

THE Kentucky Kernel

Thursday, April 27, 2006

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Jamie Tennant (right), who played Carrie Pepperidge in the UK Opera production of "Carousel" last month, listens as Everett McCorvey gives her tips on improving her performance.

PHOTOS BY LAURA CLEMMONS | STAFF

A HIGHER OCTAVE

Internationally known tenor McCorvey leads UK Opera program to national prominence

By Laura Clemmons
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

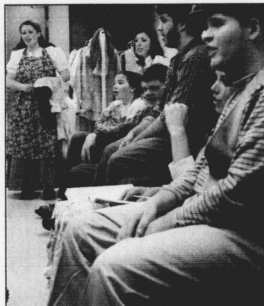
Even in the darkness of stage, Everett McCorvey couldn't wouldn't — stop teaching.

As his students rehearsed for UK Opera's recent production of "Carousel," McCorvey sang softly and kept the beat with his hands. He watched his students' every move in hopes of helping them improve.

That passion, which grew from his childhood experience playing the trumpet alongside high school students as an elementary student, has taken him on an impressive musical journey. In the last decade, it has helped him reinvent the UK opera program and, in the process, become one of the most respected college voice coaches in the country.

In his time at UK, the opera program's budget has grown from \$20,000 to almost \$500,000, and his students say most of the success rests with McCorvey, who has led the program since 1997.

"We want to give our students a professional experience while they are here at



The cast of "Carousel" sings along as McCorvey (not pictured) helps them polish a song a few days before the production in late March.

McCorvey came to UK in 1991 and took over the opera program in 1997. Since that time, the program and McCorvey himself have gained national and international attention.

UK," McCorvey said during that "Carousel" rehearsal.

He was encouraging as he talked one-on-one to students, giving them advice while they listened, eager to learn from such an experienced performer.

"I love teaching because I love seeing the light bulb come on in the student's eyes," McCorvey said.

"Teaching is really passing on what you have learned, experiences you've had, to the next generation of singers."

By passing on his knowledge, rooted in his worldly experiences, McCorvey has turned out some top-notch singers. One such protégé is rising opera star Gregory Turay.

Originally a scholarship

baseball player at UK, Turay joined the choir his freshman year. Practice schedules conflicted, however, so Turay dropped baseball to develop his vocal talents.

In 1991 Turay began working with McCorvey. It was McCorvey's first year at UK, so it was a new start for both teacher and student.

"He is head and shoulders above the rest," he said.

It didn't take long for Turay and McCorvey to both realize that Turay had a very special gift and he began to rapidly improve, Turay said.

Four years after he started at UK, the tenor won the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, putting both Turay and UK on the national opera scene. Turay has since performed at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, the English National Opera in London, England, and the Opera House of New National Theater in Tokyo.

See McCorvey on page 6

We've got "catch up" funding: Now what?

President, faculty leaders discuss how best to dole out raise money

By Adam Sichko
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

UK President Lee Todd believes he's got the answer to an almost perennial question at UK — when, and how, UK's average faculty salary will get closer to the median among its 19 benchmarks.

His administration's response: a 1.5 percent "catch up" salary raise that kicks in at the start of 2007. It's funding aimed at closing that gap between UK and the benchmark median — which stood at more than \$10,000 in 2004.

But he's not sure yet whether he'll equally divide that funding among UK's colleges to resolve campus salary issues next year.

Early last week, Todd proposed that "catch up" raise as part of a faculty salary increase that includes a 3.5 percent salary pool raise and \$800,000 for a "fighting fund" to help make more competitive counteroffers to faculty who are seeking jobs elsewhere.

Now, he's seeking input from faculty leaders and UK's next full-time provost to determine whether he should distribute those dollars evenly among UK's colleges and departments.

"One of the problems we have is that we have some departments that are just way behind and some individuals who are just way behind," Todd told The Kernel on Monday. "We've got to find a logical way to catch people up who deserve to get caught up."

"That 1.5 (percent) has been referred to as a 'catch up pool,' but we haven't defined exactly how that will work," he said.

Inherent in this discussion is how to get the merit system — a set-up that both faculty and staff salary pools function under — to work properly and efficiently. The 3.5 percent, for example, is an average raise for each department; a faculty mem-

See Salaries on page 5

Faculty

Original Proposal: A 3 percent salary pool raise with an additional 2.5 percent "catch-up" boost for a total raise of 5.5 percent in 2006-07

New Proposal: A 3.5 percent salary pool raise for 2006-07 with a 1.5 percent "catch-up" boost that will begin in January 2007; total average raise of 5 percent.

Patient threatens to blow up clinic

UK police officer: "It was obvious" that 44-year-old woman is "mentally ill"

By Megan Boehnke
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

A woman seeking treatment at Kentucky Clinic North threatened to blow up the building yesterday morning, forcing staff and patients to evacuate the building, said Maj. Joe Monroe with UK police.

Hazel Higgins, 44, walked in to the building, on the corner of Elm Tree Lane and Third Street, around 10 a.m. and requested treatment. When she was told to wait, Higgins said there was a bomb in the bag she was carrying and attempted to light a paper towel on fire.

The clinic staff called 9-1-1 and told police of the intercom system to exit the building. Police arrived and determined there were no explosives in the bag.

"It was obvious she was mentally ill," said Monroe.

The Lexington Fire Department transported to UK Hospital Emergency Room where she was evaluated by hospital staff who decided she had no reason to stay at the hospital.

She is now being held at the Fayette County Detention Center on charges of first degree arson and endangerment.

According to clinic policy, staff members are not supposed to activate the fire alarm in the event of a bomb threat because it may trigger the bomb. Staff members are always supposed to call UK police if a patient is being combative or carrying a weapon.

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Radio forum draws two of four mayoral candidates

By Darloush Shafa
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

A semester's worth of work on local politics by a UK journalism class culminated in a live radio Q&A session with three of the four Lexington mayoral candidates yesterday afternoon.

Journalism professor Buck Ryan and his JOURNAL 499 class, "Lexington and the Mayor's Race," set up yesterday's session in a partnership with the radio show "Campus Voices" on 88.1 WRFL-FM. Ryan said projects like this are all about getting citizens — especially college students — involved in the political process.

I think that only through face-to-face interaction will anyone, young or old, get turned on to politics," Ryan said.



"The whole idea is to get students involved in the process."

Bill Farmer Jr.
mayoral candidate



"Many of the (student) interests ... are similar to the interests of the community."

Jim Newberry
mayoral candidate

Two of the four candidates — Lexington-Fayette Urban County councilman Bill Farmer Jr. and local lawyer Jim Newberry — came in person for the session and a third candidate, cigar store owner Charles Martin Jr., phoned in to the radio show on WRFL. Incumbent Mayor Teresa Isaac did not participate.

The live radio session covered topics that reflected student concerns, including the Lexington Area Party Plan and "brain drain" — the loss of professors to other universities and the loss of students to jobs in other states after they graduate.

"Many of the interests the students have are similar to the interests of the community," Newberry said.

See Mayor on page 5

Students encouraged to vote before leaving town for the summer

By Evan Israel
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

UK students who are registered to vote have a way to cast their ballot for the May 16 primary election ahead of time, before the skip out of town for the summer.

There is still a way for those students to vote, however, said Dave Newton, a member of the group Kentuckians For The Commonwealth.

"If they're going to be out of the county on Election Day, they can vote early," Newton said.

He suggests that students take a half-hour off from studying and walk down to the County Clerk's Office, which is under the parking structure downtown near the Kentucky Theater.

See Voting on page 5

FYI

For more information on early voting, call the County Clerk's office at 255-VOTE.

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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 an 8 - Ok, you can launch now. You'll shoot straighter and get farther than you expected.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 6 - You're generally slow at making decisions. You find it more comfortable. Today, however, act quickly on a snap judgment, and you'll do fine.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 7 - If you have a short attention span, write yourself a note. Use bold colors and big letters, and put it where it can't be missed. Don't leave anything to chance.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 7 - You're in line for a promotion, a raise or a more difficult work assignment. It could be all of the above put together. If you get an offer, take it.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is an 8 - Don't spend the entire day goofing around, even if you feel like it. You need to present a professional demeanor. Important people are watching.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 7 - You can get what you've been seeking. Don't be embarrassed to shop in places where the overhead is low. Find it cheap.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 6 - There's one way to beat the competition - win them over to your side. Opposites attract, and today you're very attractive.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 7 - Push yourself past your own best

time. Work faster and make more money. Great treasures can be yours but only if you move quickly.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is an 8 - Recent enterprises have been tried. Accept encouragement. Let somebody who loves you reinforce your confidence.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 7 - Something you've kept hidden turns out to be exactly what you need. You had a hunch this would happen, and it did, eventually.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 7 - Your curiosity is intense now. You can partially satisfy it by yourself, but not completely. Consult a wise older friend.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 7 - Another's generosity is tapped, in your favor. Be gracious and accept what you're given. Yes, you do deserve it.

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THE DISH

Jen's on-air Oprah scoop

Celeb sets the record straight via telephone interview to show

Talk about a game of telephone! Rumors are always running rampant about Jennifer Aniston, so, on April 17, the actress, 37, called in to *The Oprah Winfrey Show* to set the record straight on some new tall tales. Us listened in.

Rumor has it. The buzz was that Oprah Winfrey, Aniston's BFF, was overseeing a lavish \$8 million wedding for the *Friends With Money* star and Vince Vaughn, 36. On the agenda? A performance by cellist Yo-Yo Ma and a \$1 million gift from Winfrey. "It sounds like you're giving me Santa Barbara," Aniston joked. "At a certain point, you have no other choice but to think it's funny."

On the move. Is it true that Winfrey was helping Aniston househunt in Santa Barbara, California (so they could be neighbors)? The Malibu-based actress said, "That's so sweet... [but] I've got my house."

- Aimee Agresti

Celebs' Artwork for Autism

These A-listers are raising cash - and awareness.

Own a piece of your favorite star! This April, in honor of National Autism Month, VIPs like Britney Spears, 24, and Patrick Dempsey, 40, have painted puzzles to be auctioned off by Autism Speaks and its corporate partner T.J. Maxx. "One out of every 166 children in the U.S. is diagnosed with autism," says Mark Rothmayr, president of Autism Speaks (which funds research into the disease). "Almost everyone knows someone with autism." Bidding starts April 24 on charityfolks.com for people such as:

Jessica Biel. Each shopping-bag-shaped puzzle (like Biel's playful aquatic scene) gives a snapshot of that star's personality, says Rothmayr.

Ryan Seacrest. The American Idol host, 31, is no stranger to autism awareness. He's a veteran supporter of "Clothes off Our Back," which raises money for the Cure Autism Now Foundation.

Scarlett Johansson. The lucky winner of Johansson's puppy puzzle will also get an autographed black-and-white photo of the actress, 21. (One hundred percent of the auction's pro-

ceeds go to Autism Speaks.)

Stars' Adoption Frenzy

Call it the Angelina effect! A slew of celebs are welcoming needy kids into their families.

Angelina Jolie has done amazing things," Jessica Simpson, 25 - who recently said she hopes to adopt children - gushed of Brad Pitt's leading lady (a two-time adoptive mom). Now more stars seem to be emulating the do-gooder.

Family additions. Ewan McGregor, 35, and wife Eve Mavrakis, 39, recently confirmed that they have adopted a 4-year-old Mongolian girl. In January, Meg Ryan, 43, brought home baby Daisy from China. Meanwhile, Ashton Kutcher, 28, said on April 3 that a baby with wife Demi Moore, 43, "could be in the plans." But, he added, "everybody's adopting babies now." Having one (biologically), it would be weird.

Maxine Chalker, of Adoptions From the Heart, applauds the trend. Although international adoption statistics aren't available yet for 2006, she tells us, "people who would never have considered adoption before will consider it now."

- Eric Andersson

The O.C.'s Prom Fashion

It's not who you bring, it's what you wear! For the Harbor School's Pirates of the Caribbean-themed prom, the ladies of *The O.C.* are dressing to impress. Us gets a sneak peek at the fab frocks modeled on the April 27 show (Box, 9 p.m.).

Dolled-up divas. "The show always tried to be aspirational when it came to fashion, but this year it's really outdone itself," co-executive producer Stephanie Savage tells us. Indeed, from Mischa Barton's frilly Chanel to Rachel Bilson's va-va-voom Vera Wang, the looks are way too cool for your average high school. And the clothes aren't the only things packing a punch: Look for matchmaking surprises, a prom game shake-up and (of course) a ballroom brawl. Says Savage, "It's *The O.C.*, so the chances of there being a fight are pretty good."

- Aimee Agresti

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

SUMMER CLASSICS MOVIE SERIES AT THE KENTUCKY THEATRE

Starting May 31, the Kentucky Theatre will show a classic film for \$3 a seat each Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Famous titles such as "King Kong," "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea," and "A Streetcar Named Desire" will grace the screen, along with episodes of "The Shadow" and classic cartoon reels. Afterwards, you can head down to the mall shop and get down at the sock hop.



left of center

Five Web sites that may herald the dawn of the apocalypse

By Doug Scott and Ian Conley
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The Internet is full of pedophiles, pretentious emo kids on MySpace.com and general philandering creeps. It also, however, offers unparalleled access to the absurd and carries with it, rather inexplicably, an aura of truth and authority. Here's a list of the most ridiculous and out-of-this-world sites we've come across that aren't really for real. Yes, we spend too much time on the computer. Don't be so incredulous; so do you.

5 Bonsaikitten.com

Who doesn't sit around all day wondering how they can successfully modify the body style of their feline friend by allowing it to grow from kitten to cat in an unreasonably confined space (read: a small jar). This site purports to sell kits of jars and instructions on how to fit your cat into them, and ways to keep them nourished through the painful long process.

4 Dionaea-house.com

This gem features a blog that ostensibly reports on a missing friend but eventually forms into a bizarre tale of a house that eats people. Gnarly.

3 Manbeef.com

Mmmm, delicious man meat. Sexual innuendo aside, Manbeef.com features a wide array of cuts of human flesh available for purchase and consumption. Again, it's not serious. We think.

2 Ilovebees.com

What appears to be just another website promoting a family-run honey farm called Margaret's Honey hailing from Napa Valley, Ca. is apparently a portal to some unknown hell preparing to rain on your parade. Upon launch, the site opens a flash window that reads "System peril distributed reflex" and features a countdown to wide awake and physical.

1 Dowethics.com

Unlike previous entries in the above list, this Web site is actually for real. Formed by a group of anti-corporate activists known as the Yes Men, the site assumes the role of a public relations site for the Dow chemical company that sardonically explains that the Bhopal catastrophe was a big misunderstanding and all is well.

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Lexington's 'reel'

silver screen

The Kentucky Theatre
stands as living
history and a hub
of downtown
Lexington's vitality

By Ian Conley
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The marquee juts from the face of otherwise monotonous buildings, lighting up a piece of Main Street with flashing bulbs and a soft glow. To even walk under the awning is to step back in time to an era when the moving picture was a novelty that provided innocent amusement and a catalyst for fantasy to a population reeling from the horror of World War I.

Fred Mills is dressed and ready for a day of entertaining Lexington. He hangs casually behind the concession stand, casually chatting with employees about the work ahead. With a shirt and tie neatly tucked into khaki pants, Mills appears to be the quintessential theater manager and usher. Rather than a sense of defensive indignation, however, Mills sports a jovial demeanor



PHOTOS BY KASHA STEVENSON | STAFF
The Kentucky Theatre auditorium, opened in 1922, has weathered fire and has been a hub of continual Lexington community activity for more than 80 years.

and a warm, attentive smile that offers a welcome to anyone entering the theater. "I don't know if you would call it a palace, but at one time we had 1200 seats," Mills says proudly of the theater as he

sits down in his chair in his office.

The Kentucky Theatre stands as a monument to that bygone era and as an entryway into a unique film experience that fades with each multiplex

that speak American suburbia. Opened in October 1922, the theater has weathered the storm of time and endured a tragic fire, yet has remained an anchor of downtown entertainment.

"Everybody's got a Kentucky Theatre story," Mills said. "This is where they were when World War II broke out, when they had their first kiss, got engaged, everything. It's meant a whole lot to lots of different people in a lot of different ways."

It means a particularly good deal to Mills, who, at age 17, was hanging around when a neighbor, who happened to be an assistant manager at the Kentucky, flippantly asked what he was doing over the summer. Mills then began working at the theater until he left Lexington to attend East-

See Theatre on page 4

WRFL - FM, 88.1



Oh snap! Look for
the WRFL Top-10
on page 4!

STUFF & THINGS

Five ways to make your weekend wonderful

1 Keeneland

After weeks of students engaging in a mass exodus down Versailles Road to the promised land of horses, gambling and alcohol, Keeneland will hold its final day of races tomorrow.

2 Rocky Horror Picture Show

The Kentucky Theatre will be hosting a debauched midnight showing of the family-adventure comedy Saturday night. Do the

time warp again. And again. And again. And then dress like a transvestite.

3 Duncan Sheik

Admit it: "Barely Breathing" is a pretty catchy song. If you didn't indulge your nostalgic side when Blues Traveler and Hootie and the Blowfish came through town, head to the Dame on Friday to see Duncan Sheik. Showtime is 9 p.m. Tickets cost \$15.

4 Arbor Day

Seriously, if you didn't plant

a tree for Earth Day last weekend, you have to plant one for Arbor Day. It's Latin for "Tree Day."

5 Study for finals

Go ahead and call us killjoys, but you can spare a weekend to actually ensure a fruitful future. Of course, you could always spend this weekend drinking yourself into a stupor, but we wouldn't recommend it. The last time we did that, we ended up working at The Kernel.

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Theatre

Continued from page 3

ern Kentucky University in Richmond. Mills returned to the Kentucky Theatre to eventually become its manager and consummate caretaker.

In fact, there have been even marriages inside the theater. The Lafayette Amusement Company constructed the theater. One of the directors of that company, Michael Switow, had also been involved in establishing another theater of the same name in Louisville and had previously built The Strand in Lexington before selling his interest in the company.

Switow leased both the State and Kentucky theaters to the Publix Theatre Corporation, a subsidiary of Paramount Pictures, in 1929.

As noted in a piece by former UK English professor Gregory

Waller that appeared in the re-opening program guide, by the late 1920s, Lexington's five movie theaters, including the State Theater which would ultimately be absorbed into the Kentucky, were all within walking distance of one another. As such, Waller noted, outrageous marketing and absurd promotions were a critical element to the business and a fundamental component of the theater's character.

For instance, in 1922, the Kentucky offered a special free screening of "Oliver Twist" for Lexington's orphans. Further, bombastic and visually stunning sets jumped out at audiences waiting in line to purchase tickets. With a terrifying effigy of Dracula hanging over head or massive shoes standing at their side for Harold Lloyd's 1930 film "Feet First," audiences were immersed in fantasy before even setting foot inside the theater.

The coup de grace for the Kentucky, however, came on April 24, 1927, when it became the first local theater to show films with sound. While a trite notion today, the idea of a talking picture was categorically phenomenal in its day, drawing crowds and inspiring awe.

A fire in the Fleur-De-Lys restaurant next to the Kentucky on Oct. 2, 1887, wrought tremendous damage throughout the building.

"It rendered the place inoperable," Mills said of the fire and ensuing smoke damage.

Mills credits the dedication of then-

Mayor Scotty Baesler in reestablishing the theater in 1922.

"When the theater closed, Baesler got more calls about the theater than anything else," Mills said.

In order to pay for the 800 new seats, each was sold for \$200. A brass nameplate on each one sold honors the gift to the theater. Further, the theater, which Mills said operates as a private small business, also gives a portion of proceeds from concessions to the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government "as a way of paying rent," Mills said.

Today the theater functions as Lexington's premier independent theater, showing films that wouldn't likely make it to multiplexes in the area. The theater also adds spice to downtown Lexington on weekends by providing late-night showings of films rarely, if not in a long time, seen on the big screen.

"We're one of the few theaters that still features midnight movies," Mills said.

"Everybody's got a Kentucky Theatre story. It's meant a whole lot to lots of different people in a lot of different ways."



Fred Mills
Manager, Kentucky Theatre

Of course, coupled with these midnight features are occasional special events, be it a Halloween double-feature or, more prominently, midnight "Rocky Horror Picture Show" screenings.

Passing by the theater on a "Rocky Horror" night is something to behold. Moms and daughters wait side by side, each wearing make-up so loud it can be heard inside the security of one's car and fishnet stockings so open they can be seen a block away. Indeed, it appears as though the theater vomits out a long line of pure, debauched insanity only to periodically gobble it right back up, digest it, and release it back into the world. The theater complements this midnight showing with a live cast mimicking the film on stage and interacting with the audience. Toilet paper projectiles, wedding rings and crude commentary from the audience are commonplace.

If you have cable television and have yet to hear the chorus of an audience shouting "WoodSongs Old Time Radio Hour" in cacophonous unison, congratulations; you must not be watching very much television. The hour-long show, hosted by local musician Michael Jonathan and held at the Kentucky, features artists and musical acts that don't necessarily appeal to modern, commercialized tastes. Indeed, even Mills noted that sometimes the billings can be quite obscure.

"Sometimes I'm thinking, 'Well, I have no interest in that,'" Mills said. "But every Monday night the auditori-

um is absolutely filled, so clearly these things appeal to a wide variety of people."

Notably, UK's College of Design uses the theater as a hub for graduation and honor ceremonies, as well as a specimen of architecture to be studied and admired.

"The theater means a lot," said David Mohney, dean of the College of Design. "It's served the college well, but the bigger picture is that it's served downtown Lexington."

Mills takes pride in the fact that the Kentucky functions more than just another movie theater, but also as a forum for community events. The reception hall of The State Theater features an art exhibit that's part of the regular rounds of the Lexington Arts and Cultural Council's bimonthly Gallery Hop and will soon feature a play by a playwright who approached Mills with the idea.

"We provide a place, an outlet, for people to be Mills said.

Not unlike many other historical Lexington landmarks, Mills noted, the Kentucky Theater pulls people in from the periphery of the city and gives the city character.

"You can only go so far out," Mills said, referring to the urban expansion of Lexington in recent years. "So you sort of have to come back to your center."

"People who visit Lexington aren't going to be asking to visit Hamburg Pavilion. They're going to want to see the real heart of the city, and downtown belongs to everybody."

Mills gets a knock on the door, interrupting his train of thought, and answers to see an employee complaining that the popcorn machine has malfunctioned. Bewildered, the employee offers the explanation that perhaps a fuse blew. Mills immediately recognizes the problem and directs the young man to contact maintenance. Without skipping a beat, Mills jumps back into the conversation. Experience and professionalism become reflex.

Although ticket prices have risen above the 50-cent mark, the Kentucky is still holding Main Street entertainment on its shoulders.

"So far so good," Mills quips as he steps outside his office, back to his duties. "You hope that Hollywood people like, he said. "I think as long as they turn out films, we'll be fine."

The palatial grandeur of the Kentucky Theatre is still found in its chandeliers dangling from the ceiling, the mirrored hallway that greets a freshly ordained ticket holder, and that indelible smell of popcorn that permeates the atmosphere. Yes, Mr. Mills, the Kentucky certainly is a palace.

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TOP 10

WRFL
88.1 FM

10. **The Fiery Furnaces**, "In My Little Thatched Hut"
9. **Lambchop**, "The Distance From Her to There"
8. **Television**, "Ain't that nothing"
7. **Medeski Martin & Wood**, "Queen Bee"
6. **Pavement**, "Stereo"
5. **Sparks**, "Metaphors"
4. **The Yeah Yeah Yeahs**, "Mysteries"
3. **The Flaming Lips**, "It Overtakes Me"
2. **Gnarls Barkley**, "Crazy"
1. **Pink Mountaintops**, "Lord, Let Us Shine"

Norris thrives as a Web legend

By Noel Holston
NEWSPIDER

What's Chuck Norris been up to since he and CBS shut down "Walker, Texas Ranger" in 2001? Apart from those Total Gym infomercials, that is.

The laconic, lethal-limbed action star has in fact undergone an improbable metamorphosis. The kick-meister has turned into a punch line.

As in: Chuck Norris doesn't shave... he stares at his beard in the mirror and the hair jumps off his face in fear.

And: Chuck Norris can count to infinity.

And: As a baby, Chuck Norris could fit the square pegs in the circular holes. "Facts" about Norris' awesome prowess are almost as ubiquitous on the Internet these days as porn sites (and occasionally just as X-rated). In the great cyberspace incubator, Norris has become, at 63, a folkloric figure like Pecos Bill, who legendarily rode a tornado using a rattlesnake for a whip, and Paul Bunyan, who is said to have dredged out the five Great Lakes while dressing with his gargantuan blue ox, Babe.

Norris' lionizers, of course, would tell you that their man's man Chuck would have roundhouse-kicked Bunyan into Saskatchewan and ground Babe up for a Happy Meal. In the world of Norrisisms, excess in the name of exaggeration is a virtue.

The ascension of Norris into the realm of myth and legend didn't happen by accident. Not totally, anyway. The phenomenon was nudged into existence by Ian Spector, an 18-year-old Brown University student.

Last April, Spector created a tongue-in-cheek "fact" site centered on Vin Diesel, another macho star who's better known for doing damage than dialogue. He said there'd been a lot of joking about the "bizarre nature" of Diesel's movie "The Pacifier," which cast him as a Navy SEAL turned nanny. Spector

wanted to create a site where "anyone could view or submit" comments.

"After a month or so, the novelty began to wear off," said Spector, who is majoring in computational biology for the moment but hasn't ruled out neuroscience. "So I, like, put up a poll to see who the next one should be about. There were about 12 people on my list. Chuck Norris wasn't there at all. But I got a lot of e-mails saying, 'Put on Chuck Norris, put on Chuck Norris.' So I did, and he won by a landslide."

The site Spector launched — www.ckq.cc/chuck — didn't take off immediately, but word got around. And around. And around. By November, it was working like a breeder reactor. And now, in the wake of stories in major newspapers and college dailies and Conan O'Brien's regular late-night spoofing of Norris' four-square image, the site has not only inspired dozens of similar sites, but has also attracted a staggering 100 million "hits" itself.

Spector is hard-pressed to explain the Chuck Norris phenomenon. He noted that the high school and college students who compose the vast majority of the various sites' visitors barely know "Walker, Texas Ranger," much less Norris' 1970s and '80s movies ("The Octagon," "Missing in Action," "Invasion U.S.A.") or his background as a martial-arts champion.

Spector suspects that their vague understanding of Norris' history actually facilitates the game, freeing them to project the wildest notions onto his image of confidence and invincibility.

Norris' publicist, Jeff Duclos, can't quite explain it, either. He pointed to the consistency of his client's persona

"kind of a John Wayne thing, very classical, an archetype of the male heroic image" — and the near-unavoidable presence of "Walker" reruns on USA Network and the Hallmark Channel. And he gives a lot of credit to "Late Night With Conan O'Brien," where Norris acknowledged the frequent ribbing

by a guest appearance in which he engaged the host in mock combat.

But Duclos doesn't believe any one factor can be cited. Rather, it's a convergence. "The interesting thing about it to me is, it's completely organic," he said. "It wasn't manufactured or created. It just emerged. There's well over 8,000 of these things (Norris-isms) that have been contributed. And it's not just one site, it's dozens. And then these lists of the 'most popular' or whatever get e-mail-blasted across everywhere. I think it's just the technology revolution in action, people creating their own form of entertainment. It's really amazing when you think about it."

Duclos said Norris initially didn't know what to make of the sometimes "out there" factoids about him but has come to find them flattering — enough so to post a list of his favorites on his official Web site.

Duclos is thrilled that the "facts" have afforded his client a new audience and new opportunities. Not a bad development when Norris, far from retired, has a three-book deal for "Justice Riders" Western novels, a team martial-arts project, the World Combat League, and his charitable foundation, Kickstart. Nor is he done making movies.

Spector, for his part, figures he's "on the 14th minute of my 15 minutes of fame," and he's OK with that. Only recently turned 18, he's started a worldwide phenomenon, been written about in newspapers, done radio and TV talk shows, even met the man himself (and pronounces him "a good sport").

It probably doesn't matter now anyway. The wheels are in motion. The universe has turned. Chuck Norris actually may be as unstoppable now as his legend-stokers would have it. Maybe he was all along. Maybe this isn't accidental. Maybe this is the ultimate fact about him.

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Salaries

Continued from page 1

ber could get up to a 7 percent raise, or no raise at all.

"That's one of the things we need to get better at on this campus, is applying the merit philosophy," Todd said. "We have a tendency to just spread it out, and I think we need to have supervisors and our department chairs and our deans look very carefully at how we apply those raises to make sure we're rewarding people who are putting in the most."

Kumble Subbaswamy, UK's incoming full-time provost, sees no drawbacks with a merit-based salary raise system.

"The very premise of a university is based on merit," said Subbaswamy currently the dean of Indiana Universi-

ty's College of Arts and Sciences. "After all, we give students grades, don't we? There's nothing unusual about assigning grades, or merits, to faculty."

The real issue is whether equal amounts of money for the "catch up" raise will be given to all colleges, Subbaswamy said.

"Some think it should be proportionate to a college's budget basis," he said, adding that others want to take into account existing differences in the colleges. "There are merits to both arguments."

Subbaswamy will be relying on meetings with deans to come up with a collective suggestion to Todd when starts his job July 1.

Ernie Yamarella, chairman of the University Senate, said the "catch up" funding should be "very seriously considered" to help close the benchmark gap. He believes the general policy of merit

raises is good — but there's a balance he hopes UK's administration ultimately strikes.

"It's certainly conceivable that some deans may wish to use a significant percentage of whatever is allocated to their college to one or two or half a dozen faculty to bring them completely in line with their market value," said Yamarella, a political science professor. "I would hope and expect that the deans, however, would distribute that more widely."

"To the extent that they do that, they aren't going to be able to right very many, or even any, of the disparities that exist between what their faculty members are earning and what they are 'worth' in terms of the national market," he said.

"It's my hope that the 'catch up' fund will be apportioned with an eye toward this glaring problem."

E-mail
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Mayor

Continued from page 1

Both Farmer and Newberry turned out early for the event, which kicked off with a cookout and a mock debate by students in Ryan's class, four of whom role-played as the candidates and argued for their issues. Journalism senior Cara Elvins played Farmer, journalism junior Khaled Ahmed played Isaac, journalism junior Keith Brooks played Martin and journalism junior Erin Schmitt played Newberry.

Having the students take on those roles and having their fellow students observe, Ryan said, was where some of the best learning was taking place.

"The real learning is happening with these students as they defend their position," Ryan said.

Newberry said his experience at the event yesterday was a pleasant one.

"I've enjoyed having a chance to visit with Buck and the folks in his class," Newberry said. "Plus, it's a chance to visit with some students who are politically active and will be likely to vote."

Newberry who was presi-

dent of UK's Student Government in the 1977-78 school year said he feels like he's on familiar ground, which will help him when it comes time for students to vote.

"It feels like 30 years ago. It's a very familiar setting," he said. "I can establish some relationships and some rapport now and it will serve me well in the election, and they (students) will be a potent force."

While the primary election will take place on May 16, after the spring semester is over, Ryan said other methods of voting are just as good.

"I think absentee ballots, early voting, they're all important ways to exercise the franchise in a very modern way so I'm all for it," he said.

Farmer said he thought the session was well put together.

"They made a happening out of it," Farmer said. "I've had a great time. It's always a pleasure to be on campus."

Farmer also said he was happy with the turnout, but wanted to see it grow even larger.

"A chance to be out here on campus with undergrads is a great opportunity," he said. "I just wish there were more. The whole idea is to get students involved in the process."

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Voting

Continued from page 1

Mary Kitts, Voter Registration Manager for the County Clerk's Office, says that students wishing to vote can come any time during the week from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to fill out an absentee ballot, but must come between now and May 15, since that is the day before the election.

She says the option is an important one.


"It just gives people who would not be able to vote the ability to cast their vote," Kitts said.

Only students who will be out of the county on Election Day are able to vote early.


Any student who wants to contact the County Clerk's Office for more information may call 255-VOTE (255-8683).

Students who are interested in learning more about the candidates before voting may check the Kentuckians For The Commonwealth Web site starting May 2 for survey answers, at www.geocities.com/ckkfc.

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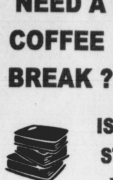
TURTIEB Clue: Appreciative show

NKEDISC Clue: Charles

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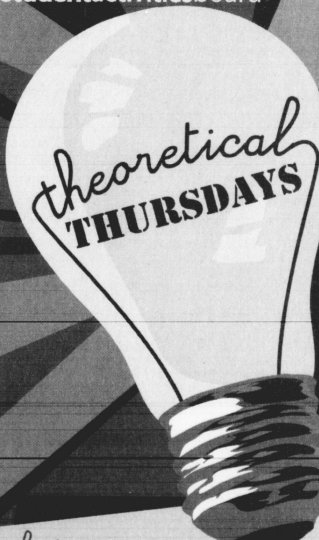
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McCorvey

Continued from page 1

Japan.

Turay credits McCorvey for his career calling him a "very giving individual" who "bends over backwards."

Sweet Home Alabama

While growing up in Montgomery, Ala., McCorvey's parents would open their home to students attending Alabama College — including one young trumpet-playing musician.

For McCorvey, that's where it all began.

"I fell in love with the trumpet," said McCorvey, director of the UK Opera Theater and professor of voice. The summer after his second grade year, McCorvey persuaded his father to sign him up for trumpet lessons.

By third grade, he was the only elementary school student in the high school band.

"It was those early days playing in the band that I realized I wanted to be in music," said McCorvey.

Though he stayed in the band through his senior year of high school, as an eleventh-grader he decided to join the choir.

"At our school, the choir was really bad," McCorvey said. "It didn't have any guys. So McCorvey and a few friends decided to lend their voices to the all-girl choir with the goal to help improve the choir's sound by harmonizing with the ladies."

When it came time to apply to colleges, McCorvey showcased his musical talents for the University of Alabama.

"At my audition, I played my horn and I sang," he said. "I was hoping to get a scholarship for playing my horn but I got the scholarship for singing."

One of the teachers at McCorvey's audition was Bill Stevens.

"Bill Stevens was the voice teacher for Jim Nabor — you may know him as Gomer Pyle," he said. Stevens passed McCorvey a valuable piece of advice: instrumentalists are a dime a dozen.

With singing talent harder to come by, Stevens encouraged McCorvey to focus on his vocals.

"But I still wasn't convinced," McCorvey said.

So, in his first year at Alabama, McCorvey played in the band along with focusing on his vocal studies.

"After the first year I decided that singing was a lot more challenging," he said. So McCorvey stopped playing "the instrument," as he affectionately refers to the trumpet, to focus on refining his vocal talents.

McCorvey said he knew all along he wanted to teach. "I knew it was just a matter of time. I had very good teachers in high school and college," McCorvey said. "In order to be an effective teacher, I had to have time performing."

A long list of honors

After earning his master's in music at Alabama, McCorvey moved to New York City and freelanced for five years. "Those five years in New York were invaluable in terms of me learning how to live solely on my vocal chords," said McCorvey.

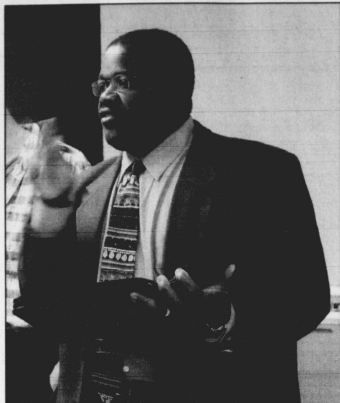
This experience gave McCorvey the opportunity to travel all over the world.

"It's very humbling to be able to do that and sing," McCorvey said.

"I'm like 'where's the work?'" he asked with a laugh. "It is work, but I just travel and perform and meet people...and I just love it. I love new places, I love the idea that I can do this, and it has given me great joy."

McCorvey performed at the Metropolitan Opera, Radio City Music Hall and Teatro Comunale in Florence, Italy. He has also appeared in the feature film "The Long Walk Home" in 1991.

In 1983, while performing on Broadway, McCorvey met his wife, mezzo soprano



LAURA CLEMMONS | STAFF
Everett McCorvey instructs the cast of "Carousel" during a rehearsal break at the Lexington Opera House last month as the group prepared for its March production.

Alicia Helm.

"We met singing 'Porgy and Bess' at the Metropolitan Opera," he said. "We dated the first season and got married after the second season."

Before their three children, the McCorveys performed together, traveling throughout the United States.

"For about five or six years we averaged about 50 concerts a year," McCorvey said. "Then as kids came, the concerts became fewer and fewer."

A native New Yorker, Alicia Helm is also an accomplished vocalist and now a voice teacher at Transylvania University.

After New York, McCorvey returned to the University of Alabama to pursue his doctorate in music.

After finishing his doctorate, Knoxville College in Tennessee offered McCorvey a job to teach and run the fine arts department at the college after he gave a performance at the school.

After finishing a European tour and his doctoral degree, he took the position.

"I quickly learned that I had a lot of ideas that I wanted to try to make happen. Unfortunately, the college just did not have the resources," McCorvey said.

After only three months at Knoxville College, McCorvey received an offer to audition for the position of voice teacher in UK's music department.

"They offered me the job," McCorvey said. "I felt like I had just stirred the waters at Knoxville College, so I turned the job down."

UK struck a deal with McCorvey and he joined the UK staff in 1991, after spending one year at Knoxville College.

McCorvey knew he was coming into a program in progress.

"The director of the school had as his primary goal to make the vocal program a national program. National meaning recruiting the best and the brightest (students) from all over the country," McCorvey said.

McCorvey told the director that to make the vocal program at UK one of the best it would take ample funding and the right personnel. So with cooperation from all those involved, hard work and McCorvey's leadership, UK's vocal program started its climb up the national ladder.

In 1997, the director of the UK opera program retired and McCorvey took over the position.

It wasn't the first program he took charge of, however. Two years before that, in 1995, McCorvey founded the American Spiritual Ensemble.

"Many churches and schools were getting to where anytime they wanted to do black music, they were doing gospels," he said. "Gospel music came quite after spirituals. Spirituals are the folk songs of the American Negro, they sang in cotton fields, in churches

... longing for freedom."

McCorvey wanted to reaffirm these spirituals in the culture of American music. By forming the American Spiritual Ensemble he did just that.

Made up of professional opera singers, the group has been touring for ten years, doing two to three American tours every year as well as tours in Spain, Poland and the Czech Republic.

"Our goal is to keep the American spiritual alive," McCorvey said.

Becoming a national program

The opera program started with a \$20,000 loan from the university that had to be paid back by the end of the year.

"You can barely do one production with \$20,000. Today our budget is almost \$500,000," McCorvey said.

That growth can be attributed to McCorvey's hard work, dedication and pure charisma, said Andrea Jones-Sojola, another former student of McCorvey.

"He just has that... what's the word? Panache," she said.

Jones-Sojola, a native of Louisville, attended the University of Northern Colorado, but had not considered coming to UK. Later she realized the opportunities at the school.

"While I was in college, UK blew up and was on the map," Jones-Sojola said.

After a stint in New York City with a famous and very busy voice coach, Jones-Sojola went to McCorvey for a lesson while visiting her home in Louisville.

"I had six voice lessons in the month I was home for Christmas," Jones-Sojola said, recalling that McCorvey didn't charge her a dime.

"In those six lessons he taught me more than I had ever learned from anyone," she said. Jones-Sojola eventually came to UK for her master's degree, studying voice under McCorvey, where he gave her a voice lesson every week after she moved to Lexington.

"He was very patient with me, he didn't let me get away with anything; he made me work," she said, adding that McCorvey does not let his students get by purely on their talents.

He helps his students get out of their comfort zones and learn how to share their gifts. "He helped me learn how to access part of my voice that I had always feared... I call him my blessing," Jones-Sojola said of her mentor, who has been much more than teacher in her life.

Jones-Sojola still talks with McCorvey frequently while touring with the American Spiritual Ensemble, and Turay also stays in touch with his former instructor.

"We talk at least once, if not two or three times a week," said Turay, who has studied with voice teachers in Chicago, San Francisco, New York and London, but always appreciates the McCorvey's role.

"The program has grown in leaps and bounds," Turay said. "The program you see today is because of him."

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The Fair will be held at the OVEC Office, 100 Alpine Drive in the Hi Point Business Center just off KY 55, just 3 miles north of I-64 (Exit 35) at Shelbyville, KY.

For more information call (502) 647-3533, ext. 212 or visit the website: www.ovec.org

Voters looking to blame someone for gas prices

By Peter Whoriskey
THE WASHINGTON POST

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — One of the soaring bridges to the beach here is named for longtime Republican congressman E. Clay Shaw Jr., and at its foot is a gas station where drivers on Wednesday were filling up, wincing at the tally and wondering whom to blame.

Gas prices have reached \$3 a gallon in the area, and for Shaw, a former mayor and a political institution here, the rising bipartisan disgruntlement at the pumps is a troubling sign. Here and in other swing districts across the country, the Democratic challenger is attacking the Republican incumbent for inaction — or worse — on gas prices and other energy woes.

"This is ridiculous," said Jackie Tarone, a retired homemaker and Bush voter who was filling up a Mercedes SL500. "The oil companies keep giving money to the politicians to keep them in there — that's the way the system works. It's a shame."

Although she has voted for Shaw in the past, she said, she wasn't sure about next time.

"I don't know which is the lesser of two evils anymore," she said.

Anger over gas prices is gaining traction in many midwestern races around the nation as Democrats attack Republicans for being too close to oil companies. With many in the GOP growing uneasy, President Bush this week called for price-fixing investigations. Political analysts say the rising prices could dovetail with growing public concern over the war in Iraq to give Democrats an opening in several key races.

In Virginia, one of two candidates in the Democratic primary for Senate, Harris Miller, accused Sen. George Allen, R-Va., of siding with oil companies instead of backing

legislation to protect consumers. "Looking to George Allen and George Bush to solve the gas crisis is like asking Bonnie and Clyde to solve the crime problem," Miller said.

Allan campaign manager Dick Wadhams said in response that Democrats in the Senate had obstructed the passage of an energy bill in Congress for more than five years. He said Allen fought successfully for the bill's passage in 2005. "Had Harris Miller's friends not obstructed that bill for years, we would be a lot closer to energy independence and developing renewable sources of fuel," Wadhams said.

In Maryland's governor's race, Republican incumbent Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. took fire from his Democratic challengers, Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley and Montgomery County Executive Douglas Duncan. They accused him of falling consumers by not putting his clout behind anti-gouging legislation that died during the recently concluded legislative session.

Ehrlich dismissed the attacks as "whining" and told reporters he is realistic about his limited ability to exert pressure on gas prices. He did say he is seeking permission to temporarily halt the use of cleaner-burning gas additives in the Washington suburbs and Baltimore area.

In Minnesota, Senate candidate Amy Klobuchar has stopped at stations to hear from voters. In Pennsylvania's 6th, where Democrat Lois Murphy is trying to unseat Rep. Jim Gerlach, Murphy has been swinging his campaign to visit gas stations. In Arizona, Senate candidate Jim Pederson proposed a tax rebate to families funded by eliminating oil company tax breaks.

George Gonzalez, an assistant professor of political sci-

ence at the University of Miami, said the issue gives the Democrats leverage against Republican incumbents. "It certainly creates a bias against the Republicans," he said.

At the pumps, it was clear that incumbents had something to worry about.

"I voted for him (Shaw) before, but now I want change — but not just because of gas prices," said Thomas Fortino, a retired picture framing store owner filling up in Fort Lauderdale.

Florida's 22nd District stretches across coastal communities from Fort Lauderdale through Boca Raton and Palm Beach. Shaw is being challenged by state Sen. Ron Klein, who is well-financed and also focused now on energy issues.

This week, Klein proposed suspending Florida's sales tax on gasoline during August, noting that "there is a lot of frustration out there. Congress has done nothing."

In criticizing Shaw for "generally voting with the Republican leadership to prop up the oil companies," he echoed other Democratic candidates whose national leaders have advised them to deplore the problem, at least partly as a product of Republican coziness with the oil industry. At least among motorists filling up here, suspicion regarding the oil companies was rife, with several citing the record profits recorded by Exxon Mobil.

"I'm boycotting Exxon Mobil right now," said Deborah Shuart, a 53-year-old Republican who was putting \$41.70 into her car. The entrepreneur said her family of five is considering carpooling for the first time. "It's been tough."

Shaw said he anticipates being the target of some of the anger.

In a letter to constituents who ask about the issue, Shaw reminds them that he

voted in favor of a measure to increase fuel-efficiency standards, which failed. In August, he sent a letter to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, calling for scrutiny of potential profiteering and price gouging.

Noting that any "challenger will blame the incumbent" for the economic situation, he said he expected that gas prices if they continue to rise "will have some effect" on the election.

At the pumps here, the oil companies may have been the most commonly cited target of consumer ire, but not the only one.

Many said they blamed the government and car manufacturers for failing to develop alternative sources of energy — particularly after the oil crisis in the 1970s.

"The government is definitely to blame for making our number one energy source," said Inna Shapovalov, 35, an immigration lawyer who was putting \$35 into her Hyundai Santa Fe. "I wish we could all drive electric cars."

In a district that contains some of the most affluent portions of the state and large numbers of gas-guzzling luxury vehicles, not blamed motorists themselves for buying cars that use so much gas. National figures show that though the average vehicle mileage improved dramatically through much of the '80s, it has since dipped or held constant.

John Holzberg, 64, a Republican banker from Boca Raton put gas into Cadillac and cursed when the total of \$43 came into view.

"I can't seem to figure out who's responsible," said Holzberg, who "doesn't like George Bush anymore." But he was sure it was making the electorate grumpy. "The economy is humming along, nobody cares because everyone is focused — like I am — on Iraq and oil prices."

Rice, Rumsfeld drop in on Iraq

By Louise Roug and Paul Richter
LOS ANGELES TIMES

BAGHDAD, Iraq — America's top diplomat joined the U.S. Defense secretary in a surprise visit to Baghdad yesterday to express support for Iraq's new leaders as they try to put their troubled nation back on course.

But Iraqi officials said they, too, were surprised by the unannounced arrival of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, and some said they feared it could disrupt negotiations to form a new government and erode its legitimacy.

"We didn't invite them," said Kamal Saadi, a Shiite legislator close to newly named prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki. (Maliki said this week he is reverting to his original first name, Nouri. He said he had adopted the first name Jawad during his time in exile, to protect his family in Iraq.)

Saadi said Iraqi leaders had not been notified in advance of the visit, which came just days after Iraqi politicians broke through a critical impasse on the naming of a prime minister.

"Maybe Rumsfeld's visit can be justified," because of American troop presence, "but I can't see a clear reason behind Rice's visit," he said. "The crisis is over and negotiations are taking place."

Since the December elections, American officials have pushed Iraqi elected officials to form a balanced national unity government. During the nearly four-month delay, the country has been rocked by violence with increasingly sectarian overtones, raising the specter of all-out civil war.

Rice told reporters during a joint news conference with Rumsfeld that al-Maliki and others made clear in meetings that "This is a time when Iraqis are taking responsibility for their own future. We can be partners. We can support. We can help. But this is Iraq's time and the time for Iraq's newly elected leaders to take on these responsibilities."

Some Iraqi politicians thought the visit could backfire during sensitive negotiations. Similar suggestions were raised in the past weeks about the statements and actions of American Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad and

about the visit earlier this month by Rice and her British counterpart, Jack Straw.

"It would be more appropriate if they would leave us alone," said Mahmood Othman, a senior Kurdish legislator. "Let us solve our problems by ourselves."

"Enough is enough," agreed Sheikh Mahmoud al-Sudani, a politician affiliated with radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. "Rice's trip to Iraq at this critical time is just another desperate move by the Americans to try to impose themselves on our new government. But they have lost their influence."

The most positive reaction to the visits was evident among Sunni leaders, once among those most offended by the ousting of fellow Sunni Saddam Hussein three years ago.

"Americans can help coordinate and speed up the process," which will benefit everyone," said Azhar Samarai, a Sunni legislator with the Iraqi Islamic Party.

Rice said U.S. officials were hearing "loud and clear" that the new Iraqi leadership intended to be nonsectarian in its decisions

on who will head ministries, particularly interior and defense, which oversee police and armed forces.

"I think they understand ... the importance of appointing ministers and subordinates who have a reputation for technical competence and a mind-set that is nonsectarian," Rice said.

As Rice and Rumsfeld lunched with Khalilzad, violence continued across the country.

Near the northern city of Kirkuk, police said a roadside bomb killed one civilian, and a body was found in a village south of the city.

In the capital, a bomb in a nylon bag left on a bus killed four people and injured 21 others. Two other people were killed and four others injured by a roadside bomb targeting police in the western part of the city. Another person was killed by a roadside bomb, according to authorities. Police also recovered 15 bodies from various Baghdad neighborhoods.

Just north of Baquba, a roadside bomb exploded in the Shiite town Kharabat killing three people and injuring another 10, according to local police.

Bush picks new spokesman from Fox News

By Craig Gordon
NEWSDAY

WASHINGTON — He has called President Bush politically impotent, "the boy who can't say no" to big spending and "something of an embarrassment."

And that's someone incoming White House press secretary Tony Snow actually likes.

Democrats far worse — they're "Defeatocrats" in the conservative pundit's view — and some in the press corps have a "hate Bush" mentality.

Bush yesterday made Snow the first media figure in 30 years to be the public face of the White House — betting that someone from the world of sharp-elbowed political commentary is just the kind of person to help revive an administration to life support.

For Bush, the move appears squarely aimed at wooing back wavering conservatives — disenchanted over Iraq and big spending — by enlisting a genuine star in the firmament of conservative punditry, who appears regularly on talk radio and Fox News Channel.

Snow also played a small but significant behind-the-scenes role in exposing the Bill Clinton-Monica Lewinsky sex scandal by introducing Linda Tripp to a literary agent who helped Tripp get Bush's job to share details of the affair.

But that past career puts Snow, 50, outside the mold of past White House secretaries who started their jobs as relative unknowns and often steered a more measured course in speaking at the world's most visible podium.

Instead, Snow carries to the podium years worth of his own opinions, which could complicate his ability to articulate Bush's views, especially when they differ with his own well-publicized ones, analysts said.

In addition, Snow acknowledged Wednesday he would have to tone down his own remarks, particularly to Bush. He said he believes Bush picked him to offer his unworn advice "but probably not in those exact words," Snow said.

Bush joked about it, saying he asked Snow about some of those negative comments. "He said, 'You should have heard what I said about the other guy,'" Bush said.

Rich Bond, a former Republican National Committee chairman, said of Snow, "Having to eat some of his

past words will cause him some heartburn, but none of it is fatal to Snow or the president."

And of course, Snow has supported Bush strongly, praising his "brilliant" foreign policy and "visionary" Social Security plan.

Snow, who served as a speechwriter in Bush's father's administration, had colon cancer surgery 14 months ago but said he got a clean bill of health from doctors Tuesday night.

Ron Nessen, who served as press secretary to President Ford, said he believes Snow's criticism of Bush could ultimately prove to be a positive. "In a way, it gives him more credibility. Here's a guy who's not just a blind mouthpiece of the president. He's criticized the president before," he said.


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Issue will publish: Monday, May 1st

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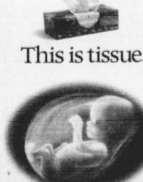
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U OF L 4, UK 1 | EKU 2, UK 0

UofL, EKU sweep two from Cats

STAFF REPORT
Just when it appeared the UK softball team was ready to turn the corner, the Cats suffered a setback, dropping a doubleheader last night. The Cats fell 4-1 to No. 21 Louisville (31-9) in the first game of the night before dropping a 2-0 decision to Eastern Kentucky (27-23). The Cats fell to 21-29 on the year.

The Cats and Cards faced off in the evening's opening game. UofL took an early 1-0 lead in the top of the first after a hit and the first of four UK errors in the game.

UK tied it in the home half on the second inning. Ashley Ferric reached on a fielder's choice and went to second on a bunt. She scored on a single up the middle by Megan Glenn to tie the game at a run apiece.

The score remained knotted at one until Audrey Rendon led off the top of the third with a solo home run right field. The Card plated two more runs on Lori Melchi's first error of the season to take a 3-1 lead.

UofL ace Catherine Bishop came in to relieve starter Kady Garrick in the fourth and earned the win. Bishop did not allow a UK runner past second base as she held on for the win to improve to 20-5 on the year.

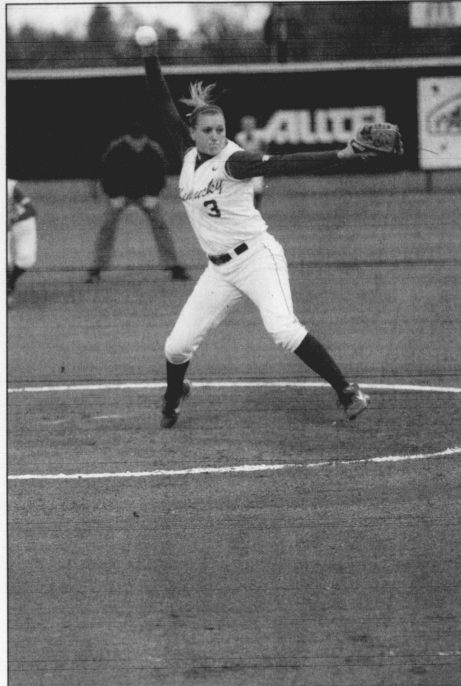
Amy Kendall was tagged with the loss despite retiring 13 of the last 14 batters she faced. Kendall (8-9) gave up three runs on three hits in five innings of work and struck out five.

Meghan Cooper had two of the Wildcats' four hits, going 2-for-3 at the plate, while Glenn finished 1-for-3 with an RBI.

In the second game, EKU jumped ahead in the top of the first. The Colonels plated two runs on three hits, including two run-scoring singles, off UK starter Jessica Trueblood. The freshman pitcher did not allow a Colonel past second base the rest of the way but the Cats weren't able to give her any run support. EKU's Kaylin Fox effectively shut down the UK lineup. UK had just three singles and stranded seven runners in the game.

Trueblood got the loss despite giving up just one earned run and striking out six. She fell to 8-16 on the year. Fox earned the win to improve to 12-10.

E-mail: sports@kynews.com



Freshman pitcher Jessica Trueblood pitches in last night's game against Eastern Kentucky. The Cats suffered a sweep at the hands of in-state rivals EKU and Louisville yesterday. With the losses, the Cats fell to 21-30 on the season.

THOMAS SANDS | STAFF

Classified continued from page 11

HEALTHY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Behavioral Studies Researchers with the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Department of Behavioral Science are recruiting healthy volunteers ages 18-30 to participate in ongoing multiple research studies that evaluate the behavioral effects of prescribed and approved medications. Qualified volunteers will be paid for their participation. Potential volunteers should be current tobacco smokers who are not trying to quit. Studies involve completion of 1 to 9 testing sessions depending on studies for which you may qualify. Studies are run in a pleasant setting during office hours. Snacks, movies, video games and reading materials will be provided. Please call (609) 257-5589 or (609) 224-0038 for more information. Investigators will return your call to discuss eligibility or visit our website at <http://www.kyrtdr.com>

HOME FINISHING, RETAIL PT sales clerk. 10-15 hrs/wk. 273-3357.

UTO CHEVROLET A SERVICE Must be over 21. Work. Thurs. Fri. Sat. evns. Apply in person. Gadsbyville Bar & Grill. 222-4775.

LAP ASST. YEAR-ROUND position starting mid May and continuing through the end of the following school year. Need a responsible person to manage 15 hrs/wk preparing media and sterilizing glassware. One year in Chemistry required. Contact: Chris or Rashida at 222-5691.

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR needs PT-Ft summer help, good pay. 859-264-9787.

LIFE GUARDS, POOL MANAGERS & Swim instructors needed. \$7.00/hr. commensurate exp. For application please call 859-236-4999 or email bna64269@comcast.net.

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NANNY NEEDED 4 days/wk. starting in May 8-6, children ages 2 & 4. Must have own transport, could split days b/w 2 people. 859-224-2326.

NANNY/CAREGIVER wanted PT 3 children. Must have references. N.S. 265-9981.

NATIONAL CO. NEEDS HELP to promote local dealers. PT opportunity for students. AM/PM. Good. \$3 wk. 800-837-3864. 252-2091.

OUTSTANDING DISTRIBUTORSHIP seeking 2 sales reps. for KY or WV. Please send resume and cover letter to kyl@holland.com.

PALETTE WORKER NEEDED in Law Office. Flexible hours. No weekends. Duties include basic office skills. Send resume along with availability to e-mail: partpart@comcast.com or fax to 859-259-2952.

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PT NANNY NEEDED for 2 children starting July 28. Must have own trans. Early childhood or education major preferred. 578K. 6:30-5. 859-806-6539.

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RAMSEY'S DINER Staying in Lexington for the summer? Going to summer school? Ramsey's Diner-all locations now hiring for summer help. Servers/bussers/PT or FT. Positions qualify fill early! May 26 apply now even if not totally avail. until schools out. Interviews for all locations can be made W-F 3:5pm at Ramsey's corner Woodland/Hardy St., 1 mile from campus.

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THE CHOP SHOP is looking for fun and energetic new servers and greeters to work for a great company. Also hiring chefs, best pay in town. Flexible hours, great pay. Apply in person: 4th between 2-4 pm, 2640 Richmond Rd. 859-268-9555.

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IN OUR OPINION

Ky. history, good or bad, can't be erased

Thanks to a resolution from Student Government, the giant fresco mural inside Memorial Hall has gained significant attention around campus.

And rightly so — the resolution, sponsored by Sen. Sam Gaines, has brought to light the fact that certain aspects of the mural aren't properly explained.

But the proposed solution to those issues is way off base — especially at a place of higher education. And UK's administration must resist calls to paint over part, or even all, of the 1984 piece.

The fresco depicts life in central Kentucky from the 18th century up through the early parts of the 20th century at UK. A variety of aspects of life are depicted in vivid colors that have survived for decades. But as the resolution points out, not every element is adequately explained.

The historical marker outside the building describes the painting's contents as "depicting historical events in central Kentucky."

The display inside does an excellent job of explaining the artistic value of the fresco — a difficult form of art to master. And there's no doubt that, artistically, the Memorial Hall mural has an incredible amount of educational value.

But there is simply no appropriate explanation offered for, say, a scene depicting a Native American hiding behind a tree, tomahawk at the ready, spying on a woman scooping water out of a nearby stream. To the left of the Native American is a band of settlers, denoted in the informational display as "Westward expansion" in the display's key to the painting. The woman, and Fort Harrold behind her, represents "Harrodsburg settlers."

But no such label is affixed to the Native American, no explanation is given for him or his history or for why he's seemingly ready to attack the woman at the stream. And the four slaves bent over, reaping crops in the field, also have no details given. Unlike the "Westward expansion" and the "Harrodsburg settlers," the Native American and the slaves are not explained.

That alone is proof enough that

more needs to be done to explain the detailed history behind the mural and the histories of all the people in it. This is a great opportunity for UK to teach students a lot about Kentucky's early history on a wonderful piece of artwork.

For example, three Native American tribes — the Cherokee, Chickasaw and Shawnee — greatly influenced Kentucky, according to the Kentucky Historical Society's Web site. Of those three, the Shawnee were the most powerful; in fact, "the Shawnee raided the early settlements of Kentucky and did not give up their claims to the area until after the War of 1812," the site notes.

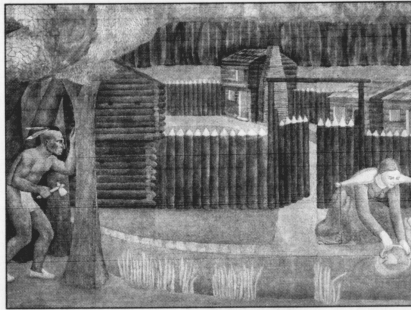
Gaines doesn't like that the mural "doesn't highlight positive aspects of our history." Unfortunately, we cannot and must not hide from our history — no matter how evil or tarnished it can be at times.

Gaines' proposal would allow us to hide behind a facade of naivete and stereotypes that, for example, Kentuckians from decades past never treated black people as animals during the reign of slavery.

Censoring this mural is the worst thing the university can do. President Lee Todd told *The Kernel* on Monday that he doesn't want to "cover it or take it down," but he added that he is open to input on what can be done to "remove some offensive nature to it."

One way UK could handle this is through new buildings. Under the expansion that will drive UK's push to achieve top-20 public research institution status by the year 2020, many buildings will be built. Each of these projects gives UK a great chance to include art that displays history from different viewpoints.

But the best way to handle this situation is to install plaques that let the public read more information not about the mural, but about the people in the mural. For example, the history of Native Americans and blacks in Kentucky should be thoroughly explained, not relatively ignored, as it is in the current display. There's plenty of room — and a great opportunity — for UK to both preserve a historical and artistic artifact and better educate everyone on campus.



Mural doesn't affect diversity

I am writing to express my strong disagreement with the recent actions of the Student Government Senate regarding the fresco painting in the lobby of Memorial Hall.

The first time I saw the painting was at the beginning of this semester, while waiting for a biology class to begin. I was struck by this colorful, sweeping portrait of Kentucky's history.

It is truly an impressive and historical piece of work, and the university should be proud of it. The various groups are portrayed from an historical point of view; conflict with Native Americans and slavery are sad parts of American history, but we can't change the past. We should be much more concerned about the present and the future.

Does the SG Senate really think that removing this painting will solve anything? Is the most constructive way to use their time and resources in the removal of art from our campus? Shouldn't they be more concerned about things that actually affect students, such as campus safety?

Also, no one that I know, or even know of, is offended in the slightest by the portrayal of his or her own race. Instead, paranoia that

some easily offended but probably imaginary person might take offense is threatening to remove a beautiful work of art from our campus!

Sam Gaines was quoted as saying, "Removing the painting could have a positive impact, showing that UK places diversity as a goal in reaching top 20 status." I fail to see how removing a painting will increase diversity among the student body.

Does Mr. Gaines feel that minorities will refuse to attend a university based on a painting that is more than 70 years old? I see this issue as much more threatening to diversity in art than in the student body.

ANDREW WEBB
social work freshman

Hey guys, cat calls aren't flattering

I was walking home from the Showcase of Undergraduate Scholars Tuesday where I and over 100 other undergrad students were recognized for our contributions to the university when I heard the all-too-familiar call, "Hey baby."

I looked over, repulsed and saw a group of three men in a crowd of others on the side-

walk, all of whom heard his derisive grunt. The man who had catcalled me wasn't even looking at me, and when I confronted him and asked him what was wrong with him that he thought it was appropriate to call a total stranger "baby," he wouldn't look at me or answer. It was as if I wasn't there.

If street harassment was an isolated incident, I could shrug it off as one idiot who doesn't know how humiliating and degrading it is to be reduced to a sex object by a total stranger in a public place. Women might be honored at university awards ceremonies, but as long as they are given no respect on the streets, these awards mean nothing.

SG should back gay and lesbian center

Perhaps if Student Government Sen. Sam Gaines is so concerned with promoting diversity at UK, he should sponsor a resolution to fund the gay and lesbian resource center on campus instead of paying lip service to diversity by trying to censor historical art. Like all of SG, he needs to learn to put his money where his mouth is. It would

do so much more good than grandstanding to his Greek electorate.

The mural issue has brought a lot of much-needed discussion about race to this campus. I am uncomfortable with the covertly racist attitudes it has dredged up, most notably the idea that white people should be allowed to tell people of color what they can and cannot be offended by. As a member of the white majority, I recognize that my privilege gives me the luxury to not be offended by historical portrayals of racism. To the people who still are forced to endure prejudice and discrimination to this day, that might not be such an easy choice to make. I certainly don't deem myself the person to make the decision for them.

That said, I recognize that SG's actions probably do not stem from any sort of gut-wrenching moral abhorrence of racism. I can't stress this enough — if our esteemed senators actually cared about diversity on this campus, they would give the LGBTQ center the support it needs to become a reality. Until that happens, I will take the antimural action for what it is — a lot of hot air and I will root for the resolution's failure.

KATIE SHARP
architecture senior



AARON SMITH, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Military service should be optional for all Americans

Democrats have come up with an interesting way to get young people to go to the polls — by threatening our lives.

Yes, military conscription is creeping back into U.S. political debate. But in a surprising (and somewhat disturbing) twist, its support is coming mostly from the "anti-war" left.

For instance, Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., sponsored legislation in January 2003 that would reinstate a draft lottery, in hopes of forestalling the war against Iraq.

And last year, the center-left magazine *Washington Monthly* suggested that the government force twenty-somethings to risk their lives for the sake of maintaining U.S. strategic supremacy (with the happy side effect of building our character).

The most recent lefty to hop on the conscription bandwagon is Paul Kane, who wrote in *The New York Times* last week that a draft would scare Iran into backing down from the building nuclear confrontation with the United States, thus pre-empting the possibility of a war.

Kane's specific argument is pretty silly — the best way for the United States to avoid a war with Iran is, well, to not start one. I have a feeling they're not going to invade anytime soon.

But the general argument Kane and others make in favor of the draft warrants serious consideration, if for no other reason than that the people pushing it are

anti-war progressives whose motives (as far as I know) are not in question. (I'd be far less inclined to engage with an op-ed by Dick Cheney about how a draft would benefit the country.) Ultimately, however, the argument doesn't stand up.

The first part, which is that conscription would broaden the amount of people (directly or indirectly) affected by war casualties and would thus force foreign-policy makers to be cautious, is ahistorical at best. After all, the draft did not keep the "containment" wars in Korea and Vietnam from happening.

In fact, the revival of a gigantic standing army could have the opposite effect from what anti-war draft proponents intend. One of the reasons a land invasion of Iran is basically off the table right now is because of the United States' troop shortage. A draft would change that — for the worse.

The second argument in favor of the draft is more reasonable: Our current "volunteer" military is made up mostly of people who grew up in economic hardship and do not have many options or opportunities outside of military service.

Therefore, the burden of fighting our wars falls on the most disadvantaged — and politically underrepresented — segment of society.

A draft, if executed fairly, would make the distribution of costs more even. And as an upper-class white boy who doesn't need to go fight to pay for college and who benefits from the military service of the less fortunate, I have a vested interest in making sure there's no draft.

But we'd be better off tearing

out the roots of the problem — severe economic inequality and lack of opportunities — than using a draft to stem one of their many outgrowths.

For instance, we currently spend \$2.7 billion annually on military recruitment efforts to convince impoverished young people to join the armed forces.

That same amount could pay a year's tuition at a public university for between 300,000 and 400,000

A draft can be avoided by ensuring the poor have options other than joining the armed forces.

In other words, the way to fight inequality in the military is to ensure that enlisting is one option among many from which young people can choose, rather than the only way they have a chance to go to college or get a job.

Let's solve the inequities in military service by making sure no one is forced to fight — whether for economic reasons or in a draft — instead of coercing everyone.

Brenton Kenkel is a philosophy and political science sophomore. E-mail: bkenkel@kykernel.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Note to Readers

The Opinions page provides a forum for the exchange of ideas.

Unlike news stories, *The Kernel's* unsigned editorials represent the views of a majority of the editorial board.

Letters to the editor, columns, cartoons and other features on the Opinions page reflect the views of their authors and not necessarily those of *The Kernel*.

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Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Brenton Kenkel or Assistant 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

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University of Kentucky students, faculty & staff picks for the best of everything around campus and Lexington

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UK Athlete:	Patrick Sparks	Barbecue:	Billy's Hickory-Pit
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Kernel Writer:	Kenny Moyer	Italian Restaurant:	Olive Garden
UK Professor:	Cindy Miller	Mexican Restaurant:	Rincon
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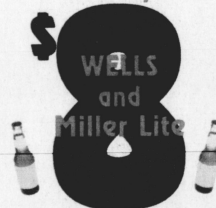
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UK 9, MURRAY STATE 3 | UK 3, MURRAY STATE 2



KEITH SMILEY | STAFF

Sophomore infielder Ryan Wilkes grabs a ground ball during UK's game against South Carolina on Saturday. The Cats followed up the weekend sweep of the Gamecocks with a doubleheader sweep of Murray St. yesterday. UK travels to Vanderbilt tomorrow for the beginning of a three-game series.

Cats sweep Racers, extend win streak to seven games

By Eric Lindsey
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Sophomore Collin Cowgill couldn't have picked a better cure to break his slump than the one he got last night.

With the UK baseball team trailing 1-0 in the bottom of the seventh in a pitcher's duel with Murray State, Cowgill sent a two-run shot just over the right field fence that tagged the scoreboard to put the Cats up 2-1.

It was Cowgill's second home run of the day and 11th of the season as the Cats (32-10) went on to defeat the Racers 3-2 last night at Cliff Hagan Stadium.

"That victory was definitely big for us," said Cowgill. "It definitely puts us in the right position going into this weekend and the rest of the season."

It was the second victory of the day for the Cats over the Racers (13-30) after the UK won the first game of the doubleheader 9-3. The sweep pushed the

No. 13-ranked Cats' winning streak to seven while placing UK in prime position to take control of the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division going into this weekend's showdown with No. 21 Vanderbilt.

The Cats are currently tied with South Carolina for first place in the East. Vanderbilt is one game behind the Cats and Gamecocks.

With the Cats struggling to get runs on the board, Cowgill came to the plate in the bottom of the seventh with a runner on first. Before the at-bat, he

asked head coach John Cohen what he wanted him to do.

"The plan was, we were going to take one strike and then if I didn't see anything I was going to bunt," said Cowgill. "So I went up there and the count went 3-0, then 3-1 and eventually 3-2."

"I knew I was seeing the ball good all night and he finally threw me a pitch right where I wanted it so I just went with it."

UK would go on to add one more run in the bottom of the seventh after pinch-hitter Michael Bertram hit a sacrifice fly to center to bring in first baseman Ryan Strieby.

Sophomore Brock Baber for the Cats and Andrew Albers earned his second save of the season.

In the earlier contest, the Cats didn't need any late-inning heroics as their offense managed to put up plenty of its usual firepower.

Another familiar face

again led the way for the Cats as reigning SEC Player of the Week John Shelby went 2 for 3 with three RBIs, including a two-run home run in the sixth inning. It was Shelby's 12th home run of the year.

Cowgill was instrumental in the earlier victory as well by hitting his first home run of the day and knocking in two RBIs.

Aided by the Cats' offensive onslaught, sophomore pitcher Tommy Warner (2-0) held the Racers in check with a three-run complete game performance to pick up the win.

"Tommy was just absolutely huge for us," said Cohen. "This pitching staff has needed a much-needed break for a while and Tommy gave us that break tonight."

"He's been waiting for his opportunity to show everybody what he's got and that's exactly what he did tonight."

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Kate Davis	Alli Nofi
Heather Dettro	Erin Pace
Ashlee Dreyer	April Pennington
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