

KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

RAs don't think complaints were taken seriously

By Sean Rose
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Former resident advisers said they weren't taken seriously by UK when they filed sexual harassment complaints against Brian Bowman, a hall director who resigned in September.

Four formal sexual harassment complaints were filed against Bowman since he began work as the Haggin Hall Director in fall 2003. He was the hall director in Holmes Hall this fall.

The first two complaints against Bowman prompted letters of warning from Marcia ShROUT, the assistant di-

rector for North and Central campuses. After the third complaint in spring 2005, Bowman was suspended for the remainder of the semester.

On Sept. 8, Bowman met with campus officials who told him they were launching an investigation, said Jim Wims, director of Residence Life and assistant vice president of Student Affairs. Bowman resigned Sept. 11, the day after a fourth complaint was filed, although Wims said the last complaint did not play a role in Bowman's departure.

Josh Mainord, a former RA in Haggin Hall from fall 2004 to spring 2006, said when he was hired, he had

heard stories of Bowman's behavior toward the staff.

During his time in Haggin, Mainord said he contacted Residence Life on three different occasions to complain about harassment on Bowman's part and preferential treatment by Bowman toward certain RAs.

"It's like they didn't take me seriously," Mainord said. "From that point on my name was crap to Res Life."

On one occasion, Mainord said he spoke to Marcia ShROUT, the assistant director for North and Central Campuses, and Tony Ralph, the associate director of Residence Life. Mainord told them of harassing episodes by

Bowman including one where he flicked an RA in his genitals. Mainord said both ShROUT and Ralph dismissed the episode as joking between staff members.

"People joke around and do things but you could tell this wasn't right," Mainord said.

Wims said all sexual harassment complaints including informal ones are taken seriously.

"Every concern that was brought to our attention was addressed," Wims said.

The reports against Bowman claimed he inappropriately touched RAs' ears, rubbed their backs and

played with their hair. Individual instances included one in which Bowman was accused of groping himself while around other RAs and another in which he gave them pornography, according to letters to Bowman from Residence Life officials. The letters said Bowman had denied touching himself or other staff members inappropriately.

One report shared an instant message conversation during which Bowman asked an RA if he was interested in "bisexual exploration." Bowman later said he was joking, according to the letters.

See Bowman on page 6

University restructures police, parking under new head

By Megan Boehnk
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UK posted a new job position on its Web site Friday and is looking for a Director of Public Safety to oversee the police department, Parking and Transportation and Environmental Health Services.

Those departments currently report to Associate Vice President of Campus Services Ken Clevidence, who will retire at the end of the fiscal year in June, said UK spokesman Jay Blanton.

The decision to restructure the departments was made by Frank Butler, the executive vice president for Finance and Administration, Blanton said.

"He's been thinking about it for a few months," Blanton said. "When he and Clevidence started talking about the timing for retirement, Frank started thinking about restructuring."

The position will be listed on the Web site until Nov. 19, and Butler will then start reviewing applications and interviewing candidates, Blanton said. Clevidence will step down from his current position in December and will work on special projects under Butler until his retirement.

David Hibbard, the director of Environmental Health Services, did not know about the change until he saw the online job posting.

"The extent of what I know is in the job announcement," Hibbard said. "It was discussed as far as 'here is the position, it's been posted.'"

Blanton said Clevidence had a meeting with employees who report directly to him yesterday afternoon to discuss his retirement and the changes in the departments.

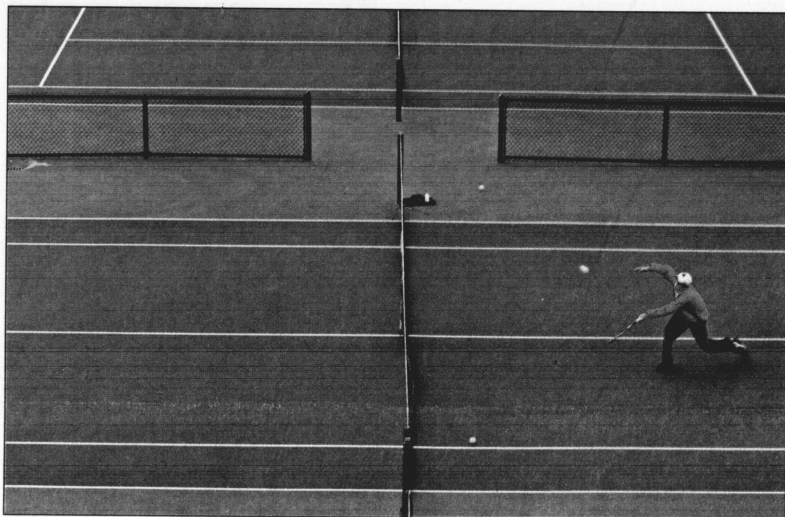
Don Thornton, the director of Parking and Transportation, said he just recently heard about the change.

"I have talked to my boss about this," Thornton said yesterday morning. "But none of it has been official."

While structure of the oversight of the departments may change, Thornton said the day-to-day operations of Parking and Transportation will not change.

See Director on page 6

A FALL VOLLEY



ED MATTHEWS | STAFF

High school student Michael Soto returns a ball yesterday during tennis lessons with UK tennis player Marcus Sundh on the courts next to the Johnson Center.

Medical school hires 30 new faculty

By Shannon Mason
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The UK College of Medicine has hired 30 new faculty members and plans to hire an additional 10 to 15 by the end of this fiscal year, a college official said.

The new hires are not paid with state funds, but with revenue generated through research and patient care, said Pete Gilbert, associate dean for administration and finance in the College of Medicine.

"(They are funded through) clinical revenues or research grants," Gilbert said.

Most faculty members have multiple roles, meaning they may do any combination of teaching, seeing patients in a clinical setting and con-

ducting research, Gilbert said.

Research done by faculty members is funded through grants, which support the faculty salaries. Faculty members who work in the clinical setting see patients, and therefore medical billing supports their salary.

Gilbert said it is important to understand that faculty in the College of Medicine teach students not only in the classroom, but often instruct residents while working with patients.

By paying faculty members this way, the medical school is unique from the rest of the campus, but not from other medical schools across the country, Gilbert said.

The majority of the new faculty members have been hired during this fiscal year because July is the biggest recruitment month, said Julane

Hamon, director of communications for the College of Medicine.

A lot of residents graduate on June 30 and begin looking for full-time positions in July, Hamon said.

Gilbert said the expansive hiring has been going on for the past several years.

"It is not limited to this fiscal year," Gilbert said. "It is really in concert with the Top-20 Business Plan."

Gilbert said UK's College of Medicine is currently ranked 30th among public universities that receive funding from the National Institute of Health. This ranking is up one spot from 2004 and up five spots from 2003.

Dr. Jay Perman, dean of the College of Medi-

See Med School on page 6

Deadline for DanceBlue teams to register approaches



KEITH SMILEY | STAFF

Mackenzie Sorenson, 6, waits to go on stage during last year's DanceBlue at Memorial Coliseum. Sorenson, who was diagnosed with leukemia on April 28, 2005, was one of the Golden Matrix children that the 24-hour dance marathon benefitted.

By Emily Covert
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Tomorrow is the final day for registration for DanceBlue's dance marathon, a 24-hour no-sitting, no-sleeping event that raises money for UK's Pediatric Oncology Clinic. It is open to all UK students, alumni and faculty, and will be held March 2-3.

Last year about 180 dancers took to the floor of Memorial Coliseum at 9 p.m. Friday, standing and dancing while friends and fellow students cheered them on.

DanceBlue raised \$123,323 for the Pediatric Oncology Clinic last year, breaking the record for the most money raised by a college dance marathon in its first year.

This year, the goal is to top that amount.

"\$200,000 lingers in some of our minds," said Nick Phelps, DanceBlue teams chair.

For the marathon, teams of five or more people join together

to raise money for the Golden Matrix Fund, which provides emotional support and research for the children and their families at the clinic.

"It is 100 percent for the children, showing [them] we care," Phelps said.

The number of dancers on a team determines how much money the team should raise. Teams are expected to raise \$150 per dancer

for teams of 5-30 people, \$200 per dancer for teams of 31-70 and \$250 per dancer for teams

of 71 or more. Last year, 32 student organizations had representatives on the floor.

"Right now the goal is 50 teams to register, and about 400 dancers," said Amberlee Kempf, over- all chair.

One of the most significant changes to this year's event is that those not affiliated with a student organization can join, Kempf said.

"This way freshmen on campus who may not have had a chance to join an organization, or faculty or alumni will be able to participate," Kempf said.

More events have been

added to the 2007 program as well.

Earlier this month, DanceBlue held a kickoff concert at Memorial Hall featuring Jonathan Webb and the Collective Few and a 5k walk/run that involved about 100 runners.

Students don't have to participate on a team to get involved in the cause, Kempf said.

"We have 150 people on staff, so our committees are full," she said. "But we're also looking for volunteers for the night of the marathon itself."

Any money raised is for the kids, and Kempf said that's what matters.

"At the event, Greek and non-Greek students, and those involved and not involved in student organizations can come out and support kids with cancer here at UK," she said.

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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 7 - This whole month has been about learning to be cautious, practical and secretive where money is concerned. Hopefully, you know pretty well how to do those things by now. Continue to practice.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Today is a 7 - Don't be the first one out over the mine field. Send something mechanical and dispensable instead. The smarter you are, the less pain you'll suffer.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Today is a 6 - Try not to let your emotions

cloud your thinking, if you can. Make sure your partner knows what you want, and what you definitely don't.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Today is an 8 - Temptations are intense, but you don't have to turn them all down. Set up a date for after the work is done.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Today is a 7 - The very best kind of love, as you know, is built around commitment. You're not afraid of that. Be patient if your loved one is.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is a 7 - Squabbles may break out but don't let yourself be distracted. The others only see what's on the surface. You're after more than that.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today is a 6 - The subject to study now is shopping, and how to do it well. This does not mean you get to buy two of everything you like, however.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today is an 8 - Patience is one of your

virtues, as is a steely sort of calm. Be like that with somebody who's quite annoying now.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is a 7 - Every time you turn around, there's something else to finish. Your brains feel scrambled but that's just a new idea bubbling up from beneath.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today is a 7 - If you find yourself facing a stack of unpaid bills, crank up your money machine again. There's no shortage of lucre out there.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today is a 6 - You advance imperceptibly for many years, then burst through into a completely new universe. Bon voyage.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is a 7 - Keeping your word is a habit that's worth building. It gets easier the longer you do it, and you become more successful, too.

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For the record: Amazing Race contestants' baby news

THE DISH

The Amazing Race contestants Jonathan Baker, 43, and Victoria Fuller, 35, welcomed daughter Trease Alynette on October 6 in L.A. This is the first child for the couple, who wed in 2001.

Linda Evangelista, 41, gave birth to her first child, Augustin James, on Oct. 11 in NYC. The supermodel has not named the baby's father.

The total cash out: \$20.37 million.

Say Cheese

Brooke Shields, 41, who appeared in a print campaign for Colgate in the '70s, will star in a new ad for the toothpaste company, along with child actors who look like daughters Rowan, 3, and Gri-er, 6 months. The healthy mouth commercial will air during the Oct. 19 episode of ABC's Grey's Anatomy.

Lady Luck

Paris Hilton, 25, won \$100,000 playing blackjack at the Mirage hotel in Las Vegas on Oct. 14.

It's Official

The Bahamian Registrar's Office has listed Anna Nicole Smith's lawyer Howard K. Stern as dad to her 1-month-old daughter, Dannielynn, on the baby's birth certificate.

Out Sick

Usher, 28, has ended his Broadway run as lawyer Billy Flynn in Chicago a few days early on Oct. 12 because of a severe case of strep throat. His departure cost the production roughly \$400,000 in refunds,

according to the New York Post.

Farewell

A memorial service for New York Yankees pitcher Cory Lidle - who died on October 11 after his plane crashed into a high-rise apartment building in NYC - is scheduled for October 17 in his hometown of Covina, California.

'Runaway Bride' Sues

First, she left her groom four days before their wedding. Now, Jennifer Wilbanks, 33, wants \$500,000 from him! In a complaint filed last month in Georgia, Wilbanks (who became known as The Runaway Bride in April 2005 when she strided her own kidnapping to escape her nuptials) sued her ex-fiance, John Mason, for half of the \$500,000 he received for the story's movie rights. She also wants an additional \$250,000 in punitive damages (she claims that cutting her out of the movie deal was "wrongful and malicious"). Wilbanks' lawyer, Michael Wetzel, tells Us, "There were several efforts to negotiate a resolution." Mason's attorney has said that he is eager to settle and move on with his life.

Just Married

Riverdance's Michael Flatley, 48, wed longtime costar Niamh O'Brien, 32, in County Cork, Ireland, on Oct. 14.

Split

Actress Mel Harris, 49, known for her role on the '80s show Thirtysomething, filed for divorce from investment banker Mike Toomey on Oct. 3 in L.A. They wed in 2001.

Hot Date

Christina Aguilera, 25, will kick off the North American leg of her Back to Basics tour on Feb. 20 in Houston.

Bling It On

In NYC on Oct. 10, Ellen Barkin, 52, auctioned off jewelry that Revlon chairman Ron Perelman had given her during their five-and-a-half-year mar-

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Q&A with LaShana Porter

Spotlight on the president of the Black Student Union

By Meghan Cain
features@kykernel.com

Throughout the semester, the Kernel will spotlight various campus leaders. This week, we are featuring LaShana Porter, the president of the Black Student Union. Porter, who is a psychology senior is serving her first year as president of the organization.

Q. What is the Black Student Union?

A. The Black Student Union is designed for retention and recruitment of African American students at UK, but it has now changed to include all minority students. It provides minorities with an outlet to be able to socialize with their peers, and it is useful for getting minorities involved on campus.

Q. Why did you originally get involved with BSU?

A. Originally, to find out what things were going on, on campus. I knew college was more than just going to class and then going back to my room.

I wanted to make the most of my college experience, and I also wanted to provide the same experience BSU had on me. I wanted to give back to the community.

Q. Who can attend BSU meetings?

A. It is open to all backgrounds and ethnicities. A lot of people think that because it is the Black Student Union, only black students can attend, but that is not the case.

Q. What other minorities are represented?

A. We have Caucasian, Asian and Hispanic students that attended this year. I have been really pleased with that.

Q. What issues does BSU stand for?

A. We stand for different things that we discuss at meetings. We have conducted voter registration and addressed diversity on campus. We have been involved in increasing diversity on campus, and we care about safety issues.

Q. What is the goal of the BSU?

A. The goal is to keep minority students informed about events, both socially and politically, on campus.

Q. How is the BSU involved in the Lexington community?

A. We have a community project called Operation Motivation where we tutor at-risk youth in the Fayette County schools program. I started the program my sophomore year.

We help at risk students raise their grades. We always get around 30-40 borderline or at-risk students a year, and every year they have passed on to the next grade.

Q. In classes where there are few African American students, it seems that teachers pick you out of the class for examples and opinions. How do you feel about this?

A. I feel a little bit embarrassed and a little bit proud. I am not ashamed. Now that I have grown older, I know it is my duty to let others know about my culture. It is my way of telling my story to other students, especially those students who have not experienced minorities before.

Q. How do you feel about the freshmen class being the most diverse in UK history?

A. I think UK is progressing on diversity. I feel UK is taking the needed changes to make the school more diverse.

The fact that the freshmen class is the most diverse is great. I just hope this continues to increase instead of decreasing after this year and then coming back up.



ED MATTHEWS/STAFF

LaShana Porter is serving her first year as the president of the Black Student Union. Porter's main goals are to involve BSU with more organizations at UK and gain new, diverse members.

Q. Why is diversity important?

A. I feel diversity is important because every race of people exists, and we all co-exist. A lot of people come from backgrounds where they do not know a lot about diversity.

Time is changing, and the world is changing. The world is becoming culturally enriched, and students need to experience that.

Q. How do you feel about the actual diversity on campus?

A. I feel there is always room for improvement. Being a minority student, I have taken advantage of all the benefits. You have to put yourself out there to get those; they are not thrown at you. But as a minority student, I can see the effort that UK is trying to make.

Q. Do you think racism is still a problem?

A. Yeah I do. It is not like it used to be, but I feel it is an issue that now gets swept under the rug. People are ignorant to racism and what they do. It is not a problem at UK, per se.

It is always going to be there, but maybe not as strong. But still, the subject is going to be here for while.

Q. What do you think it will take to end racism?

A. It will take more knowledgeable people who know about different ethnic backgrounds other than their own. When people become more informed then racism will decrease. You don't have to be tolerant or like what someone does, but you have to respect them.

Q. If people are interested in joining the BSU, what should they do?

A. For the Black Student Union there is no sign-up, but we do keep a record for attendance just for voting purposes. You have to attend 50 percent of the meetings to be eligible to vote. The doors are open to all. There are no requirements, no application. Just come.

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Local band mixes jazz, rock and soul

By Whitney Waters
features@kykernel.com

Tyler Little is the drummer for the Lexington-based band Sexual Disaster Quartet, but his grandmother wouldn't know it. "I can't tell my grandmother the name of the band," Little said. "I have to change it to SDQ (when I talk to her)."

Though Little thinks the title of the band can sometimes be inappropriate, he said the name and the music are suitable for college students.

Because of its unique style of music, Sexual Disaster Quartet is performing tonight as a part of the Student Activity Board's new Beatnik Ball Series, which showcases "avant-garde influences in music and culture."

Sexual Disaster Quartet blends several different genres of music together to create a unique sound, Little said.

"(The band) has elements of jazz because it has a sax and trumpet...but then there are electric instruments that make it take on evidence of rock, blues and a soul type of thing," Little said.

"We're about 50 percent jazz and 50 percent rock," said Kenny Bernhardt, bassist and keyboardist for Sexual Disaster Quartet.

Sexual Disaster Quartet band members try to play what they love and shy away from mainstream radio, said Sam Flowers, who plays the trumpet and sings for the band. "Most of us are just the opposite of thrilled about what is on commercial radio," Flowers said. "We're trying to stick with

One story, Sexual Disaster Quartet, was about a family that was really strange. Because the band was looking for a name that personified jazz, but didn't want to have an actual person's name in the band's title, they decided on this, Little said.

People can see Sexual Disaster Quartet playing regularly around Lexington at the Fish Tank Bar and Grill, Lynagh's, Cheapside and occasionally at The Dame. Playing at UK will allow them to expand to a new audience, Little said.

"We figured it would be a chance to play for people that can't go to the bars and for people that haven't heard us," Little said. "We've never done UK as a function before."

Students should come out to see Sexual Disaster Quartet because they have great vibes, a high level of musicianship and they have played a lot around Lexington, Little said.

"I think that we've got something for a lot of different people," Little said. "If nothing else, we've got an interesting name."

"Bringing local acts like us into the mix is a big deal," Flowers said. "Most people will like the things that we do. The word is out about us in Lexington."

If you go

What: Beatnik Ball featuring Sexual Disaster Quartet

When: Tonight at 8 p.m.

Where: Student Center Grand Ballroom

Tickets: Free and open to the public

what we personally love."

The band formed three years ago when Bernhardt saw Little playing at a local bar. Guitarist Ross Whitaker, trumpeter and vocalist Sam Flowers and saxophonist Brad Grable knew each other through school at UK and were later added to the band.

"We just all happened to know each other," Little said.

The name Sexual Disaster Quartet comes from The Acid House, a 1994 book of short stories written by Irvine Welsh.

Students explore education abroad

By Brad Bowling
news@kykernel.com

UK students filled the walkway from Rose Street to W.T. Young Library yesterday for the annual Education Abroad Fair.

Representatives from several programs lined the walkway, handing out flyers and bulletins and answering students' questions.

Janel Roccanova, the director of Education Abroad and Exchange Programs at UK, said the primary goal was to inform students about study abroad opportunities. About 200,000 U.S. students are currently studying abroad, but Roccanova thinks there can be many more.

"My biggest fear would be for a UK student to have gone four years and not consider Education Abroad," she said.

"There are many who don't consider it or even know about it," Roccanova said the benefits are noticeable among students who decide to study abroad.

"We see the students when they return from abroad and they are transformed," she said. "They learn so much about themselves and others in the world."

While many students see a trip overseas as a good time, the representatives at the fair said there are more benefits than just the excitement of spending time in a new country.



PHOTOS BY ALLIE GARZA / STAFF

Music performance freshman Farhad Rezaei plays the drums along with Tripp Bratton at the Study Abroad Fair yesterday on the walkway from Rose St. to the W. T. Young Library. Rezaei and Bratton played a mixture of African, Latin, and improvisational rhythms on African Djembe drums during the fair.

"It changes your perspective on life in the world," said Amylia Grace, of the Council on International Educational Exchange, one organization that had representatives at the event.

"You can make many new friends. It's also a terrific resume builder," Michael Swift of Australearn, another organization at the fair, discussed how students grow and mature when studying abroad.

"Being away from home allows for personal growth," he said. "I am a big

advocate of a year abroad, so the student can take in the new culture and get changed by it."

As a student who spent five weeks over the summer studying abroad in China, philosophy sophomore Kristen Svarczkopf said she has a greater appreciation for her life in the U.S.

"I realized that I take many things for granted, especially luxuries like the Internet," she said. "You really don't know about it until you've lived through it."



Students sign up for information from Arcadia University's study abroad program yesterday during the Study Abroad Fair. Students were able to explore their study abroad options and gain information from over 28 participants during the fair.

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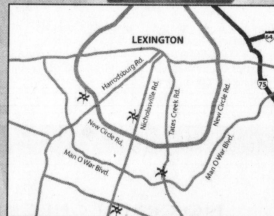
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Hollywood Democrats look ahead to Obama in 2008

By Tina Dault
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Just the hint of a possible presidential run by U.S. Sen. Barack Obama has Hollywood Democrats talking.

The e-mail from actor George Clooney arrived at 1:46 a.m. Pacific time (he's in Europe at the moment). The subject: Illinois Democrat Obama.

"If SENATOR Obama became PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE Obama it would be the most electrifying thing to happen to the Democratic party since Kennedy," Clooney wrote.

Media mogul Haim Saban, however, was less impressed by Obama's disclosure this week that he's thinking about running for president in 2008. Saban is already electrified by another possible Democratic candidate: Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York.

"Only Hillary," Saban said, via BlackBerry message. "I hope she does announce soon so we can all go to work all out to make sure she wins ... and BIG!!!!!"

The 2006 midterm elections are less than two weeks away, but Hollywood is already looking toward 2008 — even though no one has formally joined the race.

"It would be hard for me to pretend that I've not heard some of the talk," Obama said in an interview with the Los Angeles Times. "There's an old joke that every senator is thinking about running for president — all 100 of them."

Obama said that at the moment he's focused on getting Democrats elected on Nov. 7. After that, he'll consider his

presidential prospects.

But while he's pondering his options, you can bet that some people in Hollywood are already envisioning his inaugural bash.

Director Rob Reiner compared a possible run by Obama to Abraham Lincoln's victory.

"How poetic would it be that a one-term congressman from the state of Illinois could be elected president and free the slaves," said Reiner, reached on his car phone Monday, "and now a one-term African American senator from that same state could become the next president?"

"Everyone admires him," producer Norman Lear said of the freshman senator. "They are very excited about the possibility that he's in the race. I think the people who are very much with Hillary will remain with Hillary. But the discussion is a good thing for the party."

Almost anyone who has met Obama will tell you that he's charismatic and warm, but not giddy.

"My wife and I have tried not to get caught up in the hype," Obama said. "We still live in Chicago and I go to the same barbershop..."

But there's no denying that since he rocked the Democratic National Convention in 2004 with an impassioned speech about America, his life has changed. For one, he became an instant political star.

His first book, "Dreams From My Father," released shortly after the 2004 convention, shot to the top of bestseller lists. His new missive promises to be equally as successful. Last week, he was

in 15 cities promoting his book and raising money for the Democrats.

On Friday, he will be in Los Angeles to discuss the book at the Urban Issues Breakfast Forum of Greater L.A. and the California African American Museum.

Later that evening, he will attend a fundraiser for the state Democratic Party with gubernatorial candidate Phil Angelides.

"This is an important election," Obama said. "The Democrats will win the House and we could win the Senate."

As he travels, Obama said, he finds that people — regardless of their party affiliations — have similar anxieties.

"They're worried about whether they have enough health care for their kids, what's happening with the global economy. People have the same hopes and dreams. There's a stubborn self-reliance and optimism in the American people... And I think people are in a serious mood."

Obama says he appreciates the support he's been shown by Hollywood Democrats. (Obama, who was born in Hawaii to an American mother and a Kenyan father, counts Clooney and Bono as friends.)

"There are some celebrities who have really done their homework and know what they are talking about and are terrific advocates for justice and peace and opportunity around the world," he said. "I want all citizens to get involved. Whether they are the secretary in an office building or a movie star, I think the more engaged and interested people are, the better off we all are."

Study finds web use could be addiction for some

By Curtiss L. Taylor
NEWSDAY

Is spending too much time on the Internet a bad habit or a serious addiction? Researchers at Stanford University are trying to determine just that.

In a new study based on a random telephone survey of 2,513 adults nationwide, researchers found that of the 56.3 percent who responded, one out of eight exhibited at least one symptom of what could be classified as Internet addiction.

"We often focus on how wonderful the Internet is, how simple and efficient it can make things," said lead author Elias Aboujaoude in a statement. "But we need to consider the fact that it creates real problems for a subset of people."

Aboujaoude, director of Stanford's Impulse Control Disorders Clinic, quickly added that it was premature to say whether survey respondents actually had a clinical disorder because more research was needed.

"Problematic Internet use, based on my clinical experience and other published studies, is not limited to online gambling or pornography, although these venues receive the most media coverage for obvious reasons," Aboujaoude said. "People can also abuse chat rooms, blogs, online auction sites, special interest Web sites, etc."

An estimated 160 million Americans regularly use the In-

ternet. A small but growing number of Internet users, the study said, are starting to visit their doctors for help with unhealthy attachments to cyberspace. The study was published in the October issue of the International Journal of Neuropsychiatric Medicine.

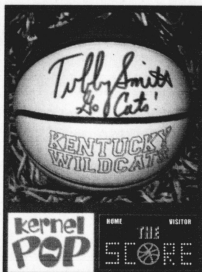
Dr. Kenneth Skodnek, director of addiction services at Nassau University Medical Center, said the real question is how to measure Internet overuse.

"My sense is that it is not whether or not the use of the Internet can be an addiction, but how big of a problem it really is," Skodnek said. "I think it is a problem for some people."

Julian Pessier, assistant director of the Stony Brook University Counseling Center, which provides counseling and psychiatric services to students, said that the number of people addicted to the Internet is probably much higher than the Stanford study indicated.

Pessier said he has counseled students who have difficulty managing their Internet use. But he has also counseled other students for whom cyberspace has opened up a new world of social interactions that would not have been possible otherwise.

He said Internet overuse should not only be framed as a disorder. "The problem is out there but not necessarily out there in the way they define it for the survey," Pessier said. "There is good and bad."



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Todd appoints vice president for new office

By Juliann Vachon
news@kykernel.com

A former UK administrator, high-ranking state government official and business entrepreneur would serve as the acting vice president of the university's new Office for Economic Development, UK President Lee Todd announced Monday.

Len Heller, former UK vice chancellor for academic affairs, cabinet secretary in state government and entrepreneur, will help lead the new office, said UK spokesperson Jay Blanton.

"(Len) has the broad background and the right skill sets to lead this office," Todd said. "He is very well qualified for this important role, because he knows each of its facets so well."

Heller, who will report directly to Todd, said the desire to streamline and capitalize on the economic value of UK's scientific discoveries is one of the president's major goals in achieving top-20 status among public universities.

"The opportunity to join the president's executive team and focus on the commercial and economic development side of the university is exciting," Heller said. "I am hum-

bled by this expression of confidence. I relish the opportunity."

Todd said Heller will be a candidate for the permanent position, which he expects to be filled by the end of the year.

The Office for Economic Development was designed to help focus UK's commitment to improving Kentucky's economy, Todd said. The office will concentrate on translating the research done in labs and on campus into commercially valuable information and technology.

"An office specifically focused on economic development at the university and in the state is one more important tool in our arsenal to help achieve that goal of ensuring that UK is a catalyst for a new Commonwealth," Todd said.

Todd said the new office will oversee the economic development efforts already underway while creating more collaborative efforts among researchers here at UK and also among the university and the state.

The office will manage the resources of university-affiliated entities, such as Kentucky Technology, Inc., Coldstream Campus and on-campus incubators for the maximum economic benefit of the region and the state, Heller said.

Heller said the office will also partner with local and state government agencies to assist in economic development activities, such as attracting businesses to Kentucky and facilitating joint research projects with private companies.

"There are great opportunities for businesses coming out of the university and entrepreneurs in Kentucky to become successful," Heller said. "State agencies, civil leaders and the business community are seeking an unprecedented level of cooperation and commitment to move Kentucky forward."

Todd said the connections between top-20 research institutions and prosperous economies are clear.

"States with top-20 institutions of higher-learning have, on average, higher per capita incomes, better rates of educational attainment and healthier, more civically active and engaged populations," Todd said.

The office will improve the university as well as the economy, Heller said.

"Growing and developing the economy of the state and communities is absolutely essential for the long term growth, competitiveness and overall well-being of the university and the state," Heller said.

DIRECTOR

Continued from page 1

"We have a job to do for the university community and we're going to do our job," he said. "Buses are still going to run, parking lots will still be open, garages are still going to be open. We're not going to see our services decreased in any way."

Blanton agreed that none of the daily functions of the affected departments will be affected, but a new director could still bring changes.

"A new director is going to have some oversight in planning and deciding what services need to be provided," he said.

BOWMAN

Continued from page 1

Wims said UK responded in a timely manner in punishing Bowman.

"I believe we responded to what we know about, and we responded appropriately," Wims said.

But some think something should have been done sooner.

Mike Ferrell was an RA in Haggin last year and filed the third complaint against Bowman that triggered the suspension.

Ferrell, no longer a student at UK, said he wasn't surprised by the fourth complaint

against Bowman.

"I didn't think he would stop, the university just shuffled him around," Ferrell said. "I'm actually surprised the university did something about it."

"I'm happy that he's no longer working here, but I'm not happy because we haven't found out who dropped the ball in terms of why it took so many complaints for something to get done."

Terry Allen, associate vice president of institutional equity, said all sexual harassment cases are handled independently.

"They all differ and none of them are easy," Allen said. "You want to look at the record as a whole in order to

make a determination as to whether the university policy has been violated."

"You must look at the individual facts in each complaint," he said.

The Office of Institutional Equity was involved in investigations of Bowman. Allen declined to comment on whether a punishment should have come sooner.

Informal sexual harassment reports are not kept on record and Mainord, who left UK partly because of the situation with Residence Life and Bowman, said he thought there were more complaints were made against the former hall director.

on the research side.

Gilbert said the new staff members are paid in the same manner as faculty, through clinical revenue or research grants.

MED SCHOOL

Continued from page 1

and vice president for clinical affairs, told the Kernel in a

Sept. 18 article that the medical school's goal of rising in the rankings coincides with the top-20 goal of the university.

"Our success is essential to the university's achievement of top-20 status," he said.

The College of Medicine

also plans to hire about 90 new staff during this fiscal year, Gilbert said.

"Most of them are already hired," he said.

The new staff will work with the faculty either in clinical programs or as lab technicians

Bush takes campaign offensive

By James Gerstentanz
Los Angeles Times

SARASOTA, Fla. — Using mocking language to belittle Democrats, President Bush launched a muscular political attack Tuesday in his campaign to preserve Republican majorities in the House and Senate, challenging the Democrats' economic record and their commitment to fighting terrorism.

Two weeks before the midterm election, the White House is yielding not a bit to the possibility that come January Bush might have to deal for the first time with a Democratic majority.

"The Democrats make a lot of predictions. As a matter of fact, I think they may be measuring the drapes," he said.

"If their electoral predictions are as reliable as their economic predictions," he said, recalling Democrats' projections of economic failure after Congress enacted his tax cuts, "Nov. 7 is going to be a good day for the Republicans."

The president, who has used the war in Iraq as a central element in his stump speech as he seeks to persuade voters that a Democratic-led Congress would weaken the war effort, also has been trying to gain political traction from falling energy prices and a rising stock market.

On Tuesday, he turned to taxes, seeking to raise the prospect that they would go up if Democrats take charge.

"When you go to the voting booth in two weeks, the lever you pull will deter-

mine the taxes you pay for years to come," Bush said. "Americans will cast their ballots on Nov. 7, but you will feel the results every April 15."

He pulled out, as he has in the past, a statement by Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., the likely speaker of the House if the Democrats win a majority, expressing Democrats' "love" of tax cuts.

Citing Democratic opposition to tax cuts he had proposed, the president said: "Time and time again, she had an opportunity to show her love for taxes. If this is the Democrats' idea of love, I wouldn't want to see what hate looks like."

Democrats have argued that the tax cuts were responsible for the budget deficit, which is now dropping, and have said they oppose wholesale extension of some cuts as they expire in coming years and want to balance them more toward middle-class taxpayers.

The president spoke at a rally that a spokeswoman said raised \$375,000 for Vern Buchanan, a Republican congressional candidate in a tight race in a Republican-leaning district. Later, Bush spoke in private at a party in Boca Raton that reportedly raised \$1 million for the Republican National Committee.

The event here was Bush's first in Sarasota since Sept. 11, 2001. He was in a classroom here with elementary school students when he was told a second plane had struck the World Trade Center in New York.

Seeking to use Democrats' opposition

to elements of the USA Patriot Act, which beefed up law enforcement intelligence operations after the Sept. 11 attacks, and to legislation creating military tribunals for alleged terrorists, Bush said: "The vast majority of Democrats oppose the right of this administration to have a tool necessary to protect you... They must not think we're at war. They must think that the best way to protect you is to respond after the attack."

"The vast majority of Democrats voted against giving our professionals the right to interrogate to protect America. These are patriotic souls, but their vision of the world is wrong and we want to make sure that we continue to control the House of Representatives to provide the protection necessary."

Critics of the measures questioned whether they went too far in abrogating defendants' rights and opened the door to unnecessary spying on Americans.

Minutes from the Sarasota airport, the president made an unannounced stop at Gyrocam, Inc., a company that makes cameras being used to help soldiers spot roadside bombs in Iraq. The stop provided an illustration of two of the president's themes: the role of small business in boosting the economy and — as he moves from the phrase "stay the course" to describe his policy in the war — the shifts taking place to counter insurgents.

"Our goal in Iraq has not changed..." Bush said to reporters. "Our tactics are adjusting."

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SPORTS

Jonathan Smith
Sports Editor
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Perry confident after last season's finish

By Jonathan Smith
jsmith@kykernel.com

Last season, UK entered its second round game in the NCAA tournament as a heavy underdog up against top seed and tournament-favorite Connecticut.

The Cats walked off the court as a four-point loser, knowing that they had just missed their chance to knock off one of college basketball's top dogs.

Then junior Bobby Perry's performance was one of the reasons UK took the Huskies to the wire. The forward scored 20 points and grabbed seven rebounds in one of the best all-around efforts of his career.

His performance came in the final game of the season, leaving the lasting image of timely three-point shots and tough rebounds in the minds of UK fans who are hoping for more of the same this season.

Luckily for those fans, Perry has set similar standards.

"If I did it against UConn, why can't I do it in every game?" Perry said. "That's the expectations I have for myself."

The UConn game was just part of his NCAA tournament coming out party. In the Cats' first round match-up against Alabama-Birmingham, Perry poured in 25 points — including three 3-pointers — and hauled in seven rebounds in a 69-64 win.

Included in his end-of-the-season hot stretch was a streak of 25 consecutively made free throws, and 16 starts in the team's final 17 games.

Not bad for a guy from Durham, N.C., who was spurned by the two basketball super

powers in his own backyard. "Bobby continues to play well from last year," said head coach Tubby Smith. "He shot the ball well the last part of the season. He has worked real hard on his game and moving him to the perimeter makes him more comfortable."

Much more comfortable.

Last year, Perry played a lot of minutes at power forward, especially during the 14 games in which center Randolph Morris was forced to sit out because of an NCAA rules infraction.

Now Perry can play more naturally, looking for jump shots and lanes to drive to the basket.

"I'm just looking for my shot more when I'm open and when I have a little bit of space," Perry said. "I have the confidence to knock it down when my teammates give me the ball."

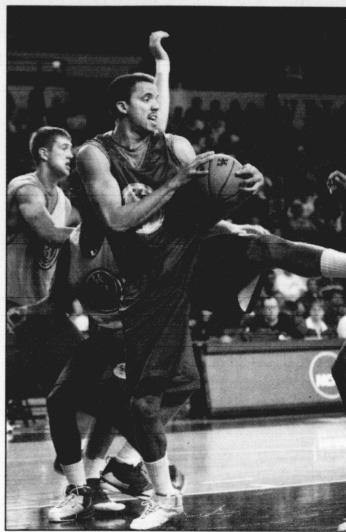
Perry said knowing what his coaches and teammates expect out of him has been a major part of his success.

"I realized I have a role on this team," Perry said. "I'm going to have to score, I'm going to have to defend and be a vocal leader on the floor and off the court."

In Saturday's Blue-White scrimmage, Perry scored 28 points on 10 of 16 shooting. Six of those field goals were from 3-point range — a sign that Perry didn't lose his shooting touch over the summer.

"It feels good," Perry said. "When you're hot, you know you're going to give whoever it is the ball."

His performance in the scrimmage likely brought back memories of his play in the NCAA tournament, something that Perry himself remembers



BRAD LUTTRELL | STAFF

Senior forward Bobby Perry grabs a rebound Saturday at UK's annual Blue-White scrimmage. Perry said he is much more confident this season after he scored 45 points in two NCAA tournament games last year.

help us win and I'll be a huge factor then. I'm happy with that," Perry said. "I'm very convinced that I can be a big part of this team and help with the success."

And something Perry thinks he can continue this season.

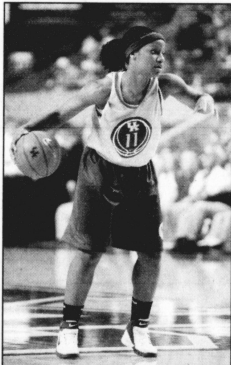
"I know I might not score 20 points every game, but if I can contribute in a way that will

UK women not distracted by expectations

By Matthew George
sports@kykernel.com

Their names may have remained the same, but the expectations surrounding UK's women's hoops team have changed drastically from last season.

The Cats return all five starters from last year's NCAA Tournament team, and as pre-



HILLY SCHIFFER | STAFF
Junior guard Samantha Mahoney calls out a play at Big Blue Madness on Oct. 21.

season polls continue to name UK among the nation's elite, enthusiasm for the season is at an all-time high, the team said Friday at media day.

"It's exciting because now we are somebody," said junior guard Chante Bowman. "Last year it was our theme to earn respect, and now our respect has been earned. But we have to continue to work harder to do as well as we did last year and better."

Last season experts picked UK to finish as low as ninth in the Southeastern Conference. The Cats earned their respect by posting a 22-9 record — their best since 1990 — en route to their first NCAA Tournament appearance in seven years.

Now many of those same experts have much higher expectations for the 2006-07 season, ranking the Cats among the top 25 in most polls and as high as No. 14 in Athlon Sports' pre-season poll.

Head coach Mickie DeMoss doesn't think the attention her team has received will be a distraction.

"We have to focus on what we can control," DeMoss said. "Every day we step out on the floor and we practice hard, we prepare and we get better. Those are the things we can control. We can't control what people are going to think and what they are going to write. We just have to focus on what we can control as players and as a team."

Instead, DeMoss believes that the national recognition has helped motivate her team.

"I haven't seen any lull at all," DeMoss said. "If anything, there has been a higher level of energy."

A lot of the attention the Cats have re-

ceived since the beginning of last season came after their 66-63 over then No. 1 Tennessee last year.

But with the high-profile win came high expectations, and the Cats are hoping they can provide an encore to last year's special moments.

"Last year our motto was 'Earn respect and respect is earned,'" said junior center Sarah Elliot. "This year we are thinking, 'OK, we have done a lot of great things and had a lot of great firsts; now we have to prove to everybody that we deserved it and that we can still compete at every moment this year.'"

"We've earned it; now we have to prove it," Elliot said.

But proving it won't be easy.

The Cats lost center Eleia Roddy for the season when she tore her anterior cruciate ligament in practice on Oct. 17.

Roddy averaged 7.8 points and 6.7 rebounds and was the only non-starter to log more than 20 minutes a game last season.

Senior Nastassia Alcius said that along with the tough assignment of picking up Roddy's production, UK will also have to adjust from playing the role of the underdog. Toward the end of the season, the team began learning how handle being the favored team in games, Alcius said.

"We didn't get as rattled as a lot of people thought we would, even though we had never been in that situation before," she said. "This season we are more poised and more experienced."

"You can't ever become complacent, because all of that can go right out the window."

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KERNEL EDITORIALS

UK should act quickly on harassment complaints

Four strikes and you're out? That seems to have been the message in the recent case of ex-UK employee Brian Bowman.

Bowman, former director of Holmes and Haggin Halls, resigned on Sept. 11, a day after a fourth sexual-harassment complaint was brought against him.

As far back as 2004, a paper trail exists with regard to Bowman's behaviors when he was director of Haggin Hall. An RA in Haggin Hall brought a complaint to UK administrators and also brought a hard copy of an instant message conversation he had with Bowman. Bowman didn't deny what he said in the conversation, but insisted that it was a joke.

Strike one.

A year later, an RA in Haggin Hall brought forth a complaint. Bowman denied grabbing his genitals while around that RA. Though there was no direct evidence, UK administrators already had evidence that Bowman had behaved improperly in the past, making a second such complaint far more credible.

Strike two.

The following semester, the fall of 2005, an RA complained that Bowman touched him on the ear and the back of the neck in a way that made him feel uncomfortable.

Strike three.

In the February of 2006, UK administrators took action and found Bowman in violation of the university's sexual-harassment policy. Bowman was placed on disciplinary probation for the semester and had to take a sexual-harassment prevention program. In April, Tony Ralph, associate director of Residence Life, sent a letter to Bowman, warning that any further violation of the university's sexual-harassment policy could lead to Bowman's immediate firing.

But that wasn't the end of it.

In September of this year, an informal complaint was made against Bowman. Residence Life launched an investigation and Bowman resigned three days later on Sept. 11 in anticipation of being fired.

As Bowman was resigning, a fourth formal complaint came to light. Andy Hartley, then assistant director of Holmes Hall, reported in an e-mail to Ralph that one of her RAs had "a number of uncomfortable incidents" involving Bowman, including Bowman showing the RA a number of sexual items and giving the RA a pornographic magazine. Bowman said he was "trying to help out a fellow guy."

A combined strike four.

Why did it take so long and so many incidents for UK to take action? It wasn't until the third offense that UK formally warned Bowman that his actions were unacceptable and that he would be fired if he were to continue.

The chain of Bowman's actions is clearly an escalation. From the conversations to the unwanted physical contact to the sexual orientation "help" he tried to give staff members, Bowman progressively became bolder and bolder in his inappropriate behavior.

Perhaps a sterner warning earlier on could have put a stop to such behavior. Perhaps not, as was evidenced by the fact that he continued to violate UK's sexual-harassment policy even though he had been warned that violating it again could cost him his job.

One thing is for certain: UK should not have waited as long as it did to discipline Bowman. One incident is too many, and for UK to allow three to transpire before taking formal action is inexcusable.

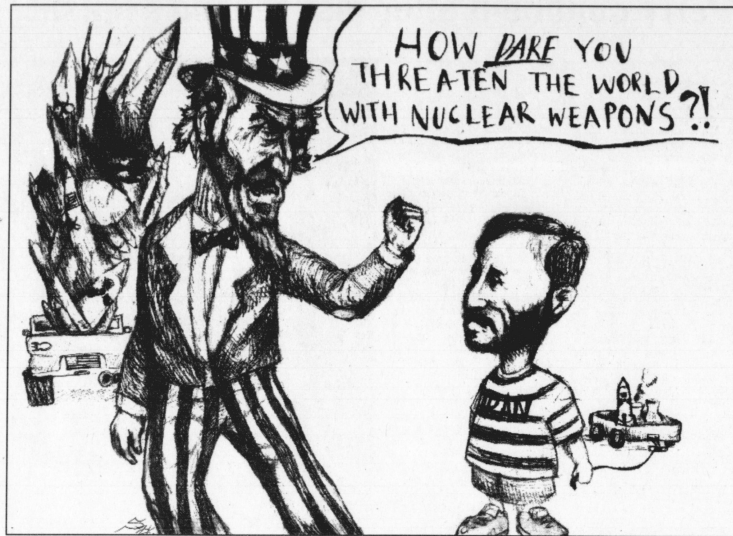
UK insists that protecting students and their well-being is a priority, but actions speak louder than words. If UK wants to be taken seriously when it says it cares about students, it must live up to its words and protect students from sexual harassment. Inappropriate behavior must not be tolerated, and action must be taken quickly to ensure that the problem is dealt with and does not repeat itself.

Store should be commended for honoring Turner

Ice cream, combined with a few encouraging words from students, contributed over \$400 to the Dr. Larry Turner Scholarship Fund Oct. 17. For every customer who identified himself or herself as supporting the scholarship, Cold Stone Creamery donated \$1 to the fund.

Twelve students from the UK organization Educators of Family and Consumer Sciences were there to promote the scholarship to the customers. Although personal donations were not necessary to receive donations from Cold Stone, \$250 of the money raised was from money that people gave of their own volition. The rest of the money came from Cold Stone Creamery, who gave a little bit of their business back to the community. This company, its customers and the students who were there to tell them about the scholarship should all give themselves a pat on the back.

Turner, who died in August in the crash of Comair Flight 5191, was the associate dean of the Cooperative Extension Service in the College of Agriculture at UK. This scholarship fund was created to honor him and his memory, and these students strengthened that idea through their actions last Tuesday. They showed respect for a great UK leader by reminding people within the community of his influence and encouraging them to support his previous endeavors.



SATRIO HUSODO, Kernel cartoonist

Democrats have taken one more step toward shooting themselves in the foot

Leave it to Democrats to screw things up when it comes to election planning.

In August, after Democratic challenger Ned Lamont defeated incumbent Joe Lieberman in Connecticut's Senate primary, the Howard Dean wing of the party was ecstatic.

Here was their chance to finally unseat the most visible Democratic senator who supported — and continues to support — the war in Iraq. Not only that, Lieberman has the gumption to have a working relationship with the president of the United States. And he even hugged the man at the State of the Union!

How dare Joseph Lieberman!

After Lamont defeated Lieberman 52 to 48 percent, the Democratic establishment lined up behind the single-issue, antiwar party standard-bearer. According to a Washington Post article, Connecticut Democratic officials held a unity breakfast the day following the primary election. Connecticut Sen. Christopher Dodd, who had backed Lieberman during the primary campaign, threw his support behind Lamont.

And in Washington, national party leaders including Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., released a statement saying Lamont would have the national party's support. The Post also cited the support of Sens. Hillary Clinton, N.Y., and Ted Kennedy, Mass., and House Minority Leader Nancy

Pelosi, Calif., for Lamont.

But Lieberman, who had entertained the idea before his primary loss, vowed to continue his candidacy for his seat as an independent.

Throughout the summer, polls showed Lieberman inching ahead in the Senate race. In mid-July, the race stood at a tie, with Lieberman and Lamont each polling 40 percent of voters. Less than a month later, the same pollster gave Lieberman a 5-point lead.

Since then, Lieberman's lead has grown to 17 percent in the latest Quinnipiac poll. RealClearPolitics.com currently gives the senator a 12.5 percent lead in its poll average indicator.

So it would appear that the Democrats' plans have backfired, and Lieberman will maintain his Senate seat — as an independent. But Democrats shouldn't hold a "woe is me" attitude, as Lieberman has pledged to rejoin his party colleagues and maintain his leadership positions on several vital Senate committees.

Lieberman's story is a strange one, even if they were never more true than today. Washington, D.C., and his home state of Minnesota, losing by 18 points to Ronald Reagan in 1984, was tapped to run for his former Senate seat in 2002 after incumbent Paul Wellstone died in a plane crash.

Lieberman's sin is alienating his base of the Democratic Party, which has morphed

from the party of Franklin Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy into the party of Howard Dean and Nancy Pelosi.

Lieberman supported the war in Iraq, and though he has since made statements critical of the war, far-left bloggers have painted him as a pawn of President Bush. DumpJoe.com features a political cartoon with Lieberman holding his finger up to test the wind, saying, "The wind is about to change and so is my position on (Fill in the blank)."

The blogosphere's portrayal of Lieberman as being too conservative for Democrats is a farce. In fact, throughout his career, Lieberman has remained consistently liberal. He has supported affirmative action initiatives, increased federal funding for education, environmental protection, gun control, abortion rights and voted against Bush's tax cuts.

Come to think of it, maybe Lieberman is conservative. In today's Democratic Party, anyone who is willing to use the military for anything other than hurricane relief must be a Bush lackey.

In a party that has moved further and further left on the political spectrum, Lieberman should be praised for maintaining his principled beliefs. Lieberman doesn't deserve to lose next month's election, and he won't. He also doesn't deserve the treatment his party has given him over the past several months.

Luckily for the Democrats, Joseph Lieberman is too principled to leave the party that fostered his political career.

Wes Blevins is a journalism senior. E-mail wblevins@kykernel.com

Border control is a matter of common sense

Common sense is defined by the Merriam-Webster dictionary as "sound and prudent judgment based on a simple perception of the situation or facts."

I add emphasis on "simple" because common knowledge is information that is simple enough that just about everyone should know it.

I've decided that common sense is an endangered species and have seriously considered starting a petition to make it official. It's endangered because a great number of people in the United States don't seem to understand the word illegal. Merriam-Webster was gracious enough to define illegal as "not according to or authorized by law," basically meaning it is forbidden by the law.

So if I were to mention the term "illegal immigrant," common sense would dictate that the definition should be someone who enters the country "not according to or authorized by law." So they are not Americans and don't have the rights of Americans.

This is not the first time I have written on this subject, and I can't guarantee it will be the last. As each month passes, I grow more furious at the state of this country's borders.

I could rant and rave, using language that would probably be deleted from this

column, but instead I will quote someone who summed up the situation more eloquently, Ronald Reagan:

"The simple truth is that we've lost control of our own borders, and no nation can do that and survive."

He spoke those words 22 years ago, but they were never more true than today. Yet there is a spark of hope in this country. In the land of California, a place that usually strays from the norm, usually has its own way of doing things, a city with a population of 140,000, has become the largest city to pass a law that would actually ban landlords from renting to illegal immigrants.

This is when common sense should be screaming at you. The city of Escondido, had to pass an ordinance, essentially a law, to make it ILLEGAL to rent to an ILLEGAL immigrant. Are there people out there who understand the irony of such a situation?

And of course, where would such a situation be with the AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION? I absolutely love that organization! I mean after all, where would this country be without an organization that claims to work "in the courts, legislatures and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to all people in this country by the Constitution and laws of the United States," a statement taken from their actual website.

But where in that statement does the ACLU say that those who violate the laws of the United States should have individual rights and liberties defended and preserved?

Go one step further and where, where oh where, does it say that those who are not citizens of the United States of America, those who have violated the laws of the country, have any rights at all?

Common sense dictates that if you break a law you must be punished, a man murders another man, he is sent to prison; I decide to steal a million dollars and I will go to prison as well. But a person breaks the law and enters the country without authorization, permission, the legal necessities and nothing happens.

What gives the members of Congress, the governing bodies that have done so little to prevent the mass migration of people across our borders, the right to decide which laws should be enforced and which can be overlooked?

I dare anyone to go steal a chemistry book from the bookstore, and when the police arrive try to use the excuse that "if an illegal immigrant doesn't get punished then I shouldn't be either, after all we both broke the law." You steal that book, you will get arrested and go to jail, end of story.

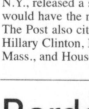
So common sense says that if the law is broken by someone living in the country illegally, then that someone should be arrested or punished, does it not?

But then again, common sense is an endangered species, just ask our government.

Megan Vazmina is a political science and journalism junior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com



WES BLEVINS
Kernel columnist



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More U.S. troops may be needed to calm capital

By Louise Roug
LOS ANGELES TIMES

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The top U.S. military commander in Iraq said Tuesday that more U.S. troops may be needed in the capital to quell raging sectarian violence.

Gen. George W. Casey, speaking at a rare news conference with American Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, also reiterated that it will take longer than previously thought for Iraqi troops to take the lead in providing adequate security across the war-scarred nation.

"It's going to take another 12 to 18 months or so till I believe the Iraqi security forces are completely capable of taking over responsibility for their own security," Casey said, repeating the same estimate he made more than a month ago.

The news conference was another in a series of appearances by military commanders and Bush administration officials seeking to counter increasingly negative perceptions of the Iraq conflict as violence has escalated and U.S. casualties have risen to the highest rate this year, just weeks before a crucial congressional election.

In Washington, President Bush's national security adviser said Iraqis have made progress but must work more quickly to end violence and reach stability.

"I think they have to do more and they've got to do it faster," Stephen J. Hadley said in an interview with National Public Radio.

Hadley added that it was unlikely that Iraq would stabilize before the end of Bush's term in

office in 2008, even though it is "moving toward" democracy.

"Is there going to be peace? Is it going to be the end of any violence? Of course not. This violence is going to go on for a long time," Hadley said. "You know, it takes a long time for these things to get completely out of the system."

During October, U.S. and Iraqi forces have come under increased attacks, with at least 90 U.S. troops killed in the highest American monthly death toll this year. Another 300 Iraqi troops have also been killed during the holy month of Ramadan, Casey said. Most U.S. and Iraqi casualties have been killed in Baghdad.

The war in Iraq is a central issue in the Nov. 7 election, and the Bush administration has been keen to play down any shift in Iraq policy. At the same time, President Bush has dropped the refrain that the United States will "stay the course" in Iraq. White House press secretary Tony Snow confirmed on Monday. "He stopped using it," Snow said of the phrase, suggesting that it left the impression that the administration was not adjusting to conditions in Iraq.

Last week, U.S. Maj. Gen. William B. Caldwell described the continued violence in the capital as "disheartening," and suggested that the military was recasting its strategy. In the past, military officials have described the strategy in Baghdad as "clear, hold and build."

While the U.S. military is able to clear neighborhoods of insurgents, holding and building have proved more problematic.

"Do we need more troops to do that? Maybe," Casey said. "If we do, I'll ask for the troops we need, both coalition and Iraqis."

There are currently 147,000 U.S. troops in Iraq and Casey acknowledged that he had initially projected a significant reduction of force this year but that, by late June, it became clear that Iraqi security forces were not as prepared as hoped for.

During Tuesday's news conference, Ambassador Khalilzad emphasized a political timetable, saying the Iraqi government has agreed to begin resolving fundamental disputes through a "national compact." It was unclear what will happen if the Iraqi politicians fail to meet the timeline referred to by Khalilzad.

"This ambassador has no right to force conditions or give the government a timetable," said Sahib Amry, a Najaf representative of the anti-American cleric, Muqtada al-Sadr, who controls 30 seats in parliament as well as the largest Shiite militia in Iraq.

Iraqi President Nouri al-Maliki, also a Shiite, relies on al-Sadr's political support and has on several occasions thwarted American efforts to go after al-Sadr's al-Mahdi Army, frustrating U.S. commanders on the ground.

Privately, American military officials now say that the al-Mahdi Army is responsible for most attacks against U.S. troops but the extent of Sadr's control of the group is unclear. Amry said that the Mahdi Army is not a militia. "Our people are carrying weapons to defend themselves."

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BANNER COMPETITION JUDGING
young library & johnson center | 6pm

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11am-1pm
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- THURSDAY NOVEMBER 2**

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service project | haggin field | 5-7pm
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