

KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 36 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Some see problems in structure of UK's Dead Week

By Katie Saltz
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The week before finals is designated as Dead Week by the University Senate, but many students argue that it is not much of a break from their regular schedule.

"For most classes, it's a week of projects and papers, and those assignments are just as big as a final," said Kelsey Hill, a marketing and integrated strategic communications junior.

The last week of instruction of a semester is termed "Dead Week," a time when no final exams can be given and when no take-home exams can be due, according to University Senate Rule 5.2.4.6.

But contrary to what many students perceive Dead Week as, projects, papers, presentations and

other assignments can be due during the week as long as they were scheduled in course syllabi, according to the rule.

Certain sections of the rule were changed in April 2006, to clarify the regulations.

"We changed the rule to make it more student-friendly," said Kaveh Tagavi, University Senate chair. "The purpose is so students could start gathering their thoughts and preparing for the final exam."

Regularly scheduled quizzes are allowed during Dead Week as long as they are on the syllabus and do not have an increased worth, like a final. This prevents teachers from giving an early final, Tagavi said.

"We didn't want professors to give an exam during Dead Week and call it quiz number three," he said.

There is no rule concerning a review for a final exam, but some students think a review should be required. New students need some review time before finals to prepare, said Kerry Richmond, a history freshman.

"I think you need it, especially for freshmen because some high schools do not prepare you for this," Richmond said. "You are so overwhelmed, and you need extra review to focus and be ready for finals."

Teaching new material up until the last day is not addressed in the rule either.

Christopher Rice, a political science professor, said he understood a need for review time, but there is too much information students need to be taught to not teach during Dead Week.

"In a way, I understand the stresses students are feeling, but if you're paying tuition you should

want to get the most education you can," Rice said. "We cover a lot during the semester, and students need some time to catch up, but you structure the semester to use all your teaching time."

But some students see it as unreasonable to teach new material up until the last day of class during Dead Week.

"It's ridiculous to have new assignments and to have new material with just two or three days to memorize it," said Amber McGuire, a history freshman.

Giving students more time to prepare is a problem with UK's structure of Dead Week, said history professor Karen Petrone. Other schools have specified study days before finals.

"We go right into finals, but other universities have reading days or study days," Petrone said.

See **Dead Week** on page 3

Report: College funds should be based on state goals

By Jill Laster
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LOUISVILLE — Kentucky has made some progress in higher education but it must not return to old habits, according to a report released yesterday by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

The report, conducted by an independent firm, examined changes since the passage of a 1997 act mandating educational improvements, including a requirement that UK become a top-20 research institution by 2020.

One of the most significant recommendations of the report is that the goals of individual institutions, like UK and the University of Louisville, be considered secondary to larger, statewide goals.

"Without that, we will have a series of random events," said Aims McGuinness, senior executive of the Colorado company that conducted the study. "There will be disconnect and the state will have no progress."

By connecting the 45 state institutions into a "seamless, integrated system," the state will not only be able to achieve university goals but the state's economic goals as well, the report said.

See **Chamber** on page 6

Kentucky makes jump into space

By Elliott Hess
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Kentucky will embark on its first space mission today with the launch of Space Express, one of Kentucky Satellite's student-built rockets meant to start an inexpensive and quick way to get a satellite into space.

Kentucky Satellite, a project of the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation, is a joint enterprise of public organizations, universities and private companies to promote science and technology education. UK is a shareholder in the organization and several UK students are members on project teams.

"It feels really good; we've had lots of late nights that have paid off," said Tyler Doering, Space Express team leader and UK electrical engineering graduate student. "Having it go from a drawing to actually being made is nice. It's even nicer to see it fly in space."

Space Express is an orbital satellite that will climb to an altitude of 62 miles and will be in space for two minutes to test its low-pressure systems, the processor and the radio system to see if they work outside the atmosphere.

When it returns to Earth after a four hour mission, see **Space** on page 3



Garrett Graddy, a geography graduate student and teaching assistant, voices protesters' concerns to Douglas Boyd, UK chief of staff, yesterday outside UK President Lee Todd's office. The group staged a sit-in outside Todd's office for about two hours in an attempt to speak with him about the logging of UK-owned Robinson Forest.

Sitting in for Robinson Forest

Protest in response to denied meeting with Todd

By Katie Saltz
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About 15 people chanting "Save Robinson Forest" made their way outside UK President Lee Todd's office yesterday afternoon where they sat for more than two hours in protest of logging 800 acres of university owned-land in Eastern Kentucky.

Chris Schimmoller, of Kentucky Heartwood, said the sit-in was a response to Todd's refusal to meet with students and community members concerned about the logging.

"Lee Todd has refused to meet with us, and he refused to let us meet with the Board of Trustees," Schimmoller said. "This is our way of responding

that."

The sit-in was a collaborative effort of the student environmental group UK Greenhumb, Kentucky Heartwood, the Sierra Club and Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, said Taylor Shelton, a geography and political science junior. The environmental community of UK has not given up on stopping the logging, Shelton said.

"We have not resigned ourselves," Shelton said. "We hope to force the president to take some sort of action in preserving university lands."

The group sat on the floor outside Todd's office, holding signs with statements like "Top 20 in real ecological stewardship."

See **Sit-in** on page 3



Linda Machan, UK President Lee Todd's secretary, watches as about 15 protesters sit outside Todd's office yesterday afternoon. The group of protesters was comprised of students and members of environmental groups.

Cats trounce William & Mary behind hot shooting

By James Pennington
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After the women's basketball team's heart-breaking overtime loss on Friday to Western Kentucky, the Cats were looking to recover last night with a big statement against William & Mary.

With the weight of the team evenly distributed on the shoulders of three UK players, the Cats easily defeated the Tribe 75-44 last night in Memorial Coliseum.

Although the Cats (4-4) have struggled with poor shooting performances all season, they came out firing on all cylinders last night. The Cats hit 51.7 percent of their shots from the field and went 10-for-14 from the free-throw line.

"I was very encouraged with the progress we made tonight," head coach Matthew Mitchell said. "We weren't perfect, but I thought we played with a lot more energy tonight than we have recently, and I

think it's a game we can build on."

The first half was led by Cats senior guard Samantha Mahoney. In the first 20 minutes, she led UK with 11 points and finished the contest with 16 points on 6-of-11 shooting to give the Cats a 33-23 halftime lead.

Once the Cats and the Tribe (3-5) resumed play in the second half, freshman forward Victoria Dunlap took control of the game and helped push the Cats to a comfortable lead right out of the gate.

Dunlap netted eight of the Cats' first 12 points in the second half and helped open up a 45-28 UK lead with 14:50 left in the game. Dunlap finished the game with 20 points and 10 rebounds for her first career double-double.

"My goal is to go out there, play hard and see what I can do," Dunlap said. "It's just so happen to get a double-double, that's great."

Seemingly with the snap of a finger, Dunlap's hot hands were taken off like gloves and slipped

snugly on the hands of her teammate Amani Franklin. The sophomore guard hit a jumper while being fouled and converted the old-fashioned 3-point play by sinking her free throw with 14:14 remaining in the contest.

Franklin went on to score eight of the next 10 UK points to expand the Cats' lead to 21.

"I guess I was in a zone," said Franklin, who finished with a career-high 18 points. "You have those games sometimes."

After a 31-point victory that saw his team hit over half of their shots from the field, Mitchell was excited about his team's performance. However, he immediately began to look forward to the Cats next game and recognized the win's value as a learning tool for the rest of the season.

"It's very encouraging," Mitchell said. "We don't need to be perfect, but we need to take steps towards correcting mistakes, and we certainly did that tonight."


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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 9 — Make a shopping list with your partner of what you'd like, do and have in your own perfect world. You won't get all that stuff right away, but it gives you a bigger objective. And you might really get it.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Today is a 6 — A hug from a person who loves you means more than anything to boost your spirits. It works the other way around. Be the instigator.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) Today is a 7 — Go along with another's suggestion. This won't turn out to be more work than you can afford to do. Together, the job will go quickly. It'll even be fun.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Today is a 6 — Finish your projects as quickly as possible and clean up your messes. Make time and space for an affordable romantic evening.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Today is an 8 — Close the deal, don't procrastinate. Then spend a quiet evening at home in as much luxury as you can muster. Life is good.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Today is a 7 — Continue to get a few things for your place. Your plans are nearing completion. As you well know, part of good design is knowing when to quit. Get it the way you like it, and then have a cup of tea.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Today is an 8 — Reading is the prelude to writing. Appreciating art challenges you to pick up a pencil. Let yourself not have to stay in the lines.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Today is a 7 — Your hidden agenda is working out quite well. Using what you have stretches your buying pow-

er. Abundance is your reward.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Today is a 7 — A brilliant, unexpected solution occurs, just in the nick of time. You may have to get rid of something in order to get something better. Don't hesitate.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Today is a 6 — Life's getting a little easier, with friends who understand what you've been going through. Time with them is well justified. They help you keep your spirits up.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Today is an 8 — Theory is good to have, of course. It can be quite inspiring. Every once in a while, however, it has to be modified. You'll soon have a chance to do that.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Today is a 6 — The lure of far distant places is about to drive you crazy. It's not a very good idea to simply run away. Somebody needs what you provide, so put those dreams on hold. This is a good exercise.

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THE DISH

JESSICA'S STRUGGLES

A lonely Simpson wonders if Nick Lachey was Mr. Right all along, as QB Tony Romo joins her lineup of post-split flings

By Mara Reinstein

Jessica Simpson spent Thanksgiving morning at home with family in Texas watching the Macy's parade on TV and playing with her dog, Daisy.

"She was mopey and feeling alone," a source tells Us. That is, until she turned up at the Dallas Cowboys afternoon home game. According to a Simpson friend, she has already referred to quarterback Tony Romo — who has been linked to Sophia Bush, Britney Spears and Alli Sims in the past few months and dated Carrie Underwood earlier this year — as "my man."

Postvictory, Simpson, 27, and Romo, 27, along with her parents, best friend CaCee Cobb and her boyfriend, actor Donald Faison, dined at the Dragonfly restaurant in the Hotel Zaza.

"They were all laughing," a source tells Us, noting that Romo and Simpson, who first met last year — and have been dating all of one week — sat next to each other (Romos for both Simpson and Romo had no comment.) Says the pal, "She's already saying they're dating. She's crazy!"

And lonely. Since announcing her split from husband Nick Lachey, 34, on November 23, 2005, the singer has jumped from guy to guy without finding a prince among frogs (ranging from John Mayer to Adam Levine to Owen Wilson). Most recently, on November 15, while cohosting The View, Simpson declared, "I want a man. Somebody who's a really great family guy. Like if a kid were to come

up to him and tug on his shirt... he'd pick him up and twirl him around.... Gosh, just somebody who's strong enough to be my man."

To be sure, this is not the way Simpson envisioned her post-divorce life. At the time of the couple's separation, Simpson was a force to be reckoned with — a blonde sexpot who charmed audiences on MTV hit Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica and helped her movie debut, The Dukes of Hazzard, rake in \$80 million. It was widely assumed

that Simpson would continue her meteoric rise, while her starter husband, an ex-boy-bander, would fade into obscurity. (His 2003 debut album, Soul'd, sold just 172,000 copies.)

"She thought she'd start dating hot celebrities and be this A-list actress, but that didn't pan out," says the source. To wit: Her 2006 CD, A Public Affair, underperformed, and her comedy film Employee of the Month flopped.

To top it off? She still lives with the fear that she may have pushed away Mr. Right. On October 26 — what would have been her five-year wedding anniversary — "she spent the day looking through photo albums that she made when she was with Nick," a close source tells Us, adding that she stayed in her room to pore over wedding and vacation pictures. "She said she was being 'girly,'" but was definitely somber.

Lachey, meanwhile, has maintained an 18-month romance with former MTV VJ Vanessa Minnillo, 27. "Jessica pretends that Nick and Vanessa don't bother her, but it does," says the source. When she spotted the pair at the West Hollywood club Hyde a few months ago, "She tried very hard to look happy but was super-nervous and anxious," says the source. In fact, multiple sources confirm to Us that the exes no longer communicate with each other.

"There are definitely parts of her that regret breaking up with Nick now," a friend tells Us. "Jessica thought she would be with someone right by now." (Counters a pal, "She wanted the divorce. She's very happy now. She's in a good place.")

Man Trouble
A hopeless romantic who famously waited until her wedding night to lose her virginity, Simpson is still searching for the same kind of magic that she had with Lachey. Part of the problem, seemingly, is her choice in men. During the tail end of her marriage, she was linked with Johnny Knoxville and his Jack-ass costar Bam Margera, whose dad talked about the pair's hookup on the radio. Simpson went on to become involved with a series of high-profile but emotionally unavailable men (see box, page 71), none of whom stung her more than John Mayer, who called the shots during the couple's nearly yearlong relationship and dumped her in June.

An Ex in Love
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DEAD WEEK

Continued from page 1

"The problem is there is no space between classes and finals."

Dead Week should be restructured if there is a genuine concern from students, Petrone said.

"Do we have it set up in a way that allows students to adequately prepare for finals?" Petrone said. "That is a question worth addressing."

Rice said the university should compromise between students and faculty when it comes to Dead Week.

"What is helpful is a genuine shared understanding of what's at stake," Rice said. "Faculty need to understand what (students) are going through, and students have to understand that faculty here have a genuine commitment to providing the best education they can, and for most faculty that is teaching up until the last day."

SPACE

Continued from page 1

minute round trip, the rocket will land 15 to 45 miles from the launch site, still within the range of the launch facility, and will be completely destroyed on impact.

The rocket will serve as a test for a larger rocket launch by Kentucky Satellite next July when the satellite will stay in orbit for 10 years.

About 20 students and members of Kentucky Satellite left Sunday afternoon for NASA's White Sands Test Facility in Las Cruces, N.M.

Most of the final assembly on the rocket was done yesterday, but the team will still have to check the

launch site, making sure it's clear of people before its 9 a.m. Mountain Standard Time launch, Doering said.

The Space Express, named for its fast trip to outer space, is a sub-project that is part of a larger Kentucky Satellite project, said Kris Kimel, the organization's president.

UK students can join the more than 2,500 members of the Kentucky community who will have their names broadcast into space by Space Express. People can go to the Kentucky Satellite Web site (www.kysat.com) to put their name on a list to be sent into space.

"It's an interesting thing," Kimel said. "People can go online and have their names digitized and put in to space."

SIT-IN

Continued from page 1

Todd's Chief of Staff Douglas Boyd came out to address the group twice, saying he would pass along a written message but would not call Todd or any of the board members. Todd was on his way to the airport, Boyd said, and he could not interrupt him.

Garrett Graddy, a geography graduate student and teaching assistant, spoke with Boyd and told him the group had asked Board of Trustees chairwoman Mira Ball for a meeting.

Ball told them to go through Todd, and when the group re-

quested a meeting with Todd, Graddy said he refused.

"We're here on the basis that we've been denied two meetings," Graddy said.

"We've been trying to follow regulations all fall and are getting nowhere," Graddy said.

Graddy gave Boyd various petitions, letters from scientists concerning the logging, and a list of questions for Todd and the board members.

Boyd said he "would be glad to pass that along."

The group demanded a halt on all logging activities in Robinson Forest, but Boyd said they would have to write to the Board of Trustees to achieve

that. Boyd told the group they could write a request for a meeting with the board and he would get it to the members.

The group wrote a statement on a sheet of notebook paper and slipped it under Boyd's door after knocking and seeing that he had left the office.

They then began to call all of the board members to read the statement over the phone as well.

The request demanded a stop to the logging and construction of logging roads until more discussion with representation from both sides was held.

Logging has not started in Robinson Forest, said UK Spokesman Jay Blanton.

"It was thought that this research would start right away, but with concerns raised I'm not sure where we are in this process now," Blanton said.

He also confirmed that Todd was at an out of state meeting during the sit-in.

Protesters originally said they would stay until they got a response from Todd but left around 4:30 p.m., after they called board members and Boyd left.

The group requested an audience at the Dec. 11 Board of Trustees meeting, and they plan on being present at the Tuesday meeting even if board members do not respond to the request, Schimmoeleer said.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY CRIME REPORT

- UK Police reports from Nov. 28 to Dec. 3.**
- Nov. 28** Theft reported from W.T. Young Library at 12:09 p.m.
 - Nov. 28** Theft of composite reported from the Sigma Chi house at 1:47 p.m.
 - Nov. 28** Theft reported from the Biological Sciences Research Building at 5:02 p.m.
 - Nov. 28** DUI reported from Rose Street at 7:06 p.m.
 - Nov. 29** Theft reported from UK Hospital at 11:15 a.m.
 - Nov. 29** Theft of hard drive reported from Erikson Hall at 2:10 p.m.
 - Nov. 29** Theft of wallet reported from Kirwan IV at 8:39 p.m.
 - Nov. 29** Theft of newspaper stand reported from Commonwealth Stadium at 9:13 p.m.
 - Nov. 30** Arrest for alcohol intoxication reported from the corner of Rose Street and Patterson Drive at 12:46 a.m.
 - Nov. 30** Injury accident reported from University Drive at 7:51 a.m.
 - Nov. 30** Theft of cash reported from the Barnhart Building at 2:25 p.m.
 - Nov. 30** Theft of composite reported from the Sigma Chi house at 3:16 p.m.

- Nov. 30** Theft of a bike reported from Farm Road at 3:29 p.m.
 - Nov. 30** Theft of laptop reported from W.T. Young Library at 6:05 p.m.
 - Nov. 30** Theft of vehicle reported from Parking Structure No. 2 at 6:18 p.m.
 - Nov. 30** Theft of basketball tickets reported from the Barnhart Building at 8:04 p.m.
 - Dec. 1** Drug use reported from Greg Page Apartments at 12:41 a.m.
 - Dec. 1** Drug use reported from Haggin Hall at 1:01 a.m.
 - Dec. 1** Theft of wallet reported to UK Police Department at 11:19 a.m.
 - Dec. 1** Alcohol intoxication reported from Rupp Arena at 2:20 p.m.
 - Dec. 1** Theft of bike reported from Haggin Hall at 5:21 p.m.
 - Dec. 2** Alcohol intoxication reported from Red Mile Road at 2:50 a.m.
 - Dec. 2** Injury accident reported from Alumini Drive and at 11:19 a.m.
 - Dec. 3** Theft reported from BTC Bookstore at 2:05 p.m.
 - Dec. 3** Alcohol intoxication reported from Samaritan Hospital at 11:42 p.m.
- Compiled from reports at UK Police Department by staff writer Alice Heymond.
E-mail ahaymond@kykernel.com.



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Congratulations to the participants in the sophomore Leadership retreat 2007

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- Delta Zelta Katlyn Hamilton Katie Freshley
- Kappa Alpha Theta Madison Deskins Barrett Gargala
- Kappa Delta Kristine Mattern Jordan Stivers
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The opinions page provides a forum for the exchange of ideas. Unlike news stories, the Kernel's unsigned editorials represent the views of a majority of the editorial board. Letters to the editor, columns, cartoons and other features on the opinions page reflect the views of their authors and not necessarily those of the Kernel.

■ KERNEL EDITORIAL

'Legacy Initiative' will benefit city in the long run

The World Equestrian Games, which come to Lexington in 2010, gives the city a tremendous opportunity to grow and enhance itself in ways that will benefit Lexington long after the games end.

With the announcement of the Third Street revitalization and the new bike trail with mini-parks as the two projects for the 2010 Legacy Initiative, city leaders seem to be capitalizing on these opportunities.

Lexington will profit from the tourism the games will attract, and while thinking of ways to make the city more attractive to those visiting, it only makes sense to consider initiatives that Lexington residents can still take advantage of in the future.

The revitalization of Third Street is long overdue. Lexington has both the crowds and the atmosphere to create a lively and enjoyable downtown experience, and everyone involved in choosing to revitalize Third Street should be commended for the decision.

Projects, such as the bike path that will run downtown to the Kentucky Horse Park, have benefits that citizens will enjoy in numerous ways.

Not only will this project both showcase Lexington's beautiful surroundings to tourists and serve as an attraction that city residents can enjoy for many years afterward, but the idea also encourages activities that are

healthy and environmentally friendly — something that every city should be working to embrace.

Rick Gersony, GreenLex.org director and the man who submitted the idea for the bike paths, said, "We need a place to bike and look at horses," the Kernel reported Nov. 30. Gersony is absolutely right, and so were the

Lexington residents who selected his project as one to pursue.

The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government and the more than 200 members of the community who helped develop ideas should also be commended for the steps they have taken to ensure that the city will be prepared for the upcoming event.

The World Equestrian Games are the biggest opportunity residents have to showcase their city, as well as capitalize on the opportunity to improve the quality and atmosphere of the area.

As the Legacy Initiative continues to work on ways to implement these projects, those involved must remember that making the initiatives worthwhile to residents after the games leave must be a top priority.

Lexington does not need attractions that will cease to operate successfully once the spike in tourism dies down.

It's encouraging to see that steps have been taken to make sure this happens, and we hope that it is just the beginning of a continuing process.

Lexington will profit from the tourism the games will attract. It only makes sense to consider initiatives that Lexington residents can still take advantage of in the future.

■ LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Students should demand fair housing regulations

This is in response to the Kernel's coverage on the recently proposed housing regulations that left students out.

If there are going to be restrictions placed on student renters, then we, as students, should demand regulations also be placed on landlords.

Although students are not always the best tenants, negative behaviors from a small minority of student renters appear to be the only issue that is viewed as a problem by those who formed the committee on housing regulations in the university area.

I suggest we organize a student renters union and rally support for ordinances that are more fair-minded in regard to renting.

For example, the proposed ordinance prohibiting more than three non-related students from living together and separating student-rented units by 180 feet could be countered by an ordinance proposed and agreed upon by a majority of student renters.

Perhaps we should propose an equally harsh ordinance demanding that no landlord be allowed to rent out more than three student-rental properties or that a landlord must reside with-

in a certain distance of the properties that they rent to students.

This ordinance would work to prevent absentee landlords from allowing the neighborhoods where they own multiple properties to decline into the conditions that the committee was formed to address. In my opinion, this could form a better relationship between landlords and tenants, and quite possibly lead to a stronger community.

I hope that we as students do not squander this opportunity to make our voices heard and to have a discussion among our friends, roommates and neighbors. I also urge students to read up on the history of renting in America: the harsh laws against squatting — the occupation of abandoned buildings or land by the homeless — in our country and the massive rent strikes of the past that successfully forced landlords to concede certain rights to tenants.

This present opportunity affords us the ability to learn from the past and create a better future for student renters in Lexington.

Mark Wetherington
Journalism Freshman

Cartoonists Needed

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

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

Submissions

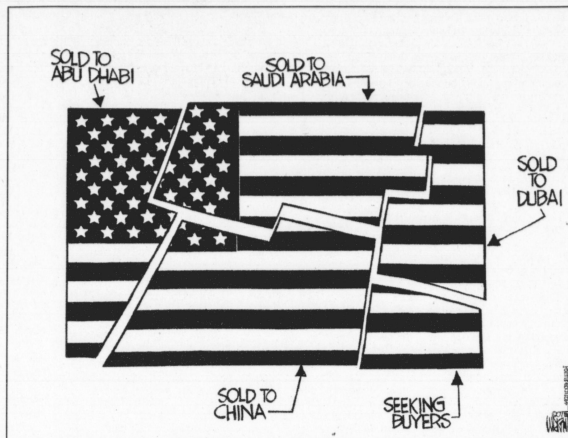
Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Linsen Li. Please limit letters to 350 words or fewer. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions, as well as a phone number for confirmation.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

Weekly Poll Question

Do you think today's college students take HIV/AIDS seriously as a potentially fatal disease?

Vote online at www.kykernel.com



DON WRIGHT, Palm Beach Post

UK students bring life, energy to city, should be appreciated

Have you ever been to Lexington in the summer?

If you haven't, don't come. It's terrible.

The streets are empty, and there is a feeling of general loneliness permeating everything in the whole city.

Let's face it: Lexington would be nothing without the undergraduate students who are here from August until May. Therefore, it's unfortunate that Lexington's leaders treat us like a problematic nuisance that must be contained.

I certainly hope you've heard the story by now. City Councilman David Stevens proposed housing regulations that would allow no more than three non-related students to live together and that would not allow any student home to be within 180 feet of another student home, according to the Kernel's coverage.

The University Area Housing Commission reported that this would render 75 percent of housing around the university ineligible for student occupation, the Kernel reported.

Stevens says he proposed these

housing regulations in order to "provoke discussion" and that he wasn't serious in proposing it. And speaking of discussion, there was a public meeting that took place for this discussion — which occurred the day before students were let out for Thanksgiving Break.

I wonder if Stevens has ever been to a place like Ashland, Elizabethtown or Owensboro. Here we have cities that are of decent size but have no significant student population. Because of this, they have one movie theater, maybe a few coffee shops and an extremely limited bar scene. They are nice communities, but they lack any sort of urban appeal.

Maybe you see my point. Without the students, this is what Lexington would become.

I have a confession to make. I am from Louisville.

Honestly, I love it there. I'm sorry if that offends anyone.

One of the things I was most surprised about when I moved to Lexington was how much this city depends on the university.

I often tell people that they will never truly understand the UK-Uni-

versity of Louisville rivalry until they visit Louisville.

In Louisville, the city is independent enough from U of L so that folks are able to root for either UK or U of L.

In Lexington, the city is so tied to the university that it is nearly unconvincing for anyone to be a U of L fan.

Honestly, it seems that every family in the city of Lexington is tied to UK in some way — either directly as a staff member or professor, or as a person whose employer or firm depends on the business of the university in some way.

Now, I believe that the leaders of Lexington love UK.

Honestly, why shouldn't they? UK is what makes Lexington great.

However, I think that the leaders in Lexington don't realize that UK is great because of its students. They have totally disregarded us in this housing regulations discussion, despite the obvious truth that they depend on us for the survival of our city.

I certainly hope that these leaders realize this sooner than later and realize that a few burning couches are a small price to pay for all that Lexington receives from the undergraduate students at UK.

Robert Kahne is the president of UK College Democrats. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

'Inevitable' Clinton might not be so, early voters give Obama second look

With her leads slipping, Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton suddenly finds herself embroiled in the fight of her political life.

Clinton could lose. Her once commanding lead has evaporated.

In mid-November, Clinton saw her lead in New Hampshire over her opponent Barack Obama — 23 points in September — fall to 14 points, according to a CNN/WMUR presidential poll.

(Two subsequent polls found her lead had dropped to 12 points, then 11 points.)

The New Hampshire survey came out a day after another poll — this one in Iowa — found Obama, the U.S. senator from Illinois, taking over first place in that state, although his lead was within the poll's margin of error.

The news only got worse for the U.S. senator from New York as the days wore on. A new Zogby survey found that 50 percent of likely voters said they would never vote for Clinton, up from 46 percent in March.

Why? Voters don't like Clinton. If that weren't enough, the most recent poll taken of South Carolina voters, by Clemson University, had Clinton and Obama in a statistical dead heat.

A large number of voters remain undecided, however.

Clinton has been at the top of the Democratic pack since Day 1 of the 2008 presidential campaign, casting

herself as the inevitable victor. No one had come close to challenging her.

However, the most recent polls show the race for the Democratic nomination tightening a month before the first contest, in Iowa, that kicks off the state-by-state nomination battles.

Several Democrats have expressed concern about the former first lady's electoral science department. Obama, who would be the first black president in U.S. history, has stirred up enthusiasm among grassroots Democratic activists. He attracts big crowds on the campaign trail. But for some reason he hasn't been able to break out of the pack. He has remained stuck in neutral.

Until now.

Thanks in large part to campaign gaffes, Clinton has given her foes an opening. Polls show her not doing that well with independents and younger voters.

"The questions about her electability have always been there," pollster John Zogby says. "This suggests that is a problem."

Front-runners generally can suffer one primary loss, says Emory University political scientist Merle Black. "But," he added, "two losses in a row would be difficult to survive."

Clinton is preparing to lose one primary. She is quietly building a firewall in New Hampshire — the "Live Free or Die" state — in case she loses Iowa.

Why? She can't afford to lose both Iowa and New Hampshire. If she did, that would be all she wrote.

Meanwhile, the Clemson University Palmetto Poll shows S.C. Democrats — who will hold their party's third primary, if you count Michigan's disputed election — are having a difficult time making up their minds. At this late hour, nearly half — 49 percent — remain undecided.

"Voters in the state have not started paying close attention to candidate activity ahead of the primary," said Joseph Stewart, chairman of Clemson's political science department. He said most S.C. voters are likely to pay more attention to the candidates in January. "It's hard for the candidates to compete with Santa Claus," Stewart said, citing the holiday season as a distraction to voters.

The result of that distraction and lack of attention?

"South Carolina is up for grabs," he said.

In the past, candidates have lost Iowa and gone on to win their party's nomination and the general election. Among them have been Republicans Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

Despite those precedents, Clinton is in trouble.

In South Carolina, she is losing ground, said Bruce Ransom, a Clemson professor. "She can't run away from that. The question is: Can she stop the bleeding?"

That's a mighty tall order. Once a campaign starts unraveling, it's virtually impossible to put it back together. What's it all mean? Hillary may not be inevitable after all.

Why? She can't afford to lose both Iowa and New Hampshire. If she did, that would be all she wrote.

Michigan a possible new home for Legion, former coach says

By Travis Waldron
twaldron@kykernel.com

Just a day after freshman guard Alex Legion told head coach Billy Gillispie that he was transferring from UK, speculation has started brewing as to where the freshman guard will end up.

His high school head coach Steve Smith of Oak Hill Academy (Va.) said yesterday that Legion will probably spend the winter break looking at his possible transfer options.

"I'd imagine he'd finish the semester and look at some places over the break so that he can play next year," Smith said. "But I don't know where he'll go."

But Legion, a native of Inkster, Mich., mentioned the University of Michigan as a possible destination, Smith said, after talking to his former player Monday night.

Legion originally signed his letter of intent with Michigan last year, but asked out of it when the Wolverines fired former head coach Tommy Amaker.

Current Michigan head coach John Beilein released Legion from his commitment to Michigan, and Legion chose to attend UK after the Cats announced Gillispie would become the new head coach.

Legion played a season-low six minutes against North Carolina, but Smith never said that

playing time was an issue for Legion.

"He said he just didn't feel like he fit (at Kentucky)," Smith said. "He didn't tell me much."

Legion played one season at Oak Hill Academy, where he helped the Warriors win a 2007 national championship. In his first three years of high school, Legion played Detroit Country Day High School in Michigan.

Smith said he did not speak to Legion during the freshman guard's decision process, but he spoke to him on Monday, shortly after Legion decided to transfer.

"We have a coach-player relationship," Smith said. "We speak every few weeks."

CHAMBER

Continued from page 1

UK President Lee Todd disagreed with the report's call for universities to coordinate for state funding, he said in a statement to the Kernel.

"The recommendations strongly underscore the need to differentiate the missions of Kentucky's higher education institutions," Todd said in the statement. "... For the reforms to be effective, our public institutions cannot be funded by a one-size-fits-all approach."

However, Todd said he did agree with the link between higher education and economic development calling it the "primary focus of our efforts at the University of Kentucky."

To boost the economy, Kentucky must help students make the jump from high school, full-time jobs and technical schools into degree programs, the report states.

To increase the number of degrees and the per-capita income, the report recommends Kentucky:

- Conduct a "major overhaul" of the state's scholarship programs, including the Kentucky Excellence in Education Scholarship (KEES).

- Give more authority to the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education to coordinate policy and funding.

- Tighten bonds between universities and colleges with communities.

- Emphasize the importance of not only bach-

elor's degree programs, but associate degree programs as well.

- Improve how high school students' readiness for college is evaluated, including examining state standardized tests like the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS).

- Improve the transferring system from community colleges to four-year institutions.

Achieving the goals outlined in the proposal will not simply be the work of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce or state higher education organizations like the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, McGuinness said.

Instead, everything hinges on the 2008-10 funding approved by the Kentucky General Assembly beginning in January.

"The reality is that you can have programs," McGuinness said, "but unless you get the General Assembly involved in this process the game is lost."

New Toyota work-study program launched

Gary Convis, president of Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky, Inc., announced a plan that would allow up to 300 college students to work at Toyota and receive tax-free tuition reimbursement at yesterday's conference.

The work-study program will begin with the first group of students in January, and will be available to students taking at least 12 credit hours who have a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

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