

# Kentucky Kernel

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Wednesday, February 13, 1991



## Campus featured on CNN

By NICK COMER  
Staff Writer

UK student journalists yesterday got the chance to be part of Cable News Network's coverage of the gulf war, asking questions to CNN correspondents in Saudi Arabia and the Pentagon about war coverage.

In a live broadcast from UK's Grehan Journalism Building, students in a Journalism 204 class — plus a dozen or so who gathered to watch — spoke out as part of the network's coverage of public reaction to the war.

The segment aired live on CNN at 12:15 p.m.

CNN correspondent Jeff Flock directed students' questions to correspondents Carl Rochelle in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, Charles Bierbauer at the White House and John Holliman at the Pentagon.

Students expressed concerns about topics like troop morale, U.S. plans for a ground war, Soviet criticism of U.S. air raids and the recession.

The questions especially were geared toward the journalistic aspects of CNN's war coverage.

Holliman, who broadcast the sights and sounds of the first U.S. attack on Baghdad from his hotel room on Jan. 16 along with fellow CNN reporters Bernard Shaw and



Pam Mitchell, a communications sophomore, is interviewed by CNN's Jeff Flock (top). Students watched the live broadcast, which began at 12:15 p.m., from a Grehan Journalism Building classroom.

Peter Arnett, responded to a question about the danger to journalists covering the war.

"I think it is important for us, as reporters, to be as close to the action as we can be and still do our job," he said. "That was one of the fantastic things to me — to be where the action was and to still be able to report it."

John Tilley, a journalism senior, asked about CNN's role as the only network that still has a correspondent in Baghdad.

Holliman attributed CNN's unique access to "very good, very active, very efficient people" who worked harder and "came out ahead on the story."

For Stephanie Goff, a Patterson School graduate student, the question-and-answer session provided a rare opportunity to get information

from a source close to high-level government officials about the safety of her family members in Saudi Arabia.

Goff said that her father, an employee of McDonnell-Douglas Corp., is living in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and that his wife is a Saudi citizen.

Rochelle told her he had heard that the U.S. government had made "adjustments" for dependents of U.S. citizens and arrangements to use its military planes to airlift American citizens from Saudi Arabia, if necessary.

The CNN crew that filmed the segment is based in Chicago.

But producer David Steck said the crew has been on the road since the war began, doing the same type of

See CNN, Page 3

## Iraq welcomes Soviet bid to end war

By EDITH M. LEDERER  
Associated Press

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia — In a forecast of all-out war, Marine and naval gunners combined their fire with U.S. air strikes yesterday to pound Iraqi tanks and artillery massed in southern Kuwait.

Saddam Hussein, meanwhile, welcomed a Soviet bid to try to end the Persian Gulf War short of a bloody fight to the finish in the desert. But the Iraqi president showed no sign of backing off from Kuwait.

The U.S. command said the thunderous land-sea-and-air barrage that shook southern Kuwait could be described as part of "our training program" — training for the major offensive that may lie over the horizon.

Fresh signs emerged of just how tough that fight may be.

Iraq's Parliament speaker said the Iraqi military has saved its "lethal developed weapons" — an apparent reference to chemical and biological arms — from the non-stop air raids. And the Iraqis were reported taking new steps to fortify Kuwait City against eventual attack.

In Baghdad, Washington and elsewhere, statesmen and emissaries conferred on the prospects for peace and the outlook for intensified war.

In the Iraqi capital, where two government ministry buildings were devastated by direct bomb hits yesterday, Soviet envoy Yevgeny Primakov presented Saddam with a verbal message from Mikhail S.

Gorbachev conveying the Kremlin leader's view of the conflict, Baghdad radio said.

The radio quoted the Iraqi president as telling Primakov he is prepared to cooperate with the Soviet Union "in the interest of finding a peaceful, political, equitable and honorable solution to the region's central issues, including the situation in the gulf."

At the same time, however, Saddam declared the Iraqi people were

determined to "beat back the aggressors," the radio said.

Still another peace bid came from the non-aligned movement.

After a meeting of foreign ministers from 15 non-aligned nations in Yugoslavia, it was announced that a delegation would go to Baghdad to try to head off an escalation of the war. Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran said a message re-

See GULF, Page 5

## UK chief stresses involvement in speech

By CHRISTINE BOTTORFF  
Contributing Writer

UK president Charles Wethington said yesterday that the University needs to become more involved with the state's massive education reform effort.

The state legislature, heading a call from the Kentucky Supreme Court to revamp the state school system, approved wide-spread changes in the 1990 general session. As a result of the Education Reform Act, he said, people around the country "are talking about Kentucky in a different light than they ever have before."



WETHINGTON

"My vision ... is fairly simple. We want to see a university that is nationally recognized."

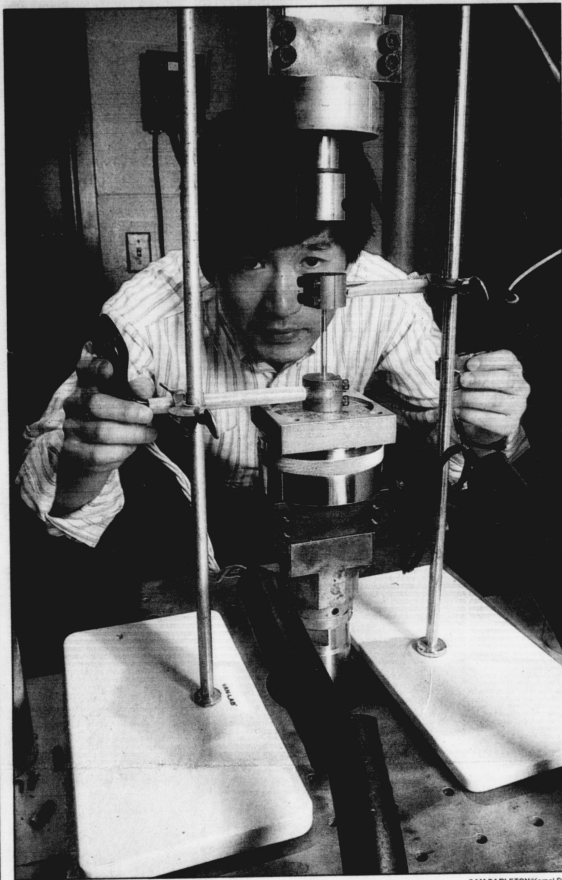
Charles Wethington,  
UK president

Wethington raised this issue yesterday afternoon at a speech given in the Student Center, which was sponsored by the Donovan Scholars.

He addressed his goals for the future. "My vision ... is fairly simple," Wethington said. "We want to see a university that is nationally recognized for its excellence and for the quality of its teaching, its research, its service and its graduates."

He also mentioned the need to continue increasing faculty salaries, improving current library facilities and raising funds for a new library. Other goals included providing additional equipment and facilities for

## QUITE A MOUTHFUL



SAM CARLETON/Kentel Staff

Engineering professor Kenji Okazaki's trip to the dentist inspired him to create a device used to improve the technology of dental implants. He is shown above.

## Trip to dentist sparked project

By KYLE FOSTER  
Staff Writer

When engineering professor Kenji Okazaki went to the dentist, he didn't expect to be told that he had gingivitis and would have to have many teeth pulled.

He also didn't expect to come out of the appointment with insight into a new research project.

As a patient of the Periodontics Graduate Program, Okazaki was told that to eat the meat that he enjoyed so much, he would have to have dental implants, which

would cost about \$700 — not including the physician's fee.

Titanium implants with very fine threads are used in the process.

To anchor the implant, a hole has to be drilled into the jawbone at about 20 revolutions per minute. "This is very slow," Okazaki said, and the drilling could take three to four hours.

A thread on the bone then has to be made so the implant can be screwed in.

The entire process — from the extraction of teeth to the place-

ment of dentures — takes several months because of the healing time that must be allowed between incisions.

Okazaki had been working with the consolidation of titanium for aircrafts and thought he could develop something more efficient.

He consulted a group of periodontists, a specialty dentistry that deals with the supporting structures of the teeth and diseases that affect them.

The group, which included per-

See DENTIST, Page 3

### UK TODAY

UK woman's forum will present "UK employee childcare concerns" at 11:45 a.m.; Med Center Auditorium; call 257-1099 for more information.

### INDEX

Archivists to battle at Rupp. Story, Page 2.

Sports.....2  
Viewpoint.....4  
Classifieds.....7

Cats vs. Vols

# UK will have to overcome sickness to beat UT

By BARRY REEVES  
Assistant Sports Editor

UK coach Rick Pitino is over his illness, but his team is starting to look a little flushed.

The Cats have lost two games in a row and as a result have blown their two-game lead over Alabama in the race for the Southeastern Conference title.

And it's likely that UK (17-5 overall, 9-3 SEC) will have to face Tennessee tonight (8 p.m. tip-off at Rupp Arena) without point guard Sean Woods, who was admitted to University Hospital yesterday morning with a case of the flu.

"Sean has an acute viral illness," said Dr. Henry Stiene, UK Sports Medicine physician. "He is being treated for dehydration and high fever."

Backcourt mate Jeff Brassow said Woods had a fever of 104 degrees before going to the hospital yesterday. Pitino said there was still a chance that Woods would play if he

gets "his temperature down and he's feeling back to normal."

The loss of Woods is a crippling blow to a team trying to break a two-game losing streak after practically coasting to nine victories in the its first 10 conference games.

It's also bad timing because 16th-ranked UK is in a tight battle for a conference championship, even if it is only for pride.

"At yesterday's news conference, Pitino — who had a stomach virus for about four days last week — did not seem overly concerned about Farmer running the offense, but he was worried about who would back up Farmer."

"My biggest concern is if Richie gets in foul trouble or when Richie needs a break, who do we go with at that point," Pitino said. "That's something we've got to experiment a little bit in practice today and see who's ready to fill that void."

Pitino mentioned small forward John Pelphrey or freshman Carlos Toomer as possible backups. "Carlos physically can get it done,

it's just that he's had a very difficult time learning our system," the UK coach said. "We would just have to simplify the offense and defense a little bit for him."

"... And John is definitely not a natural point guard, but he has the court sense to get the job done, though. We'll just have to do our best."

The Cats, who have had a problem recently with perimeter defense, will have to do their best to stop All-SEC guard Allan Houston. The 6-foot-5 sophomore leads Tennessee (9-14, 5-9) in scoring 23.4 points (second in the SEC) and handing out 4.0 assists a game.

"He's a great player," Farmer said. "He has no weaknesses. There's nothing he can't do. I've played against him since high school, and he's just a great player — one of the best."

Pitino benched Pelphrey and Brassow in recent games because of their poor perimeter defense, and Houston — a 43.7 percent shooter

from three-point range — should be the ultimate test for them.

"He's so tough to guard because if you play real tight on him, he can just drive right by you, but if you give him any room, he'll just burn you with the three," said Brassow, who probably will draw the assignment of guarding Houston. "We'll just have to do the best we can."

Houston's backcourt mate, Lang Wiseman, is another driving guard who can shoot the three-pointer, too. Wiseman, a 6-4 sophomore, is the only other Vol to average double figures at 14.3 points a game.

"I think in Wiseman and Houston we've got to be conscious (of the three-point shot)," said Pitino, who hinted that UK may have to give up a few more three-pointers in order to stop penetration. "Both are great going to the basket and can shoot."

The Cats were able to slow Houston down in their earlier game in Knoxville, which UK won 78-74. Houston scored 19 points in the first

ABOUT THE GAME

**Matchup:** Kentucky (17-5 overall, 9-3 SEC) vs. Tennessee (9-14, 3-9).

**Tipoff:** 8 p.m.

**Place:** Rupp Arena

**Radio Coverage:** Live on the UK Radio Network, WVKL-AM 590 and WHAS-AM 840, with Cawood Ledford and Ralph Hacker.

**TV Coverage:** Live on Jefferson Pilot Sports Network (channel 27) with Tom Hammond and Larry Conley

30 minutes, then hit only one free throw the rest of the way to finish with 20 points.

"We were able to wear him down in the first game," Pitino said. "He just got tired at the end of the game. Hopefully, we will be able to put that kind of pressure on him again."

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# Gulf

Continued from page 1

ceived from Saddam means "our idea for peace" is very much alive." He did not elaborate.

At the White House, President Bush talked over war plans with the visiting defense ministers of Britain and France, allies in Operation Desert Storm.

Allied commanders in Saudi Arabia recommend three to four more weeks of air bombardment before a ground offensive, U.S. military sources say.

The British defense minister, Tom King, underlined this view yesterday, telling reporters after meeting with Bush that "there's some work to be done" before any ground attack.

A senior U.S. military official said the combined-forces bombardment, which began at 4 a.m. yesterday and lasted three hours, was the biggest battlefield action yet initiated by the allied forces.

Reconnaissance had spotted Iraqi artillery, tanks and other armored vehicles concentrating and "hunkered down" in an area of southern Kuwait, Marine Brig. Gen. Richard Neal, a U.S. command spokesman, told reporters.

# CNN

Continued from page 1

interview in various Midwest locations.

Steck said the crew has broadcast similar segments from Kansas State University and the University of Missouri.

Flock said doing the interviews has given him a better understanding of public feeling about the war.

"Before the war, I wasn't sure that the people's response was going to be positive once body bags

started coming in," Flock said. "But we have seen very solid support (for the war) in middle America."

He also said conducting interviews on college campuses has shed some light on what is on the minds of America's college students.

"In recent years there has been a feeling that American college students were really uninformed about the world," Flock said. "We found out that this is not true at all."

Reporters from several media outlets covered CNN's reporting and about 30 people gathered upstairs in the lobby to watch the live broadcast.

# Revised DUI bill approved by House

By MARK R. CHELLGREN  
Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — The House passed a greatly revised version of a DUI bill yesterday, but supporters said they are generally happy with the result.

The debate leading up to the vote was emotional, contentious and included the first legislative mention of the 1988 Carrollton bus crash tragedy that spurred discussion of a stronger law against drunken driving.

The bill was shelved last week after the surprising vote to remove a crucial portion that dealt with the suspension of driving privileges for registering a blood alcohol content of .10 percent or higher, called administrative per se.

A weeklong series of closed meetings produced a bill that contains no administrative license revocation, but does include a section that makes it illegal to drive with a 10 percent blood alcohol content.

Also, a conviction for drunken driving carries an automatic license suspension for 90 days. All but 30 days of that can be avoided by applying for a "hardship license" that may be used to travel to work, school or medical treatment.

Cyrus said the loss of a license can ruin a person's life by costing him his job. "These people have to work," Cyrus said.

# Dentist

Continued from page 1

odontics professor Dr. Raymond A. Kocpzyk, did some brainstorming. Okazaki then showed them a device he created that uses electro-discharge compaction to hit a column of powder with a high voltage current, like lightning, to create a material with a porous surface and a solid core. The device "seemed to us to be ideal for what we were talking about in dentistry," Kocpzyk said.

Kocpzyk said a porous surface would allow the bone to actually grow through the metal to hold it in place.

"This would minimize a lot of machining that has to be done in the mouth and allow us to fit the implant to the patient, which is the opposite of what we're doing right now in implantology," he said.

To fit an implant today, a hole must be drilled in the bone to fit the metal piece.

Because so much machining is involved, it is possible to damage the nerves and/or sinus in the jaw, he said.

"This conventional stuff doesn't have any place to let the bone grow in," Okazaki said. With no place for

the bone to grow, the implant could become loose, slip out of its hole and have to be replaced.

Using the electro-discharge compaction method, the implant could be molded into the existing hole where the tooth was extracted.

Still under research, the implant will not be ready for use in a human mouth for several years.

Okazaki said the process is slow because of a lack of funding for the project.

The research project, funded by grants from The National Institute of Health Research (NIH), is in the animal testing stage.

"We have put the material into rabbit bones," said Dong Kim, a post-doctoral fellow in dental implantology. "So far, we have had pretty good results."

Kocpzyk said the rabbit bones are taking very well to the implants. "We're not seeing any unusual changes that would negate the project," he said.

After completing his doctorate in electro-discharge compaction of powders four years ago, Kim began working on the project with Okazaki and Kocpzyk.

"About 12 million teeth are gone in the United States every year, and we try to replace the bone so they can chew anything," Kim said.

# FELLOWSHIPS

Otis A. Singletary  
and  
W. L. Mathews, Jr.

UK Seniors who expect to enroll in one of the University of Kentucky's graduate or professional programs for 1991-92 are eligible to apply for the Otis A. Singletary and W. L. Mathews, Jr. Fellowships. Application forms and a statement of criteria for eligibility are available in the Graduate School, 365 Patterson Office Tower.

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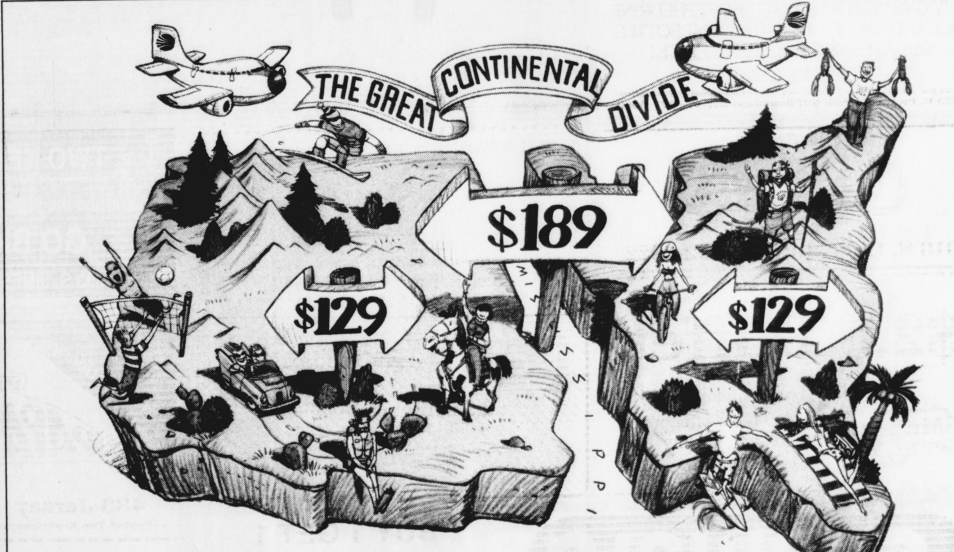
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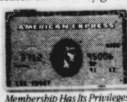
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VIEWPOINT

# Why would anyone want to return to Reagan's fantasy world?

Once in a while, when one right-winger meets up with another, they inevitably wax philosophical about the beloved bygone days of the Reagan administration.

We all hark back to that magical era when the spectacle of Hollywood shone brightly upon the Potomac. "He's no Reagan," right-wingers say when referring to the nowhere-near-right-wing-enough George Bush.

We all miss Reagan's "shining city on a hill," an Oz-like wonderland where an amiable ex-B movie actor could go from hawking General Electric toaster-ovens on TV to commanding the most powerful nation in the history of the world.

Viewers melted each time the Great Communicator's velvet voice oozed from their TV sets. The boob



Toby GIBBS

tube helped Ronald "Dr. Feelgood" Reagan twice rout those whining, gloom-and-doom liberals who had the gall to suggest that the nation might have a few (gasp!) problems. "Problems, schmblems," the Gipper told us.

While previous presidents bored us at press conferences with bland statistics, dry facts and snooze-inducing policy proposals, Mr. Show Biz regaled the nation with zany quips, clever retorts, warm anecdotes and hilarious one-liners.

And on those rare occasions when

the chief executive did honor us with an actual statement concerning government, we all chuckled along with him as he gooped up a few of those pesky little "facts."

Look at his wacky economic policies. On the one hand, he said he would "cut" taxes. On the other hand, he would increase defense spending. On the other hand, the deficit would magically disappear. Of course, few of us have three hands, but that didn't stop the Gipper.

He made sure income taxes were lowered. Of course, behind the scenes, deductions were eliminated. Oh, and excise taxes on gasoline were raised. And huge programs were turned over to the states, forcing them to raise taxes just to stay afloat.

By 1990, taxes were a higher percentage of the Gross National Product than they were in 1980. Of course, Mr. Reagan continued to assail the "tax-and-spend" Democrats. But this isn't to say that his economic programs had no impact. Reagan was critical of Jimmy Carter's \$70 billion deficits. Reagan promised to do something about them, and he did. They instantly increased to the \$200 billion level.

Reagan proved he was certainly a man who gets things done. By the way, the huge deficits were actually someone's fault of Congress, the media, Jimmy Carter, Lyndon John-

son, Woodrow Wilson, Grover Cleveland and all of the other people who happened not to be president at the time.

We stood tall under the Gipper. When tinhorn dictators and flaky barbarians threatened innocent citizens abroad, our prez knew how to handle them: Launch a barrage of macho one-liners.

Clint Eastwood and Sylvester Stallone were quoted. Fiery adjectives were deployed. Angry adverbs were dropped on enemies. The famed Hyperbole Squad was called in to call the bad guys names.

When terrorists destroyed our Marine barracks in Beirut with a truck bomb, the president made sure that Cuban peasants in Grenada knew we meant business when we said we were "standing tall."

Not everything in foreign policy was quite that successful.

When allegations mounted that the president knew of the diversion of Iranian funds to the Nicaraguan contras, he repeatedly assured us that he had no earthly idea what was going on anywhere at any time. After all, he was only president. The nation sighed with relief.

The country loved life in Reaganland. Millions so loved the outdoors that they voluntarily lived along the highways and byways of our larger cities. Millions more, eager to shed unwanted pounds, avoided food and enjoyed the zesty flavor of govern-



JERRY VOUGHT Artist

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Though President Reagan deserved the Best Actor Oscar for his portrayal of the president, let's not forget that wacky supporting cast that we all came to know and love.

\*Roly-poly Ed Meese became an expert on criminal justice and illegal activity. During his tenure, he gained more experience in the courtroom than any attorney general in the history of mankind. And that was just as a defendant.

\*James "Watt, Me Worry?" Watt became a household name as he tried to strip-mine our purple mountains' majesty and turn our fruited plain into a giant parking lot.

\*Nancy Reagan was a constant joy as she accepted free dresses with one hand and guided her Ouija board with the other. It's comforting to know that the guiding force of the free world — the daily heroscape — lies between "Dear Abby" and the Jumble word game on the newspaper page. I shudder to think that a thermonuclear war could have started between Bangladesh and

if a nearsighted sideshow swami mistook the tea leaves.

\*Hundreds more, too numerous to mention here, starred in bit parts as indicted officials consumed by greed and avarice. Of course, this harassment of the Reagan administration was a result of a "liberal media" that somehow overcame its "liberalism" to overwhelmingly endorse Reagan in 1980 and 1984.

Filming of this presidential epic ceased in January 1989. Reagan may have rode off into the sunset, but those fond memories still linger, much like a bizarre fever.

For decades to come, we'll enjoy Reagan's stirring words, his warm spirit, his crippling deficits, his destructive environmental policies, his wasteful lack of an energy policy, his complete apathy towards education — but I digress, lest I run out of ink.

*Senior Staff Writer Toby is a journalism senior and a Kernel columnist.*

**The Storm**

Intensity stirs deep within  
Souls throughout the land  
Whose only purposes being there  
Are to lend a helping hand.  
The soldiers to whom they belong  
Are far from friendly ground  
But spirits and morale are running high  
And cannot easily be downed.  
Hidden tears sprinkle the sand  
Like a light and gentle rain  
But not a sound is made  
Because they hide their pain.  
A longing to be close to loved ones  
Is theirs as they approach the front line  
Though the straight face they keep  
Tells the world they're doing fine.  
They think about their past  
Then what their future holds in store  
And they find themselves praying  
Their last memories aren't of war.  
Thunderous explosions in the air  
Disturb the misleading silence  
The fireworks that light the evening sky  
Are but symbols of great violence.  
They wish to run for shelter  
But instead put up a brave fight  
It's hard to focus on where they are  
Because it's Storming in the Desert tonight.

*Mary K. Henderson is an accounting sophomore.*

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# Kernel column evidence that racism is alive and well in nation

By R.D. Mickle

After reading Kernel columnist C.A. Duane Bonifer's Feb. 4 column, I was appalled at his ignorance and lack of perspective on the situation of blacks in this country.

Sadly enough, Bonifer's view is yet another confirmation of what many blacks have felt and are experiencing in this country today — racism is alive and well — and growing. So let's clear the air — C.A. Bonifer is a racist. Harsh? I call it like I see it, and the proof is in his column.

In his column, Bonifer quotes often out of the neoconservative Allan Bloom's book, "The Closing of the American Mind," a book that he writes should be required reading for all Americans, to justify his own personal beliefs.

One section of the book Bonifer quoted particularly infuriated me: "The fact is that the average black student's achievements do not equal those of the average white student in the good universities, and everybody knows it. It is also a fact that the university degree of a black stu-

dent is also tainted..." That is subtle racism at best. Let's interpret this particular quote.

Bloom is stating that: (1) Blacks do not get into college on their own merit but only because of their skin color; (2) Because blacks are given this special treatment, they are unable to handle the particular course load, thus they are passed along until they graduate with a tainted degree.

Is Bonifer's choice of academic support attacking black college students? Yes! I personally take this as an insult to me and my race. Bonifer was way out of line.

I think that Bonifer's support of Bloom's opinions are the basis for the justification of the condition of blacks in America (or AmeriKKKa) today, that is continued oppression, that is, black inferiority to whites.

By stating that Bloom is correct, Bonifer is endorsing the opinion that black intellectuals — lawyers, doctors, professors or anybody with a college degree — had their degrees given to them because they are black and not because they were smart enough to earn them.

This suggests the inferiority of black people as a whole. They can't earn a degree; it has to be given to

Successful integration can only happen between equals. When 53 percent of the black people in this country live in poverty, are denied equal access to educational opportunities and are disproportionately represented... in the armed forces, in the legislatures and in the boardrooms of this country, then you have what is called internal colonization.

them. Bonifer neglects the larger picture in education: Elementary schools and secondary schools that are majority black are under-financed, presided over by insensitive faculty and discourage intellectual learning.

How in the hell can universities in this country do anything when the educational system undermines it? The elementary and secondary schools that are majority black are set up as a colonial base for the armed forces and low-pay service businesses to be exploited.

The only reason that I am here to write this article is that my mother knew what was going on and encouraged me to lie to go to a majority white high school. Yes, this educational system is messed up.

People wonder why black kids can't do as well as whites on standardized tests when black kids are

taking tests that they are ill-prepared to take in the first place, or why blacks don't seem interested in school when that very school alienates them with a curriculum that is foreign to them.

The results of this situation, of course, provides examples that conservatives love: "Blacks are lazy" or "black student's achievements do not equal those of the average white student in the good universities, and everybody knows it."

Well, Bonifer (I prefer to call you Jesse Helms Jr., you would probably prefer "massa"), you can't see the forest for the trees. Affirmative action was meant to allow qualified blacks to get opportunities that they otherwise would be denied. You insist on saying that unqualified blacks are being given these opportunities, and you use racist academia to justify your personal beliefs.

Successful integration can only happen between equals. When 53 percent of the black people in this country live in poverty, are denied equal access to educational opportunities and are disproportionately represented (35 percent are black, while 15 percent of the population is black) in the armed forces, in the legislatures and in the boardrooms of this country, then you have what is called internal colonization.

Does Bonifer really believe that integration is possible in this society? I get the feeling that he doesn't and is using it to further justify his point. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech was just that — a

dream, while most black Americans live the nightmare.

Bonifer has trouble with the idea of a black history month. Well, if there wasn't a white history year, we wouldn't need a black history month. When black kids and white kids don't know about each other's cultures, they allow for ignorance to manifest itself, and we see the results of it in Bonifer's column.

If Bonifer is really concerned about the plight of black Americans, he sure as hell wouldn't have written a stereotypical column like the one he wrote Feb. 4.

R.D. Mickle is a political science and history sophomore.

## Only the informed should vote

I applaud Kernel columnist N. Alan Cornett for his Jan. 30 column, "Keep ignorant voters away from the polls." But his message should not be restricted to just MTV viewers but to everyone.

I don't understand why there are so many campaigns urging people to vote, we have too many people voting as it is. We have too many people that vote that aren't informed enough to make intelligent decisions.

It is an individual's responsibility to stay informed so they can make intelligent choices when the time comes. I'm not urging people not to vote, I'm just asking that only re-

## LETTERS

sponsible voters turn out at the polls and use their powerful privilege.

Voting is a powerful tool. If someone is not pleased with how the government is performing, then I encourage people to use their power to vote and vote politicians out of office with whom they are not pleased and elect politicians that will do what they want.

This suggests the inferiority of black people as a whole. They can't earn a degree; it has to be given to

Mark Whelan is an accounting freshman.

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Cats vs. Vols

# Houston just 'wasting time' in college, Pitino says

By BARRY REEVES  
Assistant Sports Editor

Rick Pitino thinks it's time for another top Southeastern Conference player to turn professional. The UK coach says Allan Houston, Tennessee's high-scoring guard, has all the attributes of an NBA guard.

"I think (Houston) is the prototype NBA backcourt player," Pitino said at a news conference yesterday. "If he keeps on improving and gets stronger and bigger, I think he's the perfect NBA style backcourt player. "With a lot of guards, you start bring up a lot of buts about the next level. With Allan Houston, you can't find a reason on why, physically or mentally, he couldn't play at the next level and fit in very well. He's got the size, he's got the range on his shot, he's got the intelligence, he's got the defensive abilities. ... Pitino earlier lauded the talent of

## Covering the Cats

Louisiana State center and All-American candidate Shaquille O'Neal, who leads the SEC in scoring and rebounding.

"I really don't think (Houston) should waste any more time. He should just (go on to the NBA) right now," Pitino said with a smile. Then he paused and added, "yesterday."

**A 'special' team**

Even though UK cannot officially win the Southeastern Conference race, Pitino plans to celebrate if the Cats do finish with the league's best record, but he's not quite sure how. "We're probably going to have

some type of day at Memorial Coliseum — where we have our awards ceremony open to the public, and we'll unveil a banner of some sort," Pitino said. "We'll do something special for this team because if we do win it, this is a very special thing, a very special group of young men."

"Special does not do it justice for what they are accomplishing."

With six games remaining in the 18-game round-robin conference schedule, UK and Alabama have 9-3 records and are in first place. Mississippi State, LSU and Vanderbilt are one game back at 8-4.

**Hanson on score**

Pitino called a brief meeting with his center Reggie Hanson yesterday morning to discuss the fact that the senior has been passing up some scoring opportunities.

"I talked with him about getting a little more aggressive on offense," Pitino said. "He's just an unselfish player and passes up a lot of shots."

Hanson said: "He just wants me to start looking for my shot a little bit more. Not to be selfish but if I have an open shot, take it. He wants me to be ready to shoot."

**UT on the rise**

Tennessee coach Wade Houston (25-28 in his second season in Knoxville) said he is happy with his program's progress despite the poor record.

"I haven't looked that much at the win-loss record, and I'm sure that's how coaches are evaluated," he said Monday during the SEC Teleconference. "I look at the players we have on the floor and just see how much they've improved and just see the progress our team has made

"... I think some of the things we're trying to accomplish, we have, but it's not showing up in the win-loss column, and that's unfortunate for us right now."

**UNLV all alone**

Pitino, like most college basketball fans, was impressed by the way UNLV man-handled No. 2 Arkansas on Sunday. But he's not about to mention the Runnin' Rebels as one of the greatest college teams ever.

"I was starting to jump on that bandwagon, too a little bit. Then (legendary UCLA coach John Wooden) started mentioning his teams with Kareem (Abdul-Jabbar) and Bill Walton, two of the greatest centers to ever play — it makes you sit back and wonder," Pitino said.

Wooden's team's won 10 NCAA titles, UNLV, of course, won last year's title with a 103-73 rout of

Duke and is 20-0 this season.

"The thing about Vegas is any time you can take a team and not know what area they are better at — is it defense or offense — is an incredible statement to make," Pitino said. "I don't think anybody plays better defense than Vegas. I don't think anybody has as many weapons that they do offensively. And I don't think anybody is better on the fast break."

"So you can take almost any facet of the game — their defensive intensity, their offensive intensity — they just don't have a weakness. And they have a great bench as well."

"But an NBA team would kill Vegas. And that's not a slap on Las Vegas, I think they're awesome, but that's really apples and oranges. ... That's just a compliment by a coach on how good they are. That's all it is. An NBA team is just a different ball game."

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