

KENTUCKY KERNEL

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LEE TODD
UK president

ON TUITION

"It's a national problem. It's not just raising tuition here, it's everywhere."

ON TALKING WITH STUDENTS

"I always agree to disagree on certain issues, but they need to know where I stand."

Todd chats about more than cash

By Jill Laster
jlaster@kykernel.com

Anyone walking into the Classroom Building last week saw walls plastered with flyers featuring a picture of Kentucky with a dollar sign and a question mark.

Although posters advertising "A Conversation With Lee Todd" focused on the statewide budget deficit, about 50 members of the campus community had questions for the UK president at last night's forum that Robinson Forest to laws about carrying firearms on campus to tuition rates.

Of course, Gov. Steve Beshear's proposed budget — which calls for a \$50 million cut to UK's funding over the next two fiscal years — did come up.

"The state made us a top-20

plan. If the state's not helping us at all, when's when as far as your part?" asked integrated strategic communications senior James Davidson Jr. "When do you say, 'Enough is enough. If you want us to be top 20, why do you cut our budgets?'"

Todd responded by saying ambitious goals for higher education will help move the state forward even in the face of steep budget cuts.

"We told (the state) that this is what it's going to take if we want to get to that goal," Todd said. "We need \$20.9 million, and they gave it to us last time. So there are legislators down there who really do want to help us."

Environmental issues arose several times. Computer science junior Chet Gray asked Todd why UK has not signed the

See Todd on page 3

"WHAT STUDENTS ARE TALKING ABOUT"

TOP 20 BUSINESS PLAN

"If the state's not helping us at all ... When do you say, 'Enough is enough. If you want us to be top 20, why do you cut our budgets?'"

JAMES DAVIDSON JR.
integrated strategic communications senior



DIVERSITY

"I think there should be some kind of consequences to what people are doing (when they commit racially offensive acts). It shouldn't just be a slap on the wrist."

TERESA WALKER
first-year medical student



GUN CONTROL

"I'm allowed to carry (a concealed weapon) if I go to the mall, if I go to Wal-Mart, and I often do. Somehow they feel like when I get to campus, I become instantly irresponsible."

DAVID BURNETT
business management junior



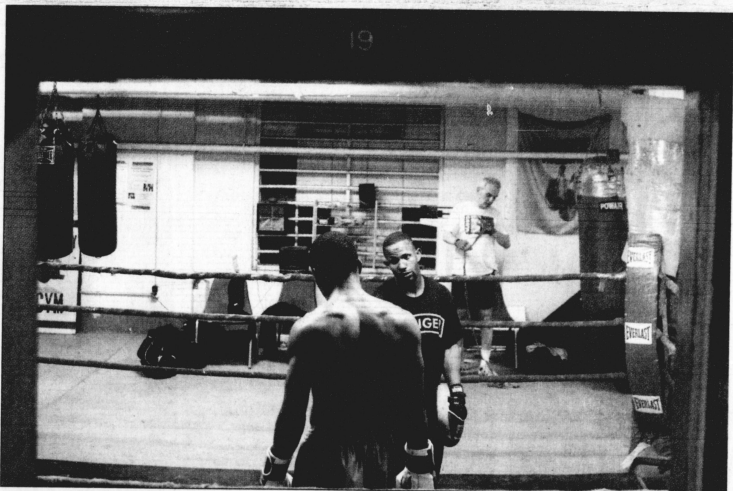
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

"I know it's 'King Coal,' but there's got to be some way to reduce the dependence."

CHET GRAY
computer science senior



Within Swinging Distance



Above: Jamyle Cannon, a social work and pre-law sophomore, listens to advice from trainer Leon Mack during boxing practice yesterday evening. Top: Joe Wolfe, a second-year law student, throws a punch at Jamyle Cannon during boxing practice yesterday.

After overcoming injury, boxer is primed for title run

By Bobby Reagan
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Jamyle Cannon danced around the ring, eyeing his opponent during a match leading up to the 2007 boxing national championships.

Cannon threw a powerful right hook, a punch he had landed successfully countless times. But his opponent lunged forward, stepping into the blow, causing Cannon's punch to land awkwardly. Cannon finished and won the match.

The 139-pound boxer had always dreamed of winning a national championship, and after that match, he was just two bouts away from making his dream a reality.

But Cannon did not know the awkward hook had caused a small tear in his right rotator cuff. He continued to compete, hoping to reach his goal — a national championship belt — until déjà vu struck in a quarterfinal match.

As a wildcard selection in the national championships, Cannon landed another awkward right hook, further tearing his rotator cuff. There was no mistaking the injury this time.

"I couldn't feel my arm or pick it up even," Cannon said.

Cannon fought the rest of the match with only one arm, hoping he had enough energy to knock his opponent out. His effort was in vain. He lost the match by points. Cannon would not be a champion in 2007.

"It was extremely disappointing to not come away with the win when I was expected to," he said.

Cannon, a social work and pre-law sophomore, endured 10 months of rehabilitation as his shoulder healed, and he only started boxing on a daily basis a month ago.

Dr. George Ginter, an anesthesiologist and head coach of UK's club boxing team, said collegiate

boxers tend to hit their peak during their sophomore year. But Cannon was gifted enough that he began reaching it as a freshman, Ginter said.

Now Cannon trains in the basement of Alumni Gym, a place he and the rest of the UK boxing club call home, and he still dreams of a national championship.

Despite the lengthy rehab, Cannon said this year the road to the national championship will come through him or the Naval Academy's Antone Aku, who went on to win the 2007 title. Without realizing he had a torn rotator cuff, Cannon dropped a hard-fought bout in the regional tournament to Aku, who he calls his "personal rival."

The two fighters face off again Feb. 29 in Louisville. Cannon knows if he can beat Aku this time, he will gain momentum leading into the regional tournament.

"Aku is a really good guy, but

once we step inside the ring, all I can think about is he is going down," Cannon said. "I don't care how cool he is — I want that belt."

Cannon turned down playing Division I football for boxing, a non-scholarship sport that is not sanctioned by the NCAA.

Indiana and Purdue universities offered Cannon a full ride to play free safety on the schools' football teams, but he declined. Cannon is at UK on an academic scholarship and said he just followed his heart in pursuing boxing.

"I liked football, but I never loved it," Cannon said. "I always loved boxing and now I have a chance to win a national championship. You can't beat that."

Cannon's father, Robert Cannon, was a professional boxer who qualified for the U.S. Olympic Team in 1988.

See Cannon on page 3

SG hoping for high turnout at tuition rally

By Katie Saltz
ksaltz@kykernel.com

Student Government is hoping to have more students than ever in Frankfort voicing concern about the proposed budget cuts to state universities at this year's Higher Education Rally.

Tomorrow's event will focus on the negative effects the budget cut could have on students in Kentucky, said SG Chief of Staff Chris Crumrine. The cuts will affect students more than any other issue because state funding goes far in determining UK's tuition, he said.

Students will feel the consequences of this budget cut, SG President Nick Phelps said, which is why they should make time to go to the rally.

"Unless students want to have to get a second job, drop out of school or lose hundreds of thousands of dollars, they should come," Phelps said.

Kentucky representatives, including Gov. Steve Beshear and Secretary of State Trey Grayson will speak, along with representatives from state-funded universities. Student body presidents will also have the opportunity to speak, Phelps said.

The Board of Student Body Presidents helped plan the rally. Phelps and the rest of the board are having dinner with the governor tonight, where he said there should be personal discussion about higher education in Kentucky.

"We are going to let (legislators) know. 'If you do this, my college education will suffer, and that is not fair,'" Phelps said.

Having a high student turnout can prove to legislators that students care about the decisions the General Assembly makes concerning education, Crumrine said.

"The most encouraging thing to legislators is having students there showing that they care," he said. "It will put a face on the dollar signs."

Students should consider that the future of the university depends on this budget, Crumrine said, and not think of the rally as a clash in politics.

"This is not a Republican or a Democratic issue — this is a student issue," he said. "This is our bud-

See Rally on page 3

Group advocates drinking from tap

By Todd Bivins
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Allison Esterle prefers bottled water to tap because of its convenience and portability.

"I don't think there's a difference between tap and bottled water," said Esterle, an elementary education freshman. "It's just easier to drink bottled water."

But one national organization is working to change that perspective among college students.

The Food & Water Watch, a non-profit consumer organization that advocates measures to ensure safe water and food, has launched a campaign called Take Back the Tap. It encourages college students and entire campuses to kick bottled water in favor of drinking from the tap.

Breaking the bottled-water habit means recognizing health, environmental and economic costs of bottled water, according to a Take Back the Tap news release.

A local water resource expert was most worried about bottled-water drinkers' wallets.

See Water on page 3

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Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black

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

Aries (March 21 - April 19) Today is a 7 — You're entering a pensive phase for the next four weeks. You'll want to do more thinking and reading about philosophy. Find the answers to your own private mysteries.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Today is a 7 — For the next several weeks, you'll be more involved in group endeavors. Your social calendar will be full. Warn the family; they'll have to do without you for a while.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) Today is a 7 — For the next four weeks, you can advance your career by using your imagination. That's always

been true, but now it's even more so. Think fast.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Today is a 7 — You're comfortable, but you don't want to get too set in your routine. Plan an outing to somewhere you've always wanted to see. Get the adrenaline flowing.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Today is a 7 — You believe you can do anything, and so do most of your friends. The next four weeks are good for finding the money to achieve those dreams.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Today is a 7 — What you hear in private must be kept confidential. Don't even tell a favorite co-worker yet. Get more verification.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Today is an 8 — Work demands more of your attention in the next four weeks. That's not really a problem, because it's so interesting.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Today is a 7 — Be polite to a strong authority figure, even if you feel other-

wise. The tide is turning in your favor. You have nothing to worry about.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Today is a 7 — Ask all the questions before you start out on your adventure. The more dangers you avoid, the better. Take risks in virtual reality, not in real life.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Today is a 7 — What do you really want to do? If you're not already doing it, what do you need to learn to achieve that life? Go one step at a time.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Today is a 7 — For the next several weeks, there'll be more money coming in. This isn't a steady income, though. With a partner's help you can manage to come out ahead.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Today is a 7 — Focus on the job at hand, but also remember this is just one step toward a much bigger goal. That'll help keep you from getting frustrated.

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HOT STUFF

Victoria Beckham's Bad Behavior

The Spice Girl freaks out at a hotel when no paparazzi follow her

Victoria Beckham may not smile much in photos, but she sure loves having her picture taken.

When she and the other Spice Girls checked in to the Ritz-Carlton Battery Park in NYC on February 5, "Victoria was complaining loudly. 'Where are the photographers? I want them called and alerted that I'm here!'" a source tells Hot Stuff. "She was a terror to the staff from the minute she got in."

Beckham, 33, upped the diva ante three days later, just prior to the Project Runway fashion show (she served as the celebrity guest judge), when, an insider says, she commandeered the W Hotel Jet Set Lounge — a backstage rest area for celebs — and used it as a private dressing room while people were kept waiting outside.

(Beckham's rep calls the Ritz-Carlton report "nonsense" and says that the W Lounge "was not cleared for a dressing room; it was cleared by the Project Runway staff for her to do media interviews.")

Perhaps Posh was still smarting from a February 7 meal at upscale NYC eatery Michael's, where a lunch date kept her waiting. "She was twitching in her seat and constantly checking her BlackBerry," a fellow diner says. "She looked so upset to be sitting there alone. She was like that for

nearly half an hour." Just call her Solo Spice!

Jess & Tony Hot in Hawaii

Business or pleasure? Tony Romo, 27, didn't have to choose during the five days he spent in Hawaii prepping for the February 10 NFL Pro Bowl, since girlfriend Jessica Simpson stayed with him at the \$1,000-a-night Ihilani Resort & Spa. The couple kicked off their jaunt with a PDA-filled drinks date at the hotel pool on February 6, where, a witness tells Hot Stuff, "they held hands and he rubbed her knee." The duo of three months opted out of a few NFL events (including a February 7 luau and February 8 golf tournament), but the singer, 27, did join Romo's parents in a private box at the all-star game — though she may have regretted it. A source at the match says that whenever Romo made the bad play, "the crowd started chanting in unison, 'Send Jessica home,' over and over."

Madonna & Guy's Fight

Madonna's "raising malawi" fundraiser in NYC on February 6 attracted many boldfaced names — Tom Cruise, Demi Moore, Gwyneth Paltrow — but one A-lister was conspicuously absent: her husband, Guy Ritchie. Madonna "told pals that Guy was in London with the kids, yet they have three nannies," says a source, who adds that the pair are arguing (again!) over the pop star's "obsession

with work." (Her directorial debut, *Filth and Wisdom*, opened at the Berlin Film Festival on February 13, and she has a CD due April 29.) "The fighting got so bad, he didn't travel for the benefit," the source continues. "Friends worry the couple will split." Madonna's rep calls this "just ridiculous. Guy is filming a movie in London and nannies aren't the same thing as having a parent tuck you in at night. Everything's fine with the Ritchies."

Ellen: Models Are Too Thin!

File this one under "The pot calling the kettle scrawny." At the Mercedes-Benz Star Lounge during NYC's Fashion Week, a source heard Grey's Anatomy star Ellen Pompeo, 38 — who is 5-foot-7 and recently estimated she weighed around 100 pounds — "going on and on about the models this year being way too skinny."

John & Cam: Back On Again

After a sizzling fling in Manhattan late last summer — and a risqué reunion on November 30, when they dirty-danced and made out at NYC's GoldBar — John Mayer, 30, and Cameron Diaz, 35, are at it once more: They were spotted at an outdoor mall in Santa Monica, California, on February 9. "They aren't dating exclusively," a Mayer source tells US. "But he thinks she's cool."

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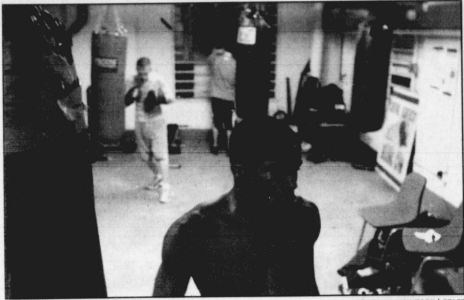
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BRITNEY MCINTOSH | STAFF
Jamley Cannon takes a moment to breathe after working out with a punching bag during practice.

CANNON

Continued from page 1

Despite his father's background in the sport, Cannon is boxing against his mother's and grandmother's wills. Cannon said his mother believes every boxer will, like Muhammad Ali, suffer from Parkinson's disease, a neurological syndrome that causes tremors, slowness in speech and a decline in motor skills. Doctors have said Ali's condition is likely caused by his boxing career.

"Every time I go home, I just hear how I shouldn't be boxing," Cannon said. "She always tells me I'm going to end up like Ali, so it limits how much I go home."

Cannon said he feels much safer in the boxing ring than he ever did on the football field.

The NCAA stopped sanctioning boxing in 1961, because the organization felt it was too dangerous a sport for college students. College boxing is now sponsored by the National Collegiate Boxing Association, a non-

profit organization that started in 1976 and now includes 26 schools that compete for a team national championship every year.

The schools are split into three regions. The top two competitors in each weight class from the three regions qualify for the national championships, along with two wildcard boxers picked by the NCBA.

Cannon is looking to become UK's first national boxing champion since Chad Gilpin won the title three years ago.

With his match against Aka in two weeks and regional championships — which will be held at UK's Buell Armory — starting in a month, Cannon has begun his pre-match routine. He runs Monday through Thursday before classes start. Once finished, he goes to practice for two and a half hours in the gym, which he says looks like a scene out of "Rocky."

Cannon now trains with hopes that all the work will help him achieve his national-championship dreams.

"Getting that belt will just show that it all has paid off," Cannon said. "I've put a lot into boxing and to get something that shows that would just be amazing."

TODD

Continued from page 1

Presidents Climate Commitment, an agreement signed by university presidents to work toward environmental goals, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

"As long as we have a coal-powered plant across the street, we can't do that," Todd said. "They don't ask for intent, they ask for results."

After the forum, Gray said he was disappointed that UK would not be signing the nationwide commitment anytime soon.

"I know it's 'King Coal,' but there's got to be some way to reduce the dependence," he said.

Several students asked about what UK is doing to improve diversity after this year's incidents, including a racially charged Oct. 5 Kernel editorial cartoon likening UK's Greek system to a slave auction and an e-mail forwarded by Student Government President Nick Phelps that falsely described presidential hopeful Barack Obama as a Muslim and spoke negatively of Islam.

Todd called both incidents unfortunate.

saying "any negative publicity doesn't help, certainly." He also said a new top diversity official, the recently hired Vice President for Institutional Diversity Judy "J.J." Jackson, would help bring a fresh perspective.

"I'm a white male. That's just the way it is. It's been that way for 61 years," Todd said. "So I need someone who thinks much different than me on certain issues."

Two students raised the issue of a bill currently in the state legislature that would allow guns in cars on university campuses.

The idea of concealed carry on campus is designed for students who have already passed background checks and state regulations, said forestry senior Nicholas Peters.

"They are legal in a sense they are not going to do anything harmful with firearms on campus," Peters said.

"Is there any guarantee of that?" Todd responded quickly. "Just because they've been certified by the state doesn't mean they're not going to do something harmful on campus."

Todd said that although he and some of the people in attendance disagreed last night, he thought the experience was valuable.

"I always agree to disagree on certain issues, but they need to know where I stand," he said.

Panel: View of Mid East must change

By Paul Mattingly
features@kykernl.com

A panel of academics gathered last night to answer the question: Is political Islam destabilizing the world?

The answer seemed to have more to do with Americans as panelists of the event agreed that the United States needed to vastly change its policies in the Middle East for relations between Islamic states and the West to improve.

The event, titled "Does Islamic Revivalism Challenge a Stable World Order?" was one of several academic presentations that will be featured during the College of Arts and Sciences "Geek Week." The panel consisted of professor of Islamic studies Ihsan Bagby, history professor Robert Olson and professor John Stempel of the Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce.

"The anger in the Muslim world is at all levels, but the masses are not violent," Bagby said. "It's not a hotbed of terrorism."

Bagby said Western influence has bred Islamic revivalism, or "political Islam."

"Political Islam has been opposed very vigorously by the West," Bagby said. "The repression and opposition of the West has, I think, radicalized (Islamic) groups. Political participation naturally leads to a moderation of views. The repression of these organizations has retarded that movement."

Most of the panelists agreed that the war in Iraq has given momentum to Islamic revivalism, which Olson said began in the 1960s.

"There were no suicide bombers in Iraq before 2003," Olson said. "You displace that many people from their homes, people are going to be upset."

If the United States had ceased pressuring Iran, Bagby said he felt an Islamic democracy would already be established and that it was still not a far-fetched idea in Iran.

Stempel, who worked for the U.S. Foreign Service in Iran, agreed on the country's potential for democracy.

"Every group has things in common and things that are different," Stempel said. "Iran has many things in common with us, though you won't hear that from our government."

The majority of Iranians like the United States, Stempel said, and the current Iranian government is nervous because of the potential for a democracy.

Organizers were happy with how the panel discussion turned out.

"This was my dream team of panelists," said Katie Hansen, one of the events coordinators and a political science and topical studies senior with a focus on the Middle East. "I think each of their perspectives were fantastic. They were different enough that they gave a broad perspective of how to solve problems."

More information about Geek Week and a schedule of events is available on the A&S Web site (<http://www.as.uky.edu/advising/ambassadors/GeekWeek/>).

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RALLY

Continued from page 1

get. It determines how many students will be sitting in the classrooms and what kind of programs UK can offer.

The rally is tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. in the Capitol Rotunda. The timing is ideal, Phelps said, since the legislative session begins at 2 p.m., and legislators will be making their way to the Capitol during it.

SG will be taking a bus to transport students to the rally, leaving the Student Center at 12:30 p.m. Cramrine said the bus will leave Frankfort around 3:30 p.m. Phelps will sign excuses for students who would have to miss class and need to verify that they are going to the rally. Students can sign up for a ride in the SG office in room 120 of the Student Center, or e-mail SG@ukstudentgovernment@gmail.com.

WATER

Continued from page 1

"The biggest disadvantage is cost," said James Kipp, associate director of the Kentucky Water Resources Research Institute. "If you calculate the cost per gallon, buying single bottles of water costs more per gallon at this point than gasoline does."

A 20-ounce Dasani bottled water costs \$1.30 at campus dining facilities, equal to \$8.32 per gallon.

But the negative effects bottled water has on the environment should also be considered, Kipp said. Making plastic bottles requires oil, enough to fuel 100,000 cars a year, according to the news release, and more fuel is used to transport the bottles.

"Bottled water requires the production

of plastic for the bottles and packaging using hydrocarbons that could be used for fuels and other products," he said.

Even though plastic can be recycled, 86 percent of the empty plastic water bottles in the nation land in the trashcans instead of recycling bins, according to a Take Back the Tap report.

The Food and Drug Administration regulates bottled water as a food under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. But the Environmental Protection Agency monitors tap water under the Safe Drinking Water Act. According to the Take Back the Tap report, regulating water as a food treats it as a commercial product, and the EPA's tests have stricter guidelines for the water running through kitchen faucets.

Esterle said she was not aware of the effects bottled water could have on the environment and the differences in government regulations.

Office of Student Activities, Leadership & Involvement
www.uky.edu/campuscalendar

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Visit the web site for event details or to post your own UK event.
Call 257-8867 for more information.

Monday 18 th	Tuesday 19 th	Wednesday 20 th	Thursday 21 st	Friday 22 nd	Saturday 23 rd
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *A Conversation with President Lee Todd, 6:30 PM, UK Student Center Cats Den *Singing Dance Lessons, 8:00 PM, Tates Creek Recreation Center, 1400 Gainesway Dr. *Volunteering at the Carnegie Center, 3:00 PM, Carnegie Center *OLD MASTER WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE COLLECTION, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts *Does Islamic Revivalism Challenge a Stable World Order? An Expert Panel Deliberates, 4:00 PM, Student Center Room 230 *Ghostsisters, 2:00 PM, UK Student Center Cats Den *Miniature Worlds: Art of India, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts *Robert C. May Photography Endowment Lecture Series, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Cheap Seat Tuesdays - American Gangster, 8:00 PM *Final Word, 6:00 PM *Miniature Worlds: Art of India, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts *WildCat Career Link demo session, 3:30 PM, B&E, room 125 *Interviewing 101, 12:00 PM, Raymond Bldg. Room 112 *Robert C. May Photography Endowment Lecture Series, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts *OLD MASTER WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE COLLECTION, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts *Volunteering at the Carnegie Center, 3:00 PM, Carnegie Center *CCO-Volunteer at Catholic Action Center, 5:00 PM, Catholic Action Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *OLD MASTER WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE COLLECTION, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts *Robert C. May Photography Endowment Lecture Series, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts *Learn to Knit, 7:00 PM, Student Center Rm 228 *Volunteer w/ Beaumont Buddies, 4:00 PM, Beaumont Middle School *CCO-Volunteer at God's Pantry, 3:30 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts *Dress for Success Fashion Show (Pre-Expo Career Fair event), 6:00 PM, Goodbarn *Comedy Caravan, 8:00 PM, UK Student Center Cats Den *Volunteering at the Carnegie Center, 3:00 PM, Carnegie Center *Interviewing 101, 12:00 PM, Raymond Bldg. Room 112 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Happy Hour: 11 Video Games, 4:00 PM, UK Student Center Cats Den *Miniature Worlds: Art of India, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts *The Movie into the Wild, 10:00 PM, Worsham Theater (Student Center) *A Soldier's Play / for colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf, 7:30 PM, Guignol Theatre *DanceBlue UK Committee Meeting, 6:00 PM, SC RM 203 *CCO Young At Heart Meeting, 7:30 PM, Student Center in the Student Center *Successfully Work a Career Fair, 3:30 PM, James W. Stuckert Career Center *Does God Exist? Arguments from Both Sides, 8:30 PM *DanceBlue Informational Meeting, 5:30 PM, SC RM 203 *Robert C. May Photography Endowment Lecture Series, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts *CCO Young At Heart Meeting, 5:00 PM, 106 Student Center *OLD MASTER WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE COLLECTION, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts *Volunteering at the Carnegie Center, 3:00 PM, Carnegie Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Volunteering at the Carnegie Center, 3:00 PM, Carnegie Center *Free Movie: 3:10 to Yuma, 10:00 PM, Worsham Theater (Student Center) *DanceBlue, 7:00 PM, Memorial Coliseum *Miniature Worlds: Art of India, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts *DanceBlue, 7:00 PM, Memorial Coliseum *DanceBlue, 7:00 PM, Memorial Coliseum *Robert C. May Photography Endowment Lecture Series, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts *DanceBlue, 7:00 PM, Memorial Coliseum *OLD MASTER WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE COLLECTION, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Singing Dance, 8:00 AM, Arthur Murray Dance Studio, 1801 Alexandria Dr. *Robert C. May Photography Endowment Lecture Series, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts *OLD MASTER WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE COLLECTION, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts *Miniature Worlds: Art of India, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts *Miniature Worlds: Art of India, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts *DanceBlue, 7:00 PM, Memorial Coliseum *Robert C. May Photography Endowment Lecture Series, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts *Miniature Worlds: Art of India, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts *OLD MASTER WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE COLLECTION, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts

OPINIONS

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

Attending rally can make a difference in higher ed funding

Last February, over 150 students — including 35 from UK — attended the annual Rally for Higher Education in the Capitol building, the Kernel reported at the time.

The number of UK students may seem small, but it was a big jump from 2006's rally, when just five UK students showed up.

Now, with a rocky state budget threatening higher education funding more than in recent memory, the annual rally protesting rising tuition carries more importance. This means more students than ever before need to join Student Government representatives at the rally.

If students want to see a change in high tuition raises, they're going to have to believe that they themselves can effect that change and travel to the Capitol tomorrow to make their voices heard.

Tomorrow's rally is a prime opportunity for students to make a personal step in defending their rights and priorities. Of course, tomorrow is not the only chance students have to protest cuts in higher education funding. Keeping up such efforts by writing and calling local legislators is always an important measure to take on and something that must be done if students' concerns are going to be taken seriously.

Politicians have hinted at the potential power a collective student voice can provide.

"Seeing all of you here today representing your schools and your student bodies shows me that you don't like that your tuition has increased 145 percent in the last 10 years." This was said by former Gov. Ernie Fletcher at 2007's rally. Fletcher did not propose fully funding UK's top-20 plan in his budgetary address in 2006, but the General Assembly increased the university's funding anyway, softening the tuition increase somewhat.

Because Gov. Steve Beshear is calling for colleges to make budget cuts this year does not mean it is set in stone. There is still a lot of time from now to when the legislative session ends in April. Like before, funding can be increased for state universities, and the tuition increases might not be so drastic.

And like before, students have much invested in this debate and must make their voices heard if they want anyone to listen.

Students looking for a way to attend the rally can travel with SG. Some representatives will travel to the rally on a bus that will leave the Student Center at 12:30 p.m. and stay in Frankfort until about 3:30 p.m. SG President Nick Phelps said excuses will be available for students who would have to miss class and need to verify that they are going to the rally. Students can sign up for a ride in the SG office in room 120 of the Student Center, or e-mail SG at ukstudentgovernment@gmail.com.

If students want to see a change in high tuition raises, they're going to have to believe that they themselves can effect that change.



BRIAN GOODLEY, Kernel cartoonist

Lesson from campus shootings: Lax gun control root of problem

The tragic shooting at Northern Illinois University on Thursday that left five dead plus the shooter has instigated a new round in the campus concealed-weapon debate.

Just like after the Virginia Tech shooting last year, proponents of concealed weapons jumped onto the story as if it were a gold mine.

Many proponents of gun rights fail to, or more often refuse to, realize that guns already cause too many deaths in this country, especially among our age group.

Firearms caused 21 percent of deaths among people in the 15 to 24 age group, only second to motor vehicle accidents, according to a 2002 report by National Center for Health Statistics.

Banning private ownership of guns would be too radical to be accepted at any level of the government, and it's not necessary. For many Americans, owning guns for hunting, protection or the joy of collecting is deeply rooted in the culture, and that can be respected. Instead, we should look to tighten gun control to prevent potential criminals from accessing these weapons.

Loose regulations on firearms and even looser enforcement made these tragic shootings possible. Both shooters from the NIU and Virginia Tech shootings bought their weapons legally despite having histories of mental illness; not only that, they both purchased gun accessories online.

When people with alarming back-

grounded can purchase murdering weapons legally at the click of a button, no one in this country should feel safe.

More importantly, because these weapons available to these criminals include multi-shot shotguns and handguns with high-capacity magazines, these killers were able to murder innocent people on a mass scale.

Shotguns with higher than two-round capacity should be outlawed in all of the United States. Such action may bring some minor hindrance to avid hunters, but it would eliminate a fearsome killing tool for the criminals.

Handguns are especially dangerous in the hands of criminals because they are easily concealed and have a high round capacity. Hunting and self-protection (with the exception of concealed-weapon carriers) don't require a handgun, and frankly, I am willing to bet that most of the concealed-weapon carriers wanted the license not for self-protection, but for the self-sensed superiority from carrying a gun. Allowing handguns to flow loosely in the market only increases the dangers in our society. Therefore, regulations on handguns should be particularly strict.

Allowing guns on campus is not the answer to campus shootings — tightening gun control is. If the politicians can only look beyond campaign contributions from the National Rifle Association's lobbyists, they'll see that the reckless handling of gun control must be stopped.

Linsen Li is a history and journalism junior. E-mail ll@kykernel.com.



LINSEN LI
Kernel columnist

attitude, they claim that had students been allowed to carry concealed weapons on NIU's campus, the tragedy would not have happened. Therefore, they conclude, UK and other universities should allow students and faculty to carry concealed weapons legally on campus.

First of all, the notion that students should carry concealed weapons in class to stop campus shootings is ludicrous. It is the job of the police to protect us from these killers. And many of us would undoubtedly feel safer if the police, rather than gun-carrying students, were handling such a situation.

If anything, the NIU shooting only increased my confidence in the police's ability to react to and manage school shootings quickly. According to a Friday article on CNN.com, the NIU police responded within seconds after the first shots were fired and

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stay diligent to protect yourself from shootings

Campus shootings are a difficult crime to prevent. Warning systems do nothing to protect those at the epicenter of campus violence, shootings or otherwise. These systems have a purpose, but they mostly provide a false sense of safety. What can be done to protect those in the immediate vicinity?

After Virginia Tech, stories were told of students barricading themselves in classrooms. This is not possible in White Hall Classroom Building where all of the doors open toward the hallway and not in toward the classroom. This is practical and incredibly simple.

Students must increase their diligence. Unfortunately, not everyone has an awareness of their surroundings; they often don't know what to look for and what steps to take to protect themselves. The university would be wise to invest in seminars held by law enforcement and security personnel that would equip students with skills to be called upon during a shooting or similar incident.

We need to unplug the iPods and take an interest in our surroundings and people who may be exhibiting erratic behaviors. Without this diligence and in the absence of a totally controlled campus, UK will always be vulnerable.

Joel Willett
UK graduate student

Pro-life letter failed to address both sides

I am writing in response to David Rempfer's letter supporting pro-life in Wednesday's Kernel. Rempfer's argument is mostly irrelevant and presents one-sided facts that dispel his reasoning.

Rempfer states that "an enduring principle of America has been the sanctity of life," then cites historical events such as the ruling for women's suffrage and the outlawing of slavery. These examples are completely irrelevant to the subject of abortion because they deal with the rights of living beings. The abortion argument lies in deciding when the child is considered a separate living being from the mother, which is the point when the child gains rights.

Rempfer claims, "Studies have shown that women post-abortion are 4.7 percent more likely to suffer breast cancer, 90 percent are likely to report psychological trauma, 96 percent are likely to report they feel they took a human life and seven times more likely to commit suicide than women post-birth." He does not present any facts from the other side of the fence.

The American Psychological Association did an extensive study and concluded that severe negative reactions after abortions are rare, and that while some women may experience sensations of regret, sadness or guilt after an abortion, the overwhelming responses are relief and happiness. There are other studies that also support this notion.

Rempfer also failed to account for the potential harm of unprepared, or outright bad, parenting. For example, many pregnant women choose abortion because they cannot afford the expenses involved in having a child. Contrary to pro-life arguments, any logical person would agree that government assistance is not sufficient for properly raising a child and can be misused; poverty has also repeatedly been linked to high crime rates and low education levels.

I do respect Rempfer's opinion, but the reasoning he gave for it was very one-sided. The "psychological problems" argument does not stand, and that leaves us with a question: Is it worse to have a 4.7 percent increased risk in breast cancer for women with abortions or to have increased crime and poverty rates coupled with lower education levels?

Phill Heavrin
Telecommunications center

Submissions

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

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

Don't like drastic tuition increases? Join SG at Rally for Higher Ed

Hey there, everyone. I hope all is well. There sure is a lot going on right now, and I know all of you are just as busy as I am. Keep up the hard work; Spring Break is here in just three weeks.

This is my first column since the e-mail situation was reported in the Kernel, so I want to make sure I cover some bases. Again, to those students who found my forwarding of the e-mail offensive and hurtful, I want you to know I am sorry, and I apologize. I have learned some life lessons, and my eyes have been opened on matters that I have never really seen before.

Over the past two weeks, I have received hundreds of notes, letters and calls of support from students, university officials, community members and public figures, and they have all meant a lot. But what have been more special are the meetings with students, hearing their feelings and opinions while figuring out what we do from this point so that we can prevent similar happenings in the future.

The events occurred because of my lack of awareness and sensitivity to certain students' beliefs. But in my last two months, I will str discus-



NICK PHELPS
Contributing columnist

ions, set up new programs and lead talks to help future student leaders be more prepared.

In a meeting with the Muslim Student Association executive officers on Friday, we identified some starting places, and I think them for their hard work and tolerance. I will keep in touch through columns and other resources about our goals and progress. Uniting is the key in the discussion on diversity, and we will.

DanceBlue, one of UK's most successful events, is fast approaching again. It is an event in which the UK community unites for the children department at the Pediatric Oncology Department at the UK Children's Hospital. I ask that you visit DanceBlue.org this week and make a last-second donation or sign up for a few hours of volunteering at the event. It starts at 7 p.m. Friday at Memorial Coliseum and lasts until 7 p.m. Saturday. I will be there on my feet for 24 hours, so come see me!

Come to Frankfort with me on Wednesday for the Rally for Higher Education. We have buses and vans, but you can drive if you want. The bus will leave at 12:30 p.m. from the Student Center, so come to the Student Government office and sign up, or message us through the Web site (www.uky.edu/SGA/). The rally will start at 1:30 p.m., and we will hear from state leaders, including Gov. Steve Beshear, before it wraps up at 2:15 p.m. UK Provost Kumble R. Subbaswamy has asked teachers to be

very lenient on your absences, and SG will have notes for all of you proving your attendance.

It is my hope the Kernel will step it up and spread the word about the devastating budget cuts about to occur. You would think if a dozen students at "I Love Mountains Day" in Frankfort got front page coverage, the millions of dollars UK is about to lose would receive constant coverage.

Because of deficits and some other troubles, there is a proposed budget cut of 10 to 12 percent at UK. What some don't realize is there had already been a 3 percent cut this semester, so UK could lose up to 15 percent of its allocated state money.

Now, to give you a clear picture, these cuts would take UK back to funding levels of the late 1990s, and this isn't a one-year cut. UK may lose \$50 million or more for good each year from here on out. This may lead to scholarships being cut drastically, staff and maybe even faculty being laid off, fewer student workers being hired on campus, and tuition going up significantly. I know many of you are like me in that the only scholarship we had coming into college was Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship from our state government, and they are proposing a cut in it as well!

Students, it's time to make some noise; come help us do just that!

Nick Phelps is the president of UK Student Government. E-mail nicholasphelps@gmail.com.

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Home has been a haven in SEC

By Kenny Colston
kcolston@kykernel.com

For most major college basketball programs, there is no safer place than the home court. But early in UK's season, Rupp Arena was no safe place for the Cats, who lost to Gardner-Webb and San Diego — the two big black eyes in a 6-4 non-conference record in the home arena.

But UK has turned things around in Southeastern Conference play, with the Cats boasting a 4-0 home record taking down Vanderbilt, Tennessee, South Carolina and Alabama. With UK winning again in Rupp Arena, the Cats are feeling the swagger that comes with playing in a place that head coach Billy Gillispie said gives his team a major advantage.

"You want to try and win them all no matter where you play," Gillispie said. "You have to understand that we have the best home-court advantage in college basketball ... when we play well enough, (the crowd) has made a difference. This is a major home-court advantage."

Even though Gillispie believes Rupp Arena gives his team a decided boost in conference play, he is skeptical that home-court advantage truly matters late into the season.

"We're really excited to be playing in front of our home crowd and it's a critical part of the season," Gillispie said. "I think that home-court advantage is a little bit diminished at this point of the season because of the sense of urgency every team has at this point."

And while the Cats need to defend Rupp Arena at all costs if they hope to have a chance at making the NCAA Tournament, many players feel like every game matters now, no matter where it is played.

"Every game is very important," senior guard Ramel Bradley said. "Especially now at this point in the year, we are preparing for each and every game like it's our last one."

After coming off a road stretch where four of the last five games have been away from Rupp, the Cats face a tough three-game home stretch starting with Georgia tonight. The Bulldogs, led by senior guard Sundiata Gaines, fell to the Cats 63-58 in Athens, Ga., this year. But Gillispie said the Georgia team UK will face tonight is not the same one the Cats faced earlier this month.

"They are shooting the basketball real well."



ED MATTHEWS | STAFF

Senior guard Ramel Bradley drives by Vanderbilt's Alex Gordon during UK's double-overtime win Jan. 12.

Gillispie said. "They are playing lights out and Gaines is just playing crazy."

Georgia took SEC East leader Tennessee to the wire Sunday, thanks in large part to Gaines, who had 23 points, 9 rebounds and 8 assists against the Volunteers. Gaines is averaging 15 points and 6 rebounds on the season, but has recently caught fire in conference play.

"He's so good with the ball," Gillispie said. "He really knows how to beat traps, he can split traps like the pros can. He makes hard shots ... shots no one else can make."

Gillispie downplayed the potential advantage Rupp Arena might provide his team in tonight's game.

"We're not going to win the game because we're playing at home," Gillispie said. "If we do win the game it was because we played as a very determined team."

NEWS BRIEF

Forum for felons' voting rights tonight

A forum on the Restoration of Voting Rights bill will be held tonight at 7 in room 211 of the Student Center. Former UK basketball player Teyna Fogle and Rep. Jesse Crenshaw, D-Lexington, will advocate for House Bill 70, which would allow citizens to vote on whether or not to restore some felons' voting rights.

Kentucky is one of two states in the United

States that does not allow convicted felons to vote. More than 186,000 convicted felons in the state are unable to vote, said Joe Gallenstein, co-coordinator for UK Kentuckians for the Commonwealth. In addition to discussion, the student organizations will show a 10-minute video clip on the issue.

The forum is sponsored by UK College Democrats, UK Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Black Student Union and the Latin American Student Organization.

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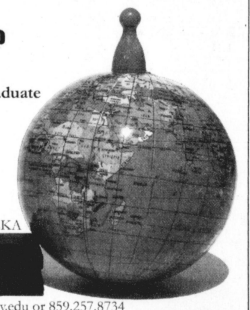
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- Participants should be between 21-35 years of age for alcohol studies.
- Healthy male and female social drinkers are needed.
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Blazer Express 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.	ROTC Barker Hall noon to 5 p.m.

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