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INDEPENDENT SINCE 1971

Officials throw out SGA elections

By Aaron Sanderford
Campus Editor

Déjà vu is a feeling that one has seen or heard something before.

UK students are used to National Championship Night déjà vu. College students are used to test anxiety déjà vu.

But UK students now face a re-run of a different sort.

The two-week-old Student Government Association election was overturned, and a second election will be held before dead week.

The SGA Board of Claims declared the election invalid in a written decision released yesterday.

The landmark decision marks the third time in UK history an election has been nullified.

"I expected it," third-place presidential candidate Joe Schuler said. "In my opinion, they didn't really have a choice."

Basing its decision on six discrepancies, the board upheld three claims against the Elections Board of Supervision.

The six discrepancies include poll booth irregularities at Blazer Hall, Taylor Education Building, Chandler Medical Center and the Law School.

The decision refers to poll workers leaving voting sites before scheduled closing times.

It says campaign material was left on the tables at several polling places.

The board also cited several constitutional irregularities. The decision says the SGA Senate voted on election dates and times five weeks prior to the election, breaking constitutional guidelines that require approval eight weeks in advance.

It also agreed with claimants' assertions that elections were held at an unconstitutional

time. Elections are supposed to be held the eighth and ninth working days following Spring Break.

Using the definition of Spring Break from the UK Registrar's Office that defines the break as the 10th week of the spring semester, the board wrote that last month's elections were held only three working days following the break.

The last irregularity cited was low voter turnout. The 6.8 percent turnout was the lowest in a decade.

Political science senior Josh Robinson, Sen. Michael Tomblin and presidential runner-up Kim Glenn filed the successful claims.

"It feels great," Robinson said. "I feel like the Board of Claims stepped out and took a leadership role in an extremely controversial issue and did the right thing."

Robinson said his failed candidacy for senator at large had nothing to do with filing his claim. Glenn echoed his sentiment, saying her motives for filing were not political.

"I would have done this if I'd won or lost," Robinson said. "I'm just glad that most of the winning candidates I spoke with also believe this is the fair thing, the right thing to do."

The board also ruled on claims against all three presidential can-

didates, eight of which were filed against Nate Brown, who won last month's presidential race. Claims against Schuler and Glenn were nullified.

Brown was found guilty of two misdemeanor violations, one for campaigning near a poll booth at the Student Center and one for chalk drawings on Patterson Drive. Brown received a written reprimand and lost his \$25 deposit.

"I felt like I didn't knowingly violate anything," Brown said. "I thought I made a good faith effort to find out the rules, which I explained to the board of claims."

"Someone could file 100

See ELECTION on 4

Inside

Students come out in strong opposition to the new election. See story, page 2



CHILD CARE The Wildcat poses with Zachary Joseph Esenbock for his great aunt Judy Dean before the Georgia game at Rupp Arena.

Big PAWS to fill

Living up to expectations of being the Cat is not simple

By Marc Elmore
Contributing Writer

On the surface, Gavin Duerson is a hard-working student with a double major in management and marketing. But deep down there is a Wildcat waiting to claw itself loose from the rigors of classes at UK.

He is a cat who wants to see Kentucky athletics succeed in every way. Duerson is the Wildcat mascot.

Before coming to UK, Duerson didn't think about becoming a mascot. "The idea never really crossed my mind," Duerson said. "A past mascot, Brent Claiborne, introduced me to the idea last year."

Duerson, a junior, grasped that idea and ran with it. He has had no special gymnastic training. He has learned maneuvers such as flips and being a part of the awe-inspiring Kentucky pyramid through hard work and training with the National Champion UK cheerleaders.

Duerson has also worked hard at weight training, especially since Hal Mumme was hired as football coach. After every field goal or touchdown Kentucky scores, the Cat has to do a push-up for every point UK has scored.

"You know, I like football and basketball about the same," Duerson said. "But I have to say that basketball is a whole lot easier to do."

Basketball and football games are only two of Duerson's obligations.

He makes appearances at baseball games throughout the year. He speaks at high school functions for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and visits nursing homes throughout Kentucky and brightens many children's faces when he shows up at UK Children's Hospital.

"Little kids are my biggest fans," Duerson said. "They'll say I'm their favorite Wildcat. They think I'm real."

"Gavin's not happy unless other people are happy," said ex-mascot Nate Brown. "He has these false teeth he wears as a joke just to get people to laugh."

And Duerson's creativity shows. In the National Mascot Competition, he finished second in the nation behind Alabama's mascot.

Even with all this competition among mascots, Duerson says there are rarely any ill feelings between furry creatures. In fact, the Cat and the Auburn Tiger are buddies, as



are most mascots in the Southeastern Conference. "I think the Cat is the reason a lot of people want to go to the games, especially little kids," said Bryan Collins, a computer science sophomore. "He's the best mascot in the country, hands down."

It may seem like there are only benefits when it comes to being the Kentucky mascot, but there are some negatives as well.

Duerson has to practice quite a bit. He has to be at every game early and cannot leave until an hour and a half after the game is over. During football season, Duerson has no free time on the weekends.

Duerson said he sweats off what seems like eight pounds

See WILDCAT on 3



IN TOTAL PREPARATION Gavin Duerson puts his Wildcat mascot on before the start of UK basketball game. Among some of his pre-game warmups, Duerson puts baby powder inside his mittens in order to protect his hands from itching and chaffing.

PHOTOS BY JAMES CRISP
Kannel staff

Journalist touts serving community

By Mark Fister
Staff Writer

Though nothing in the field of journalism is absolute, a journalist is a citizen first, that was the message of Hodding Carter III to a campus crowd last night at the Singletary Center.

Carter, president and CEO of the Knight Foundation, presented the annual Joe Creason Lecture to faculty, staff and journalism leaders. His topic was simple: Newspapers can be active in their communities and still do their jobs.

The lecture has been an annual event since 1978, in honor of the late Joe Creason, a 1940 UK graduate and a 1981 inductee into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame.

The Knight Foundation, a \$1.2 billion foundation, is one of the 25 largest private philanthropic organizations in the United States. It actively advocates civic and community journalism projects around the country.

"Most of us come to this business out of an absolute desire to serve the public well," Carter said, adding that serving the public requires more than just serving as a government watchdog.

Carter's beliefs rise out of his beginnings with a small Mississippi newspaper that focused heavily on the community. He spent 18 years there and said they were among the best years of his life.

"Journalism aimed at the community is at the heart and soul of this nation," Carter said.

Carter also said that rather than competing with the up-to-the minute coverage provided by the national television, radio and Internet outlets, daily

See CREASON on 4

Danzers place third in Florida

By Jed Leano
Staff writer

DAYTONA, Fla. — After more than a year of hard work and endless preparation, the Wildcat Danzers saw their dreams of a national dance championship slip through their fingers as quickly as their four-and-a-half minute routine last Saturday in Daytona, Fla.

The Danzers finished third behind Brigham Young University and the University of Nebraska. Despite entering the competition as the top-ranked team, the Danzers saw obstacles slowly mounting. As preliminaries got underway Thursday afternoon, the Danzers were clearly the crowd favorite. Unfortunately the judges, appointed by the National Cheerleading Association, didn't share these sentiments. Kentucky found itself in fifth place going into Friday's final round.

By Thursday night, the talk of the town was the fate of the Wildcat Danzers. Even the spectators were questioning the judges' decision. Daytona native Elliot Smith said he was surprised with Kentucky's placement.

"They were clearly the best team in the competition," Smith said. "I'm not a dance expert, but you don't need to be an expert to know that these girls were the best ones out there."

The Danzers were just as shocked as the spectators. Management senior Andrea Masters said their score wasn't what they expected.

"We were absolutely shocked," Masters said. "Although we made a few individual mistakes, I

See DANZERS on 3

PR
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DiVERSions

Some fresh(men) faces

By Jim Scott
Senior Staff Critic

UK Theatre's fifth annual freshmen play, Lanford Wilson's *The Rimers of Eldritch*, was presented last week to a string of sold-out houses.

Rarely have I seen such a strong production have so little impact.

Rimers is billed as a murder mystery. The town of Eldritch is dying now that its coal mines have played out, and the few remaining citizens are a gossipy, bigoted bunch of folks with few redeeming characteristics.

Wilson tries to show us that the entire town is guilty of the murder at hand, not just the person who pulled the trigger. We get it, but we don't buy it.

Wilson weights this play with irrelevant foreshadowing. Clues to the "murderer's" identity are shrouded in a murky veil composed of numerous distracting sub-plots.

A poisoned dog, a mistreated mother, a teen pregnancy and a May-December affair at the town cafe all serve to muddy up the waters of the "mystery" without having any real bearing on the case.

It seems that Wilson uses these red herrings to keep us guessing. The reality of the crime, which is brutally displayed at the play's climax, has very little to do with any of the play's excess of foreboding.

In his ponderous efforts to throw us off the track, Wilson has forgotten to include a motivation for the crime itself.

The theater department's new tradition of "freshman" plays, in which the only performers are freshmen and first-year transfer students, offers a valuable opportunity to peruse the newer talent available each year. *Rimers* was chock full of talent.

Director Nancy C. Jones crafted a unique presentation, alternating between realistic scenes and surrealistic sequences without losing continuity.

Most of the cast was on-stage at all times, with slow-motion vignettes played out behind the main action. This was subtle and skillfully done, adding a ghostly presence without distracting focus from the primary action.

Amelia Lewis was a rock as Nelly Windrod, the person on trial for the shooting. Lewis was stark and unyielding.

Her performance was lean and straightforward, her character frightening.

Mike Allen played Skelly Manor, the



YOUNG TALENT SHOWCASE Laura Goukenour, Kristi Hall and Ellen Hagan starred in UK Theatre's fifth-annual freshmen play, 'The Rimers of Eldritch.'

JOHNNY FARRIS Kernel staff

half-crazed town bum who was on the other end of Nelly's shotgun, and for whom the town has little love or understanding.

Skelly, despite his unseemly habits of peeping into windows and not bathing, was intended as a pitiable, even likable figure. Allen's portrayal accomplished this end, and ultimately Skelly's scenes were among the most engaging in the production.

Other characters in the play described Skelly as an old man, possibly in his 80s. There were several moments when Allen seemed a bit too spry and agile, slinking and racing about the stage in his peeping mode.

Allen's other affectations, both vocal

and physical, more than made up for this small flaw in his characterization of Skelly.

David Cross was menacing and dispicable as Josh Johnson.

Cross displayed Josh as a venomous redneck without resorting to cartoonish characterizations.

Alecia Whitaker shined as Patsy Johnson, Josh's promiscuous younger sister. Whitaker gave life to a character that could easily have been stereotyped. Rather than relying on quirky affectations, Whitaker made subtler choices that rang true.

Marissa Fugate was also strong as Eva Jackson, the young child whose victimization was kept secret until the play's

climax.

Fugate walked a narrow line between Eva's childlike innocence and the awakening of her sexual curiosity. She was engaging and likable.

Robert Diebold gave a polished performance as the preacher and judge.

Ellen Hagan was excellent in a difficult role as Eva's mother.

Corey Blume was completely believable as Cora Groves, the middle-aged cafe owner.

The list of quality performances goes on and on.

Michael Denhardt's set design accomplished the daunting task of accommodating a constant flow of actors.

Jon R. Humphrey's lighting and

sound design was effective without being intrusive. Micah Logsdon's make-up design for Skelly was so thorough, it was surprising that the body odor was missing.

The costumes designed by Rosalind Hodgkins were among the finest technical elements.

From Nelly's stoic, unadorned flannel and Patsy's shoulder-baring sweater to the shredded, multi-layered rags of the decrepit Skelly, Hodgkins employed a wide variety of choices.

The Rimers of Eldritch provided a showcase for some excellent young talent.

Hopefully, next year's freshmen will have a better script with which to work.

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S.O.C.

Don't sleep your summer away before your student organization re-registers for the 1998-99 academic year. Current academic year registration expires May 1, 1998.

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Percussion ensemble plays tonight

Staff report

The UK percussion ensemble will be performing tonight at 8 in the Concert Hall of the Singletary Center for the Arts.

The feature piece will be George Antheil's *Ballet Mécanique*. This piece was originally written in 1926 and combines several different "instruments" in a 20 minute long chaotic romp.

The concert also features guest artist David Johnson. The Los Angeles based vibraphonist will be performing his award winning piece *Quartz City* which brings together the diverse musical flavor of Los Angeles.

The UK Steel Band II and graduate student Kip Crowder will also be performing pieces.

Women in Film Series

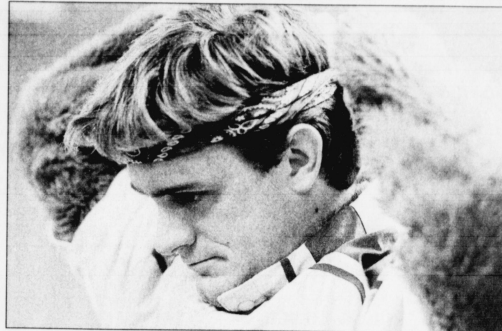
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C-A-T-8 Leading the crowd in cheers is one of the more routine jobs for Gavin Duerson as Wildcat mascot.



STAYIN' ALIVE
Before taking the floor, Gavin Duerson ties a bandanna around his head (left) to keep sweat from getting into his eyes. Going from game to game is not easy, as Duerson has a hefty load (below) to lug around the country.

PHOTOS BY JAMES CRISP

Wildcat

Being around kids is joy of job for Duerson

From PAGE 1

every game in the hot suit. Also, being a big Cat hurts Duerson's love life.

"There aren't many girls willing to date the mascot," Duerson said. "I usually fall asleep 30 minutes after every game."

But Duerson insists that the positives outweigh the negatives. He has had some memorable moments, such as skiing out west in his Cat suit.

Also, one time he left one of his

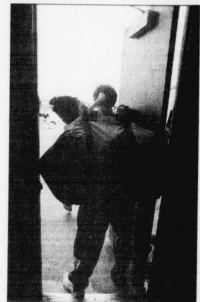
paws in Lexington on an away game and had to wrap his arm as if it were broken.

One time he ran out onto the middle of the court before the game was over, but he said that his favorite moment of all time was when Kentucky beat Duke this year.

"It was funny to watch the Cat after we beat Duke," said Ben Ross, a computer science senior. "He really got crazy."

Getting crazy is what the Cat is all about, though. His creative outfits are thought of by the cheerleaders and himself.

"We have the most energetic mascot in the country," said Warren Cox, psychology senior. "His creativity and positivity cannot be matched."



Danzers

Third-place finish not what girls expected

From PAGE 1

expected a much higher score and a much higher placement than fifth."

But the Danzers put the setback behind them and focused on the Friday afternoon finals. Coach and former UK cheerleader Dawn Walters still had a great deal of hope for the final performance.

"Dawn told us that we could still win the competition," Masters said. "She told us we had all the elements, we had worked hard enough for it and it was all a matter of us wanting it bad enough."

But even the Danzers' seemingly insurmountable desire to win wasn't enough to give the judges what they wanted. Their third place finish behind BYU and Nebraska set a disappointing tone throughout the beaches of Daytona.

"The girls gave a great performance," Walters said. "Third place is not where the girls should have finished."

While Walters recognized the performance wasn't absolutely flawless, she did notice the judging to be focused on one aspect of the five-part score sheet. Walters said the judges relied too heavily on the jazz portion and ignored a lot of other criteria that the girls did very well in.

But Walters said their four-and-a-half minute performance isn't what makes her girls champions.

"Overall, I'm proud as a peacock," Walters said. "The girls did what they needed to do. They wanted to win every time they put on their Kentucky Wildcat Danzer uniforms.

They've been great all year about practice, and they leave the floor with no regrets."

And despite a finish the Danzers weren't expecting, journalism junior Diane Werle said if she could do it all over again she wouldn't have changed a single thing about their routine.

"We went out there and did what we came to do," Werle said. "We have an explosive and well-rounded style like no other, and we got our point across."

The national competition airs on CBS Sunday, April 19. Wildcat Danzer tryouts for next year will be held April 17-19.

Accused teen shifts blame

Associated Press

JONESBORO, Ark. — The 13-year-old accused of shooting five people to death in a school ambush is reportedly blaming his alleged accomplice for the scheme and "never meant to hurt anybody."

Mitchell Johnson told his mother, Gretchen Woodard, that the March 24 attack was planned by 11-year-old Drew Golden, who asked Mitchell to help him on a bus ride the day

before the shootings.

"Mitch told me he never meant to hurt anybody, and he didn't take specific aim," Mrs. Woodard said in the April 13 edition of Time magazine. "He just meant to scare them, I guess. But then something went terribly wrong."

Both boys face five counts of murder and 10 counts of first-degree battery. Police say Drew set off the fire alarm and the two boys opened fire on schoolmates and teachers who filed out of the Westside Middle School.

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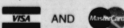
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Samuel H. Pieh is the great-great grandson of Sengbeh Pieh, best known as Joseph Cinque, who led the slave ship revolt on which the Steven Spielberg movie *Amistad* was based.

SAMUEL H. PIEH

Great-Great-Grandson of Amistad's Joseph Cinque

After the "Amistad" was captured in American waters off the New England coast, Sengbeh Pieh won his freedom and the freedom of other slave mutineers in U.S. Supreme Court decision defined by John Quincy Adams.

As a powerful influence on the early abolitionist movement, the trial was moral coming of age for America. Why is it then that many Americans had never heard the story of the trial before the release of the movie? What are the ramifications when a country is denied its own history?

Samuel H. Pieh explores this issue in depth in his presentation. Acclaimed in his own time for his tireless humanitarian work, he also speaks on the importance of forging an economic and cultural bond between Africa and America.

TOPICS

History Unexplored:
The Legacy of the Amistad

Lands Across the Water:
Forging a Stronger Bond
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CAMPUS

Election

SGA overturns this year's election in a landmark decision

From PAGE 1

against me, and that's not going to make me any more guilty than if they filed one." An emergency SGA Senate meeting has been called for Wednesday to set election dates and times. Candidates must sign a form in the SGA Office declaring by

Friday at 4 p.m. whether or not they intend to run again. Otherwise, their names will be omitted from the ballot.

The last election on record as being overturned occurred in 1965. A voting machine in the Student Center jammed and failed to record several student votes, so the board decided to hold a second election with paper ballots.

Turnout was higher the second time.

"I worked my ass off to get this done, and I'd like to see students get out and vote, to show SGA that these elections really do matter," Robinson said.

Students against re-run

Say second SGA election will be worse than first

By Jed Leano
Staff Writer

While the Student Government Association Elections Board handed a decision today to hold another election, freshman communications major Kent O'Brien sat in Common Grounds with a cup of coffee in one hand, a copy of the Kentucky Kernel in the other hand and a confused look on his face.

Like many students, O'Brien was surprised to read about SGA's second election.

"I didn't know they were even going on," O'Brien said. "I heard about them on the last day of voting. I never met any of the candidates. I don't know anything about what they do, and I don't know what they stand for."

O'Brien is not alone. There are other students who say another election is neither important nor exciting.

Exercise science senior Jennifer Jameson said a second election will be received very poorly by students.

"No one cared the first time, and no one will care the second time," Jameson said.

"SGA elections are never a big deal, and regardless of what people are accused of doing, it wouldn't have made that big a difference in the outcome of the election," he said. "The winners still would've won anyway."

The frustration over having elections again runs deep with many students. Marketing freshman Christian Adler said there are bound to be rule violations in large-scale elections, and there probably will be more violations in the next election as well.

"These violations make absolutely no difference in the outcome of the election," Adler said. "But some people see the need to

make a big deal out of petty offenses, and now I have to go out and vote all over again."

Political science junior Jonathan Mayberry's frustrations are specifically targeted at SGA for not keeping all assigned poll locations open.

"It's bullshit," Mayberry said. "I know so many people who were turned away from voting booths and couldn't vote."

Mayberry said the candidates should not be blamed for the mistakes made by SGA. He said the candidates did a good job of going out and meeting people, but it's unfortunate that SGA didn't do its job in holding a fair election.

"It's too bad to see all their hard work go to waste," Mayberry said. "But when more than three poll locations are not open, the election just isn't valid."

Regardless of who is to blame, some students say this second

election is not that big a deal. Biology sophomore Eric Browning said it really doesn't matter how many times SGA holds elections or how many different people win SGA offices.

"None of them ever do anything relevant to students," Browning said.

"Nobody knows who the candidates are, and when the winners get into office," he said. "No one will ever know what they do, so many students don't even know what SGA does."

Browning also said people will continue to care very little as long as SGA remains out of touch with students.

"It's an ongoing trend," Browning said. "As long as SGA remains a mystery to students, people will continue to be apathetic."

"Voter turnout for the last election was low, and turnout for this next election will be even lower."

“No one cared the first time, and no one will care the second time.”
Jennifer Jameson
exercise science senior

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Creason

Scholar offers lessons for daily newspapers

From PAGE 1

newspapers should focus on their strength, which is in-depth reporting and analysis.

"Journalists should see what the people understand reality to be," Carter said.

Carter said that today's newspaper readers are tired of not being completely informed about the events and decisions that affect them.

Five individuals who had a profound effect on Kentucky journalism were also honored last night at an annual dinner

before the speech. Inductees were George Gill, retired president and publisher of the Louisville Courier-Journal; David Nakdimen, a UK graduate who covered business and politics for several print and electronic outlets; Bill Neikirk, a UK graduate and former editor of the Kentucky Kernel, who has worked for the Associated Press and the Chicago Tribune; Duante Puckett, who worked in community journalism as editor of the Shelby County News for more than 20 years; and Billy Reed, a sports columnist for the Lexington Herald-Leader, the Courier-Journal and Sports Illustrated.

More than 20 journalism students were also awarded scholarships for their academic and professional accomplishments.



COMMUNITY IN FOCUS Holding Carter, III was the keynote speaker for the Joe Creason Lecture last night in the Singletary Center for the Arts.

BEST OF UK BALLOT

Best brand of blue jeans:

Best brand of tennis shoes:

Best show in syndication:

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Best Buffalo wings:

Best place to road trip:

Best place to get a haircut:

Best radio station:

Best place to take an out of town:

Best place to meet people:

Best place to go on a first date:

Best Women's sport

Best Men's sport

Best Bar to watch sports games:

Best free event on campus:

Best Greek event:

Best classroom:

Best sporting event:

Best place to study:

Best place to people watch:

Best apartment complex:

Best student organization:

Best Kernel writer:

Best UK athlete:

Best UK professor:

Best UK Administrator:

Best easy "A" class:

Best residence hall:

Best place to eat on campus:

Best music store:

Best video store:

Best health club:

Best laundry:

Best clothing store (women):

Best clothing store (men):

Best hotel in Lexington:

Best grocery store:

Best coffee house:

Best ice cream store:

Best "late night" restaurant:

Best barbecue restaurant:

Best pizza:

Best hamburger:

Best Italian food:

Best Mexican food:

Best Chinese food:

Best restaurant in Lexington:

Best brand of beer (domestic):

Best brand of beer (import):

Best bar in Lexington:

Best place for live music:

Best local band:

Best place to dance:

Best pool tables:

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Keep watching for further details.



Injury, judges hamper GymKats in regionals

By Gary McCollum
Staff Writer

ATHENS, Ga. — Once upon a time, the UK GymKats were ranked in the top 10 nationally and the season looked bright.

But the season hastily turned darker when gymnast Krissy Hoefflerin went down with a season-ending injury. The GymKats felt the effects of the injury this past Saturday at the NCAA Southeast Regional gymnastics championship at Stegeman Coliseum in Athens, Ga.

A crowd of over 7,000 witnessed the best teams across the region compete for the opportunity to reach the National Championship in Los Angeles later this month. The GymKats finished fifth out of seven teams with a score of 192.150. Georgia won the regional with a score of 198.575.

UK head coach Leah Little said the loss of Hoefflerin damaged the Wildcats' chances in Georgia.

"Our performance wasn't hurt tonight by just one thing. Injuries really hurt our chances," Little said. "After Krissy got hurt, I think morale-wise we lost a piece of

the puzzle. The girls stepped it up and did their best, but in our heart of hearts we knew that the team was hurt."

Success in gymnastics is subjective. One who considers a routine successful might not be judged as a success. Little said that was the case in the regionals and she questioned the judging.

"Well we can't make mistakes and qualify for nationals. And we had some falls on beam, but we had bonuses on beam that the judges didn't seem to count," Little said.

"For the third year in a row beam hurt us ... the judging killed us. I petitioned four of the six scores, which is practically unheard of."

While the regionals ended the team's season, one GymKat will represent Big Blue in the National Championship, 1998 SEC Freshman of the Year Ashley Burkholder qualified in the individual all-around competition with a 38.875 total score.

"I'm excited. I found out last (Sunday) night and I hope to do really well," Burkholder said.

Her toughest competition in Los Angeles could come in the form of two Georgia stars, Kim Arnold and Karin

Lichey.

Both helped the Lady Bulldogs win the region, while Lichey set a record of her own for the individual all-around competition.

With two perfect 10 scores, Lichey scored a total of 39.875 on the four events, which broke the Southeast Regional record of 39.750 set by former UK standout Jenny Hansen in 1994.

"I didn't know going into floor going in that I had a shot at the record," Lichey said. "I mean it's great to set the record, but I was out there for the team."

As for the GymKats, with the season being over they now find themselves with some much needed time for recovering from both serious and nagging injuries before beginning preparation for next season.

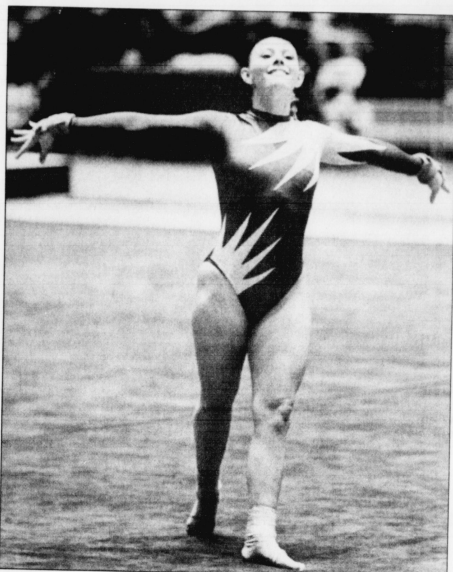
The ending to the 1998 season may have been frustrating, but next season has the opportunity to be a bright year for the GymKats.

"While it's disappointing to see our season end this way, we have one of the top recruiting classes in the country," Little said.

"We're poised to put this program on the map and we look great for next year."



Little



JAMES CRISP Kernel staff

L.A. STORY The season continues for UK freshman gymnast Ashley Burkholder as she will participate in the National Championships in Los Angeles.

SPORTSbytes

Evans leaves Ole Miss to coach at Arizona State

Rob Evans, who won 86 games in five years at Mississippi but none in the NCAA Tournament, reportedly has accepted an offer to become basketball coach at beleaguered Arizona State.

ESPN reported yesterday that Evans, who this season led the

Rebels to a 22-7 record and a disappointing first-round loss to Valparaiso in the NCAA Tournament, will accept a multi-year contract to become the 12th coach in Sun Devils' history.

Evans returned to Oxford, Miss., on Monday to tell his players he was leaving to coach the Sun Devils, sources close to the coaching search told the Associated Press on the condition they not be identified.

Arizona State scheduled a 2:30 p.m. news conference Tues-

day in Tempe to officially announce the hiring of the 51-year-old Evans.

Utah coach Rick Majerus last week turned down a reported \$1 million per season to coach the Sun Devils. Bill Frieder resigned under pressure in September and was replaced on an interim basis by Don Newman, who led the team to an 18-14 record and an NIT berth.

Evans had an 86-81 record at Ole Miss, but his teams are 42-16 in the past two seasons, with back-

to-back Southeastern Conference West titles and NCAA Tournament appearances. Evans was the SEC Coach of the Year in 1997.

Evans was an assistant for 15 years at Texas Tech and for two years at Oklahoma State before arriving at Ole Miss in 1992.

USC's McKie staying in school

BJ McKie, the SEC's leading scorer, will return for his senior season at South Carolina rather than declare early for the NBA Draft.

McKie announced his decision Monday, nearly four weeks after the Gamecocks were eliminated in the first round of the NCAA Tournament for the second consecutive year.

"I have decided to stay at South Carolina and I look forward to getting my degree," said McKie, who is on track to become the school's all-time leading scorer next season.

McKie averaged 18.8 points per game as South Carolina went 23-8 this past season, its second

consecutive 20-win campaign. That included a 24-point outing in the Gamecocks' 62-61 loss to Richmond in the first round of the East Regional at Washington.

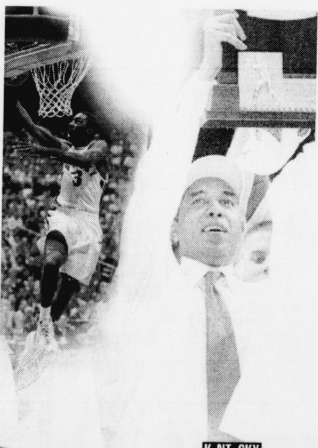
The 6-foot-2 guard acknowledged after that game that he would take some time to explore his draft status. South Carolina coach Eddie Fogler also spoke with some NBA scouts on McKie's behalf.

"I respect the decision BJ and the McKie family have made," Fogler said.

Compiled from wire reports.

UNDENIABLE

The Kernel's Special NCAA Championship Magazine is coming soon! Limited copies will be available so pre-order your copy today in room 26 of the Grehan Journalism Building. \$5 plus \$3 postage.



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Gov. Patton skips new library on UK's biggest day

Raises questions about relationship with Wethington

I've got a bone to pick with Governor Patton.

Last week, he proved without a doubt that he has no class. That's right, our fair governor has absolutely, 100 percent, no class and I'd go so far to say that he doesn't even have a backbone.

After surviving the riots and near mass destruction following last week's championship celebration, UK's new multi-million dollar, state-of-the-art, landmark William T. Young Library was unveiled to the public.

But where was our fair governor Paul Patton? He was nowhere to be seen.

dance? By attaching himself to Tubby Smith's hardworking winners, I suppose Paul Patton thought he would be a winner too.

Well, I've got some bad news for our fair governor.

Paul Patton, you are a loser.

Once a mildly honorable man, Patton has turned himself into a joke. Maybe not quite a joke, but definitely a highly popular sideshow freak in Frankfort.

Well, not exactly. Patton was too busy visiting U of L and Morehead to take the time to attend the unveiling of one of the state's most important educational achievements in a long, long time.

According to his public relations staff, Patton felt his presence at the other events was more important, so he would go to those events instead. His people also said that he doesn't have a vendetta against Charles Wethington or the university.

Boy, it's getting deep in here. I'm from Louisville, so I can tell you that nobody cares about him and as far as Morehead goes, well, it's Morehead and that pretty much sums it up right there.

Sadly, there are few people in the Bluegrass who actually realize this, but as Patton continues to prance about the state without much recourse, Kentucky's citizens may take off their blinders.

It's not surprising why there are so many people associated with UK who get a bad taste in their mouths whenever Patton's name is mentioned. The relationship between Big Blue and the Governor's Mansion has been a rocky one to say the least.

Last year, Patton stripped UK of its community colleges.

I guess he felt they would be in better hands if he took them away from educators with visions and gave them to some of his golfing buddies.

UK didn't want to lose its community colleges and the colleges certainly didn't want to lose their association with UK, but I guess the State Police may have been a bit too much for those guys with a 12-handicap to control, much less take responsibility for.



Ben Rich
Kernel Columnist

In a way, I'm actually happy that Patton didn't show up for the dedication of the library.

For one thing, instead of cutting the ribbon, he and Wethington may have tried to cut each other and blood is pretty hard to get off shiny new floors.

If Patton had showed, he wouldn't have been able to give his same-old "good job, I knew you could do it with my help, I'm King of the World" speech.

The Young Library was paid for without Patton's help and he would have looked dumber than he already does if he had taken credit for a wonderful new building that he had nothing to do with, except for the fact he tried his best to keep UK from building it.

How rare an occasion is that? Why would our fair governor hog the spotlight, might you ask? Patton loves to steal other people's thunder.

It's what makes the guy tick, that he had a heart. When the basketball team had their celebration in Rupp Arena on Tuesday, Patton was there. As always, he basked in the glow of cheers that weren't for him.

It was a truly sickening display. Twenty-thousand UK supporters show up to greet the national champions and they get to listen to Paul Patton.

Thankfully, the PA system in the building was too low to hear anything, or I would have gotten sick all over the little old lady sitting in front of me.

Why was Patton in atten-

tion? For this, I'd like to thank Gov. Patton, and the next time he plans to attend an event at UK, I hope more pressing matters keep him from attending.

You never know when his golf buddies might want state funds to build a Putt-Putt course on the roof of LCC.

Kernel Columnist Ben Rich is a journalism junior. He can be reached at harichb@pop.uky.edu.

Second chances

We're almost glowing! We knew the SGA election should be thrown out, but we didn't think the SGA Elections Board of Claims had the guts to actually do it.

Our apologies to board members Kelly Wesley, John "Devo" Dvorak, and Matthew Warnock. Nice job!

You've given the students a great victory and a chance to participate in a properly run election that offers them adequate time to get to know the candidates and their platforms.

Of course, there is no excuse for SGA to have violated two of its own constitutional guidelines in scheduling the prior election.

Further, the candidates might also have taken greater steps to ensure compliance with campaign and university regulations.

Now that steps have been taken to remedy these lapses with a new election, it's time for the SGA to dig in and reach out to the students to ensure that all campaign stations will be

open on both days.

It's a common problem that has plagued past elections, but surely there are some warm bodies to man the polls.

If worse comes to worse, SGA senators will just have to man the stations themselves, although we hope students and student organizations will come forward to volunteer.

"hint-hint"

For now, the candidates have until Friday afternoon to re-affirm their candidacy. We encourage each to seriously consider what they have to offer students and come forward with more concrete platforms.

We also encourage the three presidential candidates to put their heads together to agree on times and dates for open forums and debates to be held on South Campus at the Commons Complex and at Blazer for students on North Campus.

Such an action might be your best bet to reach a student audience outside of the typically active Greek and religious communities.

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Gun ownership doesn't preclude good parenting

To the editor:

This is in response to Timothy Capehart who stated that if guns had not been present in Paducah or Jonesboro then these tragedies would not have occurred.

Of course, if Dahmer didn't have a knife he couldn't have cut up his victims, and if Tyson didn't have teeth, he couldn't have bitten off Holyfield's ear.

What bothers me the most is that he blames "missing" parents who are "endangering" their children by keeping guns.

I guess I fit your profile of a child with an uncaring parent because my father kept guns in our home. I guess one would consider my father uncaring when he took me out to the shooting range when I was little, showed me what damage a gun could

READERS' forum

cause and told me that if I ever touched his firearms that he would give me a spanking I would never forget.

I also assume that I was "endangered" when my dad always kept his firearms locked up and way out of my reach.

There is a gun problem in America. But, Mr. Capehart doesn't need to call my father uncaring for exercising his constitutional right. We need education about guns and to put the blame where it belongs: on the person who pulled the trigger.

Jaclyn Holt
biology junior

Criticism of Smith unwarranted

To the editor:

I am writing in response to Matthew Bowdly's criticism of basketball player Saul Smith. I don't know Saul personally, but it really rankles me that someone would make an outrageous statement about Saul's intelligence on

the basis of one quote.

If my memory serves correctly, Saul was quoted after winning the national championship.

I'm sure he meant no disrespect to Al Gore, but his excitement overrode any pretense of political correctness. I'd rather hear what someone is really thinking than what they think I want to hear.

Honestly, how many of us can say we knew Bill Clinton was in Africa? After the past few weeks of basketball frenzy, who has had time to think about much else? We have all earned a right to celebrate, so all I can think to say to Mr. Bowdly is CHILL OUT.

We should all be informed, but there is no need to place Saul on an infinitely high pedestal to prove a point.

I mean no disrespect, but a 19-year-old college freshman athlete has enough responsibilities to live up to. Let's not expect him to be the Dalai Lama of political awareness as well.

Jennifer Schuler
education junior

TALKback!

Readers are encouraged to submit letters to the editor and guest opinions to the Viewpoint page in person or by mail.

Address your comments to "Letters to the Editor", Kentucky Kernel Editorial Editor, 35 Enoch J. Gresham Journalism Building, UK, Lexington, Ky. 40506-0042. Send electronic mail to kernel@pop.uky.edu.

Letters should be approximately 250 words; guest opinions should be no longer than 850 words.

All material should be type-written and double-spaced, but hand-written will be accepted if it is legible.

Include your name and major classification (for publication), as well as your address and telephone number for verification.

Check out the Kentucky Kernel on-line at www.KyKernel.com for more letters to the editor.

Take advantage of fleeting moments to be with family

You might have seen it in the Sunday paper, a curious little story tucked away in the obituaries.

My great uncle and his wife, both natives of Johnson County, Kentucky, who were living out their retirements in Florida and nearing their fortieth anniversary, died within ten minutes of each other at a Fort Myers hospital.

He suffered a sudden brain aneurysm Monday, and while she was visiting his bedside Tuesday night, witnesses claim she said, "I can't live without him," and collapsed, a victim of a heart attack. She could not be revived, and he was pronounced dead soon afterward.

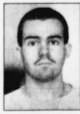
You probably passed over it, or maybe you skimmed it and thought, "How ironic." Maybe you even thought it was a touching love story. It certainly was. I'll admit, I didn't know him that well. He

was gone from home before I was old enough to really remember him, and since Florida is a long way from Eastern Kentucky, he didn't get to visit too often.

It wasn't until today that I understood what a tragedy that was.

While spending the afternoon at the funeral home and comforting family members, many of whom I had never seen cry before, a realization came to me.

Those two caskets sitting together gave me a lesson more powerful than anything I ever learned in school. Change will come, and the people you love will be taken away. It may not come for years, or it may be happening now, but when it does happen, it can be as sweeping and catastrophic as it was for my family.



Jarrett Greer
Kernel Columnist

aneurysm can be the difference between two happy, healthy people and a double-casket funeral.

Another great uncle has been battling brain cancer. Sometimes, he can't remember the name of his own hometown. There's no logic to it, no cosmic justice.

I also came to another realization, while I listened to the older members of my family swap stories about the deceased. I realized that he wasn't always a 72-year-old retiree. In fact, at one time, he was a young man like me, and he must have had some stories to tell about his youth, stories that undoubtedly would have captured my interest and imagination.

I realized that all of the members of my

family are profoundly interesting people. My grandfather can tell stories about playing high school basketball when they still jumped center after every basket, and about the ritual of "courting," and about one-room schoolhouses.

My grandmother can tell about when she used to own the skating rink in town and do other people's laundry to make extra money for her children.

Generation X doesn't have a monopoly on coolness. Every generation was "cool" in its own time. Sometimes, when I listen to stories about the "old days," I think those days must have been fun to grow up in. I might trade the computers and cell phones and cynicism of today for the times of radio plays, doing things by hand, and good, old-fashioned hard work.

Without knowing the people who have lived these things, I'd have no connection to them. Sure, I could read a history book and find out how things were, but with

the eyewitness accounts of my elders, history comes alive in brilliant detail.

These people are valuable sources of information and inspiration, and one day, perhaps in the not-too-distant future, they might be gone.

The elderly people of this country are not a curse or a burden. They are not the people who have fallen and can't get up, or the people who should get off the roads because you're in a hurry. They have lived life. They know how it is. Appreciate these people. Talk to them. Learn from them while you have the chance, because they won't always be there.

One day, when you're many years older and you have the wisdom to share, you'll understand. It's too late to learn from my great uncle and his wife, but it's not too late for the rest of my family, and it's not too late for you.

Kernel Columnist Jarrett Greer is a biology senior.

INFORMED SOURCES

Dr. Sheree Everett, on her English black Labrador, Jessica Rose Barclare, who provides the blood for pet transfusions.

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