

KENTUCKY KERNEL

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SPEAKING OUT



Nazeaha Jawahir, left, a senior at Henry Clay High School, wrote down talking points for the government group at the fifth-annual Youth Speak Out last night in the Student Center. High school students had a chance to visit different rooms in the Student Center and ask questions of public figures like Vice-Mayor Jim Gray, Police Chief Anthony Beatty and Lexington Herald-Leader reporter Linda Blackford.

High schoolers dialogue with local leaders

By Jenisha Watts
news@kykernel.com

High school students from around the Lexington area voiced their opinions and concerns last night to community leaders at the Youth Speak Out held at the Center Theater in the Student Center.

"The Youth Speak Out is a two-way dialogue young people between the ages of 13 to 21 have with community leaders to address issues that affect them around policy and practices enacted by the government," said Mahjabeen Rafiuddin, stu-

dent diversity engagement director and adviser for the Mayor's Youth Council. "These youths are leaders, driven and focused."

The Speak Out featured representatives in five areas: government, health and public safety, education, entertainment and recreation and media.

"I learned more about the youth in this 60 to 90-minute period time we had with them than I could ever have just by trying to get information through my office," YMCA President Jan Bruccato said.

In the health and public safety break-out session, Janet Luo, a senior at Henry Clay High

School, had questions about the Lexington Police Department's experience with online predators.

Luo asked Chief of Police Anthony Beatty if his department had ever used tactics like those of popular news shows to catch online predators.

Beatty said yes and that his officers have actually arrested people.

"Parents and guardians have to step up and say kids should not be allowed on MySpace," Beatty said.

Many community leaders think the event is an

See **Speak Out** on page 3

Harvard director explores advantage of being an amateur

By Katie Saltz
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Steven Biel was a member of the expedition to view the wreck site of the Titanic in 1998. Despite the fact that Biel had authored a book on the history of the disaster in 1996, he said that he had never felt more like an amateur.

"I was there in case of massive technological failure," Biel said, adding that he could possibly fill air time on the Discovery Channel in such a situation.

"But I really just observed," he said.

Biel is the executive director of the Humanities Center at Harvard University and the author of "Down with the Old Canoe: A Cultural History of the Titanic Disaster" and "American Gothic: A Life of America's Most Famous Painting."

Yesterday in the Main Building he delivered a keynote lecture titled "The Importance of Being an Amateur." Biel discussed his two books and his views on interdisciplinary studies.

The term "interdisciplinary studies" refers to the transgression of boundaries from one discipline to another. Biel said that the very nature of interdisciplinary study is provocative.

"Why look directly through a window when you can apprehend what's just beyond it?" Biel said. This idea encourages cultural historians to develop new insights, he said.

"Whenever one crosses boundaries, there is a didacticism involved," Biel said.

Biel's book "American Gothic" focuses on the Grant Wood painting (of the same name) and its iconic status in history. Biel spoke about the painting's origin and the various parodies that have been

created over the years.

"It is the history of how the image has participated in a series of cultural wars and is symbolic in cultural history," Biel said.

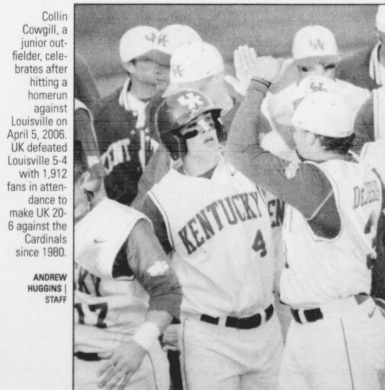
Wallis Miller, a professor in the college of design, said she came to hear Biel's lecture because she was intrigued by the title.

"He talks about the audience and says not to worry about the experts," Miller said.

Miller also said that Biel's book about the painting really is a commentary on how people understand things.

"It is about how people viewed the painting and how the view changed," Miller said.

Biel will be speaking on campus again tomorrow delivering the concluding remarks at the Art, Literature and Cultural History Symposium at 1:30 p.m. in the Gaines Center Bingham Davis House.



Andrew Huggins | Staff

Baseball team opens season among top 30

By Eric Lindsey
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Fresh off the most successful season in its history, the UK baseball team was recently ranked in three of the nation's most prominent baseball publications.

The Cats are ranked No. 23 by Rivals.com, No. 30 by Baseball America, and, most recently, No. 27 by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association.

The preseason honors follow a season in which the Cats won the 2006 Southeastern Conference regular-season championship and set a school-record with 44 wins. As a result of those accomplishments, UK hosted an NCAA Regional for the first time in school history.

"It's a tremendous honor for us," said outfielder Collin Cowgill of the preseason honors. "It really shows how successful we were last year and how hard we worked to get where we are now."

Despite the recognition, head coach John Cohen believes the Cats are even better than what the polls say.

"I think it's neat for our players, but I think they want more than the polls are willing to give them credit for," Cohen said. "I think we had one of the best 15, maybe one of the top 10 programs in the country last year, and I don't think there was one poll alive that would have had us in the top 100, so that kind of speaks for it."

See **Baseball** on page 3

Sorority honors prof for inspiring campus

By Jill Laster
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In 1956, Doris Wilkinson started the UKettes, the first organization for black women on UK's campus.

More than 50 years later, she is being honored as an inspiration for black organizations on campus, and to the community, with the Coretta Scott King award.

Last Saturday, the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority presented the award to Wilkinson, a sociology professor at UK. Alpha Kappa Alpha honored Wilkinson for being "one of two Lexington area women who have and continue to exemplify strength and endurance in the face of overcoming obstacles," according to a news release.

A Lexington native, Wilkinson was part of the historic freshman class of 1954 at UK. Her class was the first desegregated under the landmark Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision. Two years later, she started the UKettes.

"I created an organization to meet the social needs since we couldn't join sororities," she said in a Feb. 23, 2006, article in the Kernel. "It was really very effective, very necessary."

Wilkinson was positive about her experience as part of the innovative freshman class, and said she loved her classes and teachers.

"It was a friendly atmosphere," Wilkinson said.

In 1968, Wilkinson returned to UK, becoming the first African-American woman to join the faculty full-time.

Wilkinson was appointed director of UK's African-American Studies and Research Program in 1992. As director, she developed the Forum for Faculty of African Descent, the Carter G. Woodson Lecture Series and the Black Women's Conference, all of which still exist today.

One of the many honors Wilkinson has received at UK was her induction into the Hall of Distinguished Alumni in 1989, the centennial year of the Alumni Association.

Dana Branham, president of the graduate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha in Lexington, said Wilkinson's work made her deserving of the Coretta Scott King award.

"Really, her whole life has been dedicated to raising awareness not just of African-Americans but of everyone," Branham said.

Now, 31 years after creating the UKettes, Wilkinson is being honored for her work on social and educational issues during her career as a researcher and educator.

"There have to be different outlets for African-Americans," Branham said, "so the fact she did that (by creating the UKettes) in 1956 was very important."

How real is too real?

By Mike Musgrove
The Washington Post

A controversial computer game based on the Columbine High School shootings of 1999, called Super Columbine Massacre RPG, has nearly upended a game-design competition that kicks off this week in Salt Lake City.

The game, available online as a free download, was a finalist in the Slandance Guerrilla Gamemaker Competition until the festival's president yanked it this month for being a little too radioactive for the lawyers. Now, nearly half of the competition's 14 finalists have withdrawn their entries, calling the organizers' move an insult to their medium. The festival has also lost one sponsor, the Interactive Media Division of the University of Southern California.

A homebrew creation of filmmaker Danny Ledonne, the game examines the lives of shooters Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold as they prepare for and carry out their killing spree. In flash-

See **Video Game** on page 3

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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 5 - Don't argue with a person who has more experience than you. Not only is it disrespectful to do that, it's also pretty stupid.
- Taurus (April 20-May 20)** - Today is a 5 - Step up to the challenge and admit the others rely on you. Steer them in the right direction so they don't waste your money.
- Gemini (May 21-June 21)** - Today is a 6 - As you clean up your workspace, you'll be amazed. New opportunities will beckon from several new directions. Begin new investi-

- Cancer (June 22-July 22)** - Today is a 7 - Your emissary is moving into a good position to lend you assistance. Your efforts have not been in vain. You're getting help from the other side.
- Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** - Today is an 8 - Your fierce determination makes the most of these conditions. Continue to push yourself now and you'll be amazed at what you accomplish.
- Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** - Today is a 9 - Technical issues demand your attention and yes, you will have to fix things. Take it one step at a time, have patience and read the manual.
- Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** - Today is a 7 - Conditions are changing in your favor, slowly. Continue to listen to what others want and take notes, so you don't forget.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** - Today is a 6 - You've acquired an abundance of data, but don't rush to any conclusions. Cool, objective analysis is your next assignment.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** - Today is a 7 - Your idea of who you are is changing. This is a natural thing. Don't jump to a hasty conclusion. Maintain objectivity, and wait to see what develops.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** - Today is a 9 - Your full attention is still required to get things flowing correctly. From then on, it looks like the process is mostly mechanical. The money flows into your pocket.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** - Today is a 6 - Consult your most revered advisors and your most well-trusted friends. Since they're probably the same people, a relaxed environment will be fine.
- Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** - Today is an 8 - It's not only what you know, it's also who you know, of course. In this case, who you know really appreciate you for what you know and who you are.



Justin's Revenge Romance

Newly split from Cameron Diaz, Timberlake quietly begins a secret courtship with Scarlett Johansson

THE DISH

Us has confirmed that after a roller-coaster three-and-a-half-year relationship, Timberlake, 25, indeed called it quits with Diaz, 34, just before the new year, with one source pinpointing the split to have taken place between their lovey-dovey Dec. 16 night on the set of Saturday Night Live and a Christmas Day trip to see her in Vail, Colorado. (Reps for both Timberlake and Diaz had no comment.)

Enter Diaz nemesis Scarlett Johansson, 22. (And New Year's activities with recently separated Kate Hudson.) When Timberlake arrived with his mom, Lynn Harless, at Alpha Dog's after-after party at Social Hollywood, he was brought straight to Johansson's side. Sitting in the low-lit VIP room with dark wood tables and velvet couches, "Scarlett dropped the conversation she was in right away to hang out with him," a fellow partygoer says of Johansson, who played the singer's love interest Dec. 27 in a shoot for his upcoming "What Goes Around" video.

Indeed, sources in both stars' inner circles tell Us the couple are in the beginning stages of a relationship, with one Timberlake pal saying Diaz's rivalry with Johansson is one reason his union with Diaz finally unraveled. "She could not believe he went behind her back to put her in the video. Cameron was very jealous of Scarlett." Adds another Timberlake source, "He sees he has more in common with Scarlett and just thinks she's really cool." Still, sources close to Johansson and

Timberlake say the twosome are hardly going steady yet. "They're both just having fun," says one Timberlake confidant.

Why He Left Cam
One thing that has remained consistent, at least in press interviews, is her declaration against marriage. "I'm a commitment-phobe," she said on The Ellen DeGeneres Show in November. "I don't want to do it. Anyway, we're kind of like married." (Diaz religiously wore a Cartier diamond friendship ring from Timberlake.) But sources close to the singer paint a different picture. "That's how she spun it," says one pal. "She said it so many times without being prompted. It was forced."

In fact, it was Timberlake, says the source, who was hesitant to marry. "He's a 25-year-old guy and she's a 34-year-old woman. He wants to do his thing and act his age." In contrast to other race-to-the-altar Hollywood couples, the sporty pair — who met at the April 2003 Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards — always kept separate homes in which to stay between their excursions to Whistler, British Columbia, for snowboarding and Hawaii for surfing. When asked by GQ in August if they lived together, Timberlake replied, "Uh, no. I have my own house. It's very important. Healthy. Don't you need your own space?" At the same time, Timberlake played the dutiful beau, nursing her after a 2003

surfing mishap during which she broke her nose on her birthday, and supporting her through a 2004 scuffle with a paparazzo.

Yet, a Diaz source says Timberlake was often confused by her behavior. "There is the childish side to Cameron, but the other half is controlling," says the friend, who has known Diaz since she first became a star with 1994's *The Mask*. "Most guys don't know how to handle that needy part." Indeed, for a beautiful woman who has commanded a \$20 million paycheck (for *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle*), stories about her jealous nature have become cautionary tales for any woman bold enough to get close to Timberlake.

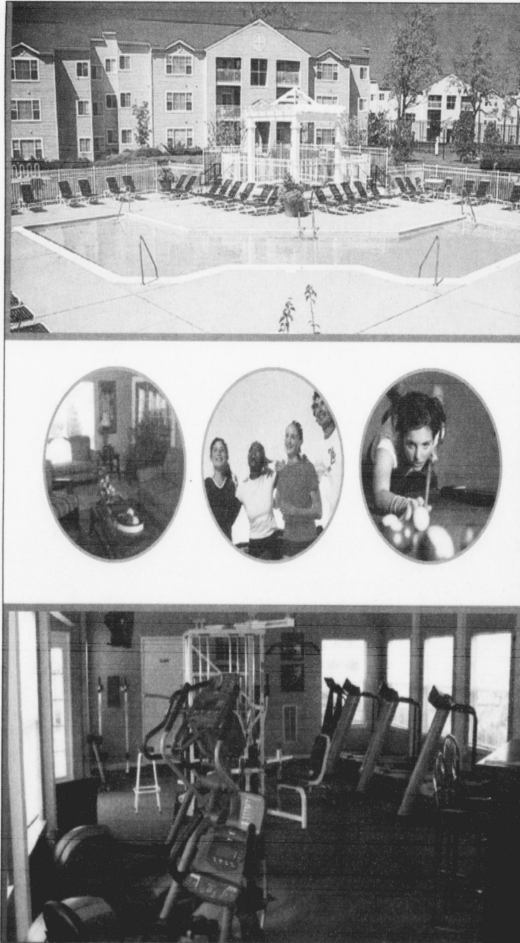
Just 18 months into the relationship, the New York Daily News reported that during a dinner with her beau, Diaz threw ice chips at the back of nearby Victoria's Secret model Deanna Miller's head (Miller had just wrapped a photo shoot with Timberlake in the Bahamas). A few months later, porn star Gina Lynn charged that when Diaz saw her with Timberlake at a Saturday Night Live bash, she yelled, "Bye-bye, get the f--- away from him." Even Timberlake fans seemed to incur the wrath. On August 11, two women approached the singer at a club to praise him for his House of Blues gig in L.A. earlier that night. According to a witness, before they spoke, Diaz brusquely said, "I'll handle this," and told them, "I'm the way to get to him."

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BASEBALL

Continued from page 1

self." While the preseason rankings bring national attention for the Cats, they also bring in lofty expectations that the program is not familiar with.

Prior to Cohen's arrival in 2004, the Cats were a combined 63-102 from 2001-2003. Since then, Cohen's squad has showed a steady improvement in the win column each of the past three seasons, which was capped off by last year's record-breaking season.

"Coach Cohen is just a great coach," catcher Sean Coughlin said. "He brings so much to the table as far as this program is concerned as well as to the game itself."

Cowgill agreed, adding that Cohen instills confidence.

"He believes in this program," Cowgill said.

That confidence has put the Cats on the map in terms of national attention and Cowgill thinks there's more success to come.

"To win an SEC championship is certainly not an easy thing to do, especially in baseball," Cowgill said. "I think last year's success and this year's rankings prove that we're a good program in the SEC, and we're going to be one of the powerhouses for years to come."

Cowgill added that this year's recruits should not be overlooked.

"I think last year's team has a lot to do with it (the preseason polls)," Cowgill said. "But at the same time, I think this year's team has the chance to do the same thing as last year's team if not better, so the expectations are that much higher."

Despite the added pressure, Cohen is more concerned with getting better each day and believes his team is doing exactly that.

"To prove something is not a concept I'm into," Cohen said. "I'm more into 'Are we getting better?' or 'Did we get any better today at practice?' and I believe the answer to that is yes."

"If we can do that enough, I think everything else just sort of takes care of itself."



Andrew Huggins | STAFF
Coach John Cohen voices his disapproval of a balk call made by the umpires during a game on April 5, 2006, against Louisville. Cohen was ejected from the game.

VIDEO GAME

Continued from page 1

backs throughout the game, players learn about the killers' backgrounds, including their obsessions and their friendship. The game has been controversial for its very existence, as well as for the fact that Kimwever Gill, a Montreal gunman who went on a shooting rampage last year before killing himself, was a fan.

It's a disturbing piece of software but is considered by some in the tiny, indie gamemaker scene to be important as a work that explores the boundaries of what a game is, or can be.

Ledonne says he hopes his title, which

he considers to be an "electronic documentary," will inspire others to base games on topics they find important.

Ledonne, who turns 25 today, says he was bullied as a kid and might have headed down a road in life similar to Harris and Klebold's had he not found other outlets. "I wanted to explore who they really were, and I didn't have the funding to make a film," he said.

Slamdance co-founder Peter Baxter says he decided to pull the game from the competition because he was afraid the festival might get sued out of existence for having it on the program. The game competition, a spin-off side event at the 13-year-old film festival of the same name, is in its third year.

"I was told in no uncertain terms that there was a lot of legal exposure because of

its subject matter," Baxter said. "It was a very, very hard choice."

Baxter's critics in the indie-game design community say the move shows there's a "double standard" between what topics films can explore and what games can address.

Game designer Jenova Chen took his title out of the competition even though he hasn't played — and has already decided he doesn't like — the Columbine game.

"This is degrading to what video games are as a media and as an art form," he said of the Slamdance move. "Even though this game has nothing to do with the positive aspects of humanity, it is a game that uses the medium as journalism, letting the player experience the tragic event through a unique perspective."

SPEAK OUT

Continued from page 1

important opportunity for students to express their concerns.

"We need to know how they are looking at things," said Biby Tinajero, a drop-out prevention coordinator. "They have wisdom. They know what's happening. I love how they give me a different view of things."

Vice-Mayor Jim Gray also said that youths have valuable ideas.

"I think it's a great outlet and vehicle for young people to channel their ideas, thoughts and concerns," Gray said.

Beatty said the Speak Out

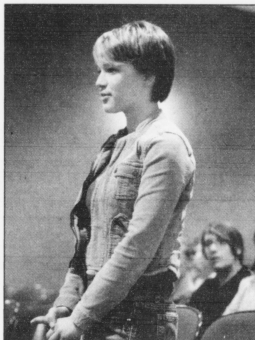
was a good opportunity for the police department as well.

"(It's) an opportunity for the division of police to address the needs of young people in our community," he said. "We want to hear so we can learn how to better serve them."

Students who attended the event agreed that it was beneficial.

"I think it's important, because teens and youths need a voice in the government because it affects all of us," said Papa Chakrabarty, a Paul Laurence Dunbar High School junior. "This event provides all of that."

"I have the greatest hope for the future because of our youth," Tinajero said.



ED MATTHEWS | STAFF
Catherine Mannon, a sophomore from Henry Clay High School, stands to ask panelists a question in the Center Theater at the Student Center last night.

FRAME BY FRAME

This week's box office hits and misses

By Ricky Simpson
features@kykernel.com

"The Good German"

George Clooney, Cate Blanchett and Tobey Maguire

Like the classic film "Casablanca," "The Good German" is shot in the shadows of a black and white backdrop, revolves around the political influences of World War II and shows the story of a heartbreaking love.

It is clear that director Steven Soderbergh used the great love story of "Casablanca" as a blueprint for his newest project. He makes no attempt to be inconspicuous in his parallel with the classic movie, as he even uses a near-exact match of the movie poster promoting his film.

In this 1940s-style picture, Lena (Blanchett) is the hinge of a politically driven plot being used to locate the mysterious Emil Brant. Set in post-WWII Berlin, Captain Jake Geismar (Clooney) encounters his past love, Lena, and the plot unfolds as he discovers her involvement in a conspiracy. Even though this is like watching a film through your grandmother's eyes, the mystery is a bit tame and easily transparent. Blanchett is actually convincing as a Russian prostitute, but Clooney does not pull off his American G.I. character.

If you have already seen everything in theatres, "The Good German" is a good pick because it is short (105 min.), but there are definitely better films to see in theatres right now.

Now showing at Lexington Green.

"The Hitcher"

Sean Bean and Sophia Bush

This is a classic horror flick — a de-aged murderer with unknown motives

preys on unsuspecting victims. If this sounds like all of the same "classic horror" movies that have been made recently, you might want to skip this one as well.

In this remake of the 1986 film of the same name, John Ryder (Bean) stalks a college couple as they are on their way to a Spring Break destination. As Ryder stalks and tries to kill the couple, he also implicates them in a killing of his own.

"The Hitcher" is the headliner of a weekend to forget at the theaters. Reserve this weekend instead for college basketball and the NFL playoffs.

Opens tonight at Cinemark-Movies 10 and Hamburg Pavilion.

"Italianetz"

Kolya Spiridonov

"Italianetz" is a heartwarming Russian film about a 5-year-old boy who escapes from an orphanage in hopes of finding his true mother.

Even though this film is opening in limited release in the United States, when it comes to Lexington, it should be the independent film to see.

Opens tonight in select cities.

"The Dead Girl"

Toni Collette, Brittany Murphy, Marcia Gay Harden and James Franco

A talented ensemble cast comes together for this dark and dramatic film. Through a series of not-so-coincidental twists, seven seemingly unrelated characters begin to discover clues surrounding the mystery of a dead child.

Now showing in select cities.

Upcoming DVDs

"Fiddler on the Roof" (Two-Disc Collector's Edition)

One of the greatest musicals ever is finally being released with actor and director's commentary, music videos and a deleted song.

In the background of pre-revolutionary Russia, Tevye is a Jewish milkman who must deal with his daughters getting older and getting married.

This Academy Award winner is both classic and timeless and has been made even better with new effects and features. Available Jan. 23.

"SherryBaby"

Sherry Swanson (Maggie Gyllenhaal) returns home from a three-year prison sentence and tries to pick up her life where she left off. She finds, however, that things have changed in her absence, including her relationship with her young daughter. Gyllenhaal shines in this low budget sleeper and has a fighting chance to grab an Oscar nod for her performance. Available Jan. 23.

"Saw III"

The first was a classic, the second was good and the third is just beating a dead horse. Or, in this case, slaughtering a dead horse.

"Saw III" does, however, provide more unique torturing tactics in its bloody scenes. The third installment has all the gore of the original, but it is missing all the psychological thrills that made the first so great. Available Jan. 23.

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Faculty rankings good news for UK; still more to do

In the past week, the University of Kentucky has achieved some high rankings according to a major publication and a nationally recognized review. The law faculty ranked fifth in the nation according to a survey by the 2007 Princeton Review and the UK faculty ranked 19th in the nation, tying with the University of California at Davis, in scholarly activity, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education.

The law school faculty achieved their ranking based on their accessibility and the quality of their teaching — both inside and outside the classroom. The UK faculty overall earned their honors based on the articles they published and the citations of their work that were made, along with other honors, awards and federal grants they received.

This is, of course, outstanding news for UK. The university is working toward its state-mandated goal of being a top-20 research university by the year 2020 — as mandated by House Bill 1 in 1997. The news that the university is ranking high in terms of its faculty is proof positive that the university is on the right track toward achieving that goal. One of UK's greatest concerns in fulfilling the top-20 mission is hiring and retaining outstanding faculty, and pumping funds into a faculty that is already excelling nationally can only improve things.

However, in order for UK to achieve its goal administrators must not grow lax or think this means that they have time to breathe. On the contrary, their work is just beginning.

Provost Kumble Subbaswamy, in an article in the Kernel last Thursday, spoke on this very fact.

"We must also continue to be focused on building the quality of our student body, improving graduation

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rates and lowering student-faculty ratios," Subbaswamy said. "In other words, being a top-20 public institution requires being top-20 in everything that we do."

UK still ranks below the benchmark average in terms of yearly faculty salaries by just under \$9,000. The most recent figures from 2003 rank UK 32nd in terms of federal research expenditures, and that is a "moving target" as Angie Martin, vice president of planning, budget and policy analysis said at Tuesday's tuition increase forum. UK also has to increase the number of students by more than 6,000 and keep up the faculty numbers. All of these goals must be attained simultaneously in the next 13 years in order for UK to reach its top-20 goal in time.

Clearly, UK administrators have their work cut out for them in order to make this happen. Still, last week's news is most certainly good news. These achievements are a demonstration that UK is taking its mission seriously and that administrators are not slacking in their commitment to making the top-20 goal a reality.

The university, its administrators and its faculty are most definitely deserving of praise for reaching these milestones. Subbaswamy, said UK seeks to convince the legislature that they need increased funding for the business plan and is going to use their past record to demonstrate their ability. "Our focus is to show that we're good stewards of the investment being made," Subbaswamy said in a Kernel article from Wednesday.

Their performance shows that UK's administrators are doing this well and we applaud their work thus far.

Students should wake up to governor's race

This spring, March isn't the only month that's going to bring madness to Kentucky.

May is going to be just as exciting as the statewide Republican and Democratic primaries determine each party's candidates for governor.

The races on both sides are bound to be lively and contentious — and they will have a large role in determining who will lead the state for the next four years.

UK students would do well to look up from their basketball schedules once in a while to pay attention to the gubernatorial race.

There are multiple viable candidates in each party's running.

On the Republican side, former U.S. Rep. Anne Northup from Louisville and Paducah businessman Billy Harper have both stepped up to run against incumbent Gov. Ernie Fletcher.

Among Democrats, the three major candidates are state treasurer Jonathan Miller, Lexington attorney

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Steve Beshear and former lieutenant governor Steve Henry. (Gateway Gibraltar, best known for his unorthodox views on marijuana policy, has also once again announced his Democratic candidacy.)

Because both primaries are hotly contested, students have a great chance to make a difference.

At both campaign events and through phone or e-mail, students need to tell candidates how important it is to them and their families that the state fully fund UK's Top 20 Business Plan.

If students are invisible throughout this process, state officials will continue to ignore their needs.

But if they take action and let candidates know that students are participating in the primary process, they may be able to change the terms of debate over funding for UK.



GRAHAM SMITH, Kernel cartoonist

Dining Services offers students little at exorbitant prices

At 18 years old, the world opens up for students.

We can enlist in the military, register to vote and actually have a say in politics.

We can buy lottery tickets and join the millions who really think that "it's gotta be me."

At 18, you can donate blood and possibly save someone's life. Many of us were entering college at that age or preparing to do so; and for some that meant traveling thousands of miles away from home without parents.

Eighteen is the most liberating age, apart from the excitable 21. The only problem is that UK has decided that we are not quite ready to make every decision on our own.

The fact that UK requires students who live on campus to buy a meal plan and eat on campus is ridiculous. So in addition to the ever-growing tuition costs students must pay a minimum of around \$900 because the university says so.

I think that I'm old enough to decide when and where to eat.

If I'm given money from my parents and have to manage it so that it

will last an entire semester or any given period of time I'm pretty sure I could handle it. And if I decided to waste it, then it would be no other person's fault.

So why are meal plans required? Are they some attempt to make sure that we eat "healthy" and eat often? No, Dining Services is all about money.

Students without dining plans can attest to the fact that it is far cheaper to escape campus and eat than to wait in the long student center lines and pay exorbitant prices for food that's not name brand and may not be as good.

And when a renovation is made, like the one being planned for Blazer Café, UK expects praises and happy students because the faculty took "our advice" when we suggested better options and more of them. Doesn't matter that the millions used to renovate may come from the money we are paying them to eat, we should still bow down and thank them.

Things won't change easily though, UK can't be forced to remove mandates for meal plans without a fight, one that may never come. It

would take a brave lawyer to try and challenge the mighty UK.

I lived on campus for a while and know what the meal plan is like. It wasn't a horrible situation except that if I didn't use all my "meals" I would have no money coming back to my pocket.

I wouldn't be so objectionable to buying some "meals" from the university if it meant that I could choose how many and, of course, if they weren't so expensive.

The idea of giving up all that profit from students is one that UK will never consider. They say that they are trying to help us, make us a community.

As much as UK seems to build a community, they should also try fostering the independence of the students that walk through its class-

rooms. Four years may seem like an eternity for some but it really flies by and at the end of those years there will be no meal plans, no school saying where to eat.

It is all left up to us. Megan Vazmina is a political science and journalism junior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.



MEGAN VAZMINA
Kernel columnist

UK should be fostering independence among its students, rather than holding a monopoly over those students' diets. But for Dining Services, all that matters is the almighty dollar.

SG will come through on New Years resolutions in new semester

Welcome back! I'm sure you have made a few New Years resolutions for yourselves — we have some of our own here in Student Government.

We are renewing our promise to you to give you a student government that can build consensus, that answers to the students and that follows through on its promises.

We had a successful fall semester in which we followed through on many of our campaign promises.

We promised to create the first on-line elections for SG; and while the turnout was lower than expected, we delivered on that promise. We promised to build a stronger partnership with the UK Women's Place, and did so with a safety walk on campus and an unprecedented amount of funding to Women's Place. We created a task force to study meal plans across college campuses to find better options for us here at UK. We also renewed our commitment to The Study, a free tutoring program for all students, and other free student services such as DVD rental, legal counsel and the UK Book Exchange.

We also had the first State of the Campus Address with UK President Lee Todd, at which we discussed the current needs and goals for our cam-

pus. Rob Oakley, Director of Constituency Services, conducted the first set of "Round Table" discussions with over 30 student organizations. During our Voter Education Week, we held a mayoral debate and registered over 300 students to vote. And in October, we sent a delegation of students to various universities within the Southeastern Conference for the first ever SEC Exchange. We saw what programs other SEC schools have, exchanged ideas with other student governments and created new ideas for UK.

There was also a lot going on beyond Student Government. The football team had a promising season with seven regular wins; and they won their first bowl game since 1984. The Student Activities Board planned over 50 events in four months, making it one of the busiest semesters on campus. All in all, I think the Fall was very successful; but there is still more to come!

Though we have made great strides within our Student Government and on campus, I made a solemn vow the day I took office that I would continue to work for the students during my term of office. Today, we are holding a press conference in the Student Center to discuss our accomplishments, and our goals for this semester.

I promised that we would lobby Frankfurt for bonding authority for UK. This semester we will fulfill that promise on Feb. 5 with Listen up Legislators, and the Rally for Higher Education on Feb. 7. Bonding authority is a critical issue for UK; it provides us

with the ability to fund our own projects such as dining hall and dormitory improvements, and a bigger and better student center, without relying on state money. Kentucky is one of five states without bonding authority.

Feb. 8 is the annual Valentine's Gala. The event will be in the Student Center Grand Ballroom to allow for more students to attend this annual tradition. All students are invited to the gala. There will be a silent auction to raise money for UK's largest philanthropy, DanceBlue.

I also promised to build a better working relationship between Student Government, the Urban County Council and the Mayor. I have already met with Mayor Newberry about possible joint projects, one of which is an off-campus safety walk that we will be hosting in February. I have also met with Mayor Newberry regarding the Town & Gown projects, and we have discussed various ways to incorporate student life into downtown Lexington, and create an even safer environment around campus.

We hope to accomplish much more this semester, and to continue serving the student body. We appreciate hearing your ideas, opinions, and concerns, so please, drop by the Student Government Office (room 120) in the Old Student Center, or visit our Web site at www.uksga.org, and click the Contact Us link at the bottom of the page.

Have a great semester!
Jonah Brown is a political science senior and the president of UK Student Government. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.



JONAH BROWN
Kernel columnist

Note to Readers

Unsigned editorials reflect the views of the Kernel Editorial Board. They are written independently of the Kernel's news coverage. Columns, letters and cartoons reflect the views of their authors.

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

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

Cartoonists Needed

The Kernel is looking for new cartoonists to draw for the Opinions page on a regular basis. Cartoonists of all interests will be considered, but The Kernel especially seeks those who have an interest in local issues.

Contact Wes Blevins at opinions@kykernel.com

SPORTS

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Better passing led to surge in scoring, winning for Cats

By Jonathan Smith
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Randolph Morris doesn't mind getting double-teamed. If a defender does help down on him, one of his teammates is open.

"We've got a very unselfish group of guys and I like the way they're playing as a team," Smith said. "And I really think they are enjoying each other."

And they — as a team, not just Morris — enjoy passing to each other.

In their 87-49 win over South Carolina on Wednesday, the Cats (15-3, 4-0 Southeastern Conference) dished out 21 assists, their most generous output of the season.

That is one of the main reasons the Cats have won 11 games in a row heading into tomorrow's game against Vanderbilt at Rupp Arena.

Some of the assists led to open threes. Others led to transition baskets. A few were to players cutting in the lane.

Recently, this has been the norm for UK to pass on being greedy.

Outside of a 12 assist effort against Mississippi State — a game head coach Tubby Smith described as posing "a lot of distractions" because of the return to school — the Cats have been more likely to be selfless than selfish.

Against Ole Miss they had 18 assists. Against Houston and Auburn, they had 19.

A lot of the passing success has been a product of Morris's ability to throw out of those double teams.

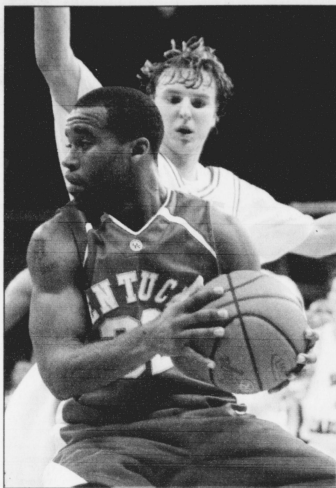
Morris has grown accustomed to passing out of double teams, and he's now starting to find open players on the outside.

"I thought Randolph commanded a lot of attention inside and that's why the perimeter guys were getting open looks," Smith said. "When you shoot the ball the way we did tonight, good things happen."

Earlier in the season, Smith said he wanted to get Morris more than 10 touches per game.

In four of the last six games, Joe Crawford has shot either the same amount of shots as Morris or more.

That, for Morris, is not a problem.



ED MATTHEWS | STAFF

UK junior tries to pass out of a trap set by South Carolina's Evaldas Baniulis in the Cats' 87-49 win over the Gamecocks on Tuesday. The Cats dished out 21 assists in the game, their highest output of the season. UK is third in the Southeastern Conference in league games in assist to turnover ratio.

The 6-11 junior center said after the South Carolina game that with so many of his teammates getting hot, it depends from night to night on who should take the most shots.

"I don't think that's important," Morris said. "I just think whoever is hot at the time should get the ball and whoever is having that great game should be getting it."

Wednesday, that guy was Crawford.

Crawford scored 23 points, the second time this season he has matched his career-high, in 29 minutes of play. He went 3-of-5 from 3-point range.

Guard Ramel Bradley agreed with Morris that if a player is shooting like that, his teammates have no other option but to defer to the hot-hand.

"On a night like this, when we had Joe, you know, that was unconscious, Joe kind of carried the load for us today," Bradley said after the South Carolina game. "Me and Randolph were just there to support him."

Bradley has shown as much support for his team as anyone else. He leads the team in assists at 3.8 a game.

Combine that with Crawford's smarter approach and Morris's inside awareness, and there is a team that is winning with unselfishness and giving.

"Overall we're getting a lot more balance and you can see by the numbers tonight and not just in scoring but in rebounding and sharing the basketball," Smith said. "There are a lot of things that indicate that we are playing together."

Tennis tries to bounce back from tough Fall

By Kenny Colston
kcolston@kykernel.com

The UK men's tennis team, which qualified for the NCAA tournament last spring, has struggled to match last season's success.

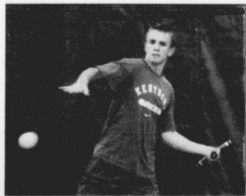
Over the weekend, in West Lafayette, Ind., both Purdue and New Mexico shut down the Cats in both singles and doubles competition. UK managed only two wins in the entire tournament.

In September, the team went a combined 6-10 in singles matches in the Cincinnati Invitational.

The fall season wasn't the start head coach Dennis Emery had hoped for, especially after last year's successful season.

This spring season, the team hopes to rebound off that disappointment — starting today at the Southeastern Conference Indoor tournament in New Orleans — and continue what Emery considers an annual goal of reaching the NCAA quarterfinals. But the road won't be easy.

Of the 29 opponents the team will face before the postseason, 17 of them are ranked in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings, including



ANDREW HUGGINS | STAFF

Sophomore Will Ward practices tennis with the team on September 12, 2006. Ward has high hopes for the season, saying, "I want to be the backbone of the team this year."

four teams in the top five. Every team in the SEC is ranked and Georgia is ranked first overall. UK is ranked No. 33 in the ITA rankings.

"The league is really strong — the SEC is the best conference in the nation," Emery said. "Four teams will probably be in the top ten by March and we have a young team so we'll have to see how we do."

For sophomore Will Ward, one of those top teams really grabs his attention — No. 2 Baylor, his former team. As for the rest of the schedule, Ward is excited about playing the top teams every week.

"Playing all these tough teams will really get us ready for the NCAA tournament," Ward said. "This tough schedule will give us no false ideas about what we can do."

Emery said the key to the remainder of the season will be the improvement of the younger players. Bruno Agostinelli, a sophomore, is the reigning SEC freshman of the year.

"Improvement in our young players and how they improve from now to March is what our success depends on," Emery said. "I'm really looking for some team leaders to emerge for us as well."

One player is already stepping up to the challenge.

"I want to be the backbone of the team this year," Ward said. "I want to be a reliable number 1 or number 2 singles player."

As for Agostinelli, the only individual ranked nationally on UK's team, the goals are simple: a top 30 ranking for the team as well as a focus on this year, not the future.

"We are going to work hard and do our best," Agostinelli said. "We fight hard every year and we'll treat every team as the same."

Ward said he understands that the team is going through hard times, but that they are optimistic.

"With a young team, we will have ups and downs," Ward said. "But I'm confident come time for the NCAA's, we could easily surprise some of the higher-ranked teams."

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