

KENTUCKY KERNEL

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Thanksgiving break extended

By Shannon Mason
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Students will get an additional holiday on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, according to an e-mail sent Monday by the UK administration.

This holiday will take the place of students' one-day fall break in October and will be a permanent change to UK's academic calendar effective this fall.

The change was recommended

and approved by the University Senate.

"Many of our students have difficulty traveling long distances over the Thanksgiving holiday break," Provost Kumble Subbaswamy said in the e-mail. "This additional day will allow them to book their travel on Tuesday evening."

Student Government Vice President Brittany Langdon agreed.

"Thanksgiving is such a universal holiday," Langdon said. "A lot of students have trouble with travel

plans because that Wednesday is such a busy day for travel. (The reasoning behind this) is to alleviate that and to help students."

Langdon said she also understood taking away the one-day fall break in October.

"I don't have class on Friday, so it never meant anything to me," she said, adding that a lot of other students do not have class on Friday either, though Langdon said she appreciated that it helped the students who did.

SG President Nick Phelps agreed that the one-day break would not be as beneficial to students as an extra day at Thanksgiving.

"The additional time at Thanksgiving, right before finals, gives students time with their family as well as a chance to be better prepared for finals," Phelps said in the e-mail.

The Wednesday before Thanksgiving is a non-class day, meaning it does not affect the UK employees' holiday schedule, according to the e-mail.



PHOTOS BY ALLIE GARZA | STAFF

Telecommunications senior Christa Riendeau works on preserving a Louisville Courier-Journal from 1907 yesterday at the Preservation Reformatting Center in the M.I. King Library. Riendeau has worked at the Preservation Center since October 2006.

Ironing out history

At the UK Libraries' Preservation Reformatting Center, employees work on preserving and archiving newspapers and documents that tell the story of Kentucky's past and present for generations to come. The organization is collecting and microfilming over 170 current Kentucky newspapers and is beginning to convert them into digital images.



Newspapers from across Kentucky fill the shelves of the Reprographics Filming Lab in the M.I. King Library. Newspapers' dates range from 2000 to 2007 and have been filed for preservation and archiving.

New menu, improvements cater to student organizations

By Blair Thomas
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When Jeff DeMoss was hired as the executive director of Dining Services three years ago he knew he wanted to "fix things."

"That's what I do," he said. "I'm good at standing back, really taking a look at what is not working with a program. When I got to UK, I spent a lot of time sitting back and watching what was going on. I watched how Dining Services and UK Catering treated the students and customers and what ser-

vices were provided. From there, I knew where I wanted the program to be."

Along with campus dining renovations and bringing more chain restaurants to UK, DeMoss took on the task of making changes within UK Catering to provide better food, service and discount opportunities for students and student organizations.

"When I began to revamp Catering and Dining Services, I realized it was important to get it out to student organizations that we're the best deal in town," DeMoss said. "Change is hard; young or old, but it is important to keep

money on campus and in order to do that, I knew we had to not only provide students with a service, but rather with a partnership."

In an effort to develop that partnership, UK Catering came out with the Student Organizations Catering Menu last semester that offers a series of discount options for the most popular selections of their regular catering menu.

These options include a large, one-topping pizza and a six-pack of canned drinks for \$6.95, a boxed lunch for \$5.75, 80 hot dogs for \$44.00 and 80 hamburgers for \$65.00. Student organizations also receive a

20 percent discount if they pick up their order at Blazer Café, Commons Market or the catering kitchen.

Chris Thuringer, director of student activities, said the services offered by UK Catering have improved over the past few years.

"When I first came here about five years ago, we had our problems with them, but since then, they've made changes," Thuringer said. "It's become more affordable and the quality of their services has improved."

The problems included high prices and few discounts as well as limited menu options, Thuringer said. Now, the

Trustees approve \$2 billion budget

\$35 million will go toward improving graduation and retention rates

Staff Report

UK's Board of Trustees approved a \$2 billion 2007-08 budget at its meeting Tuesday. A large portion of the budget will go toward improving graduation and retention rates, UK President Lee Todd said in a news release.

"We have the state's highest graduation rate among public institutions," Todd said. "But that's not good enough. We cannot tolerate standing still. Kentucky needs us to do more and this budget makes a substantial — and what I believe will be a sustained — commitment to continued improvement in retention and graduation rates."

The \$2.07 billion budget is an increase of nearly \$180 million more than last year, which Todd attributed to "increased support from our state leaders, the tremendous growth of UK Health-Care and more students attending the university, encouraged by the momentum we have as we strive to be a top-20 institution."

More than \$35 million will go toward improving the graduation and retention rates as part of the Top-20 Business Plan, Provost Kumble Subbaswamy said in the release. The business plan calls for UK's graduation rates to surpass 72 percent by 2020. UK's six-year graduation rate has stayed around 60 percent since the 1997 first-year class, he said.

The budget outlines an initiative to address those issues, Subbaswamy said.

The initiative includes:
■ \$9.5 million to hire 47 new faculty and seven academic advisers. University officials hope to reduce the student faculty ratio from 18-to-1 to 17-to-1 by 2012.

■ An increase of \$6.2 million in student financial aid, including the 2020 Scholars Initiative announced earlier this year that will focus on increasing transfers from community colleges and providing more need-based and merit-based aid.

■ \$8.7 million for classroom and laboratory renovations that will be made in time for the upcoming school year.

■ A 3.5 percent salary increase for faculty and staff.

The trustees also approved a \$2 million pledge from board chairman James Hardymon. The pledge will go toward the construction of a computer engineering building in the College of Engineering.

Hardymon is the retired chairman and CEO of Textron Corp.

The computer engineering building will be part of a "digital village" that would include the college's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Department of Computer Science, Center for Visualization and Virtual Environments, Center for Computational Sciences and other technology-related programs.

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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 6 — You're learning quickly but not quickly enough to make you happy. Remember, finding out what doesn't work counts, too.

Taurus (April 20 May 20)
Today is a 9 — You feel like you can afford to buy anything you want. Don't shop like that, though, unless you don't want very much.

Gemini (May 21 June 21)
Today is a 6 — You're in a feisty mood. You're apt to stand up for your convictions. That's OK but remember to keep your financial affairs confidential.

Cancer (June 22 July 22)
Today is an 8 — You'll discover lots of valuable things as you go through your closets. Recycling really begins at home. You'll save tons by not buying new.

Leo (July 23 Aug. 22)
Today is a 5 — Encourage others to do the talking. You be the good listener. This will not be difficult. Do point out something they're missing.

Virgo (Aug. 23 Sept. 22)
Today is an 8 — Assuming responsibility may be scary but you can do it. Actually, it's exciting. You'll have more control about what happens in your life. Not full control but lots more.

Libra (Sept. 23 Oct. 22)
Today is a 7 — You're slightly inhibited by a natural tendency to be polite whenever possible. This is a good thing. Keep doing it.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Today is an 8 — As you well know, future earnings are just as important as those in the present. Set

yourself up, so you can afford to retire, early.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 Dec. 21)
Today is a 6 — Let the other person have the last word and most of the ones in between.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 Jan. 19)
Today is an 8 — The work is piling up. How can you increase efficiency? There is a way and you can find it. Challenge the status quo.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 Feb. 18)
Today is an 8 — You're relatively lucky now but there will still be surprises. Play poker for match sticks instead of pennies.

Pisces (Feb. 19 March 20)
Today is a 6 — You seem to have a disagreement with an authority figure. Luckily, you're very good at keeping your thoughts to yourself. Do that for now.

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THE DISH

Could guilt be eating away at Angelina Jolie? According to the star's brother, James Haven, the actress' recent weight loss could be traced back to her 2005 trip to Ethiopia to adopt daughter Zahara, now 2. "She sees food differently, and she feels guilty about what she has and what she eats compared with so many starving people who she wants to help," Haven, 34, explained in a recent interview with Britain's *Closer* magazine about his sister, 32, who was in Chad in late February visiting a Darfur refugee camp. "She's become used to periods of very little or no food, so she has a much smaller appetite. . . . It's hard for her to get back to the U.S. and sit in a very expensive restaurant and order freely."

Still grieving Another possible reason for Jolie's ultrathin look these days, says Haven: The star of *A Mighty Heart* hasn't slowed down since their mom, Marcheline Bertrand, succumbed to cancer in January. "She exhausts herself. . . . She misses our mother so much and just longs for her all the time," said the actor-director, adding that he's often had to tell his sister (who prefers fruit and veggies), "Don't forget to eat!"

Excuses? But are Haven's explanations valid or just a cover for his -famous sibling? "When it comes to eating -problems, it's difficult for family -members to admit painful issues, so they try to simplify things," says eating disorder specialist Dr. Patricia Pitts. "James may just be trying to protect his sister. It's natural."

Alba's self-deprecation

An expert explains Alba's re-

cent downplaying of her most famous assets.

She said: "I don't really pay attention to [being called a sex symbol]. It's only when people start to treat me like one that it really freaks me out. Most days I wake up and look in the mirror and go, 'Ugh.' I don't really think I look all that great."

"People think of me as just a sexy girl, but I'm really goofy. Like, super-goofy." "I don't know why people are obsessed [with my butt]. Well, it's not flat, so maybe they're just not used to seeing an actress who has a figure."

"Right now I'm just exploring what my contribution to this business is - other than wearing a bikini and getting caught by the paparazzi."

The expert says

Alba may be considered one of the hottest starlets in Hollywood (she ranked second on *Maxim's* 2007 Hot 100 List), but nobody likes a braggart. "Jessica's trying to be modest," psychologist and syndicated columnist Joyce Brothers tells us. "But at the same time, she's highlighting her figure by trying to downplay it. That's clever." So will these self-deprecating comments draw the attention away from her curves and help Alba nab the more serious roles she's after? It can help, Brothers tells us. Her advice? "Just be yourself. Don't put on airs, one way or the other."

Stars' Picks for Prez!

Barack Obama

Kate Walsh said it best when she told us, "Barack [Obama]'s a rock star!" The Democratic sen-

ator from Illinois, 45, has become the undisputed celeb favorite. "I would do anything for him," George Clooney told the *L.A. Times* in March. That same month, Jennifer Aniston, Tom Hanks and Tobey Maguire added money into his campaign coffers. By May 1, Oprah Winfrey had jumped on the Obama bandwagon (the first time she has publicly backed a political candidate), revealing on *Larry King Live*, "What he has shown was worth me going out on a limb for."

Rudy Giuliani

Kelsey Grammer and Adam Sandler (who gave "America's Mayor" a cameo role in his 2003 flick *Anger Management*) are just two of the stars ponying up funds for GOP candidate Rudy Giuliani's campaign. Donald Trump also did his part, holding a "golf-raiser" for him May 12 in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Hillary Clinton

Thanks to the Tinseltown love-test hubby Bill enjoyed while president, Hillary Clinton is running a close second in star support. Jeremy Piven, Michelle Trachtenberg, Chris Klein, Eric Dane and Rebecca Gayheart were among the 400 people who mingled with the Democratic senator from New York, 59, at a May 30 fundraiser at director Brett Ratner's Beverly Hills mansion. On June 7, Christina Aguilera also helped raise money for Clinton, performing at Manhattan hot spot Capitale. "I love Hillary!" Camryn Manheim tells us. "She's an incredible leader. I support her 100 percent."

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Baseball looks ahead to 2008



ELLIOTT HESS | STAFF

Outfielder Collin Cowgill greets pitcher Scott Green after an inning against Western Kentucky on March 21. The baseball team was hampered by injuries to several of their players, including Green and Cowgill. Cowgill missed the entire season, while Green threw only 17.2 innings.

By James Pennington
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As reigning 2006 Southeastern Conference champions, UK's baseball team did not fare as well in 2007 — the team finished fifth in the SEC East and failed to make the SEC tournament. However, head coach John Cohen is looking forward to a better season in 2008.

When the Wildcats won the SEC regular season title in 2006, injuries were a factor throughout the season. In 2007, however, injuries sidelined key players even after the Cats lost leaders Ryan Strieby and John Shelby to the Major League Baseball draft.

Most notably, outfielder Collin Cowgill was sidelined all of 2007 and pitcher Scott Green made only nine appearances due to injury.

More than anything, Cohen expected a productive season from Green and Cowgill in a transitional 2007 season.

"We expected 70 innings out of Scott Green and 250 at-bats from Collin Cowgill," Cohen said.

Instead, Green pitched 17 2/3 innings and Cowgill had zero at-bats. However, Cohen is hopeful that both players will make an impact next season.

Apart from injuries, Cohen expected his team to compete at the highest level in 2007 and his expectations were met, he said. Although the team finished 13-16-1 in conference play, Cohen said. They played well until the very last day of the season when they beat Auburn 8-7.

Cohen is looking forward to 2008 with high but realistic expectations, he said. Not only are the Cats returning strong players like Cowgill and Green, many of the strongest players on other teams will not be returning.

Vanderbilt, who spent most of the 2007 as the nation's No. 1 team, is losing many key players including left-handed pitcher David Price, the first overall selection in last week's MLB Draft.

Arkansas, who won the SEC West in 2007, is also losing two of its strongest pitchers. With much of the league's talent leaving in 2007, 2008 may be another breakout year for the Wildcats.

Cohen simply hopes for his team to be healthy and let his talented team play to the best of their abilities.

"We have a chance to be the best club since I've been here," he said.

CATERING

Continued from page 1

unreasonable," she said. "UK Catering is a self-operating organization trying to stay competitive in the catering market," she said. "Their prices reflect that."

UK Catering is an independent catering organization that is not only utilized by campus organizations for functions and events on campus but also can be hired to host events independent from the university. For some campus organizations, UK Catering is a service that they are required to use for every event.

"For student organizations in the Student Center and events hosted there, it is a requirement that we use UK Catering for our food needs," Thuringer said.

Student organizations such as Student Activities Board and Student Government that receive student fees are required by an Office of Student Affairs policy to use UK Catering for their events, Thuringer said. These include the groups' meetings and banquets as well as events like SG's Warm Up Wednesdays and SAB-sponsored Midnight Crunch Brunch.

"The organizations that Student Government gives funding to must also use UK Catering," said SG Senate President Tyler Montell. "Whether it's an event

we're hosting or something we're just helping to sponsor for a campus group who is fundraising for their college or organization, everyone has to go through (UK) catering. It's a policy we have to abide by for several things. When we print T-shirts, we (also) have to use an on-campus printing company."

The Student Center director's office requires that all organizations housed in the Student Center use UK Catering "to help ensure the quality of food and ultimately the health of the students," DeMoss said.

"It's just a building policy that we all abide by," Strouse said. "This department probably uses UK Catering for the widest variety of services. We call them

for meetings, special event banquets, lunches, picnics. They always are extremely flexible and willing to work with you when they can."

UK Catering is continuously making changes and improvements to make their services more appealing to campus organizations, DeMoss said.

"It's really important that the money these organizations spend on food stays on campus," DeMoss said. "We give back to the students in services and in food. If you don't see what you like or can't afford it, tell us your year and what you can afford. We have a lot to offer. Three years ago, were we on the right track? No. But we're making significant changes now."

Couples' counseling comes to UK

By Sierra Fowler
news@kyjournal.com

Couples — married or dating — can get advice on "mastering the magic of love" this weekend at the W. T. Young Library.

The Mastering the Magic of Love Relationship Enhancement program, presented by Mary Ortwein, is the first in a quarterly series of marriage education workshops sponsored by the Bluegrass Healthy Marriage Initiative. Ortwein is a licensed marriage and family therapist and director of the Institute for Development of Emotional and Life Skills (IDEALS) of Kentucky.

The workshop runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. The cost is \$5 per person and covers program materials and light snacks.

Space is limited to 25 couples; pre-registration is required.

High pre-registration numbers and inquiries about the workshops are signs of a good turnout, said Erik Carlton, project director BHMI.

"The program is actually used in over two-dozen projects nationwide and is research-proven to be effective," Carlton said. BHMI has an eight-county service area and chose to hold the workshops at UK because of its centralized location.

The all-day workshop assists couples working through core problems and learning how to make problem solutions last. Couples will be taught skills to enhance their relationship through the program, and then will be able to apply them by practicing

with each other. Ortwein will even coach individuals herself, Carlton said.

Several requests prompted bringing the program to UK, Carlton said. The BHMI, part of a 10-year partnership between the School of Human Environmental Sciences and UK's College of Agriculture, is able to offer the workshops with federal funding. A portion of the initiative's three-year grant is procured from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"This program is an example of the School of Human Environmental Sciences working to improve the well-being of children and families, and helping parents provide an increased emotional and financial support for their children," said Ann Vail, director of HES, in a news release.

Scientists discover birdlike dinosaur fossil in China

By Robert Mitchell
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — Dinosaur hunters working in Inner Mongolia yesterday announced they have discovered the fossil of an enormous birdlike dinosaur 300 times heavier than its closest relatives.

Dubbed Gigantoraptor erlianensis, the species lived 75 million to 95 million years ago, late in the dinosaur era. The relatively complete fossil specimen was about 25 feet long, 11.5 feet high at the shoulder and would have weighed more than 3,000 pounds, yet exhibited birdlike characteristics including a beak, hollow bones and, very likely, ornamental feathers.

The report in this week's issue of Nature adds complexity to the story of bird evolution, a gradual shrinking process by which the huge thunder lizards were reduced to small, light and feathered creatures. The discovery of such a large hybrid re-

veals the twists and turns that evolution can take.

"This species is the largest of its kind, and a lot bigger than anyone ever expected these animals to get," said Peter Makovicky, assistant curator of dinosaurs at the Field Museum in Chicago. "When animals get big they tend to look less birdlike; for instance, we have no birds that reach a ton or more in body size. But here, some of the birdlike traits are actually retained or developed even though the animal is very large."

Dr. Xing Xu of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology in Beijing and colleagues found the fossil in the Erlian Basin in northeastern China. Xu said the region has attracted attention since the 1920s but that

several interesting discoveries have emerged in the area recently, including several other feathered dinosaurs.

By analyzing the state of growth in one of the fossil bones, researchers estimate the dinosaur was relatively young, about 11 years old at the time of death. That suggests a full-size Gigantoraptor may be even larger than this particular fossil indicates.

While the fossil does not prove the dinosaur had feathers, researchers agree that it likely did.

"One would assume Gigantoraptor is feathered since its ancestry lies with a group of animals that we know also had feathers," Makovicky said.

However, its feathers would definitely not be used for flight.

"Being 3,000 pounds heavy, no one would expect this species to fly," said Xu.

Experts say feathers likely first evolved as a form of insulation, similar to fur in mammals. But because retaining body heat is less of an issue for larger animals, researchers believe Gigantoraptor's feathers would have served a different purpose: helping the animal communicate.

"Dinosaurs were clearly animals that liked to display to each other; that's why they had crests, horns, and bumps," said Philip J. Currie, professor of dinosaur paleontology at the University of Alberta. "Feathers almost certainly developed first as insulation in small species, but other dinosaurs surely started using them as display. A species might have cross-hatched at the top of its head or feathers at the end of its tail."

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We're giving thanks for this holiday break

The UK administration sent out an e-mail Monday notifying students of a permanent change in the university's academic calendar instead of having a one-day fall break in October, the University Senate decided to add an academic holiday the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

Extending Thanksgiving break to five days, including the weekend, was the right move for UK.

Without canceling class on the day before Thanksgiving, students were left trying to make travel plans on Wednesday afternoon or evening — in the midst of one of the busiest travel dates — or worse, skipping classes on Wednesday to avoid traveling that day.

KERNEL EDITORIAL

With the new calendar, students will be able to plan to travel on Tuesday evening, missing some of the holiday rush.

The change in schedule is also beneficial to instructors. During that time of the semester, instructors face two choices: cancel class and make students happy, but lose a day of instructional time or have class and keep the instructional time, but make students unhappy and tempted to skip.

Now, students will get that extra day of vacation and instructors won't have to choose between the two options.

The Calendar Committee of the University Senate had proposed another option (discussed before the Senate in March), which was ultimately turned down. That option would have removed two instructional days from the fall semester and would have given students the entire Thanksgiving week without classes.

Some said a weeklong fall break would be different than the weeklong spring break when students tend to put academics to the side.

"Thanksgiving is more of a time we share with our families," SG Senate Representative Josh Odoi told the Kernel in March.

However, some argued against that proposal because it would take away valued instructional

time in favor of a weeklong vacation just several weeks before winter break.

Sen. Bob Grossman opposed that proposal. "I don't want to see academics always being the thing that gives," Grossman said in a March 20 Kernel article.

Luckily, UK officials recognized that academics did not need to "give" and approved one extra day at Thanksgiving instead of three. Students don't need a whole week of vacation when a month-long vacation is just around the corner.

The University Senate made the right decision in giving students the Wednesday before Thanksgiving off. Students can now get home to their families sooner and lagging attendance on that day is no longer a concern.

Beginner's guide to antivirus protection

By Dave Mathews
Young Money Technology Editor

Unlike Dr. Evil in the film "Austin Powers," I use my technical prowess for good, not evil, despite my matching desire for "one million dollars." Unfortunately, there are people in the world who do not share this mantra and use their programming skills to create software that can destroy data on your computer or even take control of your machine, using it as a "zombie drone" to disrupt communication on other computers.

It is estimated that 100 million of the 600 million computers on the Internet are under remote control from hackers. The only way that you know you are infected is through a barrage of pop-up windows, or when your system slows to a crawl or frequently reboots. These programs are called "malware," which is a portmanteau of the words "malicious" and "software." Oh, "portmanteau" means a word that is created by blending two or more words together, but you probably figured that out.

If you have traded files or music on peer-to-peer networks such as Morphous or Kazaa, then there is a good chance that adware has invaded your machine. Rather than replace your computer, or format your drive and reinstall your operating system, there is a chance that you can clean your machine by running a few software tools. Once your computer is clean, antivirus and ad-blocking software should keep the ghost out of your machine.

SPYWARE

Windows computers have enough annoying nuances that the addition of Trojan horses, adware and spyware can make a bad situation much worse. To clean them, you usually cannot run just one program. To make matters worse, you may need to follow instructions on Web message boards that document the specific steps in removing these bugs from your system, as even the best ad-removal software cannot strip some code from running systems. Some malware even watches for the removal of their evil payload and can re-install a fresh copy if the program is removed.

After the consumer technology advocate Steve Gibson created OptOut as an adware notification tool, Lavasoft was the first company to give away a spyware removal tool with their program Ad-Aware, released in 1999. Ad-Aware SE Personal is a free software program that does a good job detecting most bugs, but a few of them have slipped through during my tests. If

you think that you have adware, give this program a try first, then move onto stronger utilities if it misses some bugs. Ad-Aware can be downloaded at lavasoft.com. You can find Gibson's site at gre.com.

If you can't get rid of all your bugs, or they keep popping up even after you reboot your system, then you may need to try other software to fix the problem. Spybot Search and Destroy is a strong contender and Grisoft's software has a utility that I've used with great success to clean up my system. Spybot Search and Destroy is available at spybot.info and AVG Anti-Spyware Free can be found at free.grisoft.com.

An estimated 100 million of the 600 million computers on the Internet are under hacker control.

ANTIVIRUS

New computers typically come with some type of antivirus program, which conveniently expires in 30 to 90 days. Technically, the program is still running, but once it has expired the software will no longer receive updates to the definition tables. This means that any new viruses released onto the Internet that then find their way onto your system may not be detected by the antivirus software. It is the equivalent to driving your car without putting oil in your engine. You do change your oil, don't you?

You can pay every year and continue to update this bundled software, but I choose to remove it completely and run Grisoft's AVG Free Edition Anti-Virus software. It has done a great job detecting viruses and is frequently automatically updated as new threats are found. These days, the company has gotten a bit tricky with its upgrade policy, trying to get you to pay for platform upgrades. You can always find the free version through Grisoft's Web site, but note that you may not be able to automatically upgrade from one version to the next. AVG Free Edition is available at free.grisoft.com.

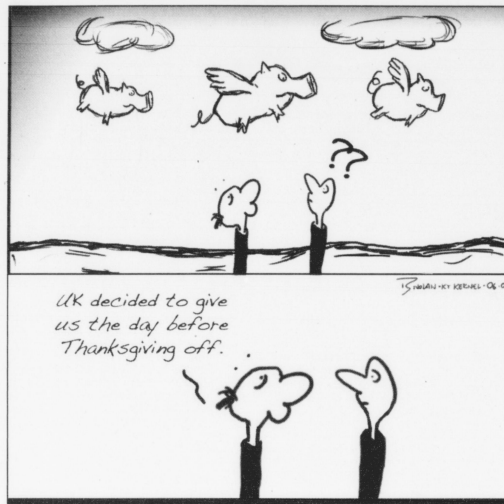
TECH GLOSSARY

■ **Malware:** Malicious Software or code that contains adware or Trojans.

■ **Adware:** Software which annoys you with pop-up messages to buy virus fixes.

■ **Trojan Horse:** Software that infiltrates your system and could do a myriad of things such as collect bank account numbers or use your machine to attack others with viruses.

Dave Mathews, "The Gadget Guy," has built and cleaned up thousands of computer systems, which all happily run AVG antivirus software. More stories can be found on his website at dave-mathews.com.



BRETT NOLAN, Kernel cartoonist

Stop front-loading to solve political strife

This is an interesting time for politics in the Commonwealth. Kentuckians recently cast their primary votes for their preferred candidates for governor and other statewide constitutional offices. However, even as we approach



TRAY GRAYSON
Guest columnist

the 2007 general election, another primary is on everyone's mind — the 2008 primary race for president.

Recently, the candidates for president announced record-setting fundraising figures nearly one year before the first voters will even cast a ballot. Most experts believe that a viable presidential candidate needs to raise \$100 million before the end of the year.

Why would any candidate need so much money this far ahead of the primary to be a competitive candidate? The simple answer is that our current presidential primary process is flawed.

By the end of February 2008, candidates could see their names on the ballots in over three-fourths of the states across the country. Some of the largest states such as California, Florida and Texas are in the process of moving their primaries to the first Tuesday in February. As a result, candidates that don't raise a large amount of funds in 2007 will be unable to successfully compete in the large number of front-loaded primaries. No longer will dark horse or insurgent candidates be able to win the early state that allows them to compete in later primaries.

How does this affect how we elect our president? First, the primary focus of presidential candidates will not be discussing how to govern and lead our

country but rather raising the dollars necessary to compete. In fact, you cannot fault the presidential candidates for this focus; our system has forced them to act in this manner.

Second, with so many primaries in the first two weeks of February, it is likely that the nomination will be sewn up by mid-February. This will leave less time for citizens and the media to thoroughly examine our presidential candidates and their proposed policies. In addition, to reach so many voters in such a short period of time, candidates will be forced to appeal broadly without ever outlining a detailed agenda to improve our country.

Most experts agree that the process is broken. So the question now becomes: How do we fix it? One solution that my colleagues in the National Association of Secretaries of State advocate is the Rotating Regional Primary Plan.

This bipartisan plan divides the country into four geographic areas — east, south, midwest, and west — and rotates when each region votes, beginning with the first region in March. The other regions hold their primary elections in April, May and June. The plan will start with a new region each presidential election cycle so that each part of the country votes first every sixteen years. Primaries are held at some point during the month in the appropriate region. New Hampshire and Iowa retain their early status to allow under-funded and less widely known candidates to compete through retail politics rather

than the costly media-driven campaigns required in larger states.

In the Rotating Regional Primary Plan, candidates must still visit smaller states and discuss important local issues. Lesser-known and under-funded candidates may still successfully compete in this plan because it maintains a role for grassroots political organizing. Most importantly, it increases the amount of campaigning necessary to win the nomination. Although not easily implemented, this plan is the best solution to our ailing presidential nomination system, and many people are starting to take notice.

Although not easily implemented, this plan is the best solution to our ailing presidential nomination system, and many people are starting to take notice. The plan has been endorsed by the Commission on Federal Election Reform, co-chaired by former President Jimmy Carter and former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, as well as by the editorial boards of many prominent newspapers.

Now is the time to start addressing the issue for 2012; it is already too late for 2008. Solving this problem will either require our national parties to change party rules or require states to take collective action on the issue. Either option will take time, and as such, we do not have the luxury of waiting to address this issue.

If, like me, you believe a better system exists, contact the leaders of your political parties and your elected officials and ask them to support the Rotating Regional Primary Plan. We cannot afford to wait another four years.

Secretary of State Trey Grayson is the co-chair of a National Association of Secretaries of State committee that focuses on the front-loading of the presidential primary process.

Columnists Needed

The Kernel is looking for columnists to write for the Opinions page on a regular basis. Those who have an interest in campus and local issues will be given special attention, although columnists of all interests will be considered.

E-mail smason@kykernel.com

Submissions

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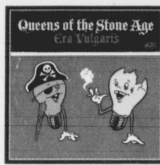
FEATURES

CD REVIEWS

By Cass Dwyer
features@kykernel.com



The Cinematic Orchestra: *Ma Fleur*
The UK collective's name says it all — lush orchestral soundscapes with epic instrumentation that create easy, down-tempo vibes. The album ranges from ghostly atmospheric sounds such as "Time and Space" to cohesive and grooving songs like "Familiar Ground." Across the board, the vocals are bittersweet and heartbreaking. "To Build a Home" showcases the group's soulful approach to blending melody and lyrics into a masterpiece that hits you in the pit of your stomach. The Cinematic Orchestra creates beautiful, soft music — a soundtrack to an afternoon rainstorm or for quiet late-night ponderings. This album is another work of art from the Ninja Tune label.



Queens of the Stone Age: *Era Vulgaris*
As the fifth full-length release from the California rockers, *Era Vulgaris* is a solid album. Grinding guitars and pounding drums create an intense sound, especially apparent on tracks such as "Turbin' on the Screw" and "Mistfit Love." The album also includes some dreamy, downbeat tracks like "Into the Hollow" and the bluesy ballad "Make It Wit Chu." Overall, the album showcases the band's typical sound with a more indie, stripped-down approach.



Toby Keith: *Big Dog Daddy*
On the latest album for this veteran country music icon, there are no surprises. *Big Dog Daddy* is highly polished and traditional. All of the typical topics are covered — dogs, trucks, juke-joints, heartbreak, introspective soul-searching, religion and family values. "Love Me if You Can" has a whisper of psychedelic rock influence, and "White Rose" bleeds with some bluegrass blood. Outside of those tracks, the album is about as tame as Budweiser and NASCAR.

Failed transmissions Dumbing down reality TV even further

By Rich Macialek
McClatchy Newspapers

Unfortunately, there are only five types of television shows now.

■ **THE TALENT SHOW:** First you need three judges: an obnoxious Brit, an idiotic woman, and an egotistical blowhard. Next you'll need a smarmy host to move things along. Finally, pick a reason for America to humiliate themselves on TV and you have a hit. We can thank "American Idol" for this genre. Whether you sing, dance, do impressions, or invent something — we have a show for you.

Our choice would be "America's Got Coordination": A lively seven-hour show that allows America to vote for which contestant they believe are the best at various tasks such as tying your shoe or chewing bubblegum while walking. Instead of the usual Englishman for a judge, this show has a wily Scot who has been known to headbutt contestants who whine too much about their scores.

■ **THE SURVIVOR SHOW:** Take a bunch of semi-attractive people and make them perform ridiculous, convoluted tasks to win money. Whether they are trying to

build a hut on an island or race across Milan to get to a plane so they can parachute into Iran or something. Doesn't matter, just as long as it takes a lot of time and causes arguments.

Our pick would be "The Super-Duper Cross-Country Cook-Off" where teams of six people are randomly chosen from registered voters and given 11 months to cook a 12-course meal with just what they have on them and \$40.00 in Canadian money.

■ **THE GAME SHOW:** Since most of the games would only take about five minutes to play (seriously how long does it take to pick a frickin' suitcase?), you have to pick contestants that cannot make a decision without wallowing in the process for at least 10 minutes. Each contestant also needs three people who don't have four brain cells between them to assist the contestant in dragging out the process. You would hate to be stuck in an elevator with one of these people. It would take them an hour to decide what floor they live on.

Our choice would be "So You Think You Can Guess A Number Between One and Twenty": This lively show hosted by a former child actor gives contestants a

chance to win either \$35,000 in lottery tickets or a new liver. All they have to do is guess which number the host has secretly written down on a dirty diaper that is placed in a safe and guarded by four heavily armed Playboy Bunnies. During the show the contestant can ask for help seven times before being forced to admit they are a bigger idiot than any of the people watching the show.

■ **THE REALITY SHOW:** This is mostly good-looking people complaining about something. It could be their job, their spouse, or the fact that they have to build a house in three days. Cameras follow them around hoping to catch anything that is remotely interesting; then the people sit in front of a camera to talk about what just happened. If nothing interesting happens, the producers will hire somebody to do something interesting.

We'd like to see "The Naked Cop" where cameras follow a police chief in a nudist colony. Unfortunately it's a nudist colony full of retirees in rural Oklahoma. Then again, where else can you see a 74-year-old grandma whacked out on crystal-mead leading a high-speed chase on her scooter.

ONTAP

For the week of
JUNE 14 - 20

TONIGHT

Dijon Wilder w/ Patchwork Soul. *The Dame*. 9 p.m. \$3.
Ted Nugent w/ Alex Winstan. *Bogart's, Cincinnati*. 8 p.m. \$27 to \$30.
Ben Lacy. *Lynagh's Pub*. 10 p.m. Free.
Reunited Tour: Devine Carama w/ Main Event, hosted by Sheisty Krist. *Triple Crown Lounge*. 9 p.m. \$5.

FRIDAY, June 15

Nine Pound Hammer w/ Stacie Collins Band and Warner Hodges. *The Dame*. 9 p.m. \$6.
Guntown Mountain Tragedy. *Lynagh's Pub*. 10 p.m. \$3.
5th on the Floor. *The Fishtank*. 11 p.m.

SUNDAY, June 16

Tall Boys. *Lynagh's Pub*. 9 p.m. Free.

SATURDAY, June 17

Chico Fellini with The October and The Dirty Novels. *The Dame*. 9 p.m. \$5.
Other Brothers. *Lynagh's Pub*. 10 p.m. \$3.
Art of Covenant w/ JK-47, Creative Aspects and ET w/ Devine Carama and Main Event. *Brooklyn Pizza*. 9 p.m. \$5.

MONDAY, June 18

Carrie Rodriguez Trio w/ Tim Easton. *The Dame*. 8 p.m. \$8.

TUESDAY, June 19

Cabin w/ Motel and Joybomb. *The Dame*. 9 p.m. \$5.

WEDNESDAY, June 20

Renaissance. Open Mike/Poetry Night. *Fusion Lounge*. 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. Free.
Albedo w/ Panda Transport. *The Dame*. 9 p.m. \$5.

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Thurs:	Blue Moon	\$2.25 Pints
Fri:	Kronenbourg 1664 & Stella Artois	\$2.75 Pints
Sat:	Kentucky Ale	\$2.25 Pints
Sun:	Newcastle Brown Ale	\$2.75 Pints

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