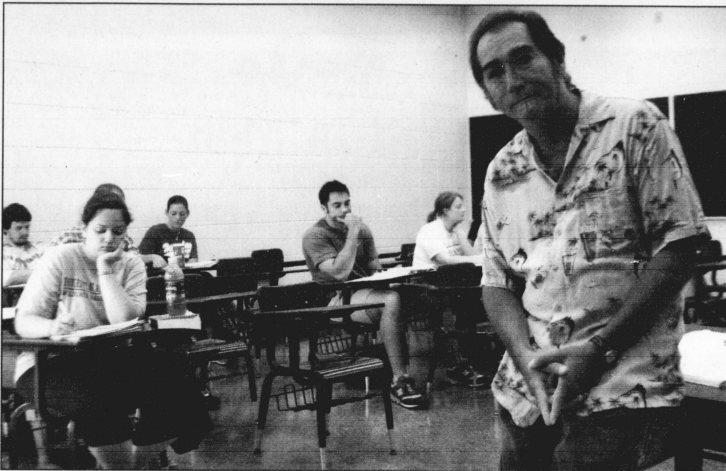


# THE Kentucky Kernel

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Celebrating 35 years of independence

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BRAD LUTTRELL | STAFF

UK English lecturer Tom Marksbury gives his American literature class a break yesterday. Marksbury is an underground icon to English majors, known as the down-to-earth professor who relates to his students. Love of the novel 'Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas,' and its author, the late Hunter S. Thompson, has both inspired the award-winning documentary writer's wardrobe since he was 14, and helped him come to terms with of hero worship.

## unconventional wisdom

Hunter S. Thompson aficionado follows offbeat path in academia

By Joe Hall  
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Seeking an override that would slide him into an already full history of film class during spring semester, art studio junior Charlie Thomason knocked on the office door and said, "Professor Marksbury?"

"I'm Tom," said the man inside, a professor unlike any Thomason had encountered.

Marksbury wore a black leather jacket a la Marlon Brando in "The Wild Ones" and faded black jeans that fell over a pair of light blue, blown-out Chuck Taylors. His black hair was shocked back, and a thick gray beard hung from his face. The works of Hunter S. Thompson were scattered across his desk.

"Whoa," Thomason thought. "You're a professor? I want to be a professor."

Thomason talked film with Marksbury for the next half hour. They were chatting again at the close of the spring semester, though by that point Thomason was sitting in the center aisle of Marksbury's film history course.

Up front, Marksbury strolled the Whitehall classroom in a well-worn pair of white, high-topped Chucks and apologized to the class for the shoddy VHS copy of "Do the Right Thing" they had to watch.

"I had to buy my own materials for this class," Marksbury said, "and I've run out of money here at the end. Really, I ran out of money at the beginning, but that's a different story. Soon, I'll be selling my blood for beer money just like everyone else."

Marksbury's sense of humor and his atypical appearance, which, at the end of a long summer can include yellow tank tops and blue jean shorts, seem to connect him to students.

"He seems like one of those professors who'd have you over for dinner and then

watch a movie," said English junior Justin Belisle. "He's very informative, but he likes to have fun, too."

When Marksbury ambled in the first day of an American literature class, post-baccalaureate student Brian Minton pegged him as "some old hippie professor."

The poetry of Walt Whitman and the essays of Ralph Waldo Emerson were not Minton's favorite reading materials.

"But Dr. Marksbury was able to communicate it to me," Minton said, "to help me see some things maybe I didn't see."

History junior Rebekah Roberts described Marksbury as a free spirit in the classroom.

"He's probably the most open-minded teacher I've ever had," Roberts said.

Marksbury, a full-time lecturer in the English department, also teaches writing in addition to film history and American literature. He earned his Ph.D. in English from UK in 1982, but his first love is fiction writing.

At Tolly-Ho on a Friday afternoon, he turned up an Ale-8 and then explained how his first novel has eluded completion through the years. Just down the road, at Marksbury's Lexington home, the 315-page manuscript waits on a final revision.

"It's called 'Shatterbrain,'" Marksbury said before taking another swig of Ale-8. "That's one word. That's how Melville described Poe. Basically, my novel is a conspiracy across the 20th century for dead actors to attain immortality by consuming an imaginary drug obtained from the pituitary gland of a real horror-movie actor named Rondo Hatton."

Teaching, parenting — Marksbury is married and has two young sons — and nonfiction writing have shoved "Shatterbrain" into the background.

However, while waiting for time and motivation to finish the novel, Marksbury has become an award-winning documentary writer specializing in documentaries about film. The work has brought him neither fame nor fortune, but it has inserted him into some strange corners of Hollywood.

For "Sam Peckinpah's West: Legacy of a Hollywood Renegade," Marksbury spent a week interviewing people at the Chateau Marmont, the historic Sunset Boulevard hotel where stars have lived and played since 1929 and where actor John Belushi famously overdosed in 1982.

In a cramped, dark room at the Chateau, Marksbury interviewed Michael Madsen, the actor famous for the ear-cutting scene in "Reservoir Dogs." In that movie, Madsen, playing Mr. Blonde, slowly and disturbingly carved off a police officer's ear with a straight razor, occasionally pausing during the dismemberment to dance to Stealers Wheel's "Stuck in the Middle with You" as it played on the radio.

Along with Madsen, Marksbury listened to the actor's story of how he had shot out the television in his hotel room the night before. Then they began the interview.

"Madsen was as nice as he could be," Marksbury said. "Almost puppy dog-like. But the whole interview I just kept hearing 'Stuck in the Middle with You' playing in my head."

Currently Marksbury is working on a documentary titled, "Buy the Ticket, Take the Ride: Hunter S. Thompson on Film." The documentary, which will open at festivals this fall, explores Thompson's life and focuses on his numerous Hollywood friendships. Marksbury scrambled at the end of the spring semester to send off a draft of what will be read as the documentary's narration.

The project has presented a unique challenge: Marksbury must capture both the brilliance and the self-destruction of a man who was his childhood hero.

Growing up in Shelbyville, Ky., Marksbury idolized Thompson.

"Why do you think I dress like this?" Marksbury asked as he leaned back in a chair in his office on the 13th floor of Patterson Office Tower. He pinched a bright yellow and green pineapple on the sleeve of his red Hawaiian shirt.

See Marksbury on page 2

Dr. Marksbury was able to communicate it to me, to help me see some things maybe I didn't see."

— Brian Minton, post baccalaureate student, referring to Marksbury's unique way of relating American poetry.

## Gunmen execute 22 as Rumsfeld visits Baghdad

By Joshua Partlow and Josh White  
THE WASHINGTON POST

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Gunmen kidnapped a group of people in the parking lot of a Baghdad bus station yesterday and killed 22 of them, according to Iraqi police and military officials. The execution-style slayings occurred on the same day Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld visited Iraq and stressed the need to stem the sectarian violence that has killed scores of civilians in re-

cent days. The early morning raid took place in Muqadiyah, about 60 miles northeast of Baghdad. The Iraqi military said four people were rescued but that the other captives had been killed by the time Iraqi soldiers arrived on the scene.

An Iraqi commander, Maj. Gen. Ahmed al-Awad, told state-run television that the victims were Shiite Muslims, but police said their identities had not been determined. The Associated Press reported.

The attack was the deadliest single incident on a day when at least 45 people were killed by bombings, slayings and gunfire throughout Iraq. Yesterday was the fourth day of intensified sectarian killings that began Sunday when Shiite militiamen raided a Sunni Arab neighborhood in Baghdad and killed at least 50 residents.

Rumsfeld, in Iraq for a day-long visit, and Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr., the top U.S. commander in Iraq, said

U.S. and allied forces in the country were focusing on ways to reduce sectarian fighting. Both said the best solution would be a combination of stronger Iraq security forces and more robust political efforts to bring the country's factions together.

"There certainly has been an upsurge in sectarian violence," Rumsfeld told reporters en route to Iraq from Kandahar, Afghanistan.

See Iraq on page 2

## Campus meal plan retooled

Complaints from students, parents spur Dining Services modifications

By Drew Van Lahr  
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

UK's Dining Services is changing — again.

The changes that will be implemented include more flexible dining plans, extended hours of operation, new "heart-healthy" dining options, expanded Flex Account spending options, several new facilities and expanded student involvement in future planning, said Jeff DeMoss, executive director of Dining Services.

The adjustments, which will take effect for the fall semester in August, are in response to ongoing feedback from students and parents.

"We conducted a survey in April among 2,000 students who actually dine in our facilities; 75 percent were freshmen and the rest were upperclassmen. Many of the changes we are implementing for the fall semester are a direct result of that survey," DeMoss said in a news release.

Before the meal plan overhaul last year, all residential students paid \$825 per semester on a declining-balance system that averaged out to about one meal and one snack every day. Last year's switch to a by-the-meal purchase plan cost about \$60 more and offered about eight meals per week, including the "unlimited choices" that some on-campus facilities offer. All but the minimum and maximum plans included \$100 "Flex Dollars" which can only be used at UK dining facilities.

With the upcoming changes, the Flex account, which works like a supplemental debit account, will be expanded.

"It's going to give more flexibility," DeMoss said. "The Flex Dollars will be accepted at all Dining Services facilities, with the lone exception of Starbucks."

"We're trying to give options for everyone," said Pat Terrell, UK's vice president for Student Affairs. "Every plan except the most expensive one has Flex Dollars, and that one doesn't because it doesn't really need it."

In August, a variety of healthier options will also be available, DeMoss said.

"We're going to change out all the oils," he said. "The oil in all items will be changed to trans fat-free oil."

DeMoss said Dining Services will also utilize a dietician for the move to a more health-conscious campus.

UK's dining facilities will be renovated, as well. The Food Court in the Student Center will go through some remodeling, and the restaurants will be revamped. Champion's Grill will sell broiled burgers alongside specialty fries and other items that would be at home in any backyard grill-out, and will serve the same popular buns that Wendy's offers. The Szechwan Café will provide a Chinese eatery and Green-Things will offer salads and other vegetarian fare.

UK's Student Government has taken an active role in communicating student opinion about the meal plan, DeMoss said.

"Student Government has been fabulous giving us ideas," he said.

SG Chief of Staff Robbie Hopkins said while SG has been instrumental in acting as a liaison between students and the administration on this issue, the changes to the dining plan will be a gradual process.

"We're really just trying to take yearly steps toward a better system," he said.

SG Vice President Mallory Jenkins said SG's role in helping craft a better dining service depends on students' willingness to pin down the cause of their dissatisfaction.

"We'll be seeking a lot of student opinion in the future," she said.

E-mail news@kykernel.com

### Ch-ch-changes

■ **Residential Student Dining Plans:** All students living in residential housing are required to purchase a dining plan. The seven residential dining plans include new features that allow students to customize their dining experience to personal needs and preferences. The plans range from 110 to 336 meals per semester; all but the 336 Plan include \$100 in a Flex Account that can be spent at any UK Dining Services unit, except Starbucks. The new minimum plan for all residential students includes 10 meal swipes and \$100 in Flex Dollars.

■ **Commuter Dining Plans:** Four dining plans have been designed especially for commuting students, university employees and students living in Greek housing, ShawneeTown, Cooperstown and Greg Page Apartments. The plans range from the Bronze Plan with 24 meals and \$50 Flex Dollars to the Platinum Plan with 80 meals and \$100 Flex Dollars per semester.

■ **Flex Account:** All but the 336 dining plan include Flex Dollars, a supplemental debit account. Although Flex Dollars are not accepted at Starbucks campus locations, they are now accepted at any Dining Services facility, including residential dining areas.

SOURCE: www.uky.edu/news/

# Marksbury

Continued from page 1

"These Hawaiian shirts, Converse shoes — I've been dressing like this since I was a kid because I wanted to be like Hunter S. Thompson."

Marksbury was only 14 years old when he read the gonzo journalist's foremost work, "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," published across two issues of Rolling Stone in 1971.

"Fear and Loathing" spoke to me directly," Marksbury said. "It was my 'Great Gatsby.'"

Over time, though, his conception of Thompson deteriorated from hero worship to disillusionment.

In particular, Thompson's talk at Memorial Coliseum in the early 1980s disenchanted Marksbury, who had expected the writer to say something profound and inspiring about his craft.

Instead, Marksbury remembered Thompson throwing back Wild Turkey and squandering his genius before a raucous audience that preferred party talk to literary conversation.

"It was depressing," Marksbury said. "It was like a Led Zeppelin concert without any music."

Marksbury would come to resent the way Thompson let life and fame swallow his talent. He held tight to that contempt until Thompson shot himself on Feb. 20, 2005.

**"You get older and you fail some yourself, and you kind of realize that you hold your heroes to an impossible standard."**

Marksbury then found himself mourning Thompson's death with unexpected tears. He didn't know why he was so upset.

"Eventually," Marksbury said, "I realized that I just like a world with Hunter Thompson in it."

Marksbury has since reconciled his feelings toward the man he grew up emulating.

"You get older and you fail some yourself, and you kind of realize that you hold your heroes to an impossible standard," he said.

Now 49, Marksbury realizes he will never be the pro-

lific novelist he wanted to be. Still, he values his documentary writing, especially when he hears actors read his words as narration.

"I haven't had a whole lot of luck getting my fiction published," Marksbury said. "So an actor you really admire finding the inflections in your writing is a big kick."

Johnny Depp, who played Thompson in "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," has shown interest in narrating "Buy the Ticket, Take the Ride." Marksbury has been told that as long as the narration he has written is worthy, Depp will read the words.

Regardless, Marksbury plans on finally finishing his novel this summer. He'll be teaching, too, though he might not be wearing Hawaiian shirts and faded jeans — if this summer is as hot and long as last year's, he'll likely turn to tank tops and jean shorts.

E-mail features@kykernel.com

# Iraq

Continued from page 1

"There's no question but that they're trying to incite a civil war, and they have been for a long time, and they've failed so far."

Rumsfeld urged Iraq's Shiite-led government to continue efforts to reconcile with the Sunni Arab minority while also working to disarm Shiite militias. "They're going to have to persuade as many people as possible that it's in their interest to support the government and participate in the political process," Rumsfeld said.

"And anyone who doesn't want to, they're going to have to go find and do something about."

Casey expressed concern

about the rise of death squads targeting civilians on the streets. Although some of the recent violence, Casey said, is a backlash by Sunni insurgents "trying to demonstrate that they are still relevant" after the killing of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, leader of the group al-Qaida in Iraq, "what we are seeing now as a counter to that is death squads, primarily from Shia extremist groups that are retaliating against civilians."

Casey said more U.S. troops might be needed in Baghdad to combat the violence, but both he and Rumsfeld said it was too early to say whether U.S. force levels across Iraq would shrink or grow in coming months. Defense officials have said they would like troop levels to drop from 129,000 to about 100,000 by the end of the year. Rumsfeld told about 300 American troops at a town

hall-style meeting at Camp Anaconda, near Balad, where he arrived in Iraq early yesterday, that about 267,000 members of Iraqi security forces are trained, equipped and gaining combat experience. He said, however, that "for some period of time" U.S. forces will have to be the Iraqis' "enablers" as the country continues to build a military infrastructure.

During a meeting of parliament, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said he was optimistic that the country has enough security forces in place to defeat the insurgents. Iraqi soldiers and police are "in better shape now," he said, while conceding that "we cannot protect every single person in Iraq. We can't protect a woman or a child working in the streets from getting killed."

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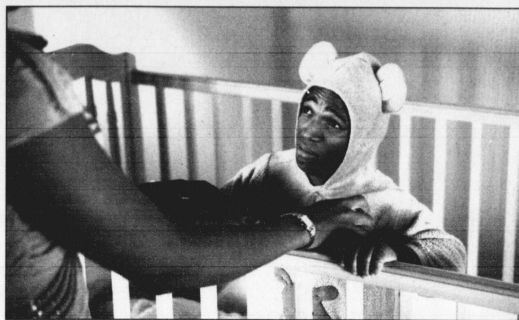
### IN THEATERS

#### LITTLE MAN

A guy who wants to be a father (Shawn Wayans) makes an escaped convict (Marlon Wayans) act as his son. Tracy Morgan is featured, too; he's the only other person anyone knows. Please, Wayans brothers, just stop. Take the dozens of millions of dollars you've made and your Hollywood good looks and live somewhere, just not making movies anymore. Please. Little Man is on the same intellectual plane as White Chicks; Shawn Wayans actually gets hit in the head with a frying pan. One of the rules of the world should be that frying-pan violence can only occur between Tweety Bird and Sylvester the Cat. They should make a Man Law commercial out of it, or something. By the way, even though Miller Lite tastes like someone just spit something into it, those commercials are awesome. **Rated PG-13** for language, potty humor, and the premise itself. At AmStar, Cinemark Fayette Mall, Regal and Woodhill.

#### THE OH IN OHIO

A woman (Parker Posey) has everything going for her, except her picture-perfect husband (Paul Rudd) has thus far proven unable to



Movie studios slack off on sending their press kits to The Kernel during the summer. Dumb, we know. So we're running yet another promo picture for "Little Man," which opens tomorrow. Hey, at least it's a different photo.

give her an orgasm. Yikes. He becomes so frustrated that he moves out of the house and into a relationship with a student of his (Mischa Barton). Posey's character turns to a buzzing lover for a while, then shacks up with a businessman (Danny DeVito). Hilarity ensues. Paul Rudd is awesome. Parker Posey is OK, and Danny DeVito isn't as lame as he usually is. Except in "Renaissance Man." That movie was stellar. It only opens in Los Angeles and New York this weekend, so don't go looking for it at Regal, but it'll be here soon enough. Unrated as of right now, but

if it isn't rated R in the future, the Pope isn't Catholic. **Theaters TBA.**

#### YOU, ME AND DUPREE

Newlyweds (Kate Hudson and Matt Dillon) are in for some hijinks when the best man at their wedding (Owen Wilson) moves into their home for an open-ended amount of time. Directed by the Russo brothers ("Wedding Crashers"), Michael Douglas also appears, as does Lance Armstrong (as Lance Armstrong). This movie is being marketed in an attempt to turn it into the 2006 "Wedding Crashers,"

but what made "WC" so good was that it was word-of-mouth, for the most part, that got people to the theaters. As with all good movies. And it had Vince Vaughn. Matt Dillon kind of annoys me; it could just be jealousy over the threesome he had in Wild Things. I wonder how many people thought that was going to be brought up. **Rated PG-13** for sexual content, brief nudity, language, crude humor and a drug reference. Hell yeah! Crude humor! At AmStar, Cinemark Fayette Mall, Regal and Woodhill.

E-mail  
cjohnson@kykernel.com

## ONTAP | For the week of JULY 13 - JULY 19

### TONIGHT

**Poison**  
7 p.m. Riverbend Music Center, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$15 to \$35.

**Six Organs of Admittance w/ Burning Star Core and The Eyes & Arms of Smoke**  
9 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$6.

**Cursive w/ Make Believe and La Salle**  
9 p.m. Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$12 to \$14.

**TOMORROW**  
**Puffy AmiYumi w/ Tally Hall**  
8 p.m. Bogarts, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$15 to \$17.

**The Greencards**  
8:30 p.m. Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$12.

**Big Maracas**  
9 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

### SATURDAY

**The Sonny Moorman Group, Souze, Larry Cervera & the Comanches, The Swarthy Band, Acumen, Jackbone, Soul Pocket, Students of the SCPA, The Modulators, George Sampson and Andrew Sampson**  
4:30 p.m. Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$10.

**The Waybacks w/ David Gans**  
7 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

**MONDAY**  
**Vampire Belt w/ Nate Wooley, Aaron Siegel and Spectre Folk**  
9 p.m. Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$6.

**TUESDAY**  
**Yellowcard w/ Matchbook Romance, Rock Kills Kid and Hedley**  
7 p.m. Bogarts, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$23.50 to \$25.

**Dressy Bessy w/ The Impossible Shapes and The Living Blue**  
9 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

**The Legendary Shack Shakers w/ Jerry King & the Rivertown Ramblers**  
9 p.m. Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$8 to \$10.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Screaming Mechanical Brain w/ The Middle Fork and The Oxford Farm Report**  
9 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

**COMING SOON**  
**Hatebreed w/ Uearth, Norma Jean, Strapping Young Lad, All That Remains, The Red Chord, A Life Once Lost, Walls of Jericho and Full Blown Chaos**

4:30 p.m. July 20. Bogarts, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$22.50 to \$25.

**Petticoat Petticoat w/ Nana & the Boy Noise and The Love Coats**  
9 p.m. July 20. The Dame. Tickets cost \$3.

**Pharcyde w/ 4 Ova Kind and Scribble Idiots**  
9 p.m. July 21. The Dame. Tickets cost \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door.

**The Roots**  
9 p.m. July 22. Bogarts, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$10 to \$17.

**Jolie Holland w/ Sean Hayes**  
7 p.m. July 23. The Dame. Tickets cost \$10.

**Def Leppard w/ Journey**  
7:30 p.m. July 25. Riverbend Music Center, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$20 to \$75.

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11 a.m. July 26. Riverbend Music Center, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$32.25.

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## IN OUR OPINION

### Fletcher plan only creates more problems

Gov. Ernie Fletcher's latest solution for Kentuckians fed up with nepotism in state government is ... more patronage?

On Monday, Fletcher spokesman Jodi Whitaker told reporters the governor may propose a constitutional amendment that would make Kentucky's attorney general and treasurer appointed by the governor instead of elected by the voters. Whitaker went on to say that Fletcher believes the proposal would make state government more efficient and accountable.

Such an amendment would have to be approved by the three-fifths of the General Assembly, and subsequently the majority of voters to take effect.

Not only does Fletcher's proposal suffer from severe logical flaws, but it reeks of partisan rancor.

First, the logic: Why would voters in a republican democracy willingly relinquish what little government oversight they have? Representative democracy is predicated on the notion that the people are more likely to elect a government with their own best interests at heart, rather than some philosopher-king or political animal.

And to date, we've seen no scientific studies corroborating the idea that appointed officials are any more efficient than elected ones.

Nor would any checks and bal-

ances accrue were such an amendment to pass. If anything, the government would be less responsive because appointees would most certainly come from the same party as the governor, which would of course enhance the opportunity for corruption.

The GOP can argue persuasively that past Democratic administrations weren't mired with jobs scandals because past attorneys general (all were Democrats in the 30-plus years between Republican administrations) put party loyalty above justice.

But such an argument cannot be invoked by a governor who believes that voters should elevate partisan convenience above the opportunity to elect an accountable and responsible state government, balanced with members from both parties in the executive branch if need be.

Fletcher's ulterior motive (were the amendment to pass) is surely to replace Attorney General Greg Stumbo with someone from his own party, who is less likely to continue prosecuting his administration for the jobs scandal.

Single-party control over the administrative branch is precisely the problem; passing the amendment would only exacerbate it.

That a sitting governor would attempt to cynically curb voter power in order to exact political revenge and leave the state even more susceptible to nepotism is very contemptible, indeed.

### Meal plan changes good for UK students

This fall, students will see big changes in UK Dining Services meal plan options.

The changes are in response to feedback received from discussions between the Dining Services Student Advisory Board and other student groups.

Jeff DeMoss, executive director of Dining Services, explained that a return to the old declining-balance system is not economically feasible. However, he said students will see more flexible dining options, extended hours, several new dining facilities and increased student involvement in future planning.

"We conducted a survey in April 2006 among 2,000 students who actually dine in our facilities," DeMoss said. "Many of the changes we are implementing... are a direct result of that survey."

DeMoss and his Dining Services associates should be commended for working with and listening to students before implementing changes for the fall semester. Far

too often, administrators fail to seek student input on issues that are vital to student life.

DeMoss also said he worked closely with new Student Government President Jonah Brown and other students on the dining plans. This provides a good example of how SG and the administration can work together to improve the lives of students living on campus.

Dining Services will offer students 11 dining plans this year, ranging from \$36 meals per semester at a cost of \$2,013 to 110 meals costing \$949.

Four additional plans are designed specifically for employees and commuting students. For additional information on individual dining plans, students and employees should visit the Dining Services Web site at <http://www.uky.edu/DiningServices/diningAccount.html>

We hope these changes and the process used to bring them about are a sign of things to come for student-administration relations.



AARON SMITH, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Global warming is reality

As a geologist, I find Andrew Martin's column on global warming absurd and unfounded.

Essentially, his entire argument is: Michael Crichton disagrees with the current science of global warming and we should believe him because he has produced several successful fictional novels based on scant scientific hypotheses.

Furthermore, Martin unfairly paints hardworking career scientists as fanatical zealots and attempts to undermine their studies with ridiculous statements that attest to his (and Crichton's) ignorance of the scientific method.

I take exception to Martin's comment that "many... environmental predictions are based on computer simulations and not calculations made... in the field," which is completely inaccurate as all geologic models, from tectonic to climate models, are based on years of data collected in the field using rigorously tested techniques.

Martin is also quick to point out an apparent inconsistency in the correlation between atmospheric carbon dioxide and global temperatures from a data set that spans only the last 100 years; yet, he fails to mention that geologists and climatologists have produced a carbon dioxide record that spans the last 600,000 years and they have determined oxygen, nitrogen and carbon isotopic records spanning over 500 million years of Earth's geologic history. All of which indicate that periods of high atmospheric carbon

### dioxide coincide with increased global temperatures.

Martin goes on to state that "climate scientists... are loathe to adhere to any... standards of verification" and that "(climate) scientists... need to take a more scientific approach to science."

To this, I am curious to see how many "climatologists" he knows; how many climate studies he's participated in and how many research articles he's tried to publish in peer-reviewed journals such as *Science* and *Nature*?

While geologists can't predict the future, we can fairly accurately study the Earth's geologic past, which consistently indicates that increased atmospheric carbon dioxide corresponds with increased global temperatures.

The sort of baseless rhetoric from Crichton that's echoed by Martin is part of the reason why our society has done nothing but sat on its hands and argued for the last decade while the global climate problem has gotten worse.

JOHN ALLEN  
earth and environmental sciences  
graduate assistant

### Don't 'sell out' Spindletop

Reading June 29's Kernel, I couldn't help but find the editorial board's short-sighted opinion concerning the proposed renovation at Spindletop Hall disappointing, but not surprising.

Surely the board is not as dense

as they presented themselves. To begin, the statement from Liz Croney was obviously taken completely out of context. I am sure Mrs. Croney did not mean to literally draw a comparison between Vietnam and the renovation of UK property. Even such a suggestion is, in The Kernel's own words, "downright embarrassing."

What she did bring up is a very credible argument. As a student, I find it hard to even consider spending \$150 million on commercializing Spindletop when we are (among other things) still paying to remove asbestos from the hardly-used faculty club.

Anyone who has spent any time at the hall will attest to its unadorned aesthetic and scenic quality. It then becomes easy to understand the concern for turning it into a series of gauche retirement homes, regardless of membership standing. The complaint made that the club serves only a select few is hardly appropriate when you consider present membership at the club is more than 4.5 times what the proposed private residences will accommodate.

To justify selling out a local landmark to make jobs and, some 20 years down the road, hope to make back renovation costs, is a terrible squandering of one of the university's most beautiful resources. Following such logic we might as well throw in a Starbucks and a McDonald's upstairs while we're at it and call it Hank Dyer Pavilion 2.

ERIK DYER  
architecture senior

## University administrators' pay is part of the problem in Ky. schools

According to a 2003 survey by the Chronicle of Higher Education, 17 percent of public research universities and public college systems surveyed will earn an annual income of more than \$500,000.

The Chronicle also cites the median compensation for presidents at the public institutions surveyed as being \$328,400. University boards increasingly look at their presidents and administrators as corporate CEOs rather than public servants.

At the same time, university students struggle to pay ever increasing tuition and fees, full time faculty are systematically being replaced by adjunct, part time faculty or graduate students.

University staff are being outsourced or forced to work part time with no job security, low wages and diminishing benefits. The corporatization of American higher education has created a crisis where university presidents and administrators prosper at the expense of students, teaching faculty and staff.

Kentucky institutions of higher education are not exempt from these problems. The Lexington Herald-Leader and the Louisville Courier-Journal recently pub-

lished articles detailing salary increases and bonuses given to UK President Lee Todd and University of Louisville President Jim Ramsey. According to these articles, Todd now receives a \$451,000 annual compensation package which includes a \$115,000 bonus. Ramsey currently receives a annual compensation package of \$511,600 including a potential annual bonus of \$102,320 and a \$112,131 contribution from the UofL Foundation.

This year, President Michael McCall of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) received a annual compensation package of \$431,000 which includes a \$90,000 annual housing allowance and an annual bonus that was \$55,000 for 2005-06. Similar presidential salary and compensation packages can be found at every public university in Kentucky (Additional information on state university presidents' compensation packages can be obtained by contacting the Council on Post Secondary Education or by filing an open records request with each university.)

University presidents are not alone in receiving lavish corporate salary and benefit packages. While almost 1,000 UK employees earn at or below poverty level wages, more than 800 employees make annual salaries of more than \$100,000. A significant number of these employees make more than \$200,000.

KCTCS has created 16 college districts each administered by a "CEO" making more than \$100,000 annually. At the same time the percentage of adjunct and part time faculty

at KCTCS has increased to more than half. Every public university in Kentucky has its own cadre of corporate type administrators who earn comparable salary and benefit packages to those of UK and KCTCS.

Increasing numbers of public officials, institutional board members and administrators have come to view higher education as a multi-billion dollar industry, with money and power to be amassed and used for purposes remote from core academic mission of teaching.

They exploit the commercial and political potential of this industry, and seek to run our colleges more on a "corporatized" business model than on an academic learning model. As corporate endowments to universities increase, so does the influence of these corporations on the management and administrative structure of public universities. An increasing number of corporate appointees sit on university boards and help guide these universities closer to the corporate model.

As university boards increasingly dedicate more and more funds for their presidential and administrative salary and compensation packages fewer funds are available for students, front-line staff and teaching faculty.

While quality administrators are important to any corporation or institution, so are quality front-line employees and teaching faculty.

University presidents, administrators and board members regularly use the argument that, to recruit and retain top quality admin-

istrators you must reward them with competitive quality salaries and benefit packages. Unfortunately, they fail to acknowledge that in order to recruit and retain the top faculty and staff you must also pay them competitive salaries.

Public universities exist for the public good not for the personal financial benefit of the presidents and high level administrators. These institutions exist to provide the highest quality education at the most affordable price.

It is hard to argue that we are working toward this goal when tuition and fees at public universities have increased at three times the rate of inflation, rising more than 50 percent in real terms over the past decade alone.

When is enough enough? The public's trust is being betrayed by university boards that spend too much public money on fat administrative compensation packages rather than holding down tuition rates, fairly compensating front-line staff and faculty who teach.

As taxpayers, we should demand accountability from every public institution including universities. University boards and state legislatures should return to making the students, faculty and staff their priority rather than turning our universities into corporate clones.

Charles B. Wells is the executive director for AFT-Kentucky, the American Federation of Teachers has recently begun organizing employees at UK. E-mail [opinions@kykernel.com](mailto:opinions@kykernel.com)

**Submissions**

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Wes Blevins. Please limit letters to 350 words or fewer. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions.

**E-MAIL** [opinions@kykernel.com](mailto:opinions@kykernel.com)

**Note to Readers**

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

**Columnists Needed**

The Kernel is looking for new columnists to write for the Opinions page on a regular basis.

Columnists of all interests will be considered, but The Kernel especially seeks those who have an interest in campus and local issues.

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## 'Iron Mike' continues to inspire

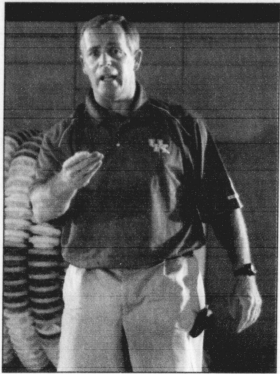


PHOTO COURTESY OF UK ATHLETICS  
UK diving coach Mike Lyden has led the Cats since 1993, and he has earned SEC Coach of the Year honors eight times.

By James Cannillo  
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

For 12 years Mike Lyden has led UK's diving team with unwavering passion and intensity — and he has inspired the same in his divers and friends.

Over the years, Coach Lyden earned the nickname "Iron Mike" from his divers for his grueling workouts and overall intensity.

"My philosophy as a coach was for my divers and myself to be in better physical shape than everyone we dove against," Lyden said.

Whether it was running or climbing stadium steps, Lyden would be alongside his divers, never just watching his protégés.

"By me leading the way they seemed to always dig deep when the competition got tough," he said.

And when he needed their support, they showed it.

In 2005 Lyden led the divers to one of their most successful campaigns in school history. UK swept the Southeastern Conference's women's diving titles, becoming only the second team to do so. Fol-

lowing the season, Lyden was named SEC Diving Coach of the Year.

Later in the year, he was diagnosed with lung and brain cancer. But like the coach has done throughout his life, he battled, fought and overcame the cancer.

As he did so, the UK diving team achieved even greater heights, as diver Taryn Ignacio became the school's first NCAA Diving Champion in the platform event. She was named the SEC's Diver of the Year for the second straight year, and Coach Lyden received SEC Coach of the Year honors again as well.

To recognize Lyden's battle against cancer and to raise money for the larger fight against it, "Iron Mike" bracelets have been created.

The bracelets are available at the Lancaster Aquatic Center for a small donation and proceeds go to the Mike Lyden Foundation. So far, more than 300 have been sold.

Call 257-7944 for more information.

E-mail  
sports@kykernel.com

## Everything you missed in the All-Star Game

Since you had better things to do, I watched the MLB's 77th All-Star Game for you and took notes. You're welcome.

**8:02 p.m.** I am late for the start of the All-Star Game. Wait, this is just the pre-game.

**8:15** I am questioning the need for an All-Star pre-game show. How much can you say about an exhibition game. Sorry, it counts now. I keep forgetting.

**8:19** So you're an All-Star and you're being announced before the game. What do you do? Tip your hat? Just wave? Both? Each guy seems to be deciding right when his name is called. I say touch the brim and then wave, that way you hide the hat hair.

**8:44** A pitch!

**8:52** The NL's Brad Penny strikes out the side to start the game. Impressive.

**9:01** End of the first. No runs, one hit and four strikeouts between the teams. At least we are at a brisk pace. Off to channel surf.

**9:03** Back to the game in time to see the little man who played Kramer's sidekick Mickey on "Seinfeld" get squashed by a Triple Stack from Burger King. That is a lot of meat. An aside, "Seinfeld" had some great baseball moments. The Top Three: 1. The Magic Lugie Kramer and Neuman allege the Mets' Keith Hernandez spat at them. 2. George dragging the Yankees' World Series trophy behind his car after having streaked across the field in flesh-colored spandex. 3. George gets the Yankees' new all-cotton uniforms, which shrink and cost them a game.

**9:08** The AL's Vlad Guerrero launches one out of the park. The ball was going 98 mph almost at shoulder-level, and he sends it over the right-

field wall. He is incredible. He can hit almost anything, and he cannot receive enough respect for this.

**9:15** I am already stalking on the Facebook as Fox interviews Brad Penny. Oh, home run from the Mets' David Wright.

**9:23** Albert Pujols barrels a hard hopper at first. That's rich and smooth.

**9:26** Thanks to Joe Buck for calling out the crazed, I'm-on-my-cell-phone-and-on-TV guy right behind the on-field reporter. Can we end this one and for all people!

**9:28** One of the best sports commercials, where Gatorade imagines if great highlights weren't so great. If only they could make Christian Laettner miss his shot like they make Michael Jordan miss his against Cleveland.

**9:30** The first PSA against steroids, not just tell us. Like those pictures of people with mouth cancer your teacher showed you in health.

**9:38** The first UK letterman to make it to an All-Star game, Brandon Webb, is on the mound for the NL. Playing for an average team in Arizona, Webb has performed well, going 9-3 and with a 2.73 ERA. He retires Alex Rodriguez, David Ortiz and Derek Jeter in order. Not too shabby.

**9:46** "Snakes on a Plane" commercial. This has been the source of debates among my friends. The question: is it morally wrong to see this movie? My buddy Ben says yes, and he points to a column by Chuck Klosterman who decries the "film" as the end of creative writing in cinema. Sure you're tacitly endorsing the decline of Western culture, the art of cinema and good taste, but still, don't you want to be there when Samuel L. Jackson starts cussing at snakes? Just playing devil's advocate.

**9:55** Bud Selig conducts an on-field ceremony honor-

ing Roberto Clemente. If he had saints in the MLB, Clemente would be one.

**9:59** Nice segue from Clemente to ... the Burger King's goofy mascot King.

**10:05** Bronson Arroyo sends us to commercial by playing (on tape) a few lines from Oasis' "Wonderwall." Everyone really does cover this song.

**10:07** A commercial for "Little Man." Who lets the Wayans Brothers make movies? I want names.

**10:19** Another 1-2-3 inning. At least this game is moving along. I might make it to The Fishtank for Midnight Trivia after all.

**10:22** As soon as the Coors Light commercial leaves the screen, my buddy Ben shows up with his recipe for watching an All-Star Game — lots of Coors Light. I think he is right.

**10:30** Brewers' pitcher Derek Turnbow has the flattest brim this side of Little League. And with the hair falling out the back, he looks like a grown-up Bad News Bear.

**10:33** My now angry friend Ben is about to hurl beer cans at the screen having discovered a second Pirate made the team. "Two? They're the worst team in the league."

**10:41** As Royal representative Mark Redman (he of the 5.27 ERA) warms up in the bullpen, I scour the Internets for a better Royal to make the team. I cannot. I believe every team should get a player on the team, but seriously when they are this mediocre they should only get a "Participant" ribbon or something.

**11:00** Lost in all this is a nice pitching duel of an All-Star game, as the NL turns to Trevor Hoffman, No. 2 on all-time saves list but with 10-ERA in All-Star games, to nail down its first win in a decade. Can the 39-year-old deliver?

**11:06** The answer to that question is no. A triple by Michael Young scores two

runs and keeps the AL's two-out rally alive.

**11:11** The NL is down to its final outs and Phil Garner is letting Freddy Sanchez stay in to hit? This is insane. You have to let Andrew Jones or Scott Rolen get in there. These are proven players, and they have to watch while Sanchez chokes? Please.

**11:14** The Mets' Carlos Beltran shows some actual hustle while running out an infield hit. If he's that into it, maybe we should be. Maybe.

**11:15** Reigning Home Run Derby champ Ryan Howard at the plate, representing the winning run. Clutch closer Mariano Rivera on the mound. Rivera wins.

**11:18** Game over. AL wins 3-2 to take its record to 94-1 in the last 10.

**11:19** TV off.

E-mail  
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CLASSIFIEDS continued from page 5

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