

KENTUCKY KERNEL

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College Dems push for restoration of felon voting rights

By Jill Laster
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UK students will be lobbying today in Frankfort as part of the Restoration of Voting Rights Lobby Day.

Students from organizations like the UK College Democrats and the UK chapter of Amnesty International will lobby beginning at 9 a.m. in support of House Bill 70, which would allow citizens to vote on whether or not to restore some felons' voting rights.

If passed, the issue would be put to a vote in 2008 on whether to change the Kentucky Constitution to allow felons of non-violent crimes to vote as soon as

they complete their sentence.

Right now, Kentucky is one of only three states that do not allow released felons to vote immediately after leaving prison without an executive pardon from the governor, according to Kentuckians for the Commonwealth.

"I don't think we should disenfranchise somebody just because they make a mistake," said Joe Gallenstein, secretary of UK College Democrats. Gallenstein lobbied for the voting rights of released felons last year, but the issue was not talked about very much on campus, he said. This year, Gallenstein tried to raise awareness by organizing events at UK centered on

the issue.

"I felt like if people saw this and heard this story... they would understand why this was such an important goal," Gallenstein said.

The issue is relevant to UK students because of the many people who know felons or will know felons in the future, Gallenstein said.

"If they don't know people, they will know someone," Gallenstein said.

"These are real human beings." Rep. Stan Lee, R-Lexington, disagrees with HB 70 and said he doesn't think it is "a good piece of legislation" because it restores rights to offenders convicted of crimes such as drug traf-

ficking and forgery.

"We have people who have had their life savings taken away by criminals," Lee said. "What am I supposed to say to the victims of these criminals?"

"It's not easy, but then again, it (restoring voting rights) should be difficult," he said.

Lee added that he would be surprised if the bill passes.

Former UK women's basketball player Tanya Fogle gave a speech about her life as a released felon in the W.T. Young Library Auditorium on Monday, Feb. 19, in an event sponsored by seven UK organizations and organized by Gallenstein.

Fogle served 10 years in prison for writing bad checks to support her drug habit. After being released, Fogle said restoring her voting rights was complicated.

"It was a very, very difficult process," Fogle said. "The process that (Gov. Ernie Fletcher) developed is so unfair."

After Fletcher took office, the procedure for restoring voting rights changed so that Fogle and all felons were required to have three character references, a personal written statement and a review by the prosecutors in both

See **Voting** on page 3

Engineering college sees rash of thefts

By Sean Rose
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A string of four thefts have occurred in the College of Engineering buildings over the past couple weeks, including two yesterday morning, according to college officials.

All thefts occurred in the middle of the day and objects stolen have ranged from money to a laptop to a multimedia projector from one of the classrooms, said Lynn Tilley, an information technology manager for the Engineering Computer Center.

Maj. Joe Monroe, interim UK police chief, said UK police are investigating the incidents and that he thought the same person perpetrated all the crimes.

"My gut feeling on this is probably more than likely these thefts are related," Monroe said.

"Every now and then we'll get a rash of thefts in a certain area," he said.

A College of Engineering employee called UK police yesterday morning about a suspicious person described as a black male with a red toboggan, red shirt, dark pants, puffy blue jacket and a tattoo on his neck, according to Monroe.

Monroe said the subject was gone when officers arrived but that UKPD is looking over past incidents in the buildings and past arrests to search for more definite suspects.

"I can't say we have a suspect ID'd," Monroe said. "That's the only lead we have right now."

Three of the thefts took place in the Ralph G. Anderson Building while the multimedia projector was stolen from an F. Paul Anderson Tower classroom, Tilley said. The projector was later recovered in a Business and Economics Building bathroom.

Tilley said he was surprised by the nature of the crimes, specifically how they were committed during mid-day in high-traffic areas.

An e-mail Tilley sent out warning faculty, staff and students about the thefts said one employee had money stolen from an office after "the individual had literally stepped 10 feet down the hall into the neighboring office to ask a question."

The projector took more effort to steal. It was mounted on the ceiling, Tilley said.

"They're pretty determined if they're the same individual," Tilley said of the crimes.

Monroe and Tilley urged everyone in the College of Engineering to keep their valuables secure and keep offices locked when not occupied. Any suspicious activity should be reported immediately to UKPD, Monroe said.

Panel examines interracial relationships

By Azra Drjevic
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Interracial relationships are more prevalent in today's culture than the past and that is why they need to be discussed, according to Mahjabeen Rafiuddin, director of Student Diversity Engagement.

The subject will be examined in a panel discussion titled "Breeding Between the Lines" tonight at 7:30 in room 206 of the Student Center.

"We have been in interracial relationships more than previous generations," Rafiuddin said.

The discussion is part of a monthly diversity dialogue series that was started this semester to promote discussions on equality and diversity issues.

"My goal is to develop a more comprehensive view of what diversity is," Rafiuddin said. "It's a challenge for our university because our university

See **Diversity** on page 3

PUTTING HEARTS ON SLEEVES



A.M. Groenwoldt, an agriculture economics sophomore and operation coordinator for the student executive board of Women's Place, left, is the spokeswoman for the UK chapter of the Clothesline Project. Will Fuller, right, a history senior, made a shirt as part of the project to support the prevention of violence against women.

UK included in national anti-violence project

By Katie Saltz
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When Will Fuller was a resident adviser in Patterson Hall, he didn't realize how high one statistic about UK's campus was.

"The director of Women's Place came to talk to us, and I was surprised to discover how common violence against women is," Fuller said.

While at UK, 36.5 percent of students will be sexually assaulted at some time, according to the Women's Place.

That third of the student body is one reason Fuller, a history senior, is a participant in the Clothesline Project, a national movement that addresses the issue of violence against women.

The Rasdall Gallery in the Student Center will be displaying the project until March 9. The display is made up of shirts decorated by survivors and the families and friends of victims of violence.

Fuller said he hopes the display will make people aware of the effects that violence has on both genders.

"Violence is a major societal issue," Fuller

said. "It affects women and men. It affects me and people I know and love, and that makes me sad."

When he made his shirt, he said he wanted people to make the connection that true events inspired it.

"These people are real and so are their stories," Fuller said. "We want people to see the shirts and think about the people behind them."

A.M. Groenwoldt is a spokeswoman for the Clothesline Project and works with UK's Women's Place. The project began in 1990 and had a display at UK last year, she said.

"We are now a nationally certified branch of the Clothesline Project," Groenwoldt said. "I'm very proud to be involved in this."

While the project is a national organization, Groenwoldt said that local participants made all of the shirts on display.

"All of the shirts come from people on UK's campus," she said. "These men and women are survivors, they are victims and they are the family and friends of some who have died because of the violence."

The Clothesline Project is unique because of its approach to the issue, Groenwoldt said.

"It is important to raise awareness any way you can," she said. "This visual display is a silent way of raising awareness."

Most of the shirts on display are unsigned, Groenwoldt said, but just seeing them can help inspire people to become involved.

"When people see the shirts, they realize how prevalent the issue is, and see how supportive people are," Groenwoldt said. "We want people to feel that they can come forward with their stories."

Callie Hanks, director of Cultural Arts for the Student Activities Board, said if the project can influence a change in violence against women, then the SAB would like to bring it back next year.

"We hope people will see this and want to be part of the change," Hanks said. "We would be willing to bring it back because it is such a great project."

Hanks also said the project is something different for the Rasdall Gallery to display.

"People come to the gallery and don't expect anything but art," Hanks said. "We hope that people will take the time to really look and realize that violence against women is happening (at UK)."

State's largest career fair starts today on campus

By Erica Mitchell
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Students looking for a job can get a jump start today and tomorrow at the third annual UK Spring Career and Internship Expo.

The event is Kentucky's largest career fair and will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Student Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Students will have the opportunity to meet with employers from over 150 companies who are looking for individuals to fill full- and part-time positions, internships and engineering cooperatives.

The fair is focusing on engineering, high-tech and health care organizations today and business, govern-

ment and non-profit organizations tomorrow. All majors are welcome and encouraged to attend both days, said Esther Livingston, assistant director of James W. Stuckert Career Center.

"The advantage of a large career fair for students is there are so many employers in one place," Livingston said. "At the fair, students can speak to and actually meet in person a recruiter who might potentially hire them."

She pointed out the career fair offers a better opportunity to meet with employers than over the phone or on an online job search. Livingston said many students get interviews as a result of attending the career fair.

Some students also agreed on the value of attending the fair.

"The job market is very competitive," said Katie Krueer, an art studio senior. "Taking advantage of opportunities such as the career fair is a good place to start for all students."

Livingston emphasized that "these employers want to hire UK students and graduates."

"The career fair is a wonderful chance for students and employers to connect with each other," she said.

Organizations attending the fair include the FBI, Fifth Third Bank, Gray Construction, the Social Security Administration and State Farm Insurance Co. A full list of companies attending can be found at www.uky.edu/careercenter.com. More information is also available by calling (859) 257-2746.

CAREER FAIR TIPS

- Business professional dress is required.
- Bring at least 20 copies of your resumé.
- Review employer descriptions prior to the fair.
- Prepare a "one minute commercial" or introduction.

SOURCE: JAMES W. STUCKERT CAREER CENTER

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By Linda C. Black
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Aries (March 21 April 19) - Today is a 5 - You're doing the preparation now. Try not to attract attention. You'll get enough of that tomorrow and the next day.
Taurus (April 20 May 20) - Today is an 8 - You have the objective want to accomplish. You can get the financing. You can put together the team to do it. Begin.
Gemini (May 21 June 21) - Today is an 8 - You do have to be careful. Don't let it all hand out. There's big money involved here, so show you have some class. Put on a really good show.

Cancer (June 22 July 22) - Today is an 8 - Make it a habit to check all your work before you send it out. It's also a good idea to always think before you speak. Apologize immediately whenever necessary, and you won't be slowed down for long.
Leo (July 23 Aug. 22) - Today is a 5 - It doesn't seem like you're getting much done, but actually, you are. It's all the behind-the-scenes kind of necessities that you will build upon.
Virgo (Aug. 23 Sept. 22) - Today is a 6 - Confine your conversations to work-related topics. Take your suggestion to someone who can do something about it.
Libra (Sept. 23 Oct. 22) - Today is a 6 - You're gaining a lot of appreciation, while not getting any richer. Be gracious in accepting awards, however. They're good advertising.
Scorpio (Oct. 23 Nov. 21) - Today is an 8 - Follow through with the project you started yesterday. Don't talk it up yet. That'll come later. Get your struc-

ture built first.
Sagittarius (Nov. 22 Dec. 21) - Today is a 7 - This assignment is more of a mystery to be solved. Start out by following the money trail, without telling anybody.
Capricorn (Dec. 22 Jan. 19) - Today is an 8 - Hard work is necessary sometimes, but that's not all there is. To be truly successful, you also need management skills. Now is a good time to practice.
Aquarius (Jan. 20 Feb. 18) - Today is an 8 - A lot of the problems you've been working on are almost solving themselves. Actually, the seeds of thought you've planted are finally getting ripe.
Pisces (Feb. 19 March 20) - Today is a 7 - You're just about to come up with a magnificent idea. You're getting support from a person you love, but the credit for this is all yours.

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THE DISH

Hudson and Wilson reunite in Australia

Two months after they ended their affair, Kate Hudson, 27, and Owen Wilson, 38, are back on Down Under. On February 18, the couple dined at the eatery Vie in Queensland, patron Sarah Quinn tells Hot Stuff. "They kissed three or four times over the course of the two-hour meal," she says. "They were passionate, boyfriend-girlfriend kisses." (The duo ate out the next night as well, at a restaurant in the seaside town of Surfers Paradise.) A source tells Us Wilson arrived in Australia on Valentine's Day and stayed with the actress at the five-star hotel Palazzo Versace. He even accompanied Hudson to a test screening of the flick she shot there, Fool's Gold (costarring Matthew McConaughey), according to Aussie papers. What does the future hold for the twosome? "They'll continue to see other people," says a source close to the couple. "Owen can't commit and Kate knows that. She's just happy to spend time with him."

Whitney & Ray J: Heating Up

Whitney Houston is now officially checking out of the Heartbreak Hotel - thanks to Brandy's younger brother, Ray J. Houston and the singer (17 years her junior) were "cuddling and holding hands" at Tao Las Vegas on February 17, a source tells Hot Stuff. And, adds a source, they spent the post-Valentine's Day weekend held

HOT STUFF

Hudson & Wilson - Giving it another go!

up in a suite at Caesars Palace. "They really like each other," says the insider of the pair (ages 43 and 26), who clicked when Houston recorded a track for his next CD. "They've been friends for years, but it became more. He has been a good support for her." But has he? A source close to Ray J's ex (and sex-tape partner) Kim Kardashian tells Us he has been trying to win Kardashian back. For Valentine's Day, he sent her a "huge" set of yellow and white-diamond earrings and a necklace. (Houston's rep says, "There is nothing between them except longtime family friendship." Kardashian's rep had no comment.)

Tom Cruise Fires Staff!

Tom Cruise is cleaning house. Earlier this month, the star, 44, gave pink slips to several members of his domestic staff, including a caterer and a personal assistant, a source tells Hot Stuff. The reason? "They made minor mistakes," says the insider, adding that "Tom was being irrational." (His rep could not be reached.) Meanwhile, Cruise's wife, Katie Holmes, 28, had a far more pleasant run-in with another person from Cruise's inner circle - his ex-wife Nicole Kidman, 39! On February 16, while the two were dining separately at the Polo Lounge in Beverly Hills, "Nicole went up to Katie's table briefly and said hello," says a fellow diner. "They were both very polite."

Naomi Watts: Pregnant!

Naomi Watts is with child. A

source tells Hot Stuff the star, 38, and her beau, Liev Schreiber, 39, are prepping to be parents. The duo dined with pals at NYC eatery Pastis on February 18 and "Naomi was visibly pregnant," an eyewitness says. "Liev was smiling and looking at her stomach. They were cute." (Watts' rep doesn't comment on her personal life.)

Richard Hatch's Life in Prison

How is Richard Hatch surviving in the slammer? "He's kind of lonely and said the food is awful and he misses his husband [Emiliano Cabral, who works in the hotel industry]," Survivor: The Amazon winner Jenna Morasca, 26, tells Hot Stuff. She and her boyfriend of nearly four years, Survivor: Africa winner Ethan Zohn, 33, visited Hatch around the holidays at the minimum security prison in West Virginia, where he is serving a 51-month sentence for not paying taxes on his \$1 million prize. She added that Hatch (who "was in the whole prison jumpsuit," she says) is still "extremely pissed" that he's in jail at all. (Hatch, 45 - who claims his trial was unfair and his sentence was too harsh - was recently granted a hearing in the U.S. Court of Appeals, set for March 8.) Morasca adds, "He stands by his claim that he didn't do anything wrong." (Hatch's rep could not be reached.)

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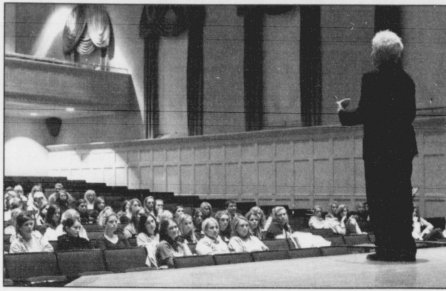
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A MOTHER'S PLIGHT



ALLIE GARZA | STAFF

Students gathered last night in Memorial Hall to listen to Andrea Cooper, right, share the story of her 20-year-old daughter, Kristin, who committed suicide in 1995, five months after being raped by a co-worker. With the help of the Delta Delta Delta sorority, Cooper has traveled to universities across the country, including UK, to share her story.

VOTING

Continued from page 1

the county of residence and the county where the offense occurred.

But Fogle said these requirements are too stringent.

"Uncle Sam recognizes me as a citizen," Fogle said. "If he recognizes me as a citizen, Fletcher should recognize me as a citizen."

Fogle will be among those rallying in Frankfort today and said she encourages everyone who can to come lobby for HB 70.

The lobbyists will meet in Frankfort in Capitol Annex Room 111. Students who want to support HB 70 but can't lobby today can leave a message for Kentucky legislators at the Legislative Message Hotline, 1-800-372-7181, or e-mail their representatives.

DIVERSITY

Continued from page 1

is predominantly white."

"Discussions of more than a mainstream, white world are key to incorporating campus diversity," said Patrick Nally, a student marketing associate for the Office of Multicultural and Academic Affairs.

"In order for diversity to be a part of the campus culture, we need to take time to converse and learn from each other," Nally said.

Tonight's panel will be composed of two students including Nally, one faculty member and three local community mem-

bers. The panelists will represent different nationalities and sexual orientations.

The panelists will talk about their views and experiences with interracial relationships for the first few minutes and then open the floor for discussion. It will be informal, Nally said. The discussion will not only focus on relationships between black and white people, but all ethnicities.

"If you're an Asian and white couple, that's an interracial relationship," Nally said. "America ignores that, in a way."

The students who volunteer for Student Diversity Engagement have also started a new effort to increase diversity.

The Band Campaign is designed to promote social conversations outside of the Diversity Dialogues. The volunteers designed purple wristbands for people to wear to show that they're interested in further discussion.

"A person who wears the band, we're hoping, will be open to conversation," Nally said.

Last month's dialogue on whether or not America was ready for a black president saw a turnout of around 50 people, Nally said. He hopes 100 people turn up for tonight's discussion.

"We want it to be something people go home feeling emotional about," Nally said.

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Tuesday 27 th	Wednesday 28 th	Thursday 1 st	Friday 2 nd	Saturday 3 rd	Sunday 4 th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK Students for Life Meeting, 8:00 PM, 115 Student Center YMCA Center For Achievement Tutoring, 5:00 PM, YMCA Center For Achievement Young at Heart Meeting, 5:00 PM, 228 Student Center Martin School Open House, 4:30 PM, 18th Floor Lobby POT Diversity Dialogue: Interracial Relationships & Bi-Racial Experiences, 8:00 PM, 206 Student Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University Christian Fellowship, 8:00 PM, 230 Student Center Comedy Caravan with Keith Alberstadt, 8:00 PM, Student Center Cats Den Bryan Station Middle Tutoring, 4:00 PM, Bryan Station Middle School L.E.C.M. Food for Body and Soul, 5:05 PM, St. A's (472 Rose Street) UK Budo Karate Club, 8:00 PM, Barker Hall Dance Studio Helping Hands- Dinner at Catholic Action Center, 5:15 PM, Catholic Action Center The State of the Black Student Address, 7:00 PM, 211 Student Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conscious Campus 101: Guilty Until Proven Innocent, 8:00 PM, Memorial Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK Budo Karate Club, 4:30 PM, Barker Hall Dance Studio Dance Blue Dance Marathon, 6:00 PM, Memorial Coliseum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dance Blue Dance Marathon, 12:00 AM, Memorial Coliseum Alpha Omega Supernatural Worship Service, 7:00 PM, Baptist Student Union/ Ministry Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK Ultimate Frisbee Organization, 10:00 PM, Intramural Fields

Oil plan includes more production

By Christian Berthelson and Tina Susman
LOS ANGELES TIMES

BAGHDAD, Iraq — After months of negotiations over the post-war spoils of Iraq's most valuable natural resource, the government announced Monday night that it had approved a draft plan to ramp up oil production and share the proceeds.

The agreement on the terms by Iraq's cabinet was touted as a major breakthrough. It must still be approved by Parliament, but because all of Iraq's vested ethnic and regional interests are represented in the Cabinet, the deal was viewed as having overcome a significant hurdle.

The United States has long wanted to capitalize on Iraq's oil resources, especially as a means of paying for the country's reconstruction since the 2003 invasion. Oil's importance was reiterated in the Iraq Study Group report released in December.

The agreement not only will open international investment in Iraq's oil industry — a bonanza for foreign oil companies — but will produce revenue for a nation badly in need of cash to finance its reconstruction.

Iraq's oil riches predominantly lie in the Kurdish-controlled north and the Shiite-controlled south. Reaching an agreement essentially required both parties to be willing to share their bounty with Sunnis in the middle — a particularly painful prospect as Sunnis under Saddam Hussein controlled the entire government.

In addition, Kurds, who are

pushing a referendum on withdrawal from Iraq, wanted more control over their ability to strike contracts with foreign firms and spend profits as they see fit.

According to the statement from the office of U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, all revenues from oil sales will go into a single national account, but all regions and provinces will have a seat on an energy policy-making body, and provinces will receive shares of revenue and have control over how they spend it.

In Washington, White House spokesman Tony Snow called a new oil law the "key linchpin" in Iraq's recovery because it gives "everybody a shared economic interest in working together."

During a visit to Baghdad earlier this month, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urged Iraqi leaders to show signs of national reconciliation.

The oil sector in Iraq has not been in full-scale development since the 1980s. Fewer than a quarter of its fields have been developed; production volume fell by 8 percent in 2005.

And yet it is the overwhelming source of revenue in Iraq and is expected to bring in \$31 billion this year, based on projected exports of 1.7 million barrels a day at a price of \$50 a barrel.

It was unclear what concessions led to the compromise, and the precise terms of the deal were not immediately available. The U.S. has been exerting considerable pressure on Iraqi leadership for months to reach the accord, and one Sunni politician said

Monday night that the deal had been brokered by Khalilzad himself.

Iraqi parliament members were cautious to embrace the plan. Still, most agreed that a cabinet compromise was a good sign.

"Definitely, if there is a cabinet accord, this would be a good key for a future accord in the Parliament," said Qusai Abdul-Wahab, a Shiite member of Parliament.

Others predicted a tougher battle for the proposal on its way to becoming law.

"I think there will be great opposition to it in the Parliament," said Rashid al-Azzawi, of the Sunni Parliamentary bloc known as the Iraqi Accordance Front.

Some analysts say the law also will be viewed dimly as another tool of the United States to get its hands on the country's oil.

Antonia Juhasz, an analyst at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C., who has written extensively on the economic aspects of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, said throwing open the oil industry to foreign investment — which no doubt would include U.S. oil interests — would only heighten Iraqis' distrust of the United States.

"Most people in Iraq assume the U.S. invasion was about oil," she said. "When the people of Iraq learn that the majority of their oil fields are being turned over to foreign private production ... it worries me. I wouldn't want to be a soldier on the ground when the law passes."

TIMES STAFF WRITER SAH HAMEED CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT.

Engraving employee sentenced after stealing uncut sheets of bills

By Henri E. Cauvin
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — It is not often that a man who has just been sentenced to jail walks over, as David Faison did Monday in federal court, and shakes the hands of the people who helped put him behind bars.

Accused of stealing \$67,000 in uncut bills from his office at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Faison, 56, pleaded guilty in September, and Monday he was to learn his fate.

The judge was talking about a year behind bars. The prosecutor was asking for six months. Faison, a widower heroin addict, was hoping for probation.

It was a long shot, and he knew it. An employee at the Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving for 36 years, Faison had stolen 21 sheets of uncut \$100 bills that lacked embossing with seals or serial numbers. As a stock control recorder, he had access to the plant's printing section.

The crime last spring was a rash act of opportunity, his lawyer said.

But what happened next was not. With considerable precision, Faison cut the bills to size and began going to casinos in West Virginia, Delaware and New Jersey, where he converted the unfinished currency into bona fide bills. He did it by putting the bills into slot machines and playing a few rounds of slots. Then he cashed out — and got real bills.

Before he was arrested in August, Faison had put \$37,200 into circulation and triggered alarms at the Treasury Department over the breach of the nation's currency-printing process. Authorities found the rest of the bills at Faison's home in Largo, Md., when he was arrested.

Once caught, Faison cooperated readily, said the prosecutor, Assistant U.S. Attorney Jonathan Barr. Within a month, he had pleaded guilty to a counterfeiting charge.

As part of his plea agreement, he met with law enforcement agents and Treasury officials to explain how he had swiped the 21 sheets of bills — 32 to a page — from the Bureau of Engraving building in the District of Columbia.

Exactly what he told them has not been made public.

Monday, in court a friend said Faison has turned away from his devastating addiction and made a new life for himself. Another said Faison had been shaken terribly by the death of his wife and was only now finding his way.

Finally, Faison addressed the court. He expressed remorse for his crime. He spoke of the loss of several family members. He called his actions a "life-altering mistake."

Then he thanked U.S. District Judge Paul Friedman, who had already made it clear he was inclined to reject Faison's petition for probation.

Friedman outlined the factors he needed to weigh — the seriousness of the crime, the background of the defendant and, of particular importance, the need to deter other employees in positions of trust from exploiting that trust.

The judge gave Faison nine months and said he would recommend Faison be placed in a federal facility, where his drug and mental health problems could be treated better. The judge also ordered him to pay \$37,200 in restitution and placed him under supervision for three years after his release.

Faison took it all in. Then he turned to the prosecutor and investigators and shook their hands.

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POWER UP

Tuesday,
Feb. 27, 2007
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SPORTS

Jonathan Smith
Sports Editor
Phone: 257-1915
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Men's tennis team faults late to ranked opponent again

By Kenny Colston
kcolston@kykernel.com

Closing out games against ranked opponents has been trouble for the UK men's tennis team all season.

Yesterday was no different, as the No. 33 ranked Cats led No. 73 Furman 3-2, but lost late in the match 4-3 at the Boone Tennis Center.

"It's disgraceful," senior Peter Bjork said. "(It's) a very bad loss and there is no excuse for it."

Earlier in the season, UK led then-No. 2 Baylor 2-1 and then-No. 43 Middle Tennessee State 3-2, before losing both matches.

But UK has come back as of late to win three straight matches — including a win over Indiana, their first victory over a ranked opponent — before being upset by the Paladins.

Head coach Dennis Emery said the loss stopped any positive momentum the Cats had coming in.

"We have neutral momentum right now," he said. "It didn't help losing to Furman, but we can't have these losses if we want to make the post-season."

Bjork wants the momentum to come from the bottom of the lineup, a place that has been shaky for the Cats so far this season.

"One through four, we are a top 10 team," Bjork said. "We just need No. 5 and No. 6 singles to step up and they haven't."

"It's like playing with four players basically," he said.

Emery agreed that the future success of the team is in the hands of the younger players.

"We are still developing and we need to get a lot better throughout the year," Emery said.

"If we are going to make it to the NCAA tournament, we'll have to pick it up."

The Cats started off well when the No. 2 doubles team of Bjork and junior Will Ward extended their undefeated streak to six with an 8-4 win over Ryan Friend and Andy Sobczyk. But UK lost the doubles point after the No. 1 doubles team of sophomore Bruno Agostinelli and junior Marcus Sundh lost 8-6, and the No. 3 doubles team of sophomore Kenny Hodje and freshman Roman Ogarkov lost 8-4.

The Cats roared back in singles play behind No. 1 Agostinelli and No. 3 Bjork, who both won in straight sets. Sundh, who moved up to No. 2 singles, lost only his second singles match of the season to Bo Ladyman, 3-6, 5-7. Sophomore Shane Collins surrendered No. 4 singles, 6-7, 1-6 and Ward won in

straight sets at No. 5 singles.

With the match tied 3-3, the Cats turned to Hodje, who lost, 1-6, 6-3, 6-7.

Bjork and Agostinelli are both riding 5-0 winning streaks in singles, with Agostinelli's streak coming after his upset of the top ranked player two weeks ago.

The Cats start the toughest part of their schedule when Southeastern Conference play begins this weekend with No. 38 Auburn on Friday and No. 27 Alabama on Sunday.

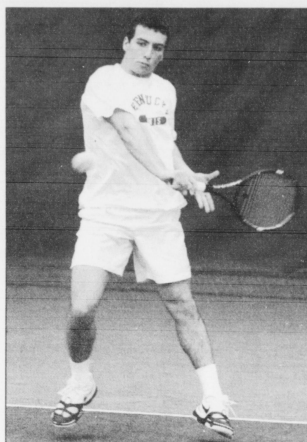
With the loss to Furman, the Cats are starting to feel the pressure to win, which will be extremely difficult in the SEC since every team is ranked.

Emery said he feels that the Cats have the ability to win some SEC matches, but that they must improve, especially in the lower ranked spots, to get those wins.

"We're capable of beating anyone, but without depth, we are also capable of losing to everyone," he said.

later in the day, UK avenged the loss to the Paladins by beating Eastern Kentucky 5-1.

Agostinelli, Bjork, Sundh, Ogarkov and Hodje each won their matches against the Colonels. Four of the singles matches were won in straight sets.



Sophomore Bruno Agostinelli returns a shot yesterday in the Cats' 5-1 win over Eastern Kentucky University in the Hilary J. Boone Tennis Center. The EKU match was the nightcap to the Cats' battle with No. 73 Furman. UK lost to the Paladins 4-3 despite taking an early lead.

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SG should focus on advocating student issues

Student Government often notes that it is elected by students and therefore acts as the voice of the students, both on and off campus.

Unfortunately, that voice has not been heard as loudly as it should be. Last year, the Kernel Editorial Board wrote a series of articles outlining the philosophy the organization should operate by as a governing body. The first two editorials focused on how SG officials need to be the leaders of student activism on and off campus.

Over the past 12 months, SG leaders have made few innovations in terms of strengthening the student voice at UK and in the Lexington community. As candidates for next school year's presidency and Senate begin their campaigns, they need to make it clear that they won't fall into the same pattern of complacency.

SG's primary focus should be in its own backyard, ensuring UK administrators act in the best interest of students and fighting policies that students disagree with.

But to achieve this, SG must first inform students what policies the administration is pursuing and then gather student opinion.

One of the overarching goals the Kernel set last year was for SG draw more influence from traditional political parties and governments, focusing more on advocacy and less on event planning.

With that as the recommendation that SG form a so-called rapid response team to analyze and report on UK officials' actions. In anticipation of or in response to administrative decisions, the team would issue "position papers" that would summarize the issue, describe its impact and take a stance on whether it will benefit the student body.

As an elected organization with access to UK officials and a seat on the Board of Trustees, SG is in an ideal position to operate such a team and use its findings to advocate for students. But there has been little or any policy analysis coming from SG this year.

Indeed, it seems that there has been hardly been a peep from student officials on most on-campus issues. There are, of course, exceptions. Most notably, SG is once again rallying against tuition increases — an annual issue so predictable it's almost implied in campaign platforms. And while we do appreciate the concern for the ever-rising cost of education, we'd like to see SG be more proactive in advocating student needs. After all, there's a laundry list of issues that need a champion, such as Thanksgiving weekend, dead week, parking problems and disciplinary policies.

The meal plan — at least for most students living on campus — should rank near the top of that list, and we applaud SG for picking up the issue following last spring's referendum vote in support of returning to a declining balance plan. But the advocacy will be of little value until we can see results from it.

So far, SG has focused on dining discussion, looking at other schools and getting student input on how the meal plan should change. Presumably, SG will forward its recommen-

KERNEL EDITORIAL

dations to the administration, where they could easily be rejected or only partially implemented.

This is when SG must prove itself as a tenacious voice of the students. When the administration says no, SG cannot simply call it quits and return to planning the latest Valentine's Day Gala or Gator Roast — it must keep the issue alive until the students' wishes are fulfilled.

But it's not just UK officials whose decisions affect students' lives — Lexington and Kentucky lawmakers also have quite an impact. SG's advocacy should stretch beyond the campus borders to encompass both city and state policy decisions.

Former SG President Becky Ellingsworth laid the groundwork for off-campus activity by creating the Student Lobbyist Corps last year. And the group has already had some success, organizing the UK contingency — all five students — at the higher education rally in Frankfurt last year and doing the same this year, with a sevenfold increase in attendance.

The Corps' focus so far has been on bonding authority for UK, a topic that is certainly relevant to campus and important for the school's continued growth but that does not rank highly among most students' priorities.

While SG should pursue the bonding authority issue, it needs to expand its lobbying to other areas that are perhaps more visible to students. The Par-

Student Government should act as the voice of the students, but it can only do this by shifting its focus from offering services and planning events to advocating for student issues.

ty Plan and keg-tagging ordinances are both still on the books in Lexington, and both were opposed by students when they were first proposed. With a new mayor and a shake up of the Urban County Council after November's election, now is the time for SG to revisit Lexington issues that affect students.

Granted, one of student's best chances for improved political representation came and went in November, when the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council's 3rd District seat — a position that represents UK and the surrounding neighborhoods — was up for grabs and went to incumbent Dick DeCamp, who has traditionally been considered hostile to student interests.

Last year, we pointed out that SG could groom someone to run as a candidate for the 3rd District seat and get him or her elected by mobilizing the student voters — a daunting task considering the traditionally low turnout from students in elections. However, with the thousands of students living on campus and in surrounding neighborhoods, DeCamp certainly could have been defeated with some leadership — the type that SG should provide.

Instead, SG only made information about the races available in its office and encouraged students to vote on Election Day. While appreciated, it's hardly the sort of active role this Editorial Board encouraged last year.

With its budget and access to local officials, SG is in a strong position to make students' voices heard in policy decisions that affect UK. But until SG truly focuses on student advocacy, all UK, city and state officials will hear is mumbling.



SATRIO HUSODO, Kernel cartoonist

Justice for all means bridging rich-poor gap in green movement

DEBATE

A few weeks ago, I had the chance to attend the Southeast Student Renewable Energy Conference at Clemson University. It was an eye-opening experience, where college and university representatives from around our region shared their struggles and successes in attempting to make their schools greener.

While it was great to get feedback from them about how we at UK can deal with our fight to make the university cleaner, the most amazing part of the weekend was the talk by Van Jones, who titled his speech "Bridging the Black-Green Divide." The way in which he married the issues of environmental justice and civil rights made a lot of sense to me; I hope it makes sense to you too.

In essence, Jones made the statement that Caucasians constitute a large majority of the environmental justice movement, and because of this, the world may face a future in which we live in a society that is not just divided by class, race and social status, but by climate as well.

The climate debate is framed in terms of danger. Things like species extinction, global warming and destruction of landscape are the things we worry about in the movement. While this is all well and good, a major piece is missing — hope.

People in the lower tier of society live in environmental squalor every day. Asthma is a bigger killer in Los Angeles than murder. You are more likely to see a metal detector set off by an inhaler than by a gun. People who live in this world aren't as energized by stories of diving polar bears as they are by stories of cleaning up the air in their neighborhood, yet these are the same problems.

Jones and his group, the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, are fighting toward a thing they call "eco-equity." We have to work to understand that the green economy is going to have to work in order for there to be a future.

As we realize this and begin to adapt our economic structure around this fact, we have to realize this presents an enormous opportunity to lift millions of people out of poverty. By combining the issues of social justice and environmental justice, we can do good for anybody by serving everybody. We have to realize that things like new buildings are going to have to be built to be environmentally sustainable, our energy is going to need to come from more places and that our food is going to have to come from places clos-

er to where it is consumed — all of which require people to learn new skills. If we invest in everybody, especially the people in the lower tiers of our society, we have a huge opportunity to bridge the economic gap that has become so prevalent in our world today.

This isn't going to be easy. It's going to take a lot of work and a lot of investment by politicians. Consequently, these politicians get a lot of money from people who want to see our current system unchanged. The only way things are going to change is if we, as a society, decide we have to change.

Here is a fact: If we don't change they way we live in a major way, things do not bode well. I think, however, we are too beautiful a people to allow our world to be destroyed. We can and will change to preserve our world. Then only one question remains: Will we change for everybody, or will we change for the few who hold power?

As both the vice president of College Democrats and as a citizen of this world, I hope the answer to that question is "everybody." But I don't want to leave anything up to chance. I promise that our organization will stand with Jones and his organization and fight for both the subjugated and for the environment. I know that these fights are monumentally important and connected on a basic level. Therefore we shall stand strong, and make sure that our future is clean and green, and that there is justice for all. Anything less would be unacceptable.

Robert Kahne is a political science and economics sophomore. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com



ROBERT KAHNE
Kernel columnist



Last week, speakers from the group Exodus International came to UK, preaching a message of intolerance masked under the premise of acceptance. The program, "Truth and Tolerance," advocated that as good Christians, individuals should help their homosexual friends change their lifestyles, but in a nonconfrontational way.

Wait a minute. Wasn't this program supposed to be preaching a message of tolerance? Encouraging homosexuals, or anyone else, to change their lifestyles doesn't sound like tolerance to me — it sounds like passive-aggressive confrontation.

Is homosexuality biological? Should we prevent gay couples from having or raising children because there is the potential that a "gay gene" may be passed on, creating more and more gay individuals? Should we legally prevent gay marriage, hoping to discourage gay couples from staying together by forcing them to pay higher taxes?

Or is homosexuality a learned behavior? Perhaps all young men should be sent to therapy immediately when

their mothers discover them playing with their little sisters' dolls or putting purple eye shadow on their cheeks because it is funny. Perhaps if we catch it soon enough and try hard enough, we will be able to beat the gay out of anyone who catches the bug.

Get serious. I do not know if homosexuality is biological or not; the bottom line is, it makes absolutely no difference! My close friends who are gay are not essentially different from me or anyone else. Contrary to popular belief, gays have feelings and form relationships. Shocking to the Truth and Tolerance program, many of them are even happy.

Discrimination against homosexuals because of their lifestyle is unfair. Whether or not you would choose to be gay yourself is of absolutely no relevance to this discussion. Too many religions discriminate against gays. Does the Bible say that homosexuality is wrong? Maybe so. But when was the last time that you knew anyone who never did anything the Bible said not to do?

Rejecting homosexuals, or any other marginalized groups, does nothing but help the majority group validate their chosen values and lifestyles when they begin to feel threatened.

Is there any value to programs such as Truth and Tolerance that supposedly help change homosexuals? Perhaps. Some, like the speakers from Exodus International, seem to truly be-

lieve in the power of the program. Mike Ensley, an ex-homosexual, asserts that he is happier now than when he was living a gay lifestyle. If this is the case, then these programs can be helpful for those willing to participate.

That said, however, no one should be forced to participate in one of these programs unless they are willing. I do not believe that these programs have any real value; rather, they are a band-aid for those unwilling to embrace their sexuality. These programs are not a cure for homosexuals, mostly because homosexuality is not a disease and does not need a cure. Instead of spending time trying to rehabilitate gays, these individuals should focus their efforts on rehabilitating the discriminatory and non-accepting attitudes of our society.

Whether homosexuality is biological or not is absolutely irrelevant. The bottom line is that there are individuals in our society who embrace this lifestyle, and last time I checked, they were still allowed to do so.

Regardless of whether programs dedicated to "helping" homosexuals change are effective, the real problem is not homosexuality or the homosexual lifestyle; rather it is society's closed-minded attitude and frightened unwillingness to accept those who differ from traditional values or lifestyles.

Tara Bonistall is a social work senior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com



TARA BONISTALL
Kernel columnist

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Barnhart responds to questions about basketball team's future

By Chris Miles
cmiles@kykernel.com

UK Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart issued a statement yesterday in response to numerous media inquiries about the future of UK head coach Tubby Smith.

Smith has been in the hot seat since last season when the Cats went 22-13 — considered mediocre by the UK basketball fan base — and lost in the second round of the NCAA tournament to No. 1 seeded Connecticut. This year the Cats are 19-9 and 8-6 in the Southeastern Conference.

"Kentucky Basketball is important to all of us who are a part of the Big Blue Nation," Barnhart said in the statement. "I know that the fans, coaches and players are disappointed with the results of the season up to this point, but it's important to wait until the most critical part of the season is complete before reviewing the program."

Sunday's loss was the fourth straight against Vanderbilt and UK's third straight loss on the road. The Cats have also lost to Florida, the defending national champion and two-time defending SEC Tournament champion, five straight times.

"Our fans' lofty expectations for this program, which I share, have not changed," Barnhart said. "However, history tells us that the college basketball season can change quite a bit between February and March."

UK seems headed to play on the first day of the SEC tournament for the second straight season. Last season the Cats made it to the semifinals of the tournament before losing to South Carolina. That led to a No. 8 seed in the NCAA Tournament, which is exactly where ESPN Bracketologist Joe Lunardi has the Cats in the NCAA Tournament that begins in three weeks.

Smith didn't help his cause Sunday when the Cats lost to Vanderbilt 67-65. It was the fifth time in the last seven games to be decided by five points or fewer.

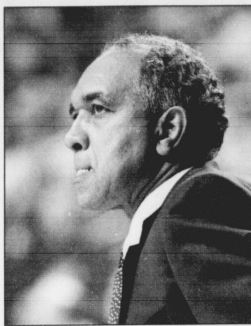
"If the close games we've lost in February become victories during the tournaments, then this team has a chance to play up to its potential, which is what all of us as Wildcat fans want," Barnhart said.

Meeks continues to impress

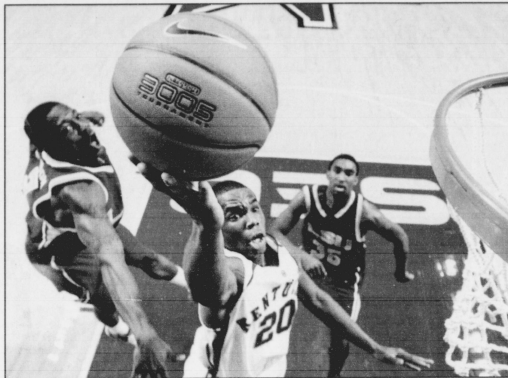
Jodie Meeks earned SEC Freshman of the Week honors yesterday after his performances against Vanderbilt and Louisiana State University last week. It was the third time this season that Meeks has won the award.

At Vanderbilt, Meeks earned his first collegiate start, replacing junior guard Joe Crawford. Meeks scored 15 points and helped the Cats to a nine-point lead heading into halftime. Meeks played most of the second half, but suffered a leg cramp and limped off the court with two minutes left in the game.

Smith said that if Meeks hadn't left the game



PHOTOS BY ANDREW HUBBINS | STAFF
UK head coach Tubby Smith cringes during his team's 70-63 win over Louisiana State on Tuesday, Feb. 20. Smith has been the subject of heavy fan criticism lately after his team's recent swoon.



UK freshman guard Jodie Meeks scores two of his 18 points against Louisiana State on Wednesday. Meeks was named SEC Freshman of the Week yesterday for the third time this season.

near the end, there was no doubt that he would be in the game in the final plays.

"He did a great job (against Vandy)," Smith said. "He's a clutch player."

In UK's 70-63 win against LSU last Tuesday, Meeks tied a career-high 18 points. Recently, Smith said Meeks was the most athletic player on the team.

"He's a strong player, both physically and mentally," Smith said.

Meeks is averaging eight points a game and is shooting 87 percent from the free throw line.

Stallings hasn't forgotten 62-point loss

Vanderbilt head coach Kevin Stallings knows that when a team trails for the first 39 minutes of the game but comes back to win, chances are it was a pretty exciting game.

"I hope that if I had been in the short end of this game that I would be sitting up here saying that this was a great college basketball game," Stallings said. "Because I thought that was a great basketball game."

But Stallings also mentioned a game when his team trailed the entire time against UK and lost.

"When Stallings was asked about his team's fourth straight win over UK, he couldn't help but remember how he got to this point.

"Every time someone asks me about it I tell them I'm the proud owner of that 62 point loss up there (in 2003)," Stallings said about his team's 106-44 beatdown.

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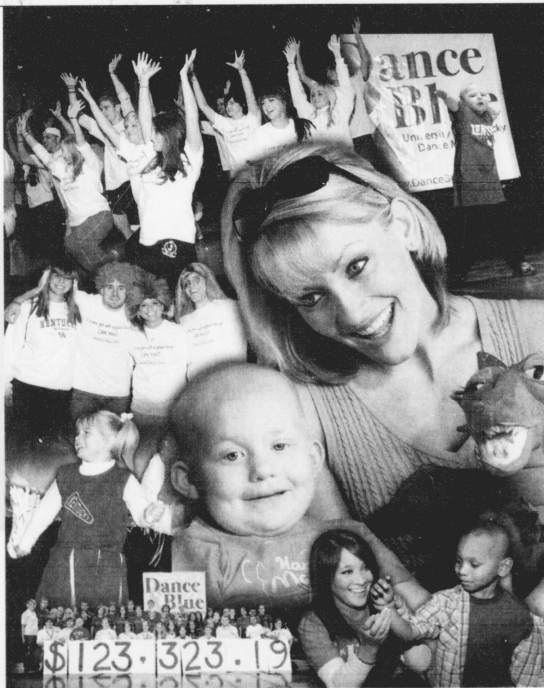
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