masta Killa absolutely killing it on my favorite track, "The F's."

This album marks a solid return for Rock. His goal was to deliver a style to the masses that everyone could feel, both hip-hop listeners who have been familiar with Rock since the beginning and the younger crowd who may have never heard of him. Rock delivers a new style but manages to stay true to his roots.

Wary listeners, don't fear: This is the same Rock that produced the classic hip-hop anthem "T.R.O.Y.," — he's just put a modern twist on things to remain relevant in today's music industry flooded with talentless musicians. All hip-hop fans will enjoy this one, so if you haven't already picked it up, quit sleeping and get it.

Landon Antonetti is an undecided sophomore and production director at WRFL. E-mail features@kykernel.com.



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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, cartoons and other features on the opinions page reflect the views of their authors and not necessarily those of the Kernel.

■ KERNEL EDITORIAL

Disappointed fans deserve refund for SEC tourney tickets

Nobody could have predicted or imagined the chaos and fear that surrounded last weekend's Southeastern Conference Tournament, where a tornado swept through Atlanta on Friday night and damaged the Georgia Dome. The severe damage to the dome forced SEC officials to postpone the UK-Georgia game and move the matchup, along with the rest of the tournament games, to Georgia Tech's Alexander Memorial Coliseum.

Given the unbelievable and potentially tragic circumstances, the SEC officials acted quickly and efficiently in ensuring the rest of the tournament was played before the NCAA Tournament Selection Show on Sunday evening. They should be commended for making the right move in deeming the Georgia Dome unsafe to play despite heavy pressure from fans, players and coaches to go on with the tournament that night.

But the tornado on Friday has given way to further problems: Tens of thousands of fans want refunds, and they want them fast. Because of the move to a much smaller arena — the Alexander Memorial Coliseum seats just over 9,100 — SEC officials did not allow fans to attend the games, as the League reported Monday.

While the tornado presented an unfortunate and difficult situation for SEC officials, they must act swiftly to refund fans' tickets. The SEC released a statement Sunday saying they are working on a refund process and more information will be available through its Web site (www.SECsports.com), as

well as the official sites of the 12 SEC member institutions. The move is obviously a step in the right direction, but the SEC cannot afford to drag its feet on the refund process.

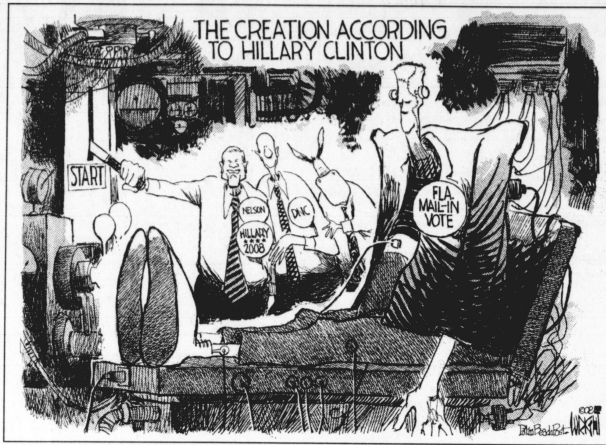
With the college basketball season winding down, tournament officials need to post a simple, accessible refund plan on their Web site within the next week.

Thousands of fans traveled from across the nation only to turn around without ever witnessing a game. Frustrated fans will likely want their money back as soon as possible, and it is the least the SEC could do, given the hotel and travel expenses that can never be made up.

As Paula Wooton, a UK fan that traveled from Burlington, Wash., told the Kernel: "It's not a good feeling to spend all the money to come down here and not get to go to the ball game."

And as unfortunate as last weekend's events were, it showed that the SEC needs to be prepared for events like these. As unlikely as we would like to think natural disasters are, they do happen. Officials for the SEC and other conferences across the nation should put contingency plans in place for future tournaments. Leagues need to make sure they have a backup plan in place that includes an alternate arena, a ticket distribution policy, and alternate game times and scenarios.

Until then, the SEC must do its best to manage the damage the tournament brought on. The first and most important step is to refund the tickets.



Don Wright, The Palm Beach Post

Larger cigarette tax increase could save state jobs from cuts

I hope everybody had a great Spring Break. While we were all away at our destinations of choice,

the world continued to spin, and news was made both in our state and across the country.

The Kentucky legislative session is winding down. The piece of legislation most important to those of us in the higher education community without a doubt is the budget. When Gov. Steve Beshear announced his plan to cut higher education by 12 percent in the next two years, a firestorm erupted. That firestorm was effective, however, because the cut was eliminated by the courageous Kentucky House of Representatives, which is controlled by the Democratic Party.

Restoring the 12 percent cut was not an easy task, and may yet be stymied. Rep. Harry Moberly, D-Richmond, who chairs the House budget committee, has been brave in the steps he has taken. The state's debt has been restructured, saving us

nearly \$300 million. The cigarette tax was raised 25 cents, and taxes were raised on luxury items like charter airplanes. Although raising taxes is always controversial, this has been possibly the least contentious part of the House's revenue raising plan.

The more controversial piece of this revenue plan has been blocking the administration from hiring workers to replace retirees. Sixty percent of retiring workers' jobs, or around 3,400, will not be filled again. This places a major strain on the executive branch, and the governor has already expressed his extreme consternation.

In January, I wrote that the most effective way to get out of the budget hole dug for us by the Fletcher administration would be to raise the cigarette tax by 70 cents — a proposal the governor has recently come out in favor of. Both legislative bodies have failed to take up this issue; the House chose instead to raise the cigarette tax by 25 cents.

I am glad to see that the House has taken other steps to increase revenue, but they should go in tandem with a 70-cent hike in the cigarette tax. Perhaps then the executive branch would not be under such strain, and higher education could be better funded.

This has not been an easy budget year, but I feel that coming away from this experience, we should remember two things. The first is that we arrived in this position because of the Ernie Fletcher administration's incompetence. Instead of being a good steward of the budget and of the state's coffers, Fletcher chose to spend lots of money on foolish projects in a vain attempt to get re-elected. Also, instead of making tough decisions to finance the state with recurring income, we used one-time revenue increases. This has created our current budget problems.

The second thing we should remember is that the rest of the state is making huge sacrifices so we can receive the level of funding which we have now. Next month, when we are paying our taxes, don't feel bad about having to pay the state of Kentucky — the truth of the matter is that we are nowhere near the revenue level where we should be. Instead, either enjoy the fact that our taxes are so low in Kentucky, or (like me) be sad that Kentucky continually fails to make the hard decisions that would bring about positive change in this state.

Robert Kahne is the president of UK College Democrats. E-mail rkahne@gmail.com.

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cultural genocide in Tibet must not be ignored

In his column "West's reaction to Tibet unrest reveals widespread hypocrisy," Linsen Li argues that the Western media unfairly portrays China in a negative light, while overlooking human rights abuses perpetrated by Western countries. When it comes to the protection of human rights, finger pointing is of little use; the international community must unite in order to stop abuses wherever they occur, whether in Abu Ghraib or Lhasa.

Li advocates the "liberation" point of view supported by the Chinese government, which suggests that China has gone out of its way to help modernize Tibet — something that Tibet never asked for. The same argument was also used by the Europeans to justify the colonization of Africa in the 19th century; it was neither justified then nor is it justified now. In taking the stance that liberation is a boon to Tibetans, Li fails to consider the insurmountable damage that has been wrecked on this historically peaceful country. Since the Chinese invaded Tibet in 1950, more than 1.2 million Tibetans have been killed, and more than 6,000 Buddhist temples have been destroyed.

Traditional Tibetan culture has been systematically eroded in order to economically and strategically benefit China. Tibetans have been stripped of their basic rights to practice their religion freely, to speak of their spiritual and political leader in exile and even to be educated in their own language.

In addition to the often violent suppression of cultural traditions, the primary strategy China has utilized to permanently quash hope for Tibetan autonomy is to dilute the Tibetan population by means of a population transfer using the new Qinghai-Tibet Railroad. Even more disturbing is the fact that the Panchen Lama, one of Tibet's most important religious leaders, was kidnapped by the Chinese government at the age of 6 and has been held political prisoner for the past 12 years.

As Tibetans rapidly become the minority in their own homeland, their cultural preservation is in grave danger, and it is saddening that one could stare at the erosion of cultural identity such as this and casually dismiss its importance.

Jessica McKenzie
Psychology research assistant

Support human rights, not 'minimal bloodshed'

I am pleased to see an article on Tibet in the Kernel but saddened by the approach it has taken. It seems to alienate the human suffering taking place in Tibet today and what has happened in the past 58 years of occupation by the People's Republic of China. Instead, the article is written to legitimize what is happening in Tibet and points a finger at others, stating that if the United States does it, why can't China?

I am not sure if this is the message that should be sent to the public. This is a time to stand up for human rights and protect each and every Tibetan who faces grave danger. This is the time to say we can no longer be bystanders. But instead, Linsen Li tries to be politically correct and states that this is bound to happen because Tibet is geopolitically necessary for China, and he hopes that there will be minimal bloodshed.

Maybe Li is fine with the "minimal bloodshed" of Tibetans who are being brutally murdered or will be by the Chinese government because they simply spoke their minds and expressed their thoughts. But I stand differently. As a Tibetan refugee, I know how much my grandparents and parents suffered in exile because they fled China's occupation; I know how much some of my friends from Tibet have suffered because of Chinese persecution and discrimination; I know how my statelessness affects me and other refugee Tibetans, and I can only imagine what my countrymen have endured for almost six decades.

I think Li should check his own biases — to learn how information is restricted in China, how life is for the ethnic Tibetans who have now become second-class citizens in their own country and how Tibetan language and culture have been destroyed by the Chinese.

I disagree with Li on many points, particularly how he compares human suffering in Iraq due to the U.S.-led war with Tibetan persecution by the Chinese. It is uncharitable and inherently wrong to compare human sufferings. We cannot compare Iraq with Tibet, nor can we compare Darfur with the Holocaust. A human life is important and should be significant; it does not become less valuable if the numbers are smaller or greater.

Tenzin Wangmo
Gerontology graduate student



ROBERT KAHNE
Contributing columnist



EDWARD WASSERMAN
Syndicated columnist

some hapless civic association president reading from a prompter and staring terrified into the camera. Papers had their letters pages, but allowed only enough space for a few dozen a week, and they were generally written with care and were easy to prune for taste and diction.

Things were nicely under control. But on the Internet, public comment isn't kitchen table talk, it's saloon brawl. Postings are sharp and rough-and-tumble. Harsh and derisive exchanges are common. So are personal attacks. Chat rooms and message boards routinely allow people to post comments anonymously. Only when postings are so egregious, so outrageous, racist or vile that other participants cough up hairballs do managers strike the comments and banish the authors.

That's the cyber pond that traditional news organizations are diving into. They understand that their own futures hinge on re-establishing online the central role in civic life that they've played offline. So they are ea-

ger to host forums where people in the communities they serve go first to offer their comments. It is hard to adapt to the sprawling new frontier of public comment.

In the pre-Internet world of TV and newspapers, public comment wasn't a problem. Broadcast news didn't have any — aside from the weekly guest spot, usually

They embrace the rambunctious discourse of the Internet with the zeal of the convert — and the sweaty fervor of the desperate: Got something to say? Tell us! Editors who would never dream of running an unsigned letter-to-the-editor now argue for promiscuous anonymity. And taste and civility, respectfulness? Old-line values of a discredited media elite. I exaggerate, but not that much. The new guiding principle is hands-off. At an American Society of Newspaper Editors workshop I attended recently in California, some very good and high-powered online journalists — not the consensus, admittedly — suggested that even screening postings would drive commentators to other Web sites, where they could speak their minds without restraint. And that would be ruinous to newspapers' online strategies.

Some organizations argue that they are providing a public space, which they don't have the right, let alone the duty, to regulate. It will look after itself.

But is the marketplace of ideas self-regulating? Is defamation canceled out by testimonials, falsehoods by truth? Or does Internet talk promise another sad case of what the late ecologist Garrett Hardin called the "tragedy of the commons": Each individual herdsman benefits from putting one more head of cattle onto public pasture, and suffers little from cumulative overgrazing. In time, though, community disaster ensues. In this case, the extreme license given individuals to vent, disseminate, excoriate and indulge their hates ver-

bally, winds up destroying the expressive freedom that other people, less bold and less opinionated, need. Venturing an opinion, even a sound one, just isn't worth the risk. The overall result is a less expansive, less robust sphere of expression — and sound, worthwhile thoughts aren't shared.

Public conversation — exchanging ideas about what a community is and ought to be — is something that has to be learned. Unfortunately, mainstream media have made a fortune teaching people the wrong ways to talk to each other, offering up Jerry Springer, "Crossfire" and Bill O'Reilly. People understandably conclude that this is the political vernacular that is this is how public ideas are talked about.

It isn't. With the move online, journalism has the opportunity to morph into a practice based not just on information gathering and narrative skill, but of stewardship, of presiding over a community-wide conversation about what's going on and what matters.

Those message boards and chat rooms aren't just market extension opportunities for media owners. They're warm and busy spaces where a new world of expression and communication is incubating.

To say there should be rules, that communicants should be admonished to strive for honesty and civility and respect, is not to justify elitism. It's not even to prescribe the rules. But it's to acknowledge that rules are needed, and to kick off the process of writing them.

Edward Wasserman is Knight professor of journalism ethics at Washington and Lee University. He wrote this column for The Miami Herald. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

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Johnson avoiding sophomore slump

By Bobby Reagan
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Most people believe that, after a successful rookie year in sports, what comes next is a "sophomore slump." But sophomore shortstop Molly Johnson of the UK softball team is proving that theory wrong.

Johnson, a Tuscon, Ariz., native, is off to an impressive second-year campaign for the Cats (13-10, 1-2 Southeastern Conference) after starting all 51 games and being named to the All-SEC Freshman team last year. She was also named SEC Freshman of the Week twice.

Instead of taking a step back, as many players do after finding success as freshmen, Johnson is making big strides forward in the clubhouse, becoming a leader on and off the diamond for UK, said head coach Rachel Lawson.

"She's very dependable, and everyone looks at her because she has been there and knows what's going on," Lawson said. "She's very successful and has turned into a great leader for us."
Johnson said she felt the urge to step up and become a

Up next UK vs. Drake doubleheader

When: Today, 3 p.m.
Where: UK Softball Complex

leader, especially with the freshmen, because she has three more years left with them. Johnson said she has particularly taken third baseman Annie Rowlands and catcher Megan Yocke under her wing.

"Megan and I have made a deal with each other this season that we have to calm each other down once we see the other get frustrated," Johnson said. "We both get frustrated by the same things, so once I see her get frustrated, I just tell her to take a deep breath, and vice versa."

While making her presence known to her teammates in the dugout, Johnson has continued to make a name for herself on the field as well. She is currently enjoying a 10-game hitting

streak, thanks in part to a little luck on Saturday, when she hit a two-run game-winning home run to beat No. 6 Tennessee.

"I actually missed a bunt that I was supposed to lay down originally," Johnson said. "But, I guess it worked out pretty well."

Johnson leads the team with a .444 batting average, three home runs, 18 RBIs and eight stolen bases. Lawson said the sophomore's impressive start stems from her hard work during practice.

"She comes hard to practice every day and has made a commitment to getting better," Lawson said. "Those two to three hours a day that she puts her entire effort in is starting to get shown now during games."

Johnson said the offensive streak she is on right now is an added bonus, as she wanted to focus on getting better defensively. She credits her coaches for helping improve her all-around game.

"The coaches have worked a lot on my throwing range, and that has probably increased the most out of any part of my game," Johnson said.

SPORTS BRIEF

Morehead St. game postponed to today

UK's baseball game with Morehead State was postponed yesterday due to the threat of inclement weather. The game, originally scheduled to start yesterday at 4 p.m., will instead be played today at 6:30 p.m. at Cliff Hagan Stadium.

The Cats (18-0, 3-0 Southeastern Conference) enter the contest one win shy of tying the records

for the best start and longest winning streak in school history, UK, which rose to a No. 2 ranking after sweeping Alabama over the weekend, will also be looking to avenge last year's defeat. The Eagles defeated the Cats 9-6 in Lexington last April in what turned out to be a critical loss as UK, a team considered to be on the bubble at the time, failed to be selected to compete in an NCAA regional.

Classifieds Continued from Page 5

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES for Users of Stimulants for Non-Medical Reasons. Researchers with the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Department of Behavioral Science are conducting research to examine the effects of medications. All information will be kept confidential. You may be eligible if you are between 18 and 50 years of age, are using stimulants for non-medical reasons (for example, Adderall, Ritalin, Amphetamine or Ephedrine). Eligible volunteers will be paid for their participation. Studies involve completion of one or 48 testing sessions depending on studies for which you may be eligible. Meals, snacks, movies, video games and reading materials will be provided. For more information and a confidential interview, please call 859-257-5389 or 1-866-232-3038.

SALVAGE BUILDING MATERIALS is hiring depend able PT warehouse workers w/ good people skills. Apply in person M-Sat at 573 Argyle Ave.

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ALCOHOL RESEARCH STUDIES AT UK

- UK's Alcohol Research Center in the Department of Psychology is conducting a number of studies involving the effects of alcohol on behavior
- Participants should be between 21-35 years of age for alcohol studies
- Healthy male and female social drinkers are needed
- Participants will be financially compensated for their time
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