

THE Kentucky Kernel

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UK gives wish list to state legislature

School pushes for \$18 million more in general funds to keep Top-20 Business Plan on track early

By Sean Rose
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

With the state legislative session just underway, UK has started to lobby for its top priorities: the bio-pharmaceutical complex, the hospital expansion project and greater bonding flexibility.

Above all that, however, UK is

asking for about \$18 million more in operating funds this year to hire more faculty and hold down tuition as much as possible, said UK spokesman Jay Blanton.

UK is also asking for \$60 million in state bonds to complete construction on the bio-pharmaceutical complex. The state allotted \$40 million for the first phase of the pro-

ject last year.

UK's pharmacy school is currently eighth in the nation, and Blanton said UK needs the new facility to keep up with the competition.

"Other leading pharmacy schools have much more space than we have," Blanton said.

Blanton added that Kentucky has a shortage of about 400 pharmacists and that the new facility will help address that problem by doubling the college's enrollment.

The other major project UK is focusing on is its new patient care facility. UK needs \$150 million in bond authorization before the construction can start.

"We have a great facility and staff, but it needs to be updated," Blanton said. "That patient care facility is over 40 years old and needs to be replaced."

Blanton said one reason these are UK's first priorities is because they meet the needs of the state.

"Each of these priorities ad-

dress needs that Kentucky has to make it more educated, healthier and wealthier," Blanton said.

Dall Clark, UK's director of capital construction, said these projects contribute toward UK's top-20 plan.

"Any expansion of the hospital and pharmacy school are certainly part of our quest to become a top-20 research institution," Clark said.

UK is also asking for more flexibility to use its own money to pay

See **Funds** on page 2

Bush defends domestic spying

By Michael A. Fletcher
THE WASHINGTON POST

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — President Bush yesterday defended his decision to allow government eavesdropping on the phone calls and e-mails of suspected terrorist collaborators in the United States, saying the program is legal and essential to averting potential attacks.

"I understand people's concerns about government eavesdropping," Bush said in response to a question about the program during a citizens' forum here. "I share their concerns as well." Even so, he added, the program is important to his presidential duty to protect Americans.

Bush's comments on the eavesdropping program came in response to a question posed during a campaign-style event here aimed at shoring up support for the war in Iraq as well as the nation's broader anti-terrorism effort.

The president's forum here was different than most of the events he attends nationwide. Usually he speaks to carefully screened partisan audiences and takes no questions. White House aides described Wednesday's audience of business and community leaders as bipartisan, and Bush opened himself to unscripted audience questions during the town-hall-style event.

The domestic spying program has drawn fire from members of Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, who think it oversteps the president's authority and violates civil liberties that are part of the nation's fiber. The National Security Agency program began in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks as a way to help the nation's intelligence agencies

See **Bush** on page 2

Abortion dominates hearing

By David G. Savage
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON — Abortion remains the divide in American politics and constitutional law, a fact that was on display during the third day of Senate hearings on the nomination of Judge Samuel A. Alito Jr. to the Supreme Court.

For much of Wednesday, Alito — who likely would cast the deciding vote on several pending abortion cases — was a silent witness as senators told him why the Supreme Court should preserve or reverse its abortion rulings.

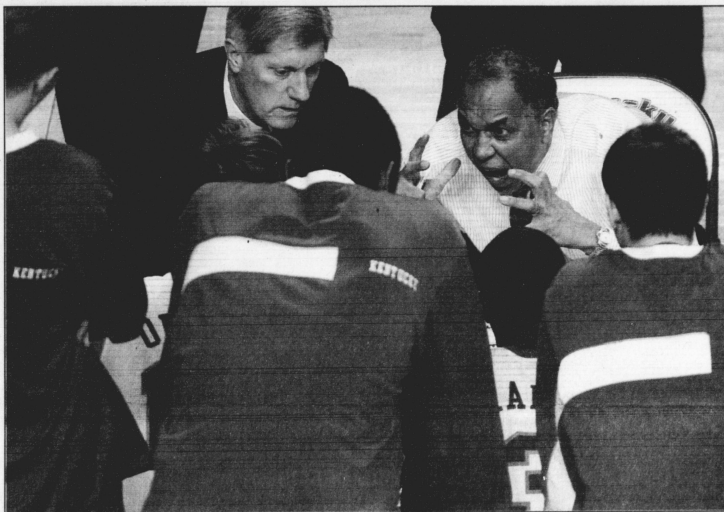
The debate turned on whether the right to abortion was "settled law." Abortion has been legal since the court's *Roe v. Wade* decision of 1973, and has been upheld several times since. Is that long enough to make it settled law, or precedent? And when can precedents be overturned? The correct answer was clearly in the eyes of the beholder.

Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., compared

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A demand for discipline



KEITH SMILEY | STAFF

UK head coach Tubby Smith talks to his players in a timeout during the second half of UK's 57-52 loss to Vanderbilt on Tuesday night. Dropped from the rankings for the first time in almost five years, the Cats are on a two-game losing skid and have fallen to 10-5 — one fewer loss than all of last season.

Cats too wild for Tubby

By Ryan Wood
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

While there appeared to be multiple problems with the men's UK basketball team Tuesday night against Vanderbilt, head coach Tubby Smith believes one issue precedes all others.

"It's a matter of discipline, or lack thereof," he said.

"Everybody thought they were going to be the guy to salvage the game or pull us out of the rut. Everybody tried to do too much and when you try to do too much, others stand around and don't get involved."

With Tuesday night's 57-52 loss to Vanderbilt, the Cats (10-5, 0-1 Southeastern Conference) dropped two games in a row for the first time since January 2002, setting off alarms in Big Blue Nation. The game before, UK suffered the largest loss of Smith's tenure in a 73-46 blowout at Kansas, prompting Smith to say, "We're just not very good."

After the Vanderbilt game, Smith blamed his team's inability to overcome poor execution on a lack of maturity.

"That's the concern I've had with this team all year long, the maturity level," he said.



KEITH SMILEY | STAFF

Tubby Smith talks to junior center Shagari Alleyn on the sidelines during the UK-Louisville game on Dec. 17.

"(We've) got to start forgetting about the mistakes we've made and start moving forward."

The players have also no-

ticed a lack of discipline on the floor.

"We're not executing,"

See **Cats** on page 2

There is definitely a lack of discipline. We're just not clicking ... not playing as a team."

— Randolph Morris, UK sophomore center, on the Cats' two-game losing streak

UK proposes more tsunami aid

UK wants federal funds to help three universities in Indonesia reorganize in wake of '05 disaster

By Dariush Shafa
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

A little more than a year after the tsunami disaster killed more than 200,000 people in Indonesia, UK is trying to inject some new life into the region.

The College of Agriculture is putting forth a two-year, \$1 million proposal to the federal government to assist three universities in Indonesia to reorganize after the damage suffered in the wake of the tsunami. The Col-

lege of Business and Economics, the College of Engineering and the Martin School of Diplomacy are working on the plan.

The three institutions that would be helped would be the University of Lampung, Brawijaya University and the University of Syiah Kuala. In October, the University of Syiah Kuala received a donation of \$32,000, raised by the students, faculty and staff of the College of Agriculture.

Michael Reed, director of international programs for agriculture and a professor of agricultural economics, helped work on the proposal for three months, and said the goal is clear.

"It would be to improve the teaching and services of those public universities," Reed said.

To help accomplish this, UK staff and faculty have already traveled to the region to help the schools reorganize its curriculum and structure. Reed himself visited about a month after the tsunami hit.

"It would involve them, develop their curriculum and help

them realize how a university can be used in improving development and governance," Reed said. "If we did a good job, it could help them make their universities relevant to the region they're in."

Reed also said the proposal would include possibly bringing Indonesian faculty to UK to earn degrees they can use when they return to their universities.

Reed pointed out the fact that unlike universities in America, institutions in Indonesia have little interaction with the community and typically don't seek involvement with local business.

See **Aid** on page 2

Newsroom: 257-1915

Funds

Continued from page 1

for major construction projects such as dorms or dining facilities. Currently, UK must seek approval from the state for any project that costs more than \$400,000 even if UK has its own funds to pay for the construction. The state treats these bonds as part of its debt.

UK wants to assume the debt of the bonds to speed up the process of state approval, Blanton said.

Rep. Bob Damron, D-Nicholasville, introduced a

bill that would allow this and passed a House committee Tuesday and will go before the full House next week. Similar bills were passed in the house in 2004 and 2005 but died both times in the Senate. Five states, including Kentucky, don't allow universities to issue their own bonds.

"We're hopeful that it will be adopted by the legislature," Blanton said about the current bill. "But obviously there's a lot of competing interests ... it's too early to tell."

Blanton said the current situation slows down construction and in the end makes projects more expen-

sive because of the time it takes to get state approval. By allowing UK to assume its own debt, the university could plan and manage future projects more efficiently, he said.

For example, hospital revenue will pay for the new hospital patient care facility, but the bonds had to be split between legislative sessions because of the state's reluctance to assume the debt for the project, Blanton said.

"When you have a revenue stream, being able to move forward on a project makes all the sense in the world," Blanton said.

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Aid

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es. Reed hopes that through the grant proposal — which must be approved by the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development — UK will get the opportunity help them have a greater impact on their own community.

"It would serve to improve the teaching and services of those public univer-

sities," Reed said of the impact this project would have.

Additionally, Reed said there would be benefits for UK's faculty who participate.

"For us, I think it would help our faculty and staff become more internationally focused," he said.

Though he admitted that getting a proposal like this to pass is not easy, Reed said he's hopeful.

including the president of the University of Syiah Kuala, are UK alumni or have some other connection to UK. "We have a focus in Indonesia, so that helps."

Reed said UK will learn if the proposal has gone through in about three weeks, and if that's the case, he hopes to send UK faculty to the nation over the summer.

"I think we are going to get a positive response to our proposal," Reed said.

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Hoops

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sophomore guard Rajon Rondo said. "That's what (Smith) means. We need to stop all that one-on-one."

Sophomore center Randolph Morris has also noticed a lax attitude in practice and games.

"There's definitely a lack of discipline," he said. "We're just not clicking... (we're) not playing as a team."

"We've got to get away from individuals and start playing as one unit."

Tuesday was a night of firsts, most of them negative for the Cats.

It was the first Vandy vic-

tory in Rupp Arena and the first Commodore win in Lexington since 1974.

It was Morris' first game back from his 14-game suspension, but his 10 points, seven rebounds and two blocks weren't enough to propel the Cats to the win.

The Cats' 99 combined points in their last two games was the lowest such total by Kentucky in the shot clock era, which started in 1985.

After UK's last two games, Smith declared "We were as bad as I've seen. (We're) struggling awfully bad."

UK, which dropped out of the top 25 this week for the first time in 88 polls, has no time to sulk. Alabama (8-6, 0-1 SEC) rolls into Rupp Saturday and the Cats travel to Georgia next Tuesday.

"We haven't played Ken-

tucky basketball the way we want to play it yet," Rondo said. "A lot of guys are down now, but we have to stay positive. It's a long season."

For the Cats to be successful for the remainder of this season, they have to pay more attention to detail, Smith said.

Smith stressed the need to better execute the "little things," including fighting for loose balls, improved ball movement, setting better screens and using them more effectively on offense.

"All those things are areas of discipline," he said. "We worked hard on them all (before Vandy) and we will work on them again before Alabama."

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Bush

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gathering information about any future attacks.

The program authorizes the NSA to screen the international e-mails and phone calls of people in the United States with suspected terrorism ties without first obtaining a court order. Bush said that congressional leaders have been briefed on it and given the opportunity "to express their approval or disap-

approval."

Some Democrats, however, have complained that the classified briefings amounted to one-way conversations in which the administration simply told them about the program, but left critics with no means to protest it.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa., has announced plans to hold hearings into the spying program. Bush said he welcomes the inquiry, calling it "good for democracy." He added, however, that the hearings run the danger of telling "the enemy what

we're doing."

In a statement released after Bush's remarks, Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean said that rather than protect the nation, Bush's program may compromise efforts to fight terrorists by resulting in hundreds of cases against suspected terrorists being thrown out of court.

"President Bush's decision to sidestep the rule of law and spy on Americans without a court order may have dealt a serious blow to our ability to fight and win the war on terror," Dean said.

Alito

Continued from page 1

Roe v. Wade to the most condemned rulings of the 20th century, decisions that have long since been repudiated. He cited the 1927 decision in Buck v. Bell, which upheld the forced sterilization of women who were deemed mentally deficient, and the 1944 ruling in Korematsu v. United States that upheld the mass detention of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Brownback also noted that the court's 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson ruling that upheld forced racial segregation re-

mained as a precedent for twice as long as Roe v. Wade has been on the books.

Alito agreed. The Supreme Court was "spectacularly wrong" when it upheld segregation, he said.

Two years ago the court overturned precedents rejecting a right to gay sex and allowing the death penalty for minors. The court has never agreed on a clear rule for when precedents should be overturned.

Moments earlier, Sen. Richard J. Durbin, D-Ill., had nearly pleaded with Alito to accept the fact that Roe v. Wade was settled as the law, too late for reversal.

He noted that Alito said he agreed with the 1966 decision Griswold v. Connecticut in

which the court struck down a state law banning contraceptives for married couples, establishing a right to privacy in the Constitution.

"Why can you say unequivocally that you find constitutional support for Griswold," Durbin asked, "but cannot bring yourself to say that you find constitutional support for a woman's right to choose?"

But Alito would not budge. "Roe vs. Wade is an important precedent of the Supreme Court ... and it's been on the books a long time," he replied blandly. But he refused to describe Roe as "settled." He would not call it settled "if 'settled' means it can't be re-examined."

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WHAT'S THE DEAL? | Demystifying campus trends

Don't let post-fall pitfalls snag your spring semester

All right, who's got the craziest holiday break story? Uh, sorry buddy but placing your little brother's hand in warm water overnight and laughing at his wet clothes the next morning doesn't count. But for those of you not willing to share, let me take a quick guess at the overall gist of what probably happened to you over the past few weeks.



Kenny Moyer
KERNEL COLUMNIST

According to historical campus trends, you mistakenly got back together with the boy/girlfriend you dumped earlier last semester, played magical disappearing tricks with your money at your hometown pub, and somehow managed to lose all that money you received on Christmas. How close was I?

Going home after a long fall semester presents the same problems every year for just about everyone. But now that you're back on campus, you can forget about all those problems and start focusing on what the semester ahead

entails. For the freshmen, who have never experienced a spring semester in college, I'm sure you are anxious to see how things function around here during the cold-to-warm-weather months. For the seniors, you have seen just about everything there is and could probably even use that experience to help me give some insight and forecasts to the underclassmen. Whether it's the end of your school year, or school career, you'd better make this semester count. Let me help you recover from last fall's hangover and plan ahead for the upcoming things you may have forgotten.

I always like to start the new year with some preparation for Spring Break. We all know it's approaching, and we all know how empty our wallets will be once we return from the week-long voyage to paradise (or home, for some of us). So why do we still go out partying every weekend until the end of the semester? Money like it grows on trees? I'm willing to bet the average student spends roughly more than \$20 a weekend on booze alone.

That's \$1,040 each year if you do the math, and ironically about the same price as a Spring Break package (if you're lucky enough to find something that cheap). I always encourage people to let loose and party like there's no tomorrow, but be careful not to lose all your money in one month, or else it's going to be a long semester.

While we are still on the ol' money subject, let's talk about Valentine's Day next month. For those of you unfamiliar with this love-filled holiday, this is the day your loved one(s) is/are expecting you to outperform every romantic there is (such as myself) in just about every category. There is to compete in (use your imagination if you have to). If you have any shot in hell of turning this into reality, then you better start thinking about ideas now. If you're a "conversation" hearts alone work, then you're off the hook and smooth sailing until next month. But, most of the time, expect to spend more. Just set a specific amount aside now and keep it hidden. Use any leftovers to buy a bourbon drink for yourself after it's all finished. Good job buddy.

Another thing to look forward to may not have a concrete date but should still be expected to happen at any time. Spring semesters tend to produce more boredom in the classroom than fall. Summer is on the horizon and (cough) graduation becomes closer and closer each day. All you'll be able to think about is how much you'll miss this turning and the people who have affected your life as you know it. Trust me, the last thing on anyone's mind will be turning in that blasted Blackboard assignment.

On a more upbeat note, there are still tons of positive happenings this spring that should get every one all riled up. For instance, Keeneland's spring meet, which usually begins around early April. Let's just hope the "go-cart" cops take it easy on our cheerful underagers, eh?

I guess I can touch on each of these specifics individually as they come along in our busy lives. Just be sure to play your cards right until then. Welcome back and enjoy the semester.

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Will 'Brokeback' open doors and minds?

By Robert W. Welkos
LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD — After the runaway success of "Wedding Crashers" and "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," Hollywood scrambled to make R-rated comedies. Now that "Brokeback Mountain" comes out of the blue, and that only fuels the enthusiasm.

A studio spokeswoman who declined to be identified stressed that, just like any other project in development at Warner Bros., a decision to greenlight the project would be based on the script and other key elements, like casting.

Since its release a few weeks ago, "Brokeback Mountain," starring Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal, has grossed \$22.5 million and Hollywood is watching to see if it becomes a hit with mainstream "crossover" audiences as it continues its steady expansion into theaters nationwide.

Even if it does, some industry insiders say "Brokeback" won't necessarily result in a flood of similarly themed movies.

Alan Gasmer, a literary agent at the William Morris Agency, said he isn't aware yet of a groundswell for gay-themed scripts at the studios.

"I don't think people are going to look at 'Brokeback Mountain,' with its modest business, and say, 'If we want to get rich, let's make movies about gay cowboys,'" said entertainment attorney Stan Coleman.

"I have not seen or heard from any (studio) executive who says that is what they are looking for," Gasmer said.

"I don't think people are going to look at 'Brokeback Mountain,' with its modest business, and say, 'If we want to get rich, let's make movies about gay cowboys,'" said entertainment attorney Stan Coleman. "But what it does say is you need not be prohibited from making those movies, if they are made for a price and marketed in good taste."

To be sure, there have been studio movies over the years featuring gay characters, from "Philadelphia" to "The Birdcage," but "Brokeback Mountain" has taken the genre further with its high-end production values and the Frank and the men express love for each other.

The film is prompting renewed interest in projects that have kicked around Hollywood for years.

Big actors all over town are wanting to make this movie. Our timing couldn't be better. ... Then "Brokeback Mountain" comes out of the blue, and that only fuels the enthusiasm.

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A generation ago, Patricia Nell Warren's breakthrough 1974 gay-themed novel "The Front Runner," about a homosexual relationship between a track coach and runner set against the backdrop of the Olympic Games, generated similar buzz in Hollywood.

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— Stan Coleman, entertainment attorney

"We actually got close to (casting) Ben Affleck" at New Line, Lefcourt said, but Affleck did the big-budget "Pearl Harbor" for director Michael Bay instead.

Lefcourt said that he believed studio bean counters were not so much homophobic as they were "risk-phobic" when it came to greenlighting gay-themed films. But he added that "Brokeback Mountain" has now "paved the way for these types of movies to be made."

Although TV and cable do not shy away from gay and lesbian themes and relationships, Hollywood has always had an uneasy time with movies that directly tackle homosexual relationships.

A generation ago, Patricia Nell Warren's breakthrough 1974 gay-themed novel "The Front Runner," about a homosexual relationship between a track coach and runner set against the backdrop of the Olympic Games, generated similar buzz in Hollywood. Paul Newman acquired the film rights and was interested in playing the coach, Warren said, but when the script didn't come together, Newman bowed out. The project then kicked around the industry for years. In the mid-1990s,

Warren reacquired the film rights; she said there has been renewed interest in turning the book into a movie since "Brokeback Mountain." The novel has sold 10 million books and is in its 36th paperback printing.

There are still a lot of people who would like to see this movie made," Warren said. "We get e-mails and letters all the time. One of the issues is economics. There are a lot of people in the industry ... who think of gay films as low budget. The Front Runner" is not a low-budget film.

Its backdrop is the Olympic Games. You can do the Olympic Games for \$2 million. You have to be willing to spend the money for the talent and the production values. What I'm hoping is that now there is going to be more courage to putting money into gay-themed films.

"I think people are just watching the box office of 'Brokeback Mountain' very closely," she said.

The 1998 gay-themed film "Gods and Monsters" received critical acclaim but grossed only \$6.4 million in North America. "I think that is one of the things that scared people off," Warren said. "Gods and Monsters" won (the Academy Award) but adapted screenplay and never took off. The critical acclaim can be wonderful. But the key thing is going to be the income."

"Hollywood is driven by the greenback ... They always look at the risk factor," said producer and screenwriter Lance Dow, who is developing a movie script called "Immortal" about a gay comic book superhero. Dow believes "Brokeback Mountain" also paves the way for other straight box office stars to take gay roles and not fear career suicide.

Dow has written a script, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," about a decorated U.S. Army Ranger put on trial when the military discovers he is gay. The producers, who include Jerry O'Flaherty, the former president of entertainment at Showtime Networks, say they have a "key actor" on board and are waiting for a second star as well as a director.

Before "Brokeback Mountain," said Lee Levinson, who is also a producer on the project, it would have been much harder to interest a straight actor in taking a gay role.

"I think 'Brokeback Mountain' helped us tremendously," he said. "It's going to help us in the sense that we are going to reach out to a heterosexual star for the gay role."

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The Sandpiper is never short on big-time entertainment, listing such acts as Bob Marley's Waiters, Tone Party and on-site resort bar, giving Loc and other major acts. Tentatively scheduled for this year are the Black-eyed Peas performing on the beach behind the Sandpiper Beach during dance mixes since 1995 and the Jay Leno's show. Metro Nightclub's Sandpiper has been host to a Spring Break sponsor giving other well-known DJ's including away swimwear and the Corona DJ Scribble. The Sandpiper-Beach Volleyball Tournament is brings the party to you — no driving, scheduled to take place behind the just walk up to your room from the bar. Sandpiper this year. There will be entertainment all day and all night at the Sandpiper in 2005 with MJ and Robin as special guests at an AceStuff Magazine Beach Party. To see what's on tap for Spring Break they sponsored a model search, keg 2006 at the Sandpiper Beach Party. Free beer and a swimsuit Resort in beautiful Panama City competition. Alloy Marketing has Beach, Florida or call the resort at also brought in model searches. 800-488-8828

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IN OUR OPINION

Raise parking structures, not fines

UK Parking and Transportation Services presented students, faculty and staff with a mixed bag of positive and negative changes as a nice "welcome back!" to the start of the semester.

Over the break, the department hiked more than 30 of its parking citation fines — one by twice the original amount. Far worse is the elimination of the "early payment" option, through which many fines were reduced by \$10 if paid within 10 days after receiving the citation.

On the other hand, a new parking garage opened on South Campus yesterday. And the fine for an expired parking meter did drop by \$10.

UK parking officers have a reputation around campus for being too strict and for an almost constant monitoring that virtually guarantees a ticket for a parking violation within mere minutes after drivers have left their vehicles.

We want to deter an individual from taking the rational economic approach to parking by calculating the odds of receiving a parking citation versus the cost of purchasing a parking permit, parking in a pay lot or parking at a meter," said director Don Thornton.

The crime isn't really that fees were raised; we feel no sympathy for people who knowingly park illegally and choose to risk getting a ticket. But the parking office should seriously consider reinstating the 10-day early payment option as a way to be more fair and equitable in this

process. Although parking shouldn't be a free-for-all, parking officials need to consider the financial difficulties many students face, and early payment alleviates the financial burden in a fair manner.

Moreover, the early option encourages violators to pay tickets promptly and not let unpaid tickets pile up. Having that incentive in place decreases the odds that people will simply never pay parking tickets.

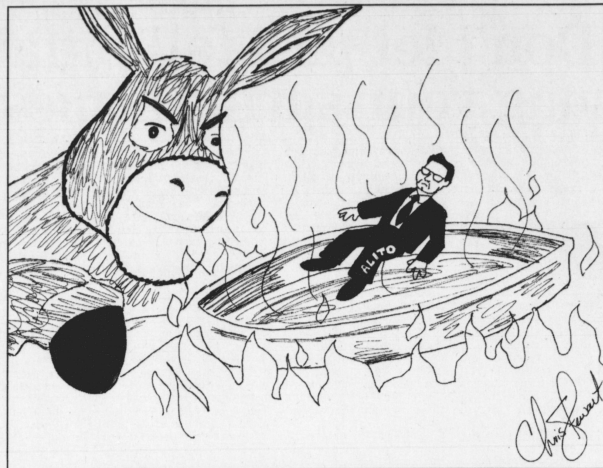
But amid all the fee increases, there is a bright side. For starters, parking at an expired meter is now a \$15 fine instead of \$25.

Students shouldn't be let off for parking illegally, but the early payment option was fair and beneficial

And the new parking garage, next to the Johnson Center, is a great addition of needed parking spaces. The parking department avoided a significant delay by gaining approval from the State Fire Marshall's office Tuesday — the day after the garage was supposed to open.

We're glad to see a new parking structure open in time for the new semester. Slowly but surely, the parking department has been creating more and more parking spaces, although they still seem as rare as ever. With any luck, campus parking problems will ebb as new structures open and enrollment stabilizes (thus halting increases in the number of people who have to park at UK every day).

The parking department says revenue generated from the citation increases will go in part toward building new structures. Here's to hoping the department keeps its word.



CHRIS STEWART, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Science is silent, not hostile, toward religion

My memories of high-school biology are murky at best — I remember memorizing lots of facts (none of which I remember anymore) but few organizing principles. And although I don't have formal data to back it up, my intuition is that many students had similar experiences in high-school science classes: an overload of facts coupled with a dearth of discussion about theory or methodology.

The experience of stumbling blindly through biology came to mind last month when Kentucky Gov. Ernie Fletcher announced his support for adding intelligent design to public schools' science curricula. Fletcher's statement came within a week of the Dec. 20 federal district court ruling in Pennsylvania that the teaching of intelligent design as an alternative to evolution in Dover, Pa., was unconstitutional. (That's not to say Fletcher's proposal would be illegal; the court decision has no effect outside Pennsylvania and is not being appealed to a higher court.)

Intelligent design, which has gained support among religious figures and a very small amount of scientists, is the position that certain biological systems are too complex to have been the outcome of Darwinian evolutionary processes and that there must have been some amount of supernatural involvement in the origins of life. The belief has a strong acceptance among Americans, 65 percent of whom want it taught along with evolution in high-school science classes, according to a CBS poll this past fall.

But intelligent design has little standing among scientists. For instance, in a Dec. 22 press release, the

Kentucky Academy of Science condemned "attempts to equate 'scientific creationism' or 'intelligent design' with evolution as a scientific explanation of events." Most importantly, because it involves the supernatural — the unnamed "designer," who is widely understood to be the Judeo-Christian-Islamic God — intelligent design cannot be understood as a scientific theory, but rather as an age-old philosophical/theological position.

Nevertheless, most Americans seem quite comfortable with teaching a religious view in science classes. I don't think that's the result of religious dogma (at least in the majority of cases) so much as of the "facts first, principles later" approach to science education typified by my own experience. Too many people seem not to understand the

tion held by some Christian fundamentalists that God created the planet about 6,000 years and merely made it look older. Perhaps that's what really did happen, but such a view is untestable and cannot in any case be disproved, and it is therefore unscientific.

So scientific conclusions are not statements of absolute truth, but rather of what is true within the framework of natural explanations of events. The purpose is to make accurate predictions of future events, which is much harder to do (if not impossible) when one relies on untestable concepts such as the will of God rather than on natural explanations. That's why the notion that science is somehow hostile to religion is ridiculous — science simply has nothing to say about religious claims.

The problem is that it seems that many Americans are ill informed about the scope and intent of science. They think that scientific findings that seemingly contradict religious positions — such as the creation account in Genesis — are some sort of philosophical statement of absolute truth rather than a reflection of the natural evidence. Maybe God did create humans from clay, but He or She apparently decided to make it look like they evolved from other ape-like primates.

Instead of adding intelligent design to science curricula, Fletcher and the Kentucky legislature should be taking steps to ensure that students learn the principles and methods of science, rather than simply a boatload of facts. (Not that the facts aren't important, but the fundamentals need to be taught first.) Once Americans start to become educated about science's aims and limits, we'll be able to stop wasting time debating the teaching of unscientific "theories" like intelligent design in science classrooms.

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



Brenton Kenkel
KERNEL COLUMNIST

The intelligent-design debate would be moot if Americans understood science's limits

goals, boundaries and methods of science — a problem that only better science education can fix.

Science aims to explain very many things, but not everything — it's limited to the natural world. Questions of the existence of God, free will, life after death, divine intervention and other spiritual matters are outside the scope of scientific inquiry. Moreover, a crucial part of the scientific method is that an assertion must be testable — if a hypothesis cannot be tested and potentially disproved, it is not scientific.

Accordingly, scientists do not seek supernatural explanations for natural events. For instance, when scientists say that geological evidence shows that Earth is billions of years old, they are not making a philosophical comment on the posi-

though not impossible, it would be very difficult to expect the above to happen.

To say that UK is "standing by" while students have to pay for overpriced books is once again very flawed logic. Like the bookstore, the university has absolutely nothing to do with the publishing aspects and costs of the textbooks. A colleague and longtime friend of mine who also works in the bookstore industry recently told me that his university created a committee that involved administrators from the university, students, faculty, and both off-campus and on-campus bookstore managers. At the beginning of the meeting, he opened by saying that the most important component to the problem was not represented at that meeting: the publishers. He claimed that all that they could accomplish was defining the scope of the problem and that until the publishers were held accountable for their ways, little would be accomplished.

CHRIS LAWRENCE
General Manager, UK Bookstore

Diversity group formation is not an end in itself

As part of its response to last fall's 40 percent drop in black freshman enrollment, President Lee Todd formed the Task Force on Racial Diversity and Equality. It's a nice title and good gesture, but UK must make sure the group is more than that.

Comprised of members of UK's faculty, staff and administration, the task force will work with the President's Commission on Diversity and offer recommendations to Todd for addressing diversity on campus.

Under Todd, the number of black faculty members has increased from 57 in 2001 to 67 in 2005, but last fall, black freshman enrollment fell 40 percent and his administration was pressured to respond.

This task force should be more than a means to save face; it should be a means to real discussion and practical solutions.

One of the key issues the task force will investigate is the possi-

bility of a chief diversity officer at UK, an administrator who would work like an ombudsman but with a clear focus. The task force should explore whether this would work at UK — and its recommendations should carry weight.

"I think we're all positive over how we're settling into this," said Gary Bibbs, an art professor and task force member. "But the thing we're really shaky about is if this is just another task force that draws up some plan that gets back to file."

Todd cannot let that happen. Forming the task force was a good move; something had needed to be done.

But if he and his administration are serious about improving UK's image and its diversity, they must follow through and heed the task force's advice. The task force does not need a committee with diverse members — it begins.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Kernel misrepresented textbook issues

Although I admire The Kernel's attempt to help UK students, I would like to point out a few serious flaws in its editorial ("UK won't alleviate textbook burden, but we'll try" Dec. 12, 2005) regarding the college textbook price dilemma.

First, I will reinforce the purpose of the UK Bookstore, which is to serve UK students, faculty and staff, and yes, to run a profitable business. Our goal is to provide the right books for the right prices in a timely manner. We do have a \$900,000 annual lease agreement with the university and that money is not derived from excessively charging customers for their goods purchased. In fact, a large portion of this annual payment provides scholarships for the students, not to mention that our existence provides employment for hundreds of students over the

course of a year. In the past, we have been one of the largest contributors by way of advertising dollars to The Kernel — advertising that could otherwise be unaffordable if we did not do what every other business that I know does: make money.

The misconception with The Kernel's issues involving textbook prices is simply out of our control. What the editorial fails to mention is that last year's investigation by the Government Accountability Office regarding textbooks was pointed toward the publishing industry, not the college bookstores. Just because we are paying more doesn't mean we are making more; we maintain the same national markup regardless of the fact that a book that costs us \$100 now cost us \$75 three years ago. Textbook prices are out of line with inflation, and the government is do-

ing its part to remedy this.

As far as The Kernel's efforts to publish online a database of the textbooks required for the spring semester, I am afraid that The Kernel could possibly do more harm than good. Each and every requisition received by the bookstores is carefully researched and defined to ensure that the proper department, course and section number are edited by the professor. I could show The Kernel many examples of inaccuracies in its online list.

An order submitted for a spring semester class in November may change as many as five or six times before the start of class in January. In my opinion, The Kernel is making a grave error in publishing only the "complete," "required" textbooks as they were received by November 8. We have looked at ways of doing just what The Kernel are doing, but the information as we receive it remains too volatile, and it is not worth the loss of a dissatisfied customer in an effort to hastily publish information and not ensure that it is correct and keep it updated as

changes occur.

We feel that when the course card with the required, recommended, and optional textbooks on it is placed on our shelf, it is correct up to the minute in which it was printed. We are also prompt to correct it as changes occur. The Kernel writes, "Even our incomplete list is far more than what the university has done to help students deal with expensive books." But is it really "helping" students if there is a very real possibility that what The Kernel is displaying is erroneous and leads them to purchase an incorrect textbook from an online auction which has no return privileges?

The Kernel is correct in stating that there is no "quick fix" to the perceived problem. In a perfect world, a department would know how many students are enrolled in a class, be able to assign a professor to that class as early as possible, and give the professor ample time to decide on his or her book list and submit it to the book stores well before the end of the semester. Fifteen years of experience tells me that al-

Submissions
Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Brenton Kenkel or Assistant Opinions Editor Wes Blevins. Please limit letters to 350 words or fewer. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions.
E-MAIL opinions@kykernel.com

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KEITH SMILEY | STAFF

Sophomore center Sarah Elliott drives between two South Carolina defenders during a game Jan. 8.

'Confident' Cats head south

By Chris DeLottell
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

While the general student population used the semester break to catch up with family and friends at home, UK women's basketball players had a more narrow focus.

The Cats wanted to catch up with the rest of the South-eastern Conference on offense.

UK (11-3, 1-1 SEC) set a low for offensive futility on Dec. 18 in a 66-36 loss to No. 3 Louisiana State. The 36 points were the fewest scored in a game in the program's history. The Cats shot just 29 percent from the field and committed 20 turnovers.

Two games later, on Dec. 28, UK scored only 55 points against Louisville in a 64-55 loss. The Cats' shooting percentage of 24 percent was a season low. Following that game, head coach Mickie DeMoss knew exactly where the team needed to focus in practices.

"Over the last week to 10 days, we have been able to really focus on Kentucky and focus on getting better offensively as a team and individually," DeMoss said. "It was a good situation for us to be able to strictly focus on basketball without a lot of other distractions."

The offensive work paid off last Sunday as the Cats notched — perhaps their biggest victory of the season, 72-60 over South Carolina. UK shot a respectable 44 percent from the field in earning its first conference victory of the season over the talented Gamecocks.

The players felt the work

over the break was beneficial. "It was a good break for us," freshman guard Carly Ormerod said. "We made a lot of improvements both on the offensive and defensive sides of the ball. We have been working hard and we're glad to see it paying off."

"It was something we really tried to take advantage of," sophomore guard Sam Mahoney said. "We worked a lot on just us as Kentucky and our Kentucky offense."

DeMoss feels the South Carolina win and extra work will help her team as they travel to Gainesville to face No. 25 Florida tonight.

"(It was) a great win against South Carolina," she said. "I think that is a confidence booster for our team in going down to Florida. They are having a really, really good year."

While Florida (13-2, 1-1) is led predominantly by upperclassmen, freshman guard Sha Brooks paces the Gators with 13.9 points per game. Senior forwards Dalila Eshy and Brittney Davis give Florida a strong post presence and together average more than 26 points and 15 rebounds per game.

"It's one of the best starts in (Florida head coach) Carolyn Peck's career there," DeMoss said. "They are a veteran team, but Sha Brooks is an outstanding freshman."

DeMoss is concerned with the Gators' athleticism and up-tempo style.

"They are doing a lot of full-court pressure and match-up zone," she said. "We are going to have to go down there, handle the pres-

sure, take care of the basketball and do our business on the offensive end."

The Gators have won nine consecutive home games and four of the last five against UK. The daunting task has not deterred the Cats' optimism.

"It would mean a lot to us to be able to go down there and win," Mahoney said. "I've been looking at the scores in our league and there have already been a few upsets. It would be great for us to finally get one."

Sophomore center Sarah Elliott feels confident about the team's progress as the Cats head into their toughest road contest to date.

"It will be a good game for us," she said. "If we execute our game plan, we are able to beat just about anybody. We just need to go out there and do that against Florida."

After the Florida game, the Cats will step back out of conference for a showdown with Atlantic Coast Conference foe Georgia Tech (11-4).

The Yellow Jackets have lost three consecutive league games after an 11-1 start.

While the Cats are pleased with the strides they have made, they remain focused on the future.

"I think we are happy with where we are," Elliott said, "but we're not satisfied. We still want to do a lot more with the rest of the season to accomplish our goals."

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Phillips honored

UK offensive coordinator Joker Phillips was named one of the best college football recruiters in the country in an article by Stewart Mandel of CNN.com. Mandel selected his top 10 recruiters, then added "10 more of the best in the business," a list that included Phillips.

Phillips also was busy the week before Christmas as a

head coach during the inaugural Magnolia Classic All-Star Game for college seniors.

Played on Dec. 24 in Jackson, Miss., Phillips' White team defeated the Red, 17-9.

Tennis team ranked

The UK men's tennis team will begin the spring season ranked No. 21, according to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association. UK will also begin the spring with three players

ranked in the Top-100.

The Cats' highest-ranked player entering the spring will be freshman Bruno Agostinelli at No. 48. He led the team with 11 victories this fall.

UK returns to action tomorrow at the National Tennis Collegiate Classic in Palm Springs, Calif.

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8am	9:30am	8am	9:30am	noon		
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