

KENTUCKY KERNEL

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40 percent of Kentucky grads lose KEES money

By Jill Laster
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Almost 40 percent of Kentucky college freshmen from the 2004 class lost their Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship money after their first year at college because their GPA fell below the mandatory minimum of 2.5.

The Kentucky graduating class of 2004 had an average 2.28 cumulative GPA after their first semester in college, according to a report released Monday by the Council on Postsecondary Education.

The High School Feedback Report uses data

from all Kentucky public and private high schools to report how graduating classes perform their first year at college.

"I taught at UK for 20 years," said Jim Applegate, vice president for academic affairs for the CPE. "To me, (2.28) is not a very high number."

KEES money provides Kentucky high school graduates with up to \$2,500 per year if they attend an in-state college or technical school. The amount of money a student gets is based on ACT scores and high school grades.

One problem is the scholarship may encourage students to take easier classes in high school to boost their GPA, Applegate said.

"There's an incentive in KEES to take easier courses in high school to get that KEES money," Applegate said. "Maybe it would have been better to take tough college prep courses and make slightly less money. (Taking easy courses) is not a good long-term strategy."

Freshmen advising and further analysis are important factors in improving freshmen's GPA, Applegate said.

"I think advising is key," Applegate said. "It's probably a combination of students who have not taken the right courses in high school. ... Another factor could be that we need to look at that first year in college and what they're getting."

Students are eligible to receive up to eight semesters of KEES money within five years following their high school graduation. However, if their GPA falls below 2.5 during their first year, students will lose their money for the entire academic year.

Students can earn KEES money back if their GPA climbs back over 2.5, but they must keep a GPA of over 3.0 after their freshman year to receive full funding.

"Just because they lose it once doesn't mean they can't get it back," said David Prater, assistant

See KEES on page 4

Bookstore employees unsure of job security

By Katie Saltz
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Employees at the UK Bookstore are becoming increasingly worried about the upcoming management change and the stability of their jobs, said general manager Chris Lawrence.

"It's safe to say anyone employed at this location is uncertain of their future," Lawrence said. "Student workers can easily be rehired, but the full-time employees have more concern."

Kennedy Bookstore has managed UK Bookstore for the past five years. Kennedy Bookstore learned Monday that UK is looking for another business to manage the store.

UK officials were not available yesterday to comment on why the university is looking for a change in management.

Carol Behr, owner of Kennedy Bookstore, put in a proposal to take over the Eastern Kentucky University bookstore before she knew about UK's decision to discontinue the current lease.

Barnes & Noble currently operates EKU's store.

"We heard that EKU wasn't happy with the current management," Behr said. "We are always looking for more locations."

Acquiring the EKU store would help ensure that employees from the UK Bookstore and Kennedy Bookstore could keep their jobs, Behr said.

"If we get the EKU lease, I would keep as many employees as I can and use them in as many places as I can," Behr said. "I'm willing to bring anybody over."

The same situation occurred at the bookstore at Bluegrass Community and Technical College, then Lexington Community College. Barnes & Noble took control from then-owner Kennedy Bookstore in 2005.

Kennedy Bookstore supply manager Sarah Androetta was an assistant manager at the BCTC

See Bookstore on page 4

UK fills engagement position

By Juliann Vachon
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A new UK position has been filled that will apply the university's intellectual and human resources to improve lives across the commonwealth, said Provost Kumble Subbaswamy.

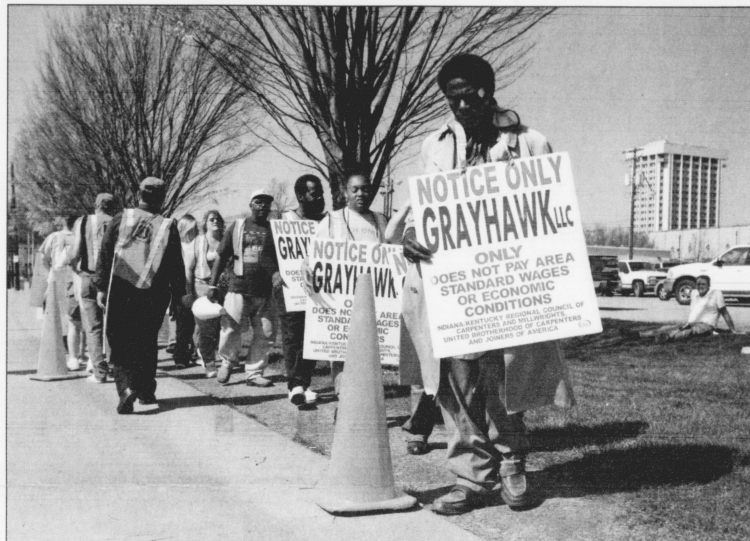
"We could really change the way Kentucky is viewed on a national level," said Lisa Higgins-Hord, former executive director for the Office of Community Relations.

Subbaswamy announced Higgins-Hord as assistant vice president for Community Engagement yesterday.

The new position is subject to approval from UK's Board of Trustees.

Higgins-Hord will work with the Office of University Engagement in creating and improving efforts focused on using UK's resources to improve the lives of Kentuckians, Subbaswamy said in an e-mail to faculty and staff.

See VP on page 4



PHOTOS BY BRAD LUTTRELL | STAFF
Paid protesters carry signs and wear vests for the Indiana-Kentucky Regional Council of Carpenters on Rose Street yesterday afternoon. The picketers are paid \$9 an hour and are mostly recruited from rehabilitation centers and homeless shelters, said Dan Hogle, a senior representative of the union.

Protesters call for higher carpenter wages

By Alice Haymond
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Holding signs and chanting jingles, about 20 people protested yesterday on Rose Street for higher carpenter wages — a cause that didn't necessarily affect the protesters themselves.

"A lot of people we hire (to protest) come from rehabs or from homeless shelters," said Dan Hogle, the senior representative at the Indiana-Kentucky Regional Council of Carpenters. "Anybody who wants to work, we'll give them a chance."

The carpenters' union pays people \$8 an hour to demonstrate from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on behalf of carpenters. The union has 13 protest locations in Kentucky and more in Indiana. These particular picketers are targeting Grayhawk LLC, a private contractor that does not participate in the carpenters' union.

The protesters called for better wages and benefits for carpenters in Lexington.

Many workers approach the carpenters' union with wage complaints, Hogle said, which is how the union knows when contractors are not paying area standard wages and benefits, the rate for a particular trade in a given location.

"If we don't stand up for the carpenters, who will?" Hogle said. "You're not going to get rich by area standard wages, but you'll have money to take the family out to a movie or go to Pizza Hut."

State government determines the prevailing wage for public workers based on surveys completed by contractors on how much they pay their workers. However, contractors are not required to complete these surveys, so the standard area wages and benefits are not necessarily accurate.

"Private contractors are really sensitive about giving information about their wages," said Jim Waters, the director of policy and communication at the Bluegrass Institute, a state public policy think tank. "They don't want to give information because they don't want to tell their competitor. The input they (government officials) get on those wage rates



Eric Webb, who has been part of the carpenters' union since December, shouts chants for the other picketers to repeat yesterday afternoon on Rose Street.

comes largely from unions, not private contractors."

The prevailing wage in Kentucky varies within different locales and types of construction, but is generally about \$20 an hour in basic wages and \$10 an hour in benefits for carpenters.

Workers must receive prevailing wage on public projects but not on private projects.

See Protest on page 4

Attorney General candidates to visit campus

By Kristen Klavko
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Candidates for Kentucky Attorney General will be attending a forum to discuss the Open Records Act and the Open Meetings Act tonight at 7 in the W. T. Young Library auditorium.

Five of the six Attorney General candidates have agreed to attend the discussion to inform UK students about public records legislation and its role in the Bluegrass before the May

primary election.

The candidates attending are Republicans Tim Coleman, Philip Kimball and Jon Larson, and Democrats Robert Bullock and Jack Conway. Rep. Stan Lee (R-Lexington) will not be attending because of a scheduling conflict.

"I don't think most people realize the Attorney General makes the law in freedom of information matters," said Al Cross, the director of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues. "The university's Board of Trustees is a public agency. Student Govern-

ment is a public agency. The University of Kentucky is a public agency, and for students to keep track of how these agencies are serving their interests, they and their representatives in the media need access to records and meetings."

Open records are maintained by government agencies but can be inspected by the general public through an application process. The Attorney General's office accepts complaints from the public when they think that open

See Forum on page 4

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The tent is down... Let the Patio Party Begin



HOROSCOPES

By Linda C. Black

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

Aries (March 21 - April 19) — Today is a 7 — Now that you have the resources, how will you allocate them? This is a test question, and you'll get to pay, however you choose. So think it over.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) — Today is a 7 — You're charming but so is your adversary. Which one will persuade the other? Ask for more than you need so you can give something minor away.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) — Today is an 8 — Important people are impressed by your efforts, and also by your results. This appreciation hasn't turned into more cash in your pocket.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) — Today is an 8 — It's not easy to concentrate on your work, and maybe you won't have to, much. Looks like the routine is running smoothly for the most part.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 — Keep studying and practicing new skills. You're getting better. Keep at this routine for twenty years or so, and you'll become a master.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — You're smart enough now to find the error in your own reasoning. Don't keep doing something that doesn't work. Do something different.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — You don't have to explain everything, so don't even try. Spend your energy more usefully by going shopping.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — You can afford to get yourself something you've always wanted. This is certainly not an impulsive purchase; give yourself permission.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) — Today is a 6 — Don't walk away and leave a mess. Clean it up and toss it out. You'll be amazed at how much better you feel once that trash is out.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) — Today is a 6 — Relax with your friends and celebrate your recent victory. Then get ahead with making the plans for your next strategic maneuver.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — An older person, impressed with your diligence, offers you more money. This prediction only works if you're doing what that person wants.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) — Today is an 8 — You're gathering information from nearby and from far away. Unfortunately, it doesn't agree. Not always, anyway. Whom should you trust? Nobody. Learn how to verify.

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PRINCE HARRY'S WILD NIGHT The Dish

The British heir and Army officer dirty dances and then shoves photographer

By Gabe Guarente

With his girlfriend of more than two years, Chelsy Davy, vacationing abroad, Prince Harry, 22, rolled into trendy London nightclub Boujis around 11 p.m. on March 23. With him were several pals, including British TV presenter Natalie Pinkham (who made headlines last summer when a U.K. tabloid published a 2003 picture of Harry kissing her while groping her breast). "They weren't flirty at first," says a fellow reveler. But several vodka-and-Red Bulls later, Pinkham dragged Harry onto the dance floor. "Natalie started to dance provocatively when [Justin Timberlake's] 'Sexy Back' came on," says the club-goer. "Within seconds, they were bumping and grinding. They stayed that way for over an hour!" The pair then had an intimate chat at their table. Says one witness, "Harry was talking into her ear and her face was pressed to his."

Later that night, the prince wasn't in such a loving mood. At 3:30 a.m., Harry left the club — "he couldn't walk straight," says an eyewitness — using a separate exit from Pinkham, and spotted photographer Nirach Tanner taking pictures. That's when he snapped. "Harry told me to f-k off," Tanner tells Us. "I started running parallel to him and he pushed me out of his way." A rep for the royal family counters, "Prince Harry did not push the photographer, he fell into the photographer."

could be to his love life. Pinkham denied hooking up with Harry and told the U.K. Sun, "There is only one girl in Harry's life and that is Chelsy." But with the Zimbabwe-born Davy, 21, traveling the globe before she begins postgraduate studies in the fall, and Harry heading to Iraq in weeks, it seems their relationship may be at a crossroads. As Judy Wade, author of Diana: An Intimate Portrait, tells Us, "He won't be seeing Chelsy for ages."

Is He in Trouble?

Though Tanner says he won't press charges, that doesn't put Harry in the clear. "The Queen will be very upset," royal correspondent Robert Jobson tells Us. "These aren't the public displays of a prince."

Not a soldier: Jobson says Harry — who is an officer in the British cavalry — could face discipline from the military before his tour of duty in Iraq, set to begin in May. "They will say it badly reflects on them." (A rep for the British Ministry of Defense tells Us, "If Harry was ever disciplined for his behavior, it would be a private, internal matter.")

Is Chelsy Mad?

But the greatest damage

Prince William Lets Loose

Just 24 hours before Harry's escapades, his more straitlaced brother, Prince William, 24, was spotted dancing at a U.K. club, downing sambuca shots and chatting up coed Lisa Agar, 19. She told the U.K.'s Mirror the Army officer invited her back to his barracks for a drink, but nothing romantic happened. What will girlfriend of over four years Kate Middleton, 25, say? Wade tells Us, "I don't think she'll be worried."

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Study calls for Tamiflu alternatives

By Kawanza Newsom
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Tamiflu-resistant strains of flu have been found in patients who haven't taken the drug, suggesting the mutated virus is capable of spreading between humans, according to an international team of researchers that includes a University of Wisconsin-Madison scientist.

Experts say the study, which showed anti-viral resistance in the milder influenza B viruses, means that Tamiflu-resistant strains of other flu viruses, such as the more fatal avian flu, could spread between humans, too.

"This is a yellow caution light," said William Schaffner, a flu expert and head of the preventive medicine department at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn., who was not involved in the study.

"We need to continue to be prudent in how we use these anti-viral drugs," he said. Schaffner said that overuse of anti-virals causes the viruses to mutate and become resistant to current medications. If the resistant viruses become more common, then new drugs will

have to be developed to fight the flu, he said.

Influenza remains a major health problem in the United States, hospitalizing about 200,000 people a year and killing about 36,000.

Each year, health officials encourage patients — especially those in high-risk categories — to get flu shots for protection against the illness. But in January 2006, the CDC alerted doctors that the influenza A strain H5N2 was resistant to two commonly prescribed anti-virals — rimantadine and amantadine. For the first time, the agency urged them not to prescribe the drugs to their patients who had flu.

In the study, Madison virologist Yoshihiro Kawaoka and colleagues from the University of Tokyo obtained flu virus samples from 74 children who'd been treated with Tamiflu and 348 children and adults who were not treated during the 2004-05 flu season in Japan. They were trying to determine if influenza B viruses were associated with Tamiflu resistance. Japan is known for its high use of anti-virals, though Kawaoka has said previously that use of the drugs is declining.

The researchers did identify a resistant virus in one child from the treated group. In addition, they also found seven people from the untreated group who also showed resistance, despite not ever taking Tamiflu. Although three patients likely became infected through sibling contact, the remaining four patients were likely infected elsewhere in the community.

"We don't know how extensive that transmission is because we don't know the history of those patients," Kawaoka said in a statement. "But we do know that some of the patients in the study were not treated with Tamiflu, but shed Tamiflu-resistant viruses. If you find Tamiflu-resistant viruses in patients not treated with Tamiflu, and there is no animal reservoir for the virus, where else could they get it?"

If flu viruses manage to continually develop resistance, key lines of defense will have been effectively removed. More worrisome, said Kawaoka, is that the same resistance will emerge in influenza A viruses, which include highly pathogenic strains such as H5N1 avian influenza.

Illinois man accused of being 'sleeper spy'

By Jeff Coen
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO — Federal prosecutors on Tuesday began laying out their case against an Illinois man accused of being an officer for the Iraqi Intelligence Service under Saddam Hussein.

Sami Khoshaba Latchin worked for years as a gate agent at O'Hare International Airport, but he was really a "sleeper spy" recruiting operatives to gather information opposition to Hussein's regime from inside the United States, prosecutors said. Secret documents that fell into American hands after the invasion of 2003 point to Latchin as an Iraqi operative, first in Greece and then in the Chicago area, Assistant U.S. Atty. James Conway told jurors.

"There's a spy in this room," he said. Before his arrest in 2004, Latchin had been planted in the U.S. as a long-term operative, directing collaborators and awaiting further instructions from Baghdad, Conway said.

He is charged with lying on documents to obtain American citizenship, lying to the FBI, and being an unregistered foreign agent in this country. He might have remained in his position if the paperwork outing him had not surfaced overseas, Conway said.

"These files were never to see the light of day," he said. Three other Iraqi operatives would

testify against Latchin, Conway promised.

Latchin's attorney, Mary Higgins Judge, scoffed at the idea of her client as a secret agent. He was born and raised in Iraq, but had been living an uneventful life in the Chicago area before he was accused, she said.

"Mr. Latchin is not now and never has been a plant for the Iraqi Intelligence Service," Judge said.

She said Latchin, 59, is not the person referenced in the alleged spy documents, which the defense contends could even be forgeries.

The witnesses for the government have espionage in their pasts, and one, Muhammad Al-Dani, has been paid hundreds of thousands of dollars by the U.S. government since he defected in 1999, Judge said.

"Trickery. Deceit. Pretending," Judge said. "That is their profession."

One of the first witnesses for the government was Al-Dani, once the top Iraqi spy in the U.S. before he defected in fear for his life. He described the structure of the intelligence service, and how information was passed from embassies abroad to leaders of the Baath Party in Baghdad.

Conway showed Al-Dani documents that reference a "Sami Khoshaba," and some of his directives. Khoshaba was described as being in "public affairs" for the Iraqi government, which was code for the intelligence service, Al-Dani said.

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CRIME REPORT

UK Police reports from March 27 to April 2

March 27. Alcohol intoxication on Keeneland Drive reported at 1:26 a.m.
 March 27. Alcohol intoxication on South Limestone Street reported at 1:44 p.m.
 March 27. Theft of iPod from the Student Center reported at 4:22 p.m.
 March 28. Theft from auto at the Reynolds Building reported at 3:30 a.m.
 March 28. Theft of cell phone reported to UK Police Headquarters at 3:24 p.m.
 March 29. Arrest for alcohol intoxication at UK Hospital at 3:53 a.m.
 March 29. Theft of MP3 player from W.T. Young Library reported at 8:40 p.m.
 March 30. Theft of briefcase from auto reported at Gill Heart Institute at 9:22 p.m.
 March 31. Alcohol intoxication reported at the corner of Columbus Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue at 12:10 a.m. There was a large number of males and females in togas stopping traffic.
 April 1. Arrest for alcohol intoxication on Rose Lane at 4:07 a.m.
 April 1. Alcohol intoxication on South Limestone Street reported at 4:27 a.m.
 April 1. Theft of wallet at UK Hospital reported at 2:52 p.m.
 April 1. Theft of cell phone reported to UK Police Headquarters at 3:47 p.m.
 April 1. Drug/marijuana use at UK Hospital reported at 5:50 p.m.
 April 2. Theft from Gill Heart Institute reported at 1:46 p.m.
 April 2. Theft of laptop from Fraze Hall reported at 3:57 p.m.
 April 2. Theft of iPod from the Classroom Building reported at 5:17 p.m.
 April 2. Injury accident at the corner of South Limestone Street and Ag Science Drive reported at 10:15 p.m.

Compiled from reports at UK Police Department.
 Compiled by staff writer Alice Haymond.
 Email: aheymond@kyjournal.com

PROTEST

Continued from page 1

"If (Grayhawk LLC) is working on a private project, the state law does not require the contractor to pay prevailing wages," Waters said. "If it's a private project, the union doesn't have a leg to stand on."

But workers on private projects deserve area standard wages and benefits, Hogle said, and whether the carpenters are union members or not, he intends to speak for them. He said he tries to discuss the issues with contractors first, but if that doesn't prompt a change, he begins the demonstrations.

"Corporations need to be held responsible for their business op-

erations," Hogle said. Sometimes the carpenters' union protests with a 13-foot tall inflatable rat that points its finger up and down. The rat is targeted at contractors.

"This isn't about the workers," Hogle said of the rat. "It's about what the company's doing to the workers."

Because private companies don't often contribute to the wage standard, however, some people suggest eliminating this method. It's forcing private projects to pay more to their workers than the average contracting company, Waters said.

"We have crumbling schools," Waters said, "but they don't have near enough funds to pay workers at prevailing wage."

BOOKSTORE

Continued from page 1

store when the new management came in. Barnes & Noble offered to keep her job at BCTC, but Behr offered every employee their current job at Kennedy Bookstore. Androetta said it was an easy decision to make.

"When I compared the two, it was no contest," Androetta said. "Nobody stayed at LCC, we had a loyalty to Kennedy."

Behr said that even though BCTC did offer to keep some of the staff, people were loyal to the company and not the location.

"We brought over every single person from the LCC store," Behr said.

Behr previously said she thought UK was in negotiations with Barnes & Noble over the UK store but said yesterday she thought it was another company

and didn't want to speculate further.

Assistant Manager of the BCTC Bookstore Lou Ann Sunley said that the changes Barnes & Noble have made have been positive for BCTC students.

"When Barnes & Noble came in, it was all uphill," Sunley said. "They were able to offer so many more things for students."

But some see problems with the transition to bigger management.

Lawrence said the main problem with major corporations running university bookstores is the quality of service they give customers.

"Big wholesale companies are only concerned with the bottom line, not service to students," Lawrence said. "They won't give the services to the faculty and students that Kennedy's did. There is going to be a dramatic change from the past six years."

KEES

Continued from page 1

director for student financial aid at UK. "The next year they get their grade point average back up, they can get their scholarship back."

Although some students have lost their money, Prater said the KEEES program has been beneficial for UK.

"More and more good students are staying in the state of Kentucky, and obviously, here at UK we're getting our fair share of

them," Prater said. Rumors that Kentucky has run out of KEEES money are false, Prater said.

"Each year there's some concern that the state lottery is not producing enough money," Prater said. "I don't think that's an issue."

Prater said a subcommittee in the legislature has looked at the finances of the KEEES program and hasn't found any major problems.

"I think the money's there," Prater said. "It looks like the program is on solid ground for the next four or five years."

FORUM

Continued from page 1

records are being withheld.

The forum is geared toward students who are registered to vote in Kentucky and UK journalism students who are interested in learning how open records laws and open meetings laws protect First Amendment rights.

The candidates will be answering questions asked by moderator Judy Clabes, president and CEO of the Scripps Howard Foundation and a former editor

of The Kentucky Post. Clabes is also a UK alumnus and a member of the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame.

"She's a great choice to do it and will definitely put the candidates on the spot," said Beth Barnes, director of the School of Journalism and Telecommunications. "She will push them to be very direct and will not allow vague answers."

This is the first time UK has sponsored the forum, and another might be held in the fall after the primary, when the field will be narrowed to two candidates.

Summary of Open Records Law

- All public agencies, "plus private companies that derive at least 25 percent of the funds they expend in Kentucky from state or local authority funds," must have open records.
- Open records are "books, papers, maps, photographs, cards, tapes, discs, diskettes, software, recordings or other documentation regardless of physical form or characteristics, that are prepared, owned, used, in the possession of or retained by a public agency."
- Request open records access from "the chief administrative officer or any other employee who is responsible for maintenance, care and keeping of public records."

Summary of Open Meetings Law

- Public agencies that must have open meetings include "virtually every state or local governing body that exists to serve or regulate the citizenry including those committees (by whatever name) that are created by public agencies." Examples include city councils, advisory committees and school boards.
- For an agency to meeting in secret session, "the general nature of the business to be discussed in secret and the specific law allowing secrecy must be noted in open session." The agency then makes a motion and votes to go into closed session where no final action can be taken.
- To prepare for public meetings, an agency must make a regular schedule of meetings available to the public.

SOURCE: REPORTER'S GUIDE TO KENTUCKY'S OPEN MEETINGS, OPEN RECORDS AND SHIELD LAW AT [HTTP://WWW.KYPRESS.COM/STAMEND/POCKET GUIDE.ASP](http://www.kypress.com/STAMEND/POCKET GUIDE.ASP)

VP

Continued from page 1

"Lisa has a proven ability to work with the community," said Philip Greasley, associate vice president for University Engagement.

Community engagement is an important element of UK's Top 20 Business Plan, Higgins-Hord said. It provides educational opportunities for students and faculty and creates positive change in communities across the state.

Bringing people together and helping them understand engagement is the focus of Higgins-Hord's work, she said.

"Too often, institutions have conducted engagement in a one-way, top-down manner," Subbaswamy said. "The most effective service is the result of engaging in a true conversation with peo-

ple, listening to their needs and then working in partnership and collaboration with them to develop research-based solutions."

The new position will expand Higgins-Hord's focus on community engagement from Lexington to all of Kentucky.

Higgins-Hord wants to create focus groups throughout the state to evaluate what UK is doing and what could improve engagement between the university and different regions.

Greasley and Higgins-Hord will work together in developing, implementing and assessing a community outreach and engagement strategic plan, Greasley said.

Students can get involved in UK's outreach efforts on many different levels, Higgins-Hord said.

"Engagement is an opportunity for students to put the knowledge they learn

at UK to use and see how it works or doesn't work in the real world," she said.

Higgins-Hord's previous work in engagement focused on the relationship between UK and Lexington. She founded and will continue chairing the University Neighborhood Advisory Council.

She will also continue serving as co-chair of Lexington's Town and Gown Commission, which supports communication between UK and the surrounding community.

Higgins-Hord said she is excited about the opportunities the new position presents.

"This is about getting to know different communities and figuring out how we can work together to create a better quality of life for the people there," she said. "I want to make sure the university is a change-agent."

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Murderball star to speak on his life, adversity

By Bill Brown
news@kykernel.com

Athletes in armored wheelchairs in an intense competition might be unusual in a regular rugby game, but when people see Mark Zupan, a quadriplegic rugby player from the MTV documentary "Murderball," they might get a broader idea of what defines a sport.

The wheelchair rugby star will be on campus speaking tonight at 8 in the Student Center Grand Ballroom. The event is free and open to everyone.

"This won't be a typical handicap awareness lecture," said Steve Hoffman, executive director of promotions for the Student Activities Board. "He has a compelling story and his own perspectives on adversity."

"His points of view on being confined are so unique, and the way he talks about adversity, his attitude is so different. That's what is so admiring about him. It is good to see that he has a sense of humor on the topic."

At the age of 18, Zupan went out for a victory celebration after winning a soccer game. After heavy drinking he ended up taking a nap in the bed of his friend's truck.

Shortly after, his friend drove home without knowing Zupan was sleeping in the back. The truck was involved in a wreck and Zupan was thrown into a canal, where he hung onto a branch for close to 14 hours.

A pedestrian discovered Zupan, but he had gone into hypothermia. As a result, he became a quadriplegic, a condition where all four limbs experience paralysis, though not necessarily total paralysis.

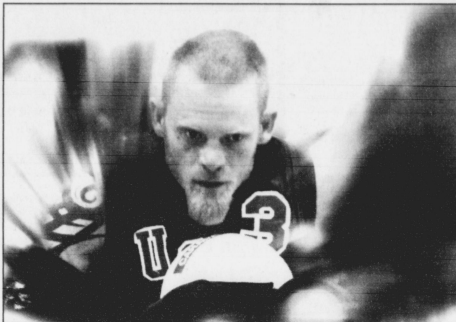


PHOTO COURTESY OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES BOARD
Mark Zupan, a quadriplegic rugby player from the MTV documentary "Murderball," will be speaking on campus tonight at 8 in the Student Center Grand Ballroom. The event is free and everyone is welcomed to attend.

It didn't stop him from moving on with his life, and he later went on to graduate from the Georgia Institute of Technology, became a civil engineer and won two quadriplegic rugby national championships.

He also won the 2004 Quad Rugby Player of the Year, became a Paralympics quadriplegic rugby bronze medalist and became a spokesman for the Paralympics rugby team.

Zupan also recently wrote a book with Tim Swanson called, "Gimp: When Life Deals You a Crappy Hand, You Can Fold or You Can Play."

Hoffman hopes Zupan's speech will inspire those who attend.

"He doesn't see himself as a victim," Hoffman said. "He doesn't see himself as weaker or less of a person. He approached his obstacles with determination and a sense of humor, and that's admirable."

Students bring back handbook for freshmen

By Jennifer Graham
news@kykernel.com

Incoming freshmen for the fall should see UK in a clearer light than that of their predecessors thanks to a group of students and faculty rolling the K-Book out of retirement.

Drew Trimble, a political science and communications sophomore, and Grant Mills, a history sophomore, wanted the freshmen class to be prepared and have resources on hand to orient themselves with campus.

They found the solution for this on-hand reference guide in the K-Book.

"The K-Book is an all-inclusive student manual," said Mills, a K-Book editorial board member. "Our staff refers to it as the 'freshman Bible' because it will serve as a reference tool for anything and everything new students will need to know."

Trimble, editor-in-chief of the K-Book, said the guide will replace other freshman guides like the Big Blue Book.

The K-Book dates back to 1901. It was used as a student handbook, but was later retired in the 1960s and replaced with the Big Blue Book.

"We have conducted some research at the King Library and saw many of the old K-Books," Mills said. "Those books gave us inspiration, but ours will be much more inclusive and modernized, of course."

The goal of the K-Book is to be more comprehensive than the Big Blue Book, Trimble said. Also, students will write the book, so it will have a student perspective that freshmen can more closely relate to, he said.

"We want the K-Book to be graphically appealing and remain collegiate," said Nancy Stephens, assistant director of new student and parent programs and K-Book faculty adviser. "We will focus on making bulletted lists rather than full pages of text as the Big Blue Book had."

As of now, only freshmen will receive the K-Book. However, the K-Book staff is hoping all students will eventually have access to the handbook.

"Right now, our focus is on new students. However, we would love to find a way to get the K-Book into the hands of all UK students that want to have it," Stephens said. "Unfortunately, it probably wouldn't be without a cost."

The idea of the K-Book came about in group discussions at the Leadership Summit in the fall.

"Our group saw that retention and involvement in organizations were not as good as we felt they should be," Mills said. "Originally, we wanted to create something that would help students learn about organizations and help them sign up for them if they were interested."

The K-Book stemmed from there.

"We want students to keep their K-Books to answer their future questions and not discard them after flipping through it like most of us did with the Big Blue Book," Trimble said.

The K-Book is still a work in progress, and the staff is looking for more input from freshmen. They will be hosting an open forum to discuss what else could be added or removed from the K-Book. There will be two meetings today from 4 to 5 p.m. and 5 to 6 p.m. in room 363 of the Student Center. Free food will be provided.

Keith Richards admits to snorting father's ashes

By Corky Siemaszko
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

NEW YORK — In Keith Richards' world, it's ashes to ashes — and then up the nose with some cocaine.

"I snorted my father's ashes," the Rolling Stones guitarist claims in an interview with the British music magazine NME. "He was cremated and I couldn't resist grinding him up with a little bit of blow. My dad wouldn't have cared."

Richards, who pretty much set the standard for rock 'n' roll wild men, said the macabre mixture of ashes and cocaine "went down pretty well, and I'm still alive."

The leathery legend conceded the creepy concoction just may be the "strangest thing I've tried to snort."

But Richards warned musicians who might try staggering in his footsteps

against emulating his substance-abusing style — and said he has survived for 63 years because he's "just kind of lucky."

"I've no pretensions about immortality," he added. "I was No. 1 on the 'Who's likely to die' list for 10 years. I mean, I was really disappointed when I fell off the list."

Richards had a tempestuous relationship with his father, Bert. They later reconciled and Richards often took him out on the road with the Stones.

Bert died in 2002 at age 84. His mother, Doris Dupree, is still alive at age 87.

By his own admission, Richards has done all kinds of illegal drugs and he is rarely seen in public without a cigarette in his thin lips, a vodka bottle in hand and a bandana around his head.

Richards' rep for living on the edge was cemented in the public consciousness

with stories about how he needed blood transfusions to shake his heroin habit.

Unlike reformed rockers such as Eric Clapton, who turned pious when they straightened out, Richards joked about using drugs "responsibly."

"A nice fix at breakfast, one for eleven and another one at teatime — it was like breaks at the cricket or something," he said in one interview.

But Richards, who co-wrote rock classics like "Satisfaction" and "Honky Tonk Women" with Mick Jagger, nearly messed up his obituary with an uncool death last year when he fell out of a coconut tree in Fiji.

Richards clonked himself in the head so badly he needed surgery to relieve the swelling on his brain. The mishap forced the Stones to postpone several European shows.

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Get Excited
APRIL 6-27

U.S. searches for retired FBI agent reported missing in Iran

By Jay Weaver
MCCLEACHY NEWSPAPERS

MIAMI — One-time FBI agent Robert Levinson was known for targeting international crime with his sharp mind and super-secret sources.

He tapped a few informants in Panama to help Miami prosecutors build a big drug case against Manuel Noriega. The ex-dictator, suspected of letting a Colombian cartel ship tons of cocaine through his country, was convicted in 1992.

"He was an agent who dedicated himself to intelligence as opposed to a gumshoe chasing down leads," said former U.S. Attorney Guy Lewis, who worked on the Noriega case. "He was a stealthy guy."

Now the retired agent is in the middle of a mystery: U.S. authorities are trying to locate the 59-year-old Coral Springs, Fla., man in Iran, where he was reported missing after going to the Persian Gulf country to do research for a writer on a man who lives there, a law enforcement source says.

The FBI would not confirm any information, except to say the missing former agent had specialized in organized crime — not any type of intelligence work. Sources familiar with his case said he was not in Iran on any FBI-related covert activity.

The State Department said Tuesday it is waiting for a response from a letter it sent to the Iranian government seeking information about an American citizen who has been missing in Iran for several weeks. Officials have not formally identified Levinson as that citizen.

Spokesman Sean McCormack said the message was passed to the Iranians through the Swiss government, which acts as a channel to send messages between the two countries. The message is a "welfare and whereabouts inquiry."

Levinson's family, who reported him missing about three weeks ago when he stopped making his regular calls home, could not be reached for comment on Tuesday. Levinson, who is known as Bobby, was last heard from while in a coastal area of southern Iran or near Kish Island, a resort area.

There seems to be no doubt that Levinson was planning to return to South Florida. The former agent, recognized for his expertise in organized crime including the Russian mob, is a scheduled panelist at an April 24-25 financial conference in Miami.

Levinson is set to talk about Russians as potentially high-risk clients at the conference, organized by OffshoreAlert, a newsletter that tracks money-laundering and other financial crimes in the Caribbean. His session, on April 25, is titled: "Russian Clients: How to Evaluate Them."

David Marchant, publisher of the newsletter, said he contacted Levinson to participate in the conference on Jan. 23 and received confirmation

in an e-mail one month later.

"He seemed to have excellent credentials," Marchant said. "I am looking forward to him being a great addition to our conference. I can only hope his disappearance is as much due to him being unable to make a telephone call or send e-mails rather than anything else."

According to his resume, Levinson graduated Phi Beta Kappa from City College of New York in 1970.

He went right to work for the Justice Department, starting as a special agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration. After six years, he switched to the FBI, serving as a special agent in Los Angeles, New York and Miami through 1998.

Levinson focused on international organized crime, fraud and money laundering — including representing the United States on global organized crime task forces that targeted Colombian drug cartels and criminal groups in the former Soviet Union, according to his resume.

As an agent, Levinson also taught at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va., the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Academy in Ottawa, and the International Law Enforcement Academy in Budapest.

"He always had a reputation in the FBI of being brilliant," said ex-special agent Hugh Cochran, who retired from the Miami field office a decade ago.

Levinson, described as a workaholic who had contacts worldwide, is perhaps best known for foreseeing criminal trends before they fully materialized.

Case in point: The Russian crime syndicate's expansion from New York to Miami and other cities.

"He was beginning to identify and report on Russian organized crime before it was the crime du jour," Lewis recalled.

In 1998, The Miami Herald reported that Russian-speaking mobsters regarded as the most sophisticated criminals ever to hit America were turning South Florida into one of their main U.S. bases, behind only New York and perhaps San Francisco.

They were holding internal summits and meeting with Italian Mafia and Colombian drug cartel leaders, buying luxury condos and running scams, according to federal authorities interviewed by The Miami Herald.

Levinson, who had just retired when the story was published that July, was quoted as an expert saying: "There are definitely a lot of major league players here . . . who want that Miami Vice lifestyle."

In retirement, according to his resume, Levinson started a consulting firm investigating money laundering and other financial schemes.

He also began making the rounds as an expert on TV. Among his credits: PBS's "Frontline."

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Cats frustrated after rain cancels game against Western Carolina

By Eric Lindsey
elindsey@kykernel.com

Last night's baseball game between No. 11 Kentucky and Western Carolina at Cliff Hagan Stadium was canceled after two and half innings because of inclement weather.

The Cats (24-4-1, 4-4-1 Southeastern Conference) were trailing the Catamounts (17-11, 3-3 Southern Conference) 2-1 in the bottom of the third inning when the game was delayed and ultimately called off.

"It's a real disadvantage to us," head coach John Cohen said. "It's the second week in a row we've been rained out. Western Carolina is a very good club and we were really looking forward to getting this game in."

The Catamounts came into the game as a major threat to the Cats' home-field dominance. WCU had already posted three upset wins over top-20 teams this season and were poised to make it four after jumping on the Cats 2-1 early last night.

The Cats got on the scoreboard in the first inning despite not getting a hit. A sacrifice fly to right field by junior first baseman Sawyer Carroll scored junior center fielder Antone DeJesus from third base to put the Cats up 1-0. DeJesus reached base after being hit by a pitch.

WCU answered in the second inning when first baseman John Ingram homered to tie the score at 1-1. An inning later, the Catamounts took the lead after center fielder Barret Shaft singled up the middle, driving in shortstop Brent Greer from second base.

The Cats had a runner on first base and DeJesus up to bat when the game was canceled.

All statistics from last night's game are unofficial. According to NCAA rules, five innings must be played for a game to be official.

DeJesus had mixed feelings after the Cats second consecu-



ELLIOTT HESS | STAFF

UK junior center fielder Antone DeJesus scores UK's only run in last night's rain shortened game against Western Carolina. The game will not be made up.

tive home game was canceled.

"I think it can be a disadvantage and a benefit," DeJesus said. "It can be a benefit because some of the guys on our team are banged up, and this can be an opportunity for them to heal."

The disadvantage for the Cats is that they will have had four days off without playing a full game going into a pivotal conference series against Tennessee this weekend, DeJesus

said.

"I have high hopes for this weekend," DeJesus said. "We really didn't play to the best of our ability last weekend (against Mississippi State) and we were really looking forward to getting back out on the field tonight."

The game will not be made up. The Cats' first game in a three-game series against the Vols is Friday at 4 p.m.

Rain offers chance to reflect on more than just baseball

Bunts from a torrential downpour at Cliff Hagan Stadium:

■ The improvements to the baseball park are impressive. The most recent change was the addition of a 2006 Southeastern Conference Champions logo to the "Green Monster" in right field. It looks nice, although the press box consensus was that it was a bit off center.



CHRIS DELOTT
Kernel
columnist

■ The Cats got rained out Tuesday night, but that won't take any of the luster off this weekend's huge series with SEC rival Tennessee. Friday's game will be the start of an important two-week stretch for the team. After hosting Tennessee, the Cats travel to Louisville next Wednesday before Vanderbilt visits Hagan Stadium the next weekend. Perhaps the most important question, then, is the health of Collin Cowgill. The outfielder, who has been injured since the start of the year, is due back soon. And, with that schedule, the sooner the better for the Cats.

■ Coolest sight of the night: Watching manager John Cohen jog out to the tarp along the third base line and help his players and the grounds crew cover up the infield. When's the last time you saw Joe Torre unraveling the tarp?

■ Watching Cohen's team — and the excitement they've generated in Lexington since his

hire in 2004 — is one great example of a coaching hire gone right. Athletic director Mitch Barnhart nailed his choice of a baseball coach, just as he got it right with women's basketball (Mickie DeMoss) and volleyball (Craig Skinner). For that reason, Big Blue Nation should have faith in Barnhart to hire the right guy to coach the men's basketball team, even if that guy's name isn't Billy Donovan.

■ But, I'm sure everyone would feel a lot better if that guy's name is Billy Donovan.

■ And if it's not Billy Donovan, who will it be? No, this won't be another article listing names and reasons. But it is interesting to wonder about Barnhart's Plan B. The guess here is that's already been decided, and that even if Donovan turns the job down, a new coach will be introduced in the next few days.

■ In fact, tomorrow would be a good time, because I want to go to Keeneland on Friday.

■ Speaking of Lexington's horse track, this week is yet another reason why I love sports. On the same weekend that the college basketball season came to an end, the professional baseball season began. The symmetry — beginning and end, opening day and closing contest — is perfect. And it gets even better when Keeneland's spring meet fires out of the starting gates this week.

■ I haven't been so great on predictions lately — or ever — as evidenced by my projection of a UCLA-Georgetown final. (And you can stop sending me e-mails now.) But here's one more: Put your money on Chris DiMarco in the Masters. After all, it is the year of the Gators.



Senior right fielder Mike Brown is congratulated by his teammates after bunting junior center fielder Antone DeJesus to second base in yesterday's rain shortened game against Western Carolina. DeJesus scored one batter later.

ELLIOTT HESS | STAFF

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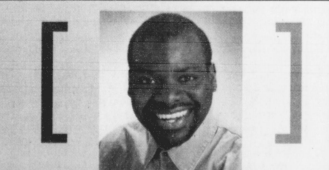
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Online voting worked all right; now improve it

Student Government left its polling booths in storage this year in favor of laptop computers hooked up to a new Internet voting program.

The election coordinators surely braced themselves on the eve of the election, unsure of how the new voting process would perform. With any new technology, it seems hiccups and confusion are inevitable.

But over two days of voting, the online voting program never failed. Voting this year went just as smoothly as last year.

Unfortunately, it didn't go any smoother than last year either. The results were scheduled to be announced at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, only an hour and half after polls closed. In previous years, the announcement took place closer to 8 p.m.

Yet when the results were read off this year, the sun had set and the candidates had been mulling around the Student Center patio — and later the lawn next to the WRFL office, when everyone was told to move to make room for another event — for nearly two hours.

The delay was a result of the online voting program's counting of write-in candidates — or, more accurately, the lack of counting. Though there was a field for students to write in votes, the system did not automatically count the 262 votes that were cast that way.

Though relatively few voters cast write-in votes, those votes must still be counted, as demonstrated by two of the college senator elections going to write-in candidates. A candidate running a write-in campaign in the future

KERNEL EDITORIAL

could overload the election board, possibly delaying the results announcement until Friday.

When the elections board meets in a few weeks, improving the voting system to better handle write-in votes should be one of its top priorities. The system worked well, but there's room for improvement.

Online voting also didn't have the effect on voter turnout that many hoped for. Students cast 3,273 ballots, a total of 140 more than last year, but the number of presidential votes was 34 fewer because not all students chose to vote for president.

It's not entirely surprising turnout didn't increase with the new system, as the implementation — laptop computers set up at the old polling locations in place of the polls — did not make voting particularly more convenient for students.

What it did do, though, is show that the online voting system works just as well as the previous polls; now it's ready to be expanded for next year. With a more autonomous polling system, fewer workers should be required at each site, meaning that the other workers can be assigned to new locations and making voting more accessible to all UK students.

Online voting in this year's SG election has demonstrated that any uncertainty voters had about the system was unfounded; it's more than capable of handling future elections. Now it's time to expand the system to make sure it counts all votes quickly and that it reaches as many students as possible.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Columnist's assertions about Christianity were misguided

Linsen Li's column on atheism in the April 2 Kernel tells a story of widespread Christian influence in current political affairs — an influence that, according to Li, is the result of a failure of Americans to realize a separation of church and state. For an atheist like Li, the decision of whom to vote for may be easy. But as a Christian, my decision is slightly more complex. When Christians vote they have the responsibility of weighing in all of their beliefs and making sure that the candidate representing them has a fundamental understanding of such beliefs.

The fact that there is a separation of church and state protects the general public from being persecuted by the government for their own beliefs. But in no way does it dictate that people should sweep aside all of their own beliefs before voting.

Li talks about a dangerous society in which everyone would be Christian, which causes me to ask if Li is familiar with what being Christian really is. The term Christian means "belonging to Christ," and when speaking about Christ I am referring to Jesus of Nazareth. If Li were at all familiar with Jesus, then he would know that a world following Christ's teachings would not be dangerous at all.

The reference Li makes to the "Christianity-dominated Europe" is no different than me speaking about the terrorist actions of several Muslims on Sept. 11. To take radically misdirected Christians or Muslims and have them represent all the other people of their faith is a dangerous accusation and a battle many have to fight on a regular basis.

I am not an atheist, so obviously I do not understand this inequality that Li speaks of. If he is oppressed for his beliefs, then that is regrettable to say the least. However, for Li to ask me to set aside all of my beliefs when I go into the voting booth shows a clear underestimation of what being Christian means. While I fail at being a true Christian on many accounts I do manage to get at least one thing correct when I cast my vote for the person who I have come to understand as the best candidate for the job and for me as a Christian.

Li ends his argument by suggesting that Christians talk to atheists. Well, Li, I agree with you 100 percent on that one.

Paul Borntraeger
History junior

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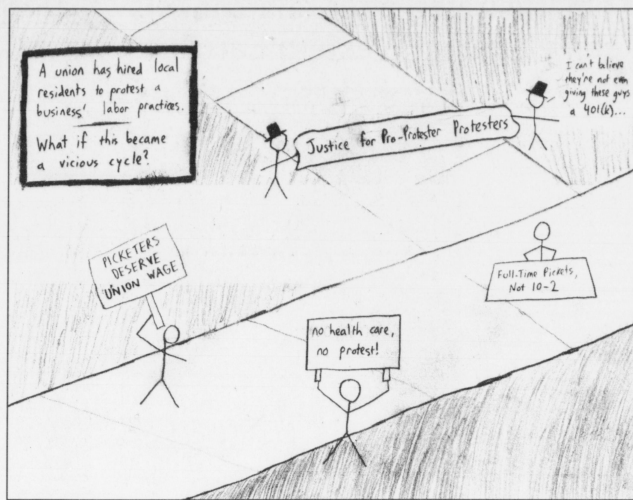
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The Kernel is looking for a cartoonist to draw pieces for the Opinions page on a regular basis. Those who have an interest in campus and local issues will be given special attention, although cartoonists of all interests will be considered.

E-mail bkenkel@kykernel.com



BRENTON KENKEL, Kernel cartoonist

You gotta fight for SG's right (to a party system)

A significant cause of Student Government's perennial accountability deficit is that almost every new president is a "lame duck" — meaning he or she will not face re-election — from the get-go.

The last SG president to do so served two terms was Rachel Watts, who served from 2003 to 2005. Both Becky Ellingsworth and

Jonah Brown, along with their respective vice presidents, all served one term only. Next year's leaders, President Nick Phelps and Vice President Brittany Langdon, will both be seniors, making it unlikely either will run again.

Lame-duck presidents have no "accountability moment," to use George W. Bush's infamous phrase. They can do — or fail to do — as they please without fear of public reprisal by voters.

Yet it would be counterproductive to expect most SG presidents to run for re-election. That would require

candidates to initially run as sophomores, when it is far less likely they'll have the connections or skills they need to do the job well.

There is, however, an avenue for accountability other than re-election: a party system.

Suppose that SG candidates campaigned under the auspices of established parties, rather than ephemeral, single-year "tickets." Then candidates from the incumbent president's party would have to answer for the success or failure of the current administration, meaning that even decidedly single-term presidents would have a political incentive to perform well.

Accountability wouldn't be the only benefit of a party system. Parties could work on issues that may take more than one school year to resolve. Last year's effort to revise the SG Constitution is a notable example — there was no way the Senate was going to overhaul the organization's governing document in eight months. A party, by contrast, could develop a two- or three-year plan for that kind of task.

Finally, a true party system could make voting for at-large senators far less arbitrary. The SG Senate could adopt a system of proportional repre-

sentation similar to that used in legislatures worldwide. Students would vote for a single slate instead of 15 candidates, and seats would be allotted based on the percentage of votes each slate received.

I know that political parties and "partisanship" in general have a negative connotation. We are supposed to reverte politicians who are fiercely independent and buck the polarization inherent in a dualistic party structure. The fantasy that follows from this reverence is that "non-partisan" elections automatically produce better results.

But SG as it exists is hardly a model of non-partisan, effective government. Indeed, the current ticket system provides many of the same disadvantages as a party system does (the appearance of polarization) without the advantages (accountability, sustenance over time).

If those who aspire to run for the presidency next spring want to be noticed (and later remembered), they should start working to build parties that will outlast their careers as UK students — and start bringing accountability to Student Government.

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Clinic should do more to ensure satisfactory care for students

I suspect that everyone reading this column can agree on one point: The health and safety of UK students should be the highest priority of this university.

To illustrate this point, our topic for this week comes from sophomore Kristen Svarczkopf, and although anecdotal evidence certainly isn't enough by itself, Svarczkopf's personal experience with the university clinic brings to light the potential hazards of sending students to Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNPs) instead of doctors.

Svarczkopf was originally told by a nurse practitioner that she had the beginning stages of a cold, but was told the next day by a doctor that she actually had pneumonia and was treated as such.

Before you read any further with the intent to send me hate mail decrying my slander of an honorable profession, let me state that I have the utmost respect for every single member of the medical profession, especially nurses, who often work long and hard without comparable pay and respect.

It is undeniable, however, that there is a perfectly good reason why there is a distinction between nurses and doctors. Doctors, rightfully so, undergo longer and more strenuous

training in medicine — usually four years in a medical school compared with a master's degree required for ARNPs in most states, with long internships following college in both cases, typically — and, likewise, are given more responsibilities and privileges in their chosen career than others are.

Furthermore, sending some students to see a nurse practitioner helps even the workload and saves the university money at times.

After all, some students do not need to see a doctor, and their situations are not dire enough to warrant an extensive examination. Take, for instance, my recently sprained ankle. Though my rather disgruntled, crutches-bound self would have probably disagreed at the time, my injury was not terribly complex, and it did not require a doctor to examine the X-rays and tell me that my foot was not broken. The nurse practitioner who saw me was perfectly well qualified to make that assertion.

In Svarczkopf's case, however, the ARNP was severely mistaken in her diagnosis, while a doctor would have been far more qualified to perform the task and less prone to error.

Still, I will certainly grant that both doctors and nurses are going to make mistakes from time to time: the problem is that the process sets up students for a lack of proper attention.

For instance, anyone who has ever gone to the clinic is well aware that the 30-second phone conversation required to schedule an appointment is by no means a lengthy dis-

course regarding what is wrong. This, however, is also the point at which the student is assigned to a doctor or a nurse practitioner.

The problem? Serious cases requiring a doctor's attention can easily slip by those making the appointments, and less qualified nurse practitioners could just as easily be assigned to the student, creating the potential for misdiagnosis.

All in all, it is vital that we remember that ARNPs play an essential role in the health community, and that modern hospitals and medical offices could not function without them. Regardless, there are still differences between nurse practitioners and doctors, and students at UK expect satisfactory and safe health care while on campus.

Many times, students do not even realize until they are seated in the examination room that the person seeing them is not a doctor. At this point, it would be overly complicated and simply insulting to ask to see a doctor. Most students likely feel uncomfortable asking for a doctor, either because they don't think it's necessary when they schedule the appointment, or they do not feel like they have a choice once they are assigned to an ARNP.

The bottom line is that students deserve the best that UK has to offer, and that includes being provided with the most qualified health professionals when trying to take advantage of University Health Services.

Chad Reese is a philosophy and political science junior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

Obama in Chicago: portrait of a pragmatist

By Bob Sexter and John McCormick
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO — Barack Obama packed his few belongings into his newly purchased but creaky old Honda and headed west from New York into a political and social battle zone.

When the raw, 23-year-old community organizer hit Chicago in early 1985, the racially charged fighting between Harold Washington, the city's first black mayor, and white ethnic aldermen led by Ed Vrdolyak had earned the city a bitter nickname: Beirut on the Lake.

Obama learned just how bitter on his first trip to a Hyde Park barber, who recalled how Washington's victory two years earlier had sent African-Americans into the streets "like the day Joe Louis knocked out (Max) Schmeling." Obama writes in his memoir, "Dreams from My Father."

But Obama, the youthful outsider, brought a decidedly practical view of the Washington-Vrdolyak bouts to the Far South Side community he was organizing.

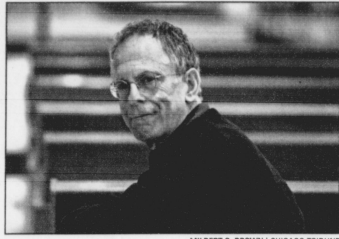
"They're not enemies, he used to tell us. They're both working for their constituents, and they have to do this," recalled Loretta Augustine Herron, a founding member of Obama's Developing Communities Project. "Whoever can help you reach your goal, that's who you work with. ... There are no permanent friends, no permanent enemies."

That mantra of professional organizers has come to define Obama's public life. Even his choice of church in Chicago involved a political calculation of sorts. Now his penchant for pragmatism could prove one of his greatest strengths, or liabilities, on the campaign trail.

Much has been made of Obama's ability to bridge feuding conservatives and liberals in Illinois, and before that at the Harvard Law Review, where in 1990 he became its first black leader. As a presidential candidate, he bills himself as a uniter who can usher in a post-partisan era where Washington fights less and gets more done.

The path to his party's nomination, though, runs through Democratic primary voters still chafing from years of conservative Republican rule. And what the junior senator from Illinois highlights as an eagerness to plow common ground with political opposites may be seen by some voters as a sign that he lacks firm principles or an ability to stake and hold his ground.

Obama firmly rejected that notion. "There are a set of principles that I care about. And there are people I'm fighting for in this campaign," he said in a recent interview. If any Republican, or Democrat for that matter, opposes those principles, Obama



MILBERT D. BROWN | CHICAGO TRIBUNE
Gilbert Kellman, the organizer in Chicago, Ill., who first hired Barack Obama, said Obama revealed his pragmatism early on.

ma vowed to "go after them with everything that I've got."

The art of working with one's enemies comes straight out of Community Organizing 101, the on-the-job course in human relations and activism Obama took in the mid-1980s alongside low-income residents in the Roseland community and the Altgeld Gardens public housing development.

"It was in these neighborhoods that I received the best education I ever had," Obama said in the February speech that launched his White House run.

The work was rewarding — pushing for asbestos removal at a local job training office, even agitating to fill potholes and erect stop signs. Still, work on the ground floor of activism also was limiting. The young Obama yearned to do something on a bigger stage, he confided to Gerald Kellman, the organizer who had brought him to Chicago.

Two years into Obama's time in the city, the men attended a conference at Harvard University. Strolling the same ivy-covered campus his father had left his family to attend more than two decades earlier, Obama reflected on a lesson from his father's life.

The elder Obama had returned to his native Kenya bursting with intellect and ambition, only to devolve into an embittered bureaucrat because he couldn't find a way to reconcile his ideals with political realities, Kellman remembers Obama telling him.

Obama was determined not to follow in those footsteps. "He talked about what happens to you if you're not practical in finding ways to do things effectively," Kellman said.

Maybe he should go to law school at Harvard and prepare for a life in politics, Kellman recalled Obama saying. Not long after, that is precisely what Obama did.

Obama arrived in Chicago a blank slate. He knew little about the city's then-dedicated power structure, its social fabric or its ethos of "we don't want nobody

nobody sent." He had grown up mostly in Hawaii, far removed from urban America's black communities and culture.

The experience in Chicago "taught me a lot about listening to people as opposed to coming in with a predetermined agenda," Obama recalled.

Community organizing has long intrigued young social activists with its goal of guiding the poor and disenfranchised to exercise power. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, now a rival of Obama's for the Democratic nomination, wrote her undergraduate thesis at Wellesley College on the life and ideas of Saul Alinsky, the godfather of professional organizing.

Chicago was Alinsky's lab. He began his work in the Back of the Yards neighborhood during the Depression, persuading hostile groups of white ethnics to band together to pressure meatpackers and slumlords for better working and living conditions. He later took the same tactics to Chicago's black neighborhoods and other cities as well.

Thanks to Alinsky, would-be organizers considered Chicago something of a Mecca. Not Obama. After his graduation from Columbia University in 1983, he worked briefly for a New York financial consultant and then a consumer organization.

Restless, he read the classifieds the same way others might look for a job as a fry cook or find a puppy to buy. On a trip to the Midtown branch of the New York public library, Obama was scouring what he described as a "newsletter for do-gooder jobs" when he spotted a help-wanted ad from Kellman's Calumet Community Religious Conference.

It might not have happened at all. Kellman was looking for an African-American, but the resume he received in the mail was from a Hawaiian native with a name hard to place.

"What is this guy, Obama, is that Japanese?" Kellman asked his Japanese-American wife. "Actually, it could be," was her answer.

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