



WEATHER Drizzling today, high near 70. Clear and cool tonight, low of 50. Warming up tomorrow, high near 80.

POLITICAL ARENA Former UK student William McGinnis tosses his bat in ring for Lexington mayor. See Campus, page 2.



WeD

April 1, 1998



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ESTABLISHED 1894

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

INDEPENDENT SINCE 1971

A natural high



STEPHANIE CORDLE Keeneland staff

AWARD WINNING The 1998 NCAA champion Kentucky Wildcats stood next to their title trophy during a celebration last night before a packed Rupp Arena crowd.

Fans gather to greet champs

By Jill Erwin
Senior Staff Writer

Corey Crawford doesn't believe in tempting fate. So he, along with around 1,000 other people, waited for the national champion UK basketball team to arrive at Keeneland yesterday.

Crawford did not make the trip to welcome the team back after the 1996 title, and didn't want to make the same mistake twice.

"Most people only get one chance," said Crawford, an integrated strategic communications junior. "I'm going to Rupp when I'm done here, because I don't want to let this chance slip by again."

Further down the blue-and-white line were Elizabeth and Candi Duni of Versailles. Candi had a blue-and-white pom-pom stuck through the back of her blue UK hat, entwining with her ponytail.

Elizabeth had a rougher night than some. After finally getting to sleep, she had to be at work at 6:30 a.m. for her tour of duty as a school bus driver.

Another mother who didn't get much sleep was Renee Washington.

She made the trip with her daughter, Ariane, and son, DJ. Renee had to be at work at 6 a.m. and didn't hit the sheets until around 1:30. Too much excitement?

"I don't think I was breathing for a second there," Renee admitted.

Not everyone there to welcome the team back was from the greater Lexington area, however.

Amanda Reynolds and Melanie Hagan, sophomores at Morehead State University, came to town with a total of seven hours

See AIRPORT on 3

Fans pack Rupp to thank Wildcats for championship

By Jill Erwin
Senior Staff Writer

When the National Champion banner was displayed last night in Rupp Arena, Asteria Steele was just glad she could be there.

She had one request when the title game started.

"Oh Lord, not another close one," she said. "Not another overtime."

With the Cats down by ten at the break, Steele and seven others piled into a van in Harlan Co. on a direct route to the team welcome in Rupp. The van was stuffed to the maximum with random family members and friends sitting in every available spot, including Charity Wilkerson taking up a piece of carpet at everyone's feet.

When the buzzer went off and UK was champion once again, the van had to make an emergency pit stop on the side of the road for fear all the screaming and celebrating would force it there otherwise.

"It was so much adrenaline," Steele said. "Everyone was shouting and screaming."

The group got in line at 1 a.m. and were the fourth group there. The result: front row seats for Steele's first-ever visit to Rupp.

"It's so big," she said, looking around at the jerseys hung overhead. "I'm just so amazed."

The Cats piled out of the charter bus, led by Coach Tubby Smith, and headed into the circle of chairs. With Koal and the Gang's "Celebration" piped into

the arena, the center of the circle became an impromptu *Soul Train* exhibition, with Saul Smith and Cameron Mills running the cameras.

The dancing wasn't the only emotion expressed at the team's return from San Antonio. From the second he stepped off the bus, Scott Padgett never set down the championship trophy. When he was announced to the crowd, he cradled it like a baby. He carried it with him when the championship banner was raised. He held it in his lap when he was listening to Tubby speak.

When Coach Smith was introduced and invited to the microphone, the crowd and players erupted into a standing ovation lasting more than a minute, with the now-expected chant of "Tubby, Tubby" thrown in for good measure.

Tubby gave thanks to his wife, Donna, for all of her support, and then, as if the people of the state didn't love him enough, he thanked them as well.

"The outpouring here and the love affair that you all have for Kentucky basketball and for this program is unbelievable and second to none," Smith said.

The three seniors took their turn addressing the crowd, with all fighting back the emotion that was evident in their speeches.

Allen Edwards, who has played through the pain he felt in the death of his mother, thanked the fans for the numerous letters of support he received at the difficult time.



HOBBIE HILIER Keeneland staff

RAISING A RAUCOUS The Cats joined together at the end of the ceremony to hoist the 1998 NCAA Championship banner into the rafters with the University's six others.

"Some I still haven't finished reading," Edwards said. "It's been a wonderful four years for myself. I don't think it could have been better."

Jeff Sheppard remembered the support he has been given as well. "I never played a game at Kentucky where there weren't a lot of fans," he said. "I thank you."

Cameron Mills said he wanted to express his thanks to Tubby.

"I don't think you'll ever know how much our relationship means to me," he said as he pointed to his coach.

Mills then took it one step further, and thanked Tubby's predecessor, Rick Pitino.

"I want to thank Rick for teaching not only Al, Shep and myself, but the rest of these guys out here, how to play this game."

Signs of support for the team were abundant, from the usual "We Are the Champions" to the more creative "Notorious CATS Always Awesome". Even Athletics Director C.M. Newton was immortalized on posterboard, with credit given to the job he's done: "Newton's Law: Always

First Class."

Newton returned the love to the fans in attendance.

"The University of Kentucky has truly made me so proud," Newton said. "You are the greatest fans in the world."

Donna Smith, who was given what was believed to be the first-ever "National Coaches Wife of the Year" Award, had just one thing to say to the crowd who rewarded her devotion with yet another standing ovation.

"You all are awesome."

Local stores feel crunch of shoppers

By Matthew May
Assistant Sports Editor

After the nets were cut down, the interviews done, Celebration Corner cleared and cleaned, the real frenzy began.

Now comes the mad dash for UK's 1998 NCAA Championship apparel, and everyone is cashing in on the Cats' seventh title, and the second in the last three seasons.

Just after the final buzzer sounded, ensuring UK of its title, the T-shirts, hats and other memorabilia were being rushed off the presses with never-before-seen fury.

Almost as quickly as the production was the desire of people not only in Lexington, but nationwide, to get their sweaty hands on a piece of the UK championship.

See STORES on 3

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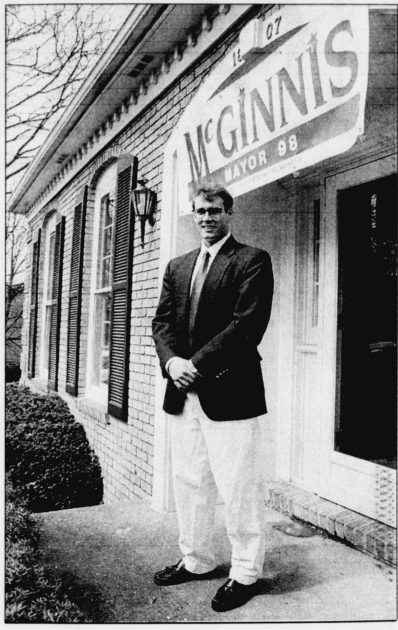
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McGinnis says youth can lead

By Annie Gillespie
 Staff Writer

Lexington's 29-year-old mayoral candidate William McGinnis answered the door in flip-flops, cut-off khaki's and a button-down shirt. Immediately, he began talking about his plan to build up downtown. McGinnis wants the area to offer a greater variety of services and entertainment.
 "I want to make it look like it is not a ghost town," he said.
 To accomplish this, McGinnis proposes more. More available parking that's free. More street activity. More vendors. More shopping, and a modern theater showing 10 movies. He thinks these changes will positively affect businesses that might stay open longer, drop prices and make downtown more attractive.
 McGinnis is surely an unexpected candidate for mayor.
 Born and raised in Lexington, he graduated with a finance degree from UK in 1993 and considers himself an entrepreneur. He has started three companies since 1990, one production company and two service-oriented companies. Though he has never been involved with politics in the past, he said he is enthusiastic about starting his political career.
 "I have always wanted to be involved with politics because I have always been interested with the way politicians serve special interests and the people, and he thinks this is wrong, saying, "I will serve the people and the people only."
 One way he wants to serve the people better is through funding programs innovatively and without

using tax dollars. McGinnis is mainly concerned with the Fayette County Correctional Institute. McGinnis says the new institute being built on Frankfort Pike, which will cost about \$15 million per year to operate, doesn't need money from tax-payers.
 "It can be done. If someone tells me I can't do it, I tell them I can and I will because where there's a will there's a way," McGinnis said.
 How? Make the inmates economically productive, McGinnis said. Other prisons have done this in the past by such jobs as making license plates.
 This would make it possible for the inmates to learn a trade and pay for their stay in prison. This can appeal to inmates who, for example, could make 100 "gadgets" a day for money, and if they choose, make 100 more "gadgets" and receive certain material rewards.
 "People have already been victimized by the crime, and then they are victimized again by having to pay the taxes for the criminals to live," McGinnis said.
 This plan would save millions in tax dollars, which he says can be used to improve downtown or social programs.
 McGinnis wants to initiate a family court that would have a central unit for various social programs to report to. This system could track tax dollars as well as the progress and validity of the money being spent.
 "People are overtaxed by the local, federal and state governments, and that doesn't need to be the case," he said.
 McGinnis hopes his stance on "using every two dollars to the fullest," his enthusiasm about the position and his genuine concern for the city and its people will pull



GOING FOR IT ALL Will McGinnis is running for mayor of Lexington. HOBIE HILER Kernel staff

him through the primary in May. He has some tough competition from current mayor Pam Miller and council member Chuck Elinger, who both have years of experience in Lexington politics.
 "Why should you vote for a young man who runs an entertainment business that sends out strip-

Learn to survive college online

Service models itself after the movie 'Animal House'

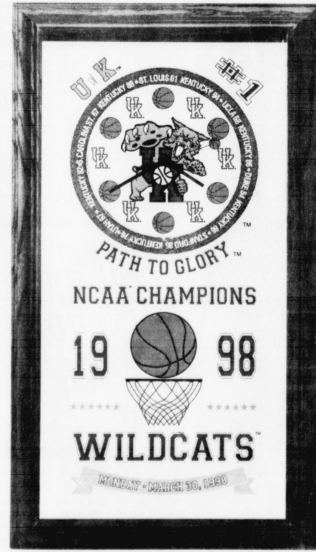
By Delmar Watkins
 Staff Writer

Students can now navigate through their problems online. A new website, <http://www.animalhouse.com>, is an online guide to college survival.
 "The people at animalhouse.com thought that there were no web sites devoted to the problems that college students find important," said Stephanie Rudnick, of Edelman PR World-

wide. "They are making the resources they wish were available to them in the '70s and '80s."
 "We are trying to make a community for college students, and our technology can make life a lot easier," said Jay Samit, president of Animalhouse.com, which gets its name from the cult movie, *Animal House*.
 The site has several areas that students might find useful. One section of the site has a TV guide and schedule maker, allowing students to plan their TV watching

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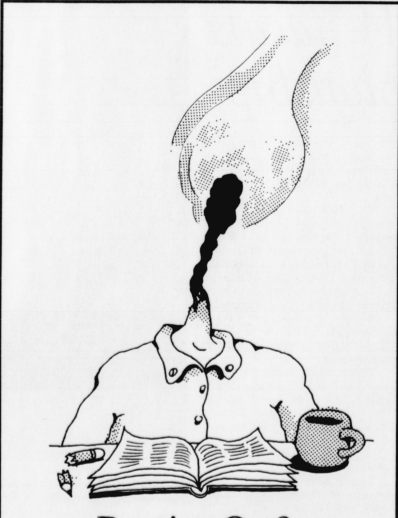
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allows students to "Break away from the microcosm that they sometimes feel themselves enter," Rudnick said.
 The travel page gives weather information to travelers, as well as a carpool bulletin board.
 Most of the content of the site comes from students, however.
 With students input, animalhouse.com will have the best information on "where to park illegally on campus, where to pound the cheapest slammers and chow down the greatest burrito," Rudnick said.
 "We want to fill the site up with stuff from the students' campus, from the best place to hang out to the best and worst professors."
 One main advantage of the site is the ability to communicate with friends in other places, Samit said.
 Animalhouse.com allows college students to communicate in several ways, including free e-mail for life, classified ads, free uncensored web space, a "buddy list" that tells you when friends are online and the ability to use voice/video conferencing over the Internet for free, said Greg Kaufman, campus administrator for Animalhouse.com.
 "It's neat to see people making web pages, sending mail through buddy lists, and filling up the site with content," Kaufman said.
 "You can call all of your friends and it won't cost you a dime," Samit said.
 Currently UK does not have a representative on the site. The representative is in charge of getting more people to add content to the site, and in return can win free long distance calls and other incentives, Samit said.
 Each student who signs up to the site is asked to be representatives until they fill the position.
 "A lot of services charge money for the content we give college students," Kaufman said, "and they don't have the same attitude that we have."



COACH SIGNS ON
Coach Tubby Smith took time out of the Keeneland celebration to sign a Kentucky basketball for Elijah Mullins, 11. Several hundred fans gathered at Keeneland yesterday to greet the Cats as they returned from San Antonio.

STEPHANIE CORDLE
Kernel staff

Stores

Fans raid businesses for UK mementos

From PAGE 1

Carol Behr, manager of Kennedy's Bookstore, said yesterday's demand for merchandise was at a fever pitch.

"Sales are going absolutely great, stupendous," Behr said. "Almost all of our merchandise is here right now, but we will get more in."

Kennedy's has anything and everything a die-hard UK fan could possibly want from this year's stirring title run, Behr said.

"We have T-shirts in 17 different designs, almost all of which are here now," Behr said. "We also have championship hats, vests, windbreakers, sweatshirts, long-sleeve T-shirts and glassware, such as shot glasses and mugs."

The shirts at Kennedy's come in youth and adult sizes, and range in cost from \$13.99 (for youth) to \$15.99 and up (adult sizes). Shot glasses are \$4.49 a piece, which is much less expensive than the embroidered sweatshirts, which ring up at a pricey \$79.99.

Despite the expense of some of the items, UK fans have not given a second thought to shelling out dollars for their beloved Cats.

"Two years ago, there was not a huge frenzy," Behr said. "But we did sell merchandise through the entire summer, which I expect again. The big thing so far has been mail orders. We have had people from all over the country calling in orders and paying Federal Express a lot of money for overnight delivery."

The UK Bookstore has also seen a flurry of activity surrounding its championship merchandise. "Sales have been very good for the first day," UK Bookstore manager Dave Mulberger said. "We have gotten about 10-12 styles of shirts in and sold out of four of those. We received 3,000 shirts and have sold three-fourths of those, along with 600 hats."

Fans should not worry about the enormous number of sales cleaning out the racks, Mulberger said.

"We still have a lot to come in yet," Mulberger said. "Sweatshirts, pullover jackets, giftware and glassware take a few days to get in. We will also get more shirts."

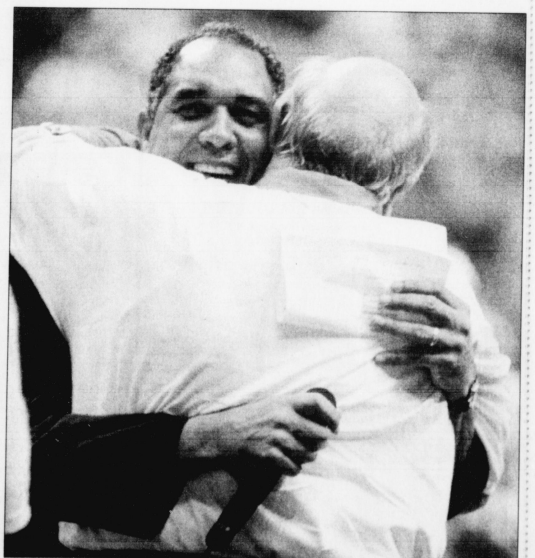
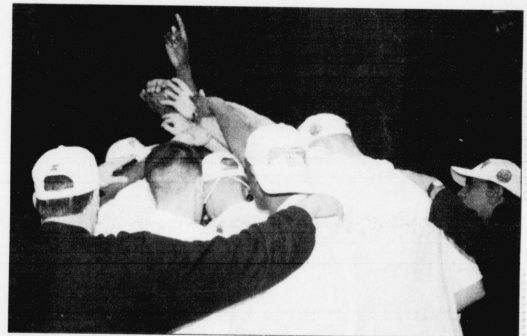
Mulberger said several store employees came in to work at 4 a.m. to prepare for the hectic day, and they opened the doors before 7 a.m. because fans were waiting to get shirts. He expects the trend to continue for days to come.

"This week, into next week will be very busy," he said. "Several employees have told me that today has been much busier than when we won in 1996, but that was due to too much selection then."

"This year we have seen customers leaving with up to nine of the same shirts and have sold over 50 at a time to some people through mail-order."



HOBBIE HILER Kernel staff



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE CORDLE Kernel staff

CELEBRATION STATION UK's Jamaal Magloire (left) strolled off the bus that carried the team into Rupp Arena last night. Magloire had more than a championship to celebrate as he predicted the Cats would win it all at the beginning of the season. The team bubbled during the event (top) to show its unity. UK Coach Tubby Smith (above) hugged 'Mr. Wildcat' Bill Keightley during the ceremony.

Airport

Students, fans join at Keeneland to

From PAGE 1

of sleep between them. Hagans was lucky enough not to have class, but Reynolds decided to

take a personal day to cheer on the Cats.

"We just want to welcome the Cats back and congratulate them on their championship," Reynolds said.

Audra Nichols, a December graduate of UK with a master's in social work, was there as well.

She was serving as chaperone for the PLUS program, an

after-school program for at-risk teens.

With her was one of the 13 children, Marquino Collins of Crawford Middle School.

"I like Naz," Collins said.

"He's good."

Another youngster in the crowd was one-year-old Cody Wayne Cox, who was there with his great-grandfather, David Street, of Frankfort. Cox was dressed from

head to toe in Wildcat blue.

Well, almost.

On his feet were Elmo shoes.

"He has some UK shoes, but he likes these better," Street said.

Street said he had faith in UK all along, but was surprised at the level at which they attained their goals.

"They did it better than I thought they would," Street said. "I'm just thrilled."

Renee Washington had only one thing going through her mind when the final buzzer went off.

"They did it," she said. "I couldn't believe it. They did it. They did it."

Crawford decided to do that one better, and make a prediction.

"We're gonna do it again next year."

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Album from local band is energizing music scene

Engineering Masterpiece



MOBIE HILLER/KERNEL STAFF

DAS WUNDERKINDS Lexington-based Tim hits the mark with its latest release, 'German Engineering.' The CD can be purchased at any of Tim's concerts.

By Brian R. Gilbert
Senior Staff Critic

Lexington's local music scene has witnessed its share of changes and transformations in the last few years.

The closing of various local music clubs such as The Wrocklage and JDI's, and the disappearance of many prominent local acts have spurred much criticism over the state of music affairs in the city.

Although for the last five years one local mainstay has continued to thrive and progress, helping to keep local music alive in Lexington. On its first full-length CD, *German Engineering*, Tim shows why hard work and determination always pay off.

Formed in the spring of 1993, Tim has since grown musically and professionally. After countless house parties, demos and seven-inch records, the band releases its first independent-label effort on Vital Cog Records. *German Engineering*, an indie-rock, distortion

topia, perfectly sums up the band's work to date.

In 45 minutes of kinetic energy and musical ingenuity, Tim pulls the listener into a thick, noise-filled emotional state and does not release until the last chord is struck.

The opening track on the album, "Flashlight Charm," is an incredibly melodic number that emphasizes the many strengths of the band. With distorted, driving guitars, a bouncy rhythm section and lead singer/guitarist Rob Young's perfect emotional wail, "Flashlight" opens the album with high-energy and indie-rock intelligence.

Another defining song on the album is "Ignition." Combining slow and tender emotional feel with the sheer intensity and power of swirling guitars and cymbal crashes, "Ignition" jumps back and forth from quiet and delicate to loud and explosive. As guitarist Will Burchard carefully controls the quiet moments, it feels as if a fuse is being lit, and as

the band joins in, a blow-up occurs.

Along with the full-force, live-liner tracks, *German Engineering* contains some softer, more sensitive songs. The poetic and sincere "Hang Nail Failure" is probably the most interesting track on the album.

Never letting up with the intensity or emotion, Tim presents a unique balance on the song that shifts between the smooth and structured side and the raw and dynamic side of the band.

"Presidential Ruler" and "Rural Electric" are also successful in their subtlety. The slow and deliberate tracks provide for a notable change in momentum, adding to the diversity of the CD. Both songs' moderate tempo

and soothing rhythm provide for the only tranquil moments on the album.

On the whole, *German Engineering* is full of great songs.

This is Tim's evolution and it is something for the band to relish. Other tracks such as "Drawl," "Better Get Used to It, Sunbeam" and "Knee-Jerk" only serve to demonstrate how talented these four guys really are.

Engineered to perfection, Tim finds a clarity in the chaos of distortion. Gifted songwriting, loads of energy and pure emotion make this the best release by a local act to date.

Support local music in Lexington and help Tim by picking up *German Engineering* at the band's next show. You will be doing yourself a favor.



MUSIC REVIEW

★★★★½ (out of five)

'German Engineering' Tim (Vital Cog)

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Columbia and TriStar studios merge

Associated Press

Sony Pictures Entertainment said Monday that it combined Columbia Pictures and TriStar Pictures into one studio, a move aimed at unifying film production under a single brand name.

TriStar, producer of the hit romantic comedies, *Jerry Maguire* and *As Good as It Gets*, will become a part of Columbia in the restructuring, which includes the business, legal and story departments of the studios.

"This restructuring is about a

smarter, more creative way to do business," said John Calley, president and chief operating officer of Sony Pictures.

The goal, he said, was to increase production to 20 to 24 films per year.

By combining the production departments, he said, "we will be able to concentrate the efforts of the very talented people we have working on both sides of the lot and accomplish the ambitious program of films we have planned."

Columbia President Amy Pascal will run the combined opera-

tion. Christopher Lee, president of production at TriStar, will hold the same title at the new studio.

The change will boost Sony's visibility with moviegoers by presenting films under a single name, said analyst David Davies of Houlihan Lokey Howard & Zukin in Los Angeles.

The public often fails to associate the studios with their parent, he said.

"The management team that's been in place on the business side has moved ahead in some innovative ways," he said. "This appears

to be part of their overall strategic plan."

TriStar began in 1982 as a joint venture by Columbia, CBS Television and Home Box Office. TriStar and Columbia were purchased by Sony in 1989.

TriStar productions include *Rambo: First Blood Part 2*, *Total Recall*, *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* and *Basic Instinct*.

Columbia, which celebrates its 75th anniversary next year, was established in 1924 and produced such films as *Gandhi*, *The Last Emperor*, *Lawrence of Arabia* and *A Man for All Seasons*.

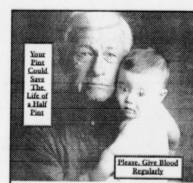
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Race never issue, Smith says

By Rob Herbst
Sports Editor

SAN ANTONIO — When Tubby Smith came to Lexington to be the head Cat, there were a few rumblings about the race factor.

A small minority questioned if he could win like a certain Italian-American coach now with the Boston Celtics.

All Smith did was win a national championship and buried a race question in a casket. "That never crossed my mind," Smith said. "I was happy for our players, happy for my staff because this program is more than just a basketball program. It is really a way of life and people to live and breathe Kentucky basketball. I'm just happy to be a small part of it."

Personally it's great and gives me great satisfaction," Smith said. "It is hard to tell what we have accomplished. I asked (UK Athletic Director) C.M. Newton, 'Did we really win the national championship?' Someone pinch me. I'm not sure how I would react about winning this thing."

But Smith did consider not coming to Kentucky — not because of the so-called race issue. But because of family.

When Smith left Georgia and headed off for the Bluegrass, his son, G.G., decided it was best to stay at Georgia rather join dad at UK.

"He really wrestled with that one for a while," said the UK freshman point guard Saul Smith, Tubby's other son. "Should he really go to Kentucky when his son is going to stay at the University of Georgia?"

"The race thing was never a problem. It only degraded the Kentucky fans saying that race is a problem. Kentucky fans are great fans and they only see two colors — blue and white. If you don't win you're not a good coach. Plain and simple. But family was an issue."

Second in command

Winning a national championship gets you plenty of accolades and fame. But it doesn't get you a call from President Bill Clinton.

But at least the vice president gave the Cats a call.

Vice President Al Gore called and congratulated the Wildcats on their national championship. UK head coach Tubby Smith talked to Gore for a few minutes in the locker room. Gore also invited the Cats to the White House for a visit, a call he made over Clinton's head.

"Apparently Clinton was down in South Africa or something," Saul Smith said. "I don't know what in the world he's doing down there. But at least Al called."



LAYING IT ON

Swingman Allen Edwards drove coast to coast during the final surge in UK's victory over Utah Monday night to score two of his four points.

MATT BARTON
Kernel Staff

Remember last summer, when you came to Lexington to rent an apartment and there were none left?

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ViewPOINT



Bamboozled again

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The state legislature is expected to wrap up its work today and has it ever done a job on the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville. After pledging to pour millions of dollars into the schools last year, the state Senate is already backpedaling on that commitment.

Of course, we shouldn't be surprised. A few years back, the legislature also reneged on a promise to fund our new library.

Apparently, the state Senate has decided there are more pressing needs than fulfilling its commitment to higher education. If you haven't heard by now, the state is expecting a \$500 million surplus through the next two years. With this in mind, Gov. Patton proposed a budget that made the \$100 million commitment the state's No. 1 spending priority.

The money would have been spent to create research endowments at both schools, in the hope of attracting scholars to the universities and making UK a Top 20 research school.

The House supported this plan and passed it easily; however, the state Senate moved 145 pork-barrel spending projects ahead of the endowment fund

for UK and U of L. That's a 145, politically-motivated pork projects!

Although senators say the funding will still exist for UK and U of L there is now a chance that the money could fall through if revenues fall short or other expenses rise unexpectedly. All while their precious pork gets first shot at any budget surplus.

However, if UK and U remained the No. 1 spending priority as Gov. Patton proposed, there would be no doubt that the promised funding would materialize.

What is even more disturbing than the Senate's desire to appease voters with pork, is President Wethington's apparent approval of the Senate's action according to Senate budget chief Benny Ray Bailey.

Is this true? The president of our own university approving of such an action?

What happened to the wheeler-and-dealer who tried to fessle the state legislators?

We've fought alone before, so we'll do it again. Faculty and students both need to call 1-800-372-7181 to leave a message for the legislators or send them e-mail at leginbox@mail.lrc.state.ky.us.

IN OUR OPINION

READERS' forum

Don't jump the gun when reading UK's student newspaper

To the editor:

I am writing in response to Kim Glenn's statement in the Kentucky Kernel on March 30, 1998. Her letter took the defensive on an article that discussed ALLEGED violations.

No where in the article "Possible Violations Mar SGA Campaigns" did I state that Kim Glenn had cheated. When asked if the posters placed throughout the engineering complex were linked to Glenn's campaign, I stated the POSSIBLE election violations, referring to POSSIBLE unstamped posters and POSSIBLE unclaimed materials on expenditure forms. Nowhere in that article was there a statement that claimed Kim Glenn had in fact violated an election rule. This article was purely an

analysis of the alleged claims reported to the Kentucky Kernel and their validity.

When the Kentucky Kernel reporters inquired about possible violations, they were doing their job as journalists. I do not feel that the Kentucky Kernel reported in a "scandalous" manner, as Kim Glenn stated. I think that they were providing coverage of a matter that students felt strongly about. If these reports were not important, why would people call into the Kernel office and report ALLEGED violations?

If a candidate ran a clean campaign, it will speak for itself. I have never questioned the integrity of a candidate, nor did I assume that a candidate violated an election rule. I only gave an interpretive perspective of the POSSIBLE election violations. I do not feel that any candidate needs to be on the defensive, unless there is validity in these accusations. The truth will always prevail.

Melanie Cruz
SGA president

Nate Brown's up to the task

To the editor:

I would like to address the concern I've heard about SGA presidential-elect, Nate Brown. None of the candidates offered a quick fix to our problems and we would have complained no matter who was elected.

The only way anything will change on this campus is if we use our representatives as such — representatives for us and our concerns.

If I could only say one thing about Nate Brown it would be that he can do WHATEVER he puts his mind to, and he wants to put his mind to whatever we want. I know Nate Brown isn't perfect.

But he has got the passion, the dedication, and the charisma to accomplish things beyond what we can imagine, but he cannot do it alone — he must have our help.

Whitney Staten
communications sophomore

TALKback!

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

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

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

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

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

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

PC media tears down a man who spoke his mind

Minister, athlete taken to task for his blunt honesty

In case you blinked during last week's Final Four, you may have missed one of the more interesting news items. Green Bay Packer star, Reggie White, was invited by Republican Walter Kunicki to address the Wisconsin Legislature.

Now, most of the time when celebrities are asked to speak in front of the assembly, they take a laid-back approach and speak about some pretty lame and soft subjects. Someone obviously forgot to tell this to White.

Reggie went on a lengthy tirade, ripping into the sins of homosexuality and spilling his thoughts on the various ethnic groups found in the United States. His speech sent shock waves through the sporting and political world.

Why is that? Reggie was invited to address the assembly. He was given an open forum to address his views and that's just what he did. Television and newspaper reporters acted like he committed murder. In reality all he did was take the time and effort to express his views, which he was invited to do.

You can't tell me that many of the legislators at that meeting didn't agree with some of the things White said. Published reports said that the crowd was shocked. Exactly why were they shocked? Did they think Reggie is just some dumb, black athlete without a brain? Did they think Reggie was simply going to relive past Super Bowl glories? Obviously the Wisconsin legislature and the media thought that was exactly what he was going to do. Shame on them!

Reggie is a very bright man. He is a minister and an important member of the community, one that helped "Honkyville," or rather Green Bay, get used to seeing blacks in roles other than those that require jerseys and shoulder pads.

Several members of the media wrote his speech off as "silly." Dick Schapp, one of my favorites from ESPN's "Sports Reporters," called him ignorant. To these individuals, I say shove it up your ass. Reggie is entitled to his opinion, just as much I am to mine, or Dick Schapp is to his. I do realize

that most of what White said isn't popular with the public. His attack on homosexuality as a sin didn't come from an angry football player, it came from a minister who preaches the word of God. Whether or not you are into the whole religious thing, Reggie wasn't preaching hate, he was preaching from his Bible.

As far as his take on the races go, stereotypes wouldn't be stereotypes if there weren't some truth to them. White made statements proclaiming whites are good with money and blacks like to practice religion. How many people think black churches are more of a dance party than a worship service?

That's what I thought. His lines about Asians being able to turn televisions into watches and Hispanics who can fit 20 or 30 people in one house should have made Comedy Central, not CNN.

I don't know how many times I have heard comedians make jokes about Hispanics living under one roof, often leaving the crowd laughing. So why didn't they laugh at Reggie? Because he wasn't joking.

Well, maybe the comedians weren't either. The attack on Reggie is just another example of our country's obsession with murdering the First Amendment by using political correctness instead of common sense to guide one's judgment. Instead of placing the importance on what Reggie said, it is being placed on Reggie, the person.

Earlier in the week, he auditioned for a spot on CBS's coverage of the NFL. Unfortunately for him, CBS is too shallow to hire someone who has the guts to speak his mind and stand by what he feels and not go along with the oh-so-popular status quo.

If it wasn't for his comments, CBS would have hired him in a heartbeat, but they must be afraid to give a live mic to someone with a pulse and a mind of his own. For all of this, I would like to thank Reggie White.

Although I've never been a big fan of him on the playing field, I am now a fan of Reggie as a man. Some people may say that "it took a lot for him to do what he did." Not really. Reggie White just believes in himself enough to speak his mind freely and that's all that matters.

Kernel Columnist Ben Rich is a journalism senior. He can be reached at barich07@pop.uky.edu.

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Courage of Cardiac Cats unifies campus and state

Well, it happened again, but this time I got pictures.

In case you've been hiding under a rock, and a very big rock at that, you've probably heard that the Wildcats won the 1998 NCAA men's basketball national championship. It was a courageous effort by a special group of players.

They didn't always shoot well, they didn't always handle the ball well, and they didn't always play defense well. The only thing they did consistently was win ballgames. I have heard several people call this team "The Undeniablers" or the "Comeback Cats" and those names truly befitted them.

They were a team of destiny. I watched the entire game, perched atop the back of the chair in my dorm room. When the game ended, I joined the throng of people making their way down

to the intersection of Woodland and Euclid. The third-year students at UK can make a claim that no other class at any other university in America can make.

We've been here three years and our basketball team has been in the championship game three times. That's quite a distinction.

It also means that we know how to celebrate. Lord knows, we've practiced it enough. We know what intersection to go to and what to do when we get there. Most students never get to celebrate a national championship; here at UK we've got it down to an art form.

I've been here for all three post-game gatherings, including the happy mob in 1996 and the angry mob last year, and I can say that this mob was more animated than either of those. This was, more than anything, a drunken

mob. Generally, a good time was had by all. There was the obligatory display of poor sportsmanship, as the proud Utes were mentioned in conjunction with a variety of obscenities, but they, nobody ever said losing was supposed to be fun, right?

There was plenty of beer raining from the sky and plenty of bottles to crunch underfoot. Hope you wore your old shoes. It got a little rough at times. People shoved and pushed and stumbled, and if you were either small or drunk (or possibly both), then you probably had a rough time of it. But, the Lexington Police did a commendable job of monitoring the celebration without unnecessary interference.

As for my celebration experience? I did get physically abused, yes. I was wearing shorts, so when someone smashed a bottle right beside my foot, I got scratched. At one point, while involuntarily moshing

with the crowd, I got my wrist pinned and bent backward and it's tender now. I got my feet stepped on more times than I care to count, and I had an interesting time getting to Waite House and back because I think the police had every street closed within a two-mile radius of campus. At least nobody hit me with a flying beer bottle this year. That's a big improvement!

Of course, there were the things you never forget: People climbing things and chanting and cheering, people getting naked and people so drunk they couldn't stand up.

Downtown, they walked between cars and gave high fives, or leaned out windows or danced in the backs of pickup trucks. That's the great unifying effect of Kentucky basketball. I've never seen so many people in my life happy about the same thing. If you were a Wildcat fan last night, then you had a whole lot of friends out there, even if you'd never seen them

before in your life.

And, finally, this year I was smart enough to get pictures. I took my disposable camera out into the fray and captured some priceless moments. I don't know how well they'll turn out, but at least I'll have some eye-level snapshots to share with my family and friends.

Times like these go beyond the realm of sports. This victory unified the University and the city, even the whole state. Thanks to these Wildcats, UK has been placed on the national stage yet again. Students, staff, faculty and fans, you have something to be extremely proud of and happy about.

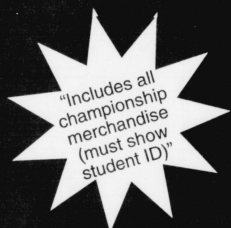
You can go to all your classes and learn all kinds of facts, but right now, only one fact matters around here: Kentucky 78, Utah 69. Things like this are the things you remember forever.

Kernel Columnist Jarrett Greer is a biology senior.

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