

THE Kentucky Kernel

Friday, April 21, 2006

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Faculty elects new rep to BOT

By Dariush Shafa
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The newly-elected faculty representative on the Board of Trustees said he plans to focus on improving the pay situation for faculty, as well as addressing issues of concern for the staff and giving attention to UK's general education curriculum.

Ernie Yanarella, a professor of political science, joins Dr. Jeff Dembo, a professor in the College of Dentistry, in representing the faculty.



Yanarella

"I'm both excited and humbled by it," Yanarella said. "I'm excited because it gives me a chance to do tireless service for the faculty and for the university."

Yanarella has previously served two terms as chair of the University Senate Council and Roy Moore, a professor of journalism who was the last faculty representative on the board, said Yanarella's history makes him the right person for the job.

"He has so much experience," Moore said. "He's done an outstanding job in all of his leadership experiences, he'll be an exceptional trustee."

Moore also said Yanarella's previous experiences can have a real impact for UK.

"This is an opportunity to (put his experience to work) on a university-wide position where you can create change at the entire university," Moore said.

Among Yanarella's concerns was the question of increasing faculty pay as part of the Top-20 Business Plan.

"I certainly am going to work hard to make sure that commitment is honored," Yanarella said. "I'm also very concerned in the context with salary inequities that have built up over the years."

Among those inequities, Yanarella said, is salary compression, where national minimum salaries increase faster than the rate of employed professors' raises.

Yanarella also said he is concerned with something that he has been dealing with since he served as co-chair of UK's General Education Reform and Assessment Committee.

"Another element that is near and dear to my heart is education reform," Yanarella said, adding that faculty members have been voicing concerns through surveys about the efficacy of the University Studies Program. "The surveys suggest that faculty members are not satisfied with USP requirements meeting the general education requirements."

Yanarella also said he does not want to turn a blind eye to recent issues raised by the staff.

"I would also like to express my legitimate concern about the salary issues the staff have put on the agenda," he said. "A successful university has to have an excellent staff."

Meeting with and working with the staff's representatives is something Yanarella said he wants to do to try and resolve the issues and address the problems before the board.

"I would certainly be willing to listen with the university and staff representatives to make sure their concerns are aired," he said.

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Little Kentucky Derby



KASHA STEVENSON | STAFF

The band Dare warmed up the crowd before the performance of Story of the Year last night at Memorial Coliseum. The concert concluded the first day of the revived Little Kentucky Derby.

'Derby' races out of the gate

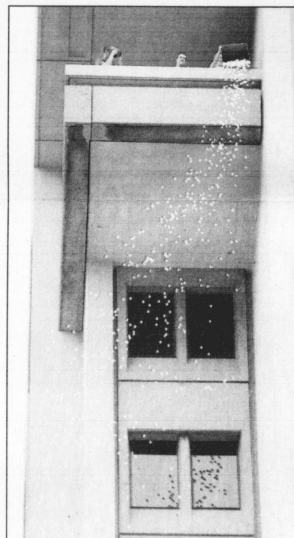
UK kicked off the Little Kentucky Derby yesterday, bringing back the tradition after a decade hiatus. Organized by the Student Activities Board, the Derby, which had been a yearly spring event for more than 30 years, began yesterday with the Ping Pong Ball Drop. From the top of the Patterson Office Tower, 1,000 Ping Pong balls were marked and dropped for students to collect and redeem for prizes. Then last night, Story of the Year took the stage at Memorial Coliseum. The Derby continues through today and tomorrow with more events.

TODAY April 21

- **Patio Party**
Where: Student Center Patio
When: Noon
- **Balloon Glow**
Where: E.S. Good Barn
When: 7 to 10 p.m.

TOMORROW April 22

- **Morning Balloon Race**
Where: UK/Lexington-Fayette Urban County Arboretum
When: 7 a.m.
- **Night Balloon Race**
Where: E.S. Good Barn Field
When: 5 p.m.



KEITH SMILEY | STAFF

Members of the Student Activities Board dropped 1,000 Ping Pong balls from a balcony of the Patterson Office Tower yesterday as part of the Little Kentucky Derby. About 100 balls were marked, which students could redeem for prizes.

Construction eliminates parking spots

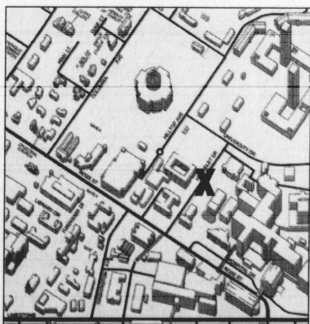
STAFF REPORT

Construction near the UK Chandler Medical Center, which will extend Huguelet Drive to Virginia Avenue, will result in the loss of more than 100 parking spaces and UK officials are advising residents in the R10 lots who want to renew their passes to do so early.

The construction is part of the work on the Primary Care Facility in the UK Chandler Medical Center expansion and will cut 130 parking spaces from the R10 on Huguelet Drive, as well as handicapped parking spaces and metered spaces on Huguelet.

UK students in Haggin and Donovan halls are advised to renew permits to do so early when the window to renew opens on May 1. Parking services will also issue any remaining available spaces to the R4 and R11 lots through the lottery and residents who are unable to obtain R passes can purchase K passes.

"We realize that this may inconvenience certain user groups, but Parking and Transportation Services is exploring parking alternatives for those displaced by the construction," said Don Thornton, director of Parking and Transportation Services, in a press release.



X R10 LOT ON HUGUELET DRIVE AFFECTED BY CONSTRUCTION, WHICH WILL ELIMINATE 130 SPACES

AREA OF CONSTRUCTION TO EXTEND VIRGINIA AVENUE TO MEET WITH HUGUELET DRIVE AT ROSE STREET

27th Women Writers Conference

Comic quorum to discuss merits of graphic novels

By Joshua Worthington
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Comic books are just for kids, right? Wrong. With a generation of inspired youth transitioning into prodigious adulthood has come a veritable avalanche of quality graphic novels that delve deep into the realm of the literary.

Sara Turner, author of one such graphic novel, "File 48," will participate in "The Graphic Novel Quorum: A Conversation With Four Women of Words and Pictures" tomorrow as part of the 27th Women Writers Conference.

"The visual artists involved in the quorum have broadened the definition of what it means to be a writer," said Rebecca Howell, director of the Women Writers Conference. "Their work is quite distinct because of the role of image and language and how they interact."

Turner will join Phoebe Gloeckner, Lauren Weinstein and Amy Kim Ganter to discuss the graphic novel

FYI

- The Graphic Novel Quorum: A conversation with Four Women of Words and Pictures
- 3 p.m. tomorrow
- Arts Place, 161 N. Mill St.

genre of writing. Jenny Robb, curator of the OSU Cartoon Research Library will moderate the quorum.

"I think Sara's work is brilliant," said Howell. "Her book was coming out and we thought it was the perfect opportunity to incorporate her into this year's conference."

Turner began working with graphic novels in 2002, even before she and husband Brian started their poster printing company Cricket Press. Although she was never really interested in comics, she was burned out with the photography and mixed-media mediums.

See Graphic on page 6

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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 - For the coming four weeks, focus your attention on making money. Everyone won't understand, but that's OK. Explain it to them later.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is an 8 - The Sun's coming into your sign, which is excellent for you. This year it's easier to achieve success and prosperity.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 6 - In the coming four weeks, set priorities and be practical. Scratch things off your list that have lost all reason for being done. Then, do the others.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 7 - Just in time, your friends come to your rescue. Take advantage of this situation, and move quickly. Your lucky break won't last forever.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 7 - New opportunities are popping up, as important people take an interest.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 7 - The next four weeks are, generally, good vacation weather. All you have to do is work more free time into your schedule.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 5 - The major theme for the next four weeks is money that you share with other people. Yes, that does mean all your credit cards.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is an 8 - The Sun's going into Taurus. For

you, this means partnerships, relationships and open enemies dominate the next four weeks. This ought to be interesting.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 6 - For the next four weeks, your job will take top priority. No need to resist, you'll find many good uses for the extra money.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is an 8 - Romance, children and games of all kinds are favored now. Travel's not especially good, though. You'll have a better time at home.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 7 - After you finish an overdue chore, you'll have more time to spend at home. Fix up your place for the next four weeks. You'll be in the mood.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 7 - An older, wiser friend is worth more than her weight in gold. Don't be shy about asking questions. This is your education.

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THE DISH

By Joey Bartolomeo

Nick Lachey: 'I'd marry her again'

Lachey confesses that he was blindsided when Jessica Simpson left, but he'd take her back

What went wrong

On April 17, Nick Lachey was hard at work on the Paramount Studios lot in L.A., preparing to shoot the pilot for the CW sitcom *She Said, He Said*. "He looked like he was in a great mood, laughing and joking," an eyewitness says of the singer-turned-actor, who plays a recently dumped sports nut in the ensemble comedy. Lachey adds the source, was relaxed, like he was having a genuinely good time.

He's not over Jessica

"It breaks my heart that I couldn't make Jessica happy," Lachey tells the mag. "I wanted to be everything to my wife." Nearly five months after the split, he is still reeling, but says he has no regrets about his marriage. "I'd marry her all over again. Because I still love her. It would be a lot easier to walk away if I didn't."

How he found out

Although Lachey admits the couple went through "a tough phase" last year (Simpson was seen sans wedding ring several times), the end caught him off-guard. As the couple drove home after the American Music Awards and a post-show dinner, Simpson asked if he still planned to celebrate Thanksgiving (two days later) with her family in Texas. "I said, 'Of course.' And she said something about how we hadn't really been getting along and then said, 'I think I want a divorce.'" Blindsided, he begged her to sleep on it. "But when we woke up the next day, Wednesday... she was still sure." As the couple shared their last moments together in their Calabasas, California, home (sold to actor Justin Berfield in January for an undisclosed sum), he says, "I felt like someone sucker-punched me and took my life away. My dog, my wife, the house."

Nick put up a fight

Lachey, whose parents divorced when he was in first grade (his mom went on to wed three more times), wanted to try counseling. "On the day she filed for divorce [December 19], I drove to her parents' house and tried to change her mind," he admits. "I thought we owed it to ourselves to try with a third party... But she didn't want to go."

Lachey refuses to blame. Of the imbalance between Simpson's success and his own struggling solo career (his next release, *What's Left of Me*, is primed to way outperform his solo debut, *Soul0*) he says, "People try to put us in competition with each other. But her success, especially relating to the show, is my success." (Interestingly, Lachey denies that he will ask for alimony from his ex, despite requesting the option.)

As for Simpson's ever-present manager-dad, Joe, who once admitted he didn't want his daughter to marry so young, "I don't know if he ever liked me," admits Lachey, who adds, "It's difficult, at best, to juggle your personal and professional relationships when they are under the same roof."

And when his wife - who was dogged by tales of cheating and partying - is called to task, Lachey is quick to jump to her defense. "Marriage is the toughest thing in the world. To blame her is bulls---. One culprit he will name: Newlyweds, the show that made him and Simpson reality-TV sweethearts. "Jessica and I began playing these parts [of ditzy wife and good-guy husband] even when we were by ourselves," he recalls. But even fame can't be faulted: "I don't know if we would have worked if we'd been soybean farmers in Iowa."

Did Jessica cheat?

"I don't know if there were other men," says Lachey. "But if she did cheat, it was the result of something bigger, not the reason we didn't work." During her marriage, Simpson was linked to her *Dukes of Hazzard* costar Johnny Knoxville, his pal Bam Margera and Maroon 5 singer Adam Levine - who she briefly dated in February (all involved denied the allegations). Levine went so far as to approach Lachey recently. "He said to me, 'Nothing happened while you guys were married.'... I chose to believe him," says Lachey.

He still believes in love

After all the pain, Lachey hasn't sworn off the possibility of a second trip down the aisle - with or without Simpson. "I believe I can be a good husband to somebody," he says. "I don't know, though. I'm 0-for-1."

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KENTUCKY BASEBALL SEC SERIES THIS WEEKEND
UK vs. C
Friday - 6:30 Saturday - 6:30 Sunday - 1:00
When the ball is out the game is on
UK

People we
won't mention
in this issue:
Lou Gehrig,
Neil Armstrong,
Burt Reynolds.

HOME

VISITOR

THE



SportSpeak

“I thought I
was going to be
Randy Moss. I forgot I
was just Ravi Moss.”

— UK wide receiver Ravi Moss, on
losing a jump ball in the end zone

LEFT-CENTER

THIS WEEK'S TOPIC: Voyeurism. Here's five sporty things to go watch this weekend

1) **UK baseball** — This team is good. Seriously good. And when was the last time baseball fans in Lexington could watch two of the nation's top-25 college teams play each other? No. 8 South Carolina (30-8, 11-4 Southeastern Conference) comes to town for a three-game set that starts today at 6:30 p.m. and continues tomorrow and Sunday UK second baseman and preseason All-American John Shelby said “if we beat South Carolina, which we're going to, that would be huge for us. There's nothing like a little smack talk to stoke a potential rivalry between the No. 21 Cats (27-10, 8-7) and the Cocks.

Chris Johnson
SPORTS EDITOR

2) **Keeneland** — headed into the stretch run. The last race of this spring meet will be April 28, so time is ticking away for you to go out and watch the ponies. Be sure to tailgate beforehand; the beer inside costs about as much as a six-pack would outside.

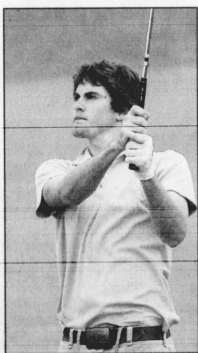
3) **Blue/White game** — hope springs eternal, right? But really this team has the potential to compete, especially with the soft non-conference schedule they're playing combined with a recruiting class that is coming to play. See the last practice of the spring, before the lion's share of that recruiting class gets here, tomorrow at 1 p.m. at Commonwealth Stadium. Admission and parking are free, and there will be a fund taken up for diving coach Mike Lyden, who is battling cancer and continuing to coach UK's divers, including 2006 national platform champion Taryn Ignacio.

4) **Cheerleading tryouts** — these are actually next weekend, but it's never too early to start working on your roundoffs and handsprings, or to camp out for good seats. The tryouts will be held at Memorial Coliseum and be open to the public. The team has won 15 national championships; Tubby Smith's team is the UK cheerleading of the basketball world. Come see how they do it.

5) **The Legends** — tomorrow is cartoon character night at Applebee's Park, Dora the Explorer, SpongeBob SquarePants, Bob the Builder and Blue From Blue's Clues will all be at the ballpark. The hell with Roger Clemens, I go to the ballpark to get autographs from Dora the freaking Explorer. You can have the crack of the bat and beer vendors; I think nothing says national pastime like a screaming four-year-old in the arms of a giant blue dog with a creepy smile on its face. Can't hardly wait.

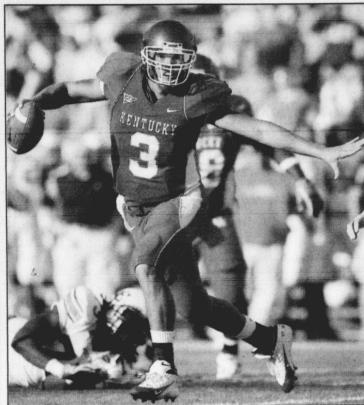
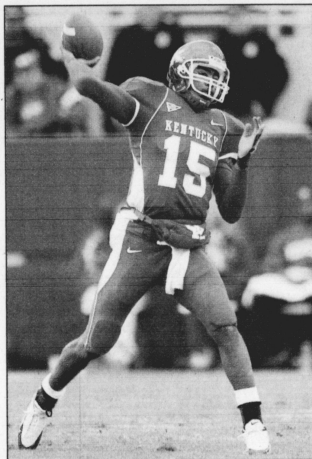
E-mail cjohnson@kykernel.com

UK this weekend



Senior Matt Kuhn (above) leads the Cats in their defense of last season's Southeastern Conference championship in Sea Island, S.C.

Mixed signals?



Sophomore quarterback Curtis Pulley (left) has taken over practicing with UK's first-team offense at spring practice. Junior Andre Woodson (above) started every game last season, compiling 1,414 yards and six passing touchdowns.

Inconsistency, improvement leads to Pulley taking over first team in spring practice

By Jonathan Smith
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Apart from injuries, there has been one redundant theme for the UK football team in recent years. There is one thorn in the Wildcats' side that has prevented them from competing at the Southeastern Conference level.

That inconsistency has been, consistently.

When the team is struggling, much of the blame, rightfully or not, is aimed at the quarterback. That's part of the reason Andre Woodson's job this spring has been to cut down on the turnovers and incompletions, and make the more routine plays.

“He's up and down,” offensive coordi-

nator Joker Phillips said. “We haven't been able to see what he does well. We know what he can do well, we know he throws the ball well, but he hasn't been consistent in doing that.” This was never more evident than during a two-minute drill workout at the end of Wednesday's practice.

Woodson and the second team offense were faced with a fourth-and-long from inside their 30-yard-line. Woodson dropped back, felt the pressure in the pocket and held on to the ball long enough to complete a 60 yard pass down the right sideline. A few plays after that, Woodson missed a wide open Joe Joe Brown in the end zone.

“A quarterback in the SEC has to

make those throws,” Phillips said. “You've got to make those throws every time.”

Woodson has since been taking the majority of his practice repetitions with the second team.

Pulley took over less than a week into practice, and has been getting the majority of the first-team repetitions since then. He brings an added dimension to the position — his running ability — that many quarterbacks do not have. But it's the more traditional approach to guiding the offense that has elevated him to the No. 1 post.

I think Curtis has made a lot of strides in the drop-back passing game.”
See QBs on page 4

Club baseball has 'great' first campaign

By Chris Miles
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

It has been an up-and-down season for the members of UK's club baseball team.

Founded at the start of this year, the team has faced budget problems, transportation nightmares and uniform dilemmas.

But last weekend they finally achieved something that made it all worth it.

Playing an Ohio State team that was ranked 20th in the nation in the National Club Baseball Association, the unranked members of UK's club baseball team finally had proved that they could hang with the rest.

“It was big, the highlight of the season,” Jason Majewski, a journalism freshman, who helped found the team, said of the game.

Easily dismantling the best club team in its conference, UK defeated OSU 13-3, winning as the umpire called the game because of a league emergency rule. It was the first

game the team won on the road and was exactly the type of win they were looking for all season.

For the upstart club team, the win showed that the work the members had put in it hadn't been meaningless.

The UK club baseball team is the only one of its kind in the state. Its conference consists of six other teams, all in Ohio, three of which are ranked on the NCBA's Top 25.

“We weren't ranked and have had some ups and downs playing the other teams,” freshman Jason Ross said. “But for our first year we were pretty decent, finishing fourth in our conference.”

“We've really had a lot of success as a first-year team,” Majewski said. “We've struggled at times but it came out great in the end.”

The team has seen a lot of troubles in their first year. Without funding and support from UK, the team has had to search for money, equipment and proper places to play.

“Our first jerseys were Un-

der Armour tees steamed with ‘Kentucky’ on the front of them,” Ross said. “The current ones are like the black ones the UK baseball team has.”

Money is always a problem for the team.

“We get a lot of our funding from player's pockets,” Majewski said. “Our budget is about \$10,000.”

At the beginning of the season the team received \$500 from the university. The budget required to run the team includes umpire fees, travel, uniforms and the cost to rent out their field.

“We almost didn't even have a field to play games on,” Ross said. “We don't really even have a practice field.”

The team plays its home games more than 15 minutes away from campus, at Southland Christian Church on the fringes of Fayette County.

“They didn't even have a pitching mound so we had to build one out of wood,” Ross said of the church's field.

Practices are more complicated as the team goes where

it can, playing anywhere from the intramural fields behind the Johnson Center to Stoll Field by the Student Center.

Even away games are tough for the newfound team.

“We literally hop in cars and carpool ourselves wherever we need to go,” Ross said. “We have a small fund for gas and hotels.”

“We caravan wherever we go,” Majewski said. “We try to get four or five drivers. Sometimes it gets messy especially when we show up to games late.”

But for Majewski and the rest of the club baseball team, the costs are all worth it.

“We had some great talent on the team,” Majewski said. “I was really impressed. Things really came out great in the end.”

Ross agrees that, despite the hardships the team has faced, it has been rewarding.

“It was a great experience, I'm glad I got to play with the team,” Ross said. “We'll be even better next year.”

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IN OUR OPINION

Don't play politics with gay rights

Irony is alive and well in Frankfort.

Sited in front of hundreds of school students at a state celebration of "Diversity Day," Gov. Ernie Fletcher signed an executive order changing government anti-discrimination practices with respect to its hiring policy.

While pretending to celebrate understanding and tolerance of people with different backgrounds and lifestyles, Gov. Fletcher simultaneously curtailed protection against discrimination for gays and lesbians in state jobs.

Such an act does not bode well for Fletcher, coming on the heels of a state jobs scandal and the blatantly bigoted dismissal of former University of the Cumberlands student Jason Johnson. But that's not the real issue here.

The real issue is that Kentucky has taken a step backward since 2003, when former Gov. Paul Patton extended job protection to gays and lesbians.

While it's true that job protection has historically been a race and gender issue (particularly race) and federal laws and regulations don't require specific protection in this instance, the administration should have reconsidered this step. While it doesn't necessarily follow that discrimination will occur as a result of this change, Fletcher and his political allies are sending the wrong signal to the state's gay and lesbian population and the voters.

Sure, it's politically expedient to target unpopular minorities such as gays and lesbians. Even in 2006, many people in the state hold hostile or intolerant attitudes toward gays and lesbians.

If anyone needs evidence, just

look at the voting on Kentucky's marriage amendment in 2004, which constitutionally banned same-sex marriage. It passed with 1.2 million votes — which translated into a 75 percent approval rating among citizens in the commonwealth.

Gays and lesbians weren't asking to infringe on anyone else's rights then, nor are they now. They simply seek equal protection under the law, which is granted to them in the U.S. Constitution.

It's a shame that Fletcher and others have chosen to exploit this issue in the name of political gain. Furthermore, it's counterintuitive to set forth a policy to increase hiring of minority groups while intentionally cutting some groups out of the picture.

It's confusing to see our state government take such a regressive stance on hiring policy when many of the state's major private employers readily accord this protection to gays and lesbians.

As state senator Ernesto Scorsone asked rhetorically in the Herald-Leader this week: "Is there any evidence that a straight filing clerk is better than a gay filing clerk? Are lesbians incompetent to serve as park rangers? Can you not make a qualified decision on mine safety if you are not a heterosexual?"

The administration should be asking itself what, in principle, it really has to gain with its new anti-discrimination policy for state workers. The egalitarian principles underpinning everything this country stands for are at stake. Do Fletcher and his ilk trifle themselves with such concerns? Or is political onenesship their primary concern?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mural sheds light on Ky.'s history

The Memorial Hall mural, currently a subject of interest in the Kernel, is a Kentucky treasure and a part of our national heritage. As a work of art, especially a mural, it is also quite rare and fragile, and should not be moved.

Cheri Daniels response gave a coherent argument for this position. But the present dialogue gives us a new opportunity to understand and appreciate the mural.

Works of art hold meaning and document history. Especially at an institute of higher education, we are to be open to understanding the past, and the artist's intentions, and to read the artwork accordingly.

To learn more about this and other Public Works of Art murals on campus, see the art museum Web site at www.uky.edu/artmuseum. We will also add more interpretive material on the murals's label.

KATHY WALSH-PIPER
Director, UK Art Museum

Political correctness won't erase history

It is incomprehensible to me that our newly-elected Student Government senators could support the destruction or concealment of a valuable work of folk art depicting the history of the Lexington area. They have done so in the name of some twisted sense of impropriety that dictates that if some historical fact is deemed offensive to a particular group then it should not be acknowledged at all.

This is a perfect example of how this generation's perception of what is aesthetically acceptable has been distorted by filtering through this mindset called "political correctness." Is the theory behind this move by our student government that if we take some uncomfortable reality from our past, hide it from view and ignore it, then we will be able to pretend it never happened?

This attitude would seem to me to be counterproductive, not to mention the fact that it would deny the public access to a valuable and historical piece of art.

What bothers me more than anything is that our elected student representatives could so blindly buy into this doctrine of political correctness, which, in the name of cultural sensitivity, seeks to distort our view of our own past. I would have hoped to see a much higher level of independent thought from those whom we have elected to represent us.

Much damage can be done in the name of political correctness. I can only hope that the university Board of Trustees has the judgment to protect this work of art, which is an important part of this university's history.

DAVID DAY
College of Public Health graduate student

You're invited!

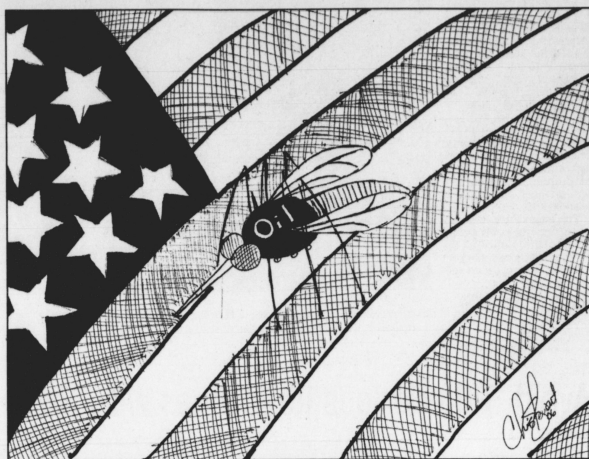
"Picnic Party Politics: A Citizen Kentucky Forum for Undecided Voters" will run from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. April 26 on the UK Student Center Patio, including the live airing of a WRFL-FM "Campus Voices" program with the mayoral candidates.

Columnists Needed

The Kernel is looking for new columnists to write for the Opinions page on a regular basis.

Columnists of all interests will be considered, but The Kernel especially seeks those who have an interest in campus and local issues.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com if you are interested.



CHRIS STEWART, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Current events for those wrapped up in finals

At this point in the semester, you may notice a few things becoming foreign concepts to you: a full night's rest, sleeping in, eating a meal that doesn't involve a microwave or a sense of contentment with one's life.

The last week of classes is sort of like the event horizon before being sucked into a black hole of dead week and finals. Stretched beyond your limits, we are all pulled into a realm where not even light can escape.

That being said, you probably haven't had time to catch up on current events, unless you are like me and write columns during class. If you aren't like me and are actually going to finish this semester with a salvageable GPA, here's what's been going down:

■ Two Duke lacrosse players, Reade Seligmann and Collin Finnerty, were indicted Monday on charges of rape, kidnapping and sexual offense after a 27-year-old student at a nearby college alleged that she had been raped while stripping at a Duke lacrosse party. Although lawyers for the students claim that their clients have alibis, one can't help but relish witnessing the downfall of the rich and privileged. Or

maybe that's just me.

■ Bush senior adviser Karl Rove stepped down from the rigors of controlling the administration's everyday domestic policies, just as press secretary Scott McClellan resigned from his usual duties of maintaining the opaque smokescreen that shrouds the White House.

Speculation over the recent shake-up ranges from optimism that the administration is falling apart at the seams to fears of a Bush-led rally to improve the image of the presidency and the GOP before mid-term elections.

Although Democrats may rejoice at the slight departure of Rove from Bush's political scheme machine, they should be wary of his mastermind being spread amongst the ranks in November's elections; the GOP may be weak, but Rove got Bush elected. Twice. The man has a Midas touch when it comes to getting less-than-qualified candidates into public office.

■ Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes welcomed a daughter into the world Tuesday.

The newborn, named Suri — Hebrew for "princess" — by her parents and TomKat by a worthless entertainment media, was supposedly born into a silent world (save for the blood-curdling screams of her mother) and will enjoy a childhood of being allowed to jump on couches and reveling in a religion invented by a man who wrote science fiction

novels.

■ Future child movie star? More than likely The antichrist? Most definitely.

■ Also on Tuesday, Neil Armstrong received a moon rock he retrieved on his 1969 Apollo 11 moon landing as part of his Ambassadors of Exploration award given to him by NASA.

Armstrong promptly donated the rock to the Cincinnati Museum Center, where the award was presented to him. Although known to be a very humble and quiet man, Neil Armstrong is, without a doubt, a real American man. Think about it: he strapped himself to a rocket, flew to the moon, landed on it, walked on it and planted an American flag on it, then came back.

And I didn't even mention that before that, he flew jets in the Korean War and was a test pilot! A test pilot! Those guys are nuts!

■ They don't make men like Neil Armstrong anymore. Maybe if Pat Tillman had looked up to Neil Armstrong, he would have joined the Navy instead of the Army and wouldn't have been shot by his own troops.

Or maybe if George W. Bush had looked up to Neil Armstrong, he would have actually become a real pilot and then become an astronaut. Although I think by then they stopped sending monkeys into space. ZING!

Doug Scott is a journalism senior. E-mail dscott@kykernel.com

Picnic and politics can bring out the kid in you

As a kid one of the mayoral candidates wanted to be a nun; another wanted to be a rock star.

A third candidate collects cigar bands but is not the cigar strower in the race. And the fourth candidate's favorite band is the Dooie Brothers.

Welcome, my friends, to a fresh view of the mayoral primary election campaign. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, April 26, and join the fun at a Citizen Kentucky picnic starting at 4:30 p.m. on the lawn of the Free Speech Area outside the Student Center. We'll party like it's 1799 when Kentucky was fighting the Alien and Sedition Acts.

What better way to celebrate the end of a semester? When journalism students in an experimental class, "Lexington & the Mayor's Race," interviewed each of the candidates and ended up with voting preferences split all four ways. Come listen to what they have to say about their close encounters of a political kind. The big story in political polling right now is the high per-

centage of undecided voters in the mayor's race. Perhaps the students can help you make up your mind during "Picnic Party Politics: A Citizen Kentucky Forum for Undecided Voters," which will wrap up with the live airing of a WRFL-FM "Campus Voices" program with the mayoral candidates from 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Over the last five years, I've taught six Citizen Kentucky courses (four to first-semester freshmen, one to honors students and now one to upper-division journalism students), and the same epiphany strikes like clockwork about midterm: For young people to become involved in civic life they need to see that they can make a difference, and that happens best when they come to face-to-face with politics.

Here's the latest evidence that personal contact is the best form of therapy for the big dysfunctional family that joins politics, the press and public life:

■ Teresa Ann Isaac, addressing Town and Gown public safety concerns, turns from data-driven mayor to old-school mom, advising women in the class how to protect themselves from ending up on a police blotter. (Call it the run factor.)

■ Attorney Jim Newberry is impressed by student Parker

Reynolds' suggestion that the answer to "party plan" conflicts between neighbors is landlord tax breaks to cluster student renters in zones, rather than have party problems spread out over town. (Please don't blast the Dooie Brothers.)

■ Councilman-jeweler Bill Farmer Jr. turns heads with the vision of a riverwalk downtown (there's water under all the concrete) and wins favor by answering the question, "If you were a gem, what gem would you be?" Answer: hematite. (Now where's the cigar band collection?)

■ Charles Martin Jr. takes time out from the workday in his cigar store to explain to the students (some of them smoking) why he disagreed with his friend, UK President Lee Todd, about the LexTran tax and why, if he had a choice, he might welcome being mayor of Las Vegas. (Rock on!)

Cast away all your cynical political thoughts and feel like a kid again. Join us April 26 on UK's campus, and don't forget to highlight May 16 in your daily action planner for the primary election. Voting keeps you young at heart.

Buck Ryan, director of the Citizen Kentucky Project of UK's First Amendment Center, can be reached at bucryan@uky.edu

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.

Submissions

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

STEP ON IT

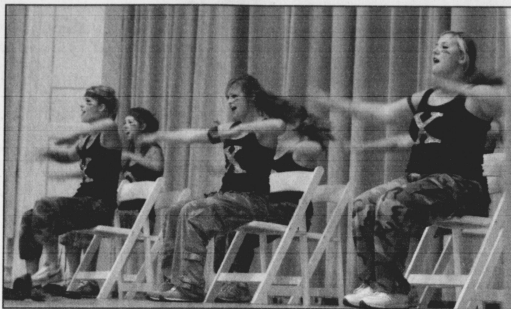
By Jenisha Watts
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The Epsilon Chi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity hosted the second annual Stomp-A-Palooza stepping competition for various Greek organizations at Memorial Hall last night.

Stomp-A-Palooza was created to bridge the gap between the predominantly white and black Greek fraternities and sororities, said Sam Gaines, an Alpha Phi Alpha member and marketing senior.

"The experience is good. They (steppers) don't think they have the ability to do it," said Sam Gaines marketing senior. "It's great to see the competition."

Sigma Kappa sorority and Pi Kappa Psi fraternity won last night's competition. E-mail features@kykernel.com



ED MATTHEWS | STAFF

Chi Omega sorority, last year's winners, had a military-themed step performance at last night's Step-A Palooza in Memorial Hall. Five other sororities competed in the event.

Avoid 'Thunder'ous headaches with these tips

By Sharon Santo
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Stressed out about finals? Bored of the same old parties? Come to the biggest party this weekend—Thunder Over Louisville.

According to The Discovery Channel, it's the "Granddaddy" of all fireworks shows, the largest, annual fireworks show in the United States. Even though Thunder is guaranteed to amaze newcomers, it can also lead to headaches if spectators do not know where to park, where to watch the show, costs, places for food and of course all the traffic.

Parking for Thunder has always been difficult, confusing and sometimes expen-

sive. Most of the parking garages on Third, Fifth and Sixth streets for \$10 fill up fast, so don't count on them. Spectators can park at the Fairgrounds for \$5 and take the bus downtown for \$3 a person.

The next best bet is to search streets downtown a couple blocks from the river. Comfortable shoes and clothing would be best and since the weather for Thunder is supposed to be beautiful with a high of 71 and partly cloudy skies, it shouldn't be too hard.

Since it is supposed to be a gorgeous day, business management freshman Brian Sewell said, "Get there early!"

Most Thunder goers have found their spot between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Viewing for Thunder is very easy, since Thunder is visible from the hills of local parks. However, the best areas are the ones in view of the Second Street Bridge, like Waterfront Park on the Kentucky side.

Indiana waterfront areas are mostly privately owned, and with 1-65 shut down for an hour and a half it is probably not a good idea.

Concessions will be all along the river, but for alcohol you can only go to the Derby Festival Chow Pavilion at Waterfront Park for free with a 2005 Pegasus Pin or \$3 admission. You can also go to the Thunder Beer Garden at the Belvedere, which is also free with a Pegasus Pin.

After the show, one thing is for sure: expect traffic! Whether you leave the second the show is over or wait until the crowd dies down, traffic will be heavy.

Streets will be closed off, but routes have been set up by the Louisville Metro Police to lead people out of the downtown area and onto the freeways.

Thunder Over Louisville begins tomorrow at 3 p.m. with an air show and culminates at 9:30 p.m. with a massive fireworks display. For detailed street closings and banned items go to <http://www.thunderoverlouisville.org/>

E-mail features@kykernel.com

Gallery Hop opens 12th season tonight

By Kate Eads
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Galleries throughout Lexington will open their doors to visitors tonight for the beginning of the 12th season of the Downtown Gallery Hop, presented by the Lexington Art League.

The Ann Tower Gallery, located inside the Downtown Arts Center on Main Street, will present nature-themed oil paintings from artist Robert James Foose. Foose's pieces aren't the only works available for viewing or purchase; the main floor will hold sculptures, paintings, ceramics and photographs

of more than 30 artists. Of particular interest is Arts Place Gallery on Mill Street, which will be hosting the University Open, featuring UK students. UK art seniors Libby Purcell and Michael Martinez won second and third places in the competition with their respective pieces "Military Jacket" and "Cargo."

Out of 190 entries, three finalists were chosen by Julien Robson, curator of contemporary art at the Speed Art Museum in Louisville, to have their art displayed at the University Open.

"These are obviously

artists who actively respond to the world they live in and who use the aesthetic to engage the real," Robson said.

"They are artists who understand the power of art to disturb our complacency and they use it to reveal the fictions that surround us," said Robson.

Gallery Soleil on Short Street, known for its eclectic and unique flavor of art, will be hosting a collection of abstract art from artist Michael Hall.

All exhibits participating in the Gallery Hop are free, though some require an appointment. If nothing else, one recommends walking

around town, seeking out buildings draped with Gallery Hop insignia. Further, maps of participating galleries as well as brief descriptions of each are available at the Downtown Arts Center.

For the art buff, a cheese and wine connoisseur or just the incredibly bored, Gallery Hop will offer a cure to any jonesing.

For a map of participating locations visit www.lexarts.org

E-mail features@kykernel.com

After 27 years, writers' summit still sparks ideas

By Laura Clemmons
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

For many people springtime in the Bluegrass means gathering to enjoy mint juleps and horse racing. However, April 20-23 another group will gather in Lexington to share their ideas and experiences.

Since 1979, the Women Writers of Kentucky have come together to organize the Women Writers Conference.

"It's an idea generating conference," said Sarah Wylie Ammerman, assistant director of the WWK. Ammerman said the conference will appeal to both writers and readers. However, it strives to "give the average Lexingtonian an education as well," Ammerman said.

Two components make up the conference, Ammerman said. Registrants, usually writers and readers, will participate in "intimate teaching sessions" and have one on one contact with the speakers. Some events, however, are free and open to the public, Ammerman said.

The WWK also tries to reach the student population in the Lexington area. "My job is to increase student access to the conference and about the conference," said Bethany Chamberland, the undergraduate outreach coordinator for the WWK.

Some new events aimed specifically at students have been incorporated into the conference this year, Chamberland said. A new message board was created to keep students updated. During the conference, a party will be held for students in the Cats Den at the Student Center, Chamberland said.

This event will be an opportunity for students to talk about what they have been reading or writing and any

other new ideas they have. Chamberland said it is not necessarily just writers who will attend the conference.

"We have a very broad definition of 'writers,'" Chamberland said. Screenwriters, cartoonists, movie makers, songwriters and people who are interested in culture and language in general will all attend, Chamberland said.

The keynote presenter for this year's conference is Sarah Vowell. Vowell has written several books and contributed to both newspapers and magazines such as The Los Angeles Times and Esquire. Vowell also served as the voice of Violet Parr in the Pixar Animation Studios film, "The Incredibles."

Other presenters scheduled to appear include Lauren Weinstein, Heather Kaffo and Hayden Herrera, author of "Frida: The Biography of Frida Kahlo."

"We try not to have the same people two years in a row," Ammerman said. In order to decide on what presenters to pursue, the director of the WWK comes up with a "meditation" or theme for the year.

"Play" is the theme for this year's conference and next year it will be "Translation," Ammerman said. Once the theme is in place, the search for "renowned as well as emerging artists" begins, Ammerman said.

Suggestions from the community are taken in to serious consideration when composing the final list of presenters.

"We want to bring in women who will be surprising to the audience," Ammerman said.

E-mail features@kykernel.com

Graphic

Continued from page 1

"I finally opened up to the idea that comics didn't have to be about super heroes," said Turner. "I discovered online that there were stories that broke away from the superhero genre, and I liked that. Comics are a great way to bring a character to life."

This is not the first time Turner has worked with the Women Writers Conference; she and her husband take part in the conference's Surrounding Thirty Miles Project, which is a consortium of regional artists

who hand-make every product the conference creates including publicity, registration packets, brochures and posters. "Through this program, the Women Writers Conference exposes local artists' work to many who would otherwise never see or experience this local talent."

"Brian and Sara are really the origin of the Thirty Miles Project," said Howell. "The team of Brian and Sara is extraordinary. They were part of the think tank that came up with the idea, helped create the process and have been key artists in the process. They are amazing people, and I love them."

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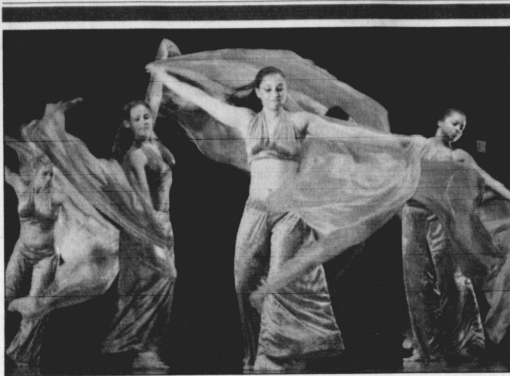
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Andrew Higgins | Staff
Anjali Bhattacharya (center), a member of UK's Dance Ensemble, practices the dance "Salome" yesterday at the Singletary Center for the Arts in preparation for the performance this weekend.

Eclectic and varied dances mark spring performance

By Ellie Fairbanks
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

A fast-paced hip-hop number. An ethnically styled dance. A west coast inspired performance. Even a homage to "The Big Lebowski." Who knew it'd be possible to find this much variety at UK this weekend?

The UK Dance Ensemble will bring an eclectic mix of dances to campus tomorrow in its annual Spring Formal Concert.

Rayma Beal, the director of the Dance Ensemble, said this performance is a way for the UK students to showcase their truly unique talents.

"The purpose is to demonstrate the art form of dance through various forms, including modern, jazz and tap," Beal said.

Emme Fiorenzo, a merchandising and French sophomore and a member of the ensemble, agrees with Beal. This concert is a way to showcase the dancers' talents and allow other people to see them as well, Fiorenzo said.

Florenzo, who has been dancing since she was three years old, got involved with the ensemble because she missed her earlier dancing days.

"I'm from Pennsylvania and wanted to get involved," Fiorenzo said. "I hadn't danced in a while, and I missed it, so I decided to join."

Katie Golden, an integrated strategic communications sophomore, had also danced her entire life and decided to join the ensemble after coming to UK. When she found

herself missing dancing and the physical exercise it provided, she got involved.

"I'd been dancing since I was five, and I really missed it," Golden said. "I love it because it's such great exercise, and this is such a great group of girls."

The spring concert will showcase 15 different dances choreographed by 10 different dancers. This is a way to demonstrate not only different dances but also different ways of presenting them, Beal said.

B.J. Lee, an arts administration junior, enjoys the freedom and artistic expression that being in the dance ensemble gives students.

"Most of the dances are student choreographed, and the directors allow you to pursue any ideas about dance that you've had," Lee said.

Because of this freedom, and because many of the dances are very dramatic, the ensemble provides an outlet that just being on the dance team does not necessarily provide, Lee said.

"We have many student choreographed numbers, put on shows with theatrical elements and don't compete in any competitions," Lee said.

Lee, who is in his sixth semester as a member of the ensemble, choreographed one number and will dance in two more. Lee's piece, which has dancers portraying bowling pins and the cast from "The Big Lebowski," is a lighter and more humorous dance than the others.

"I like to do fun pieces that let the dancers have a lot

If you go

- UK Dance Ensemble
- 8 p.m., Saturday, 2 p.m., Sunday
- Singletary Center for Arts
- Tickets: \$12 general admission, \$10 for students, \$3 for children under 12

of fun," Lee said. "It gives the audience a break from the more serious, modern pieces."

UK's Dance Ensemble is composed of 33 members, all of which are UK students. To become a member, each dancer must audition at the start of each semester. Potential members must either be enrolled in a dance class or take one technique class during the semester. Acceptance into the ensemble is based on performances in these classes, Beal said.

"These are people that dance because they love to dance," Beal said.

"Try-outs are really laid-back and fun," Golden said.

This semester's performances span a wide range of ideas and cultures. With this much a variety of dances, there is sure to be something for everyone, Beal said.

"All of the dances have such different ideas and themes that people will be able to find something they like," Beal said.

"There are such a variety of dances to so much different music," Golden said. "If you come, I'm sure there's something you'd like."

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