



VALENTINE'S DAY: Last-minute and alternative date ideas to fit any budget.

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THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 14, 2008

KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 37 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Students e-mail budget concerns to reps

By Katie Saltz
ksaltz@kykernel.com

Students concerned over the recent state budget cuts and their potential impact on college tuition have an opportunity to tell their legislators during an e-mail campaign by Student Government.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today, Monday and Tuesday, laptops will be set up in the Classroom Building for students to send an e-mail to Kentucky legislators. The campaign started yesterday, and SG Director of Constituency Services Tyler Fleck said there has been a great turnout.

"More than 200 people have already signed up," Fleck said. "We hope to get 1,000 students and I think that is a feasible goal."

Fleck said he expects a high number of students to participate be-

cause the budget cuts could affect UK students with tuition hikes, the reduction of Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship money and a loss of programs at UK.

The e-mail is sent out so it appears as a personal message to legislators, Fleck said, not just as a mass e-mail from students. This will hopefully show legislators how many students are concerned, he said.

"It's important that legislators hear students' concerns so they realize this is real," Fleck said. "It's showing that we know what's going on and we care."

The campaign has pre-written letters, and students are asked to type in their name, county, address and telephone number to send it. Fleck said it is set up to be time-efficient for students.

"It's not a burden at all," he said.

"It literally takes 10 seconds. Students can walk up, type in the information and be on their way to class."

Members of the Panhellenic Council helped staff the campaign site yesterday and encouraged students to sign up. Panhellenic President Julie Meador, an integrated strategic communications junior, said Panhellenic was looking for a way to express their concern about the budget cuts. When she contacted SG for some ideas, she said she knew she wanted to help with the campaign.

"We wanted to get involved because we care about our university, and we want students to have as many opportunities as possible," Meador said. "We need to make sure we can succeed as a university."

Over 100 people signed up in two hours, Meador said. Some stu-

dents voiced concerns not only about their own tuition, but also the financial problems for future UK students.

"One student told me she worried about her sister losing her KEEES money," Meador said. "She wanted to sign up so hopefully that wouldn't happen."

The letters are respectful and there are different versions, Fleck said, but they all contain the same points.

"They all say 'I depend on my education and I care about what happens to it,'" Fleck said. "The main theme is 'don't give up on me.' We're asking legislators to not just push us to the curb."

SG also encourages students to write their own letters or call their legislators if they do not make it by the Classroom Building.

Monologues offer open dialogue on femininity

By Kelly Wiley
kwiley@kykernel.com

Few personal thoughts will be left untouched at tomorrow's performance of "The Vagina Monologues" as actors encourage students to think inside the box.

UK V-Day, part of a global movement to stop violence against women, will perform the play tomorrow and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Center's Worsham Theater. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$7 for students.

"The Vagina Monologues" performance has two main goals, said Shea Leibfried, organizer and one of four co-directors for the production. The first is to raise awareness about violence against women around the world, she said.

"The other goal," Leibfried said, "is to really encourage women to become in touch with their vaginas."

"The more that they feel empowered to do that, the more they will speak out about violence against women," she said.

The show covers a wide range of topics related to the female anatomy, including hair, sex, birth and rape.

The topics covered throughout the show are very diverse, said Santana Berry, director of UK's performance. The play added a new act this year, "They Beat the Girl Out of My Boy ... Or So They Tried," which deals with transgender people. All the monologues featured come from interviews conducted by Eve Ensler, who wrote the play, Berry said.

"She got these really candid interviews and decided to turn it into a play to make it OK to have that open dialogue about being a woman and about your vagina and about things that aren't brought up every day," Berry said.

Even though the topics are geared toward women, Berry said she hopes that men will come as well. It could give them better insight and understanding into the inner workings of women — and a good laugh, she said.

Berry said she was happy to be bringing the show back to campus since it was not performed last year. The show has a lot of meaning to her as well.

"The timing of the show and being the director of this show is very sentimental for me because I was a victim of violence," Berry said. "So stepping into this role of directing the play has helped me to get some of the power back."

There will be a silent art auction prior to both performances. All proceeds from the auction and ticket sales will go to the Violence Intervention and Prevention Center at UK.

CHILLIN' ON CAMPUS



PHOTOS BY ELLIOTT HESS | STAFF

UK students walk to class through a snow-covered campus yesterday. About 8 inches of snow fell Tuesday night, according to the National Weather Service, but the campus streets and sidewalks were cleared by the afternoon.

The hills surrounding campus today were alive with the sounds and sights of sledders. Many students took advantage of nearly an inch of snow that fell Tuesday night by finding time to play between classes. The hills behind the Classroom Building and surrounding W.T. Young Library were favorites of students and families. Today is expected to be sunny with highs in the upper 40's, according to the National Weather Service.



Graduate student Nitish Patidar sleds down the hill in front of W.T. Young Library yesterday in between classes. The snowfall brought out many UK students to the hills around campus.

NEWS BRIEFS

I love mountains rally held in Frankfort today

Kentuckians for the Commonwealth and other environmental organizations are rallying today for the preservation of mountains at the Capitol Building in Frankfort. The group is lobbying on behalf of House Bill 164, which asks that all strip-mined mountains be restored to their previous condition.

Those interested in participating can sign in when they arrive in room 113 of the capital annex building. The rally begins at 11:30 a.m. but participants can lobby representatives and senators as early as 8 a.m. The legislative session will begin at 2 p.m.

More information is available at the Kentuckians for the Commonwealth Web site (www.kfctc.org).

SG to vote on adding ag senator

Student Government committees met last night to recommend legislation to the full Senate. The Internal Affairs Committee heard an amendment to the SG Constitution that would increase the number of senators from the College of Agriculture from one to two for the next academic year. The amendment will be presented and voted on at the full Senate meeting Wednesday.

The Appropriations and Revenue Committee approved eight organizations for funding and recommended support for eight Senate special projects. All projects will be heard at the next full Senate meeting.

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee passed a resolution concerning budget cuts to the full Senate, which will be voted on next week.

Author calls alien life 'scientifically reasonable'

By Kelli Long
news@kykernel.com

Jeff Bennett saw an unidentified flying object once, but he is not convinced that aliens were on board.

Bennett shared his views of life in the universe with a packed room in the Chemistry-Physics Building last night during a speech based on his book "Beyond UFOs: The Search for Extraterrestrial Life and Its Astonishing Implications for Our Future."

Bennett's research of the universe has led him to investigate the possibilities of life on other planets. This investigation has made him almost certain that life exists outside of

Earth.

"There are a lot of possible homes for life," Bennett said. "That's why it seems scientifically reasonable that there is life on other planets."

But Bennett is still looking for the answers to where this life is and why it has not tried to contact humans.

The author of numerous texts, ranging from college textbooks to children's books, Bennett believes that alien life may

be possible, but that other intelligent life forms are so far advanced they would not likely let humans know they existed. Technologically speaking, Bennett said he would expect them to be nearly 50,000 years ahead of Earth's civilizations.

Bennett only talked about conclusions he has drawn from his research and avoided speculation, said physics junior Allan Straub.

"He avoided any sort of jumping to conclusions and stuck to the facts," Straub said.

"That is the way science is done. If we actually want to learn, we can't jump to conclusions."

Leann York, an astronomy professor at UK, encouraged her class to attend the speech, which was hosted by the Society of Physics Students, because she talks about man's search for life outside the planet in her class.

"I hope that my students gained an appreciation for how much we can learn about other places without actually going there and also how little we actually know," York said.

To Bennett, the real question that needs to be answered is not whether intelligent life exists on other planets, but, "Will we prove that there is intelligent life on Earth?"

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Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black

To get the advantage, check the day's rating. 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21 - April 19) Today is a 7 — The answer you've just discovered leads to new questions, naturally. You never have to worry about being bored; you won't let that happen. You're interested in everything.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Today is a 7 — Look around, while you're out there in unfamiliar territory. Odds are good you'll find a way to do business at a profit. You love it when this happens.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) Today is a 7 — Don't rush off before you've finished a task that must be done. You know what that is, or if

you've forgotten you'll be reminded. It has to do with money.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Today is a 6 — Review your holdings and you will find a leak that needs to be plugged. You're paying too much for something you don't use anymore.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Today is a 7 — You've almost had too much of a good thing in the past few days. Schedule a break to share with congenial friends. Restore your sense of humor.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Today is a 7 — Important business decisions will have to be made soon. Things should go well, once you have misunderstandings cleared away. Ask if there are any.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Today is an 8 — Through your own intervention, your place is quite comfortable. It may not be quite finished, but it's good enough. Gather with good friends.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Today is a 6 — You and your partner need

to discuss an upcoming purchase. You can get something that will last for years, if you pool your resources.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Today is a 7 — The most difficult part of the task should almost be over by now. Soon you can hand the maintenance duties over to somebody else. Look forward to that.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Today is a 7 — Your revenue is broken by an urgent request. Take care of the job immediately, and get back to having fun. Keep your priorities straight.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Today is a 7 — Once you've made the decision about what to do at home, there'll be time to relax. Schedule an interesting evening for you and somebody you love.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Today is a 7 — The list of things you've been meaning to do is getting pretty long. Go over it again before you start. Some have lost all justification, and can be deleted.

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CAN BRITNEY GET BETTER?

THE DISH

Confined to a psychiatric ward, Spears struggles with a painful diagnosis — and a power struggle between her parents and controversial best friend

father, Jamie, would have full control over her medical care and \$40 million estate. (During a February 4 court hearing, this was extended through February 14 — despite Britney's protests.)

The one person by her side throughout the ordeal? Sam Lutfi, 33, her de facto manager and confidant over the past six months. Their cohabitation and constant companionship came to an end February 1, at least temporarily, when Britney's parents were granted a 21-day restraining order mandating that he stay away from their daughter. (His past includes two restraining orders from 2004 and 2005.) But Lutfi refuses to go down without a fight. In an interview with Us on January 31, he shared his version of Britney's state of mind — and what really led to her treatment.

On the Spears family's arrival at Britney's home on January 28:

They show up to the house like the Hillbillies. I find out that they're outside, and they go, "You better let me in the gate, you whatever, whatever." So I said, "Look, Britney, your parents are here." She said, "OK, fine, baby." So I let these people in. Instead of going to see how Britney is, they scream at me, "Why the f--- are you talking to Barbara Walters?" [Lutfi had given a statement to The View regarding Britney's condition.]

And Britney's like, "Get out of here, I'm fine." Which at that point, she was fine. Seconds before the family showed up, I had a

talk with Britney. I gave her a handful of pills and said, "These last four days, Britney, you have been outstanding. You have been sleeping well." I said these pills are working wonders, they are the miracle pills. Please tell me that you know you've felt good these past few days. [Lutfi says Britney had been prescribed medication by her new psychiatrist.] Britney says, "Yeah, I do, I do, but you know, it's just weird because I'm sleeping all day." I say to Britney, "You're not sleeping all day, you're getting 10 hours of sleep and I'm waking you up and you're feeling refreshed. And you don't need any of that stuff. Come on, please." She takes the pills, and literally that second, security called saying her parents are outside. She puts the pills on the counter and says, "I'm over it."

On his interactions with Lynn Spears:

The first night Lynn came, I blocked Lynn's car from leaving. I said, "You're going to suffer a manic episode with your daughter so you know what I go through." Lynn said, "I'm not staying! I need to get my sleep! I've just been on a plane. Move it." Lynn tries to call the police to get them to remove my car, and Britney goes, "Mama, why are you calling the police? Don't you want to be with me? Mom?" She's crying, "You came to see me, why do you have to go back to Malibu?" [Lutfi claims Lynn was staying in Malibu with a friend.]

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CAMPUS COURT AT RED MILE

THURSDAY,
February 14,
2008

PAGE 3

Emily Coovert
Features Editor
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kernel POP

MAKE YOUR WEEKEND PLANS

1. Spread your wings

Grab a pair of binoculars and fly over to McConnell Springs tomorrow to meet some of Central Kentucky's fabulous feathered friends. The event will start at 8 a.m. and is free and open to the public. For more information, visit McConnell Springs' Web site (www.mcconnellsprings.org).

2. '60s rock

The Johnson Brothers will debut a new show tomorrow at 9 p.m. at Natatsha's Café, located downtown at 112 Esplanade. The band will cover tunes from some of the greatest '60s rock icons. Tickets cost \$10.

3. Fiesta of film

The Central Public Library and the Kentucky Theatre will be showing "Golden Door" this weekend as a part of its 2008 One World Film Festival on Saturday at 2 p.m. The film is in Italian with English subtitles, and it documents the story of a Sicilian family's immigration to America. For more information, visit the festival's Web site (www.oneworldfilmfestival.org).



Across the nation, every White Castle location will provide a candlelight, table side dinner for couples to enjoy. The event last from 5 to 8 p.m.

Take your QUEEN to the Castle

Fast food just one alternative date for Valentine's Day

By Whitney Waters
wwaters@kykernel.com

Today, all across the nation, Cupid's arrow will deliver flowers, candy, cards, jewelry and kisses — ones of the chocolate variety, of course.

All that love doesn't come cheap. The average consumer will spend about \$125 on Valentine's Day, with a total projected profit expected to reach about \$17 billion, according to the National Retail Federation.

But, as always, Valentine's Day is one holiday that involves late plans and people scrounging for every last minute — and penny — to plan an evening of events for their significant other.

Those who haven't found plans don't have to worry: There are still a few Valentine's options around town for every price range.

A night at the Castle

If \$50 is too steep of a price for this Valentine's Day, there is one place that is steamy and full of hot little buns where you can dine with your significant other.

Across the nation, every White Castle location will provide a candlelight, table side dinner for couples to enjoy.

The dinner is a fun option for students, said James Sizemore, a manager at the White Castle on East Reynolds Road in Lexington.

"It's a cheap alternative for the big night out," Sizemore said. "They (White Castle) have been doing this for the past three years."

The event lasts from 5 to 8 p.m., and reservations can be made by calling the White Castle main office in Louisville at (502) 361-231 ext. 7.

This event has become popular with students and people around Lexington, Sizemore said.

"We get calls all day, every day," Sizemore said.

"Lovesavers" Surprise Theater

Natasha's Café is putting a love twist on one of its most popular series.

The Surprise Theater is a production that removes the boundaries the audience is prepared for and anticipating by having the play start from anywhere but the stage, according to Natasha's Web site (www.theatnik.com).

"All of the directors, script and actors are kept secret," said Ray Williams, promotions director at Natasha's. "The actor could be a waitress or someone sitting next to you."

This Valentine's Day, the café is offering a performance package that includes tickets and a special meal that has four courses, with each course including an aphrodisiac, Williams said.

"We did a lot of research, as we basically built our entire menu around that,"

Williams said. Reservations are required, and the tickets, which include the meal, are \$45 per person or \$85 for couples. The Surprise Theater is running through Friday, so if tickets aren't available or the price is too much, the same production will be shown tomorrow with a ticket price of \$7. The only difference is that the meal is not included.

Natasha's Café is located at 112 Esplanade downtown. For more information, call 259-2754.

Sweetheart's Magic Dinner

Magician John Shore will provide an intimate magical adventure for those who choose to participate in this mystical event.

The Embassy Suites Hotel at 1801 Newtown Pike will host and provide an upscale dinner tonight at 6:30 where patrons can choose from Atlantic salmon, pecan chicken or a vegetarian option, said Joanna Lindsey, the box office manager at Embassy Suites Hotel.

During the dinner, Shore will perform tricks in hopes of leaving the audience mystified.

"Other than the price, I think it would be fun and something different for students," Lindsey said. "Plus, you get a good dinner."

Tickets are \$55 per person. For more information, call 455-5000.

Lucky few to be serenaded in concert

By Kelly Wiley
features@kykernel.com

Many people don't have the guts to serenade their partner for Valentine's Day, so two UK choral ensembles are offering the chance to do it for them.

At tonight's Paws and Kats After Dark concert, two winners, one male and one female, will receive an on-stage serenade at the Student Center's Worsham Theater. The concert starts at 7 p.m. and features the AcoUstiKats, UK's all-men's ensemble, and Paws and Listen, the women's a cappella group.

"This is fun for them because they all work really hard on more serious choral music, and this is their chance to do their own thing," said Lori Hettzel, director of the women's choir. "It's music from their day and time."

Some of the songs in the show include "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," "Don't Stop Believin'," "Seasons of Love" and

"Unwritten."

Jeff Johnson, director of choral activities, said music is his life and he sees that passion within these students. He said the performers get nothing from it except the reward of performing at a public concert.

"This is one of the only chances to see these groups perform in a public concert," Johnson said. "It's rare that they get a chance to do this because they mostly perform at private engagements."

Tegan Hanks, a music education junior and coach of Paws and Listen, said the concert is a great idea for a non-traditional Valentine's Day date.

"I think it's a unique kind of date on Valentine's Day," Hanks said. "A lot (of people) go out to dinner and do the typical thing, but if they want something different and unique, this is it."

Tickets are \$5 for singles and \$8 for couples. There will be a dessert reception after the concert.

UK Theater offers play for the 'lonely and bitter'

By Paul Mattingly
features@kykernel.com

For entertainment tonight that does not include sweeping and poetic romance, one UK theater production might provide a murderous alternative.

The play "The Butleress," a comedy-horror by Nick Stoller, opens tonight at 7:30 in the Little Theatre in the Fine Arts Building.

Director Jesse Pavlovic said "The Butleress" is a "play within a play." In the story, four characters are trying to put together their own play when a madman suddenly appears in the theater and chaos ensues.

Even though "The Butleress" opens on Valentine's Day, viewers should not expect a story that caters to a romance-seeking audience.

"It's the anti-Valentine's Day show," said Sarah Fogarty, production assistant for "The Butleress" and theater sophomore.

"If you're lonely and bitter, come see 'The Butleress,'" Pavlovic said jokingly.

Pavlovic, a theater sophomore, said despite some gruesome undertones, "The Butleress" is not overly dark or sinister. Even though the story is one of horror and drama, it is still lighthearted.

"It's a comedy," Pavlovic said.

The play will also be performed tomorrow at 5 and 7 p.m. All showings will take place in the Little Theatre. Admission is free to all, and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

ontap | For the week of Feb. 14 - Feb. 20

TONIGHT

Scourge of the Sea w/ John the Baptist
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

Straw Boss
9 p.m., The Southgate House, Newport. Tickets are free.

FRIDAY, Feb. 15

Big Maracas
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

Screaming Kings w/ Lithium, Kristen Key and Chakras
9:30 p.m., The Southgate House, Newport. Tickets are free.

McLovin
10 p.m., Phoenix Hill Tavern, Louisville. Tickets cost \$11.

Trojan Rabbit w/ Buckra and Sound & Shape
10 p.m., The Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$5 to \$8.

SATURDAY, Feb. 16

High On Fire
7 p.m., Uncle Pleasants, Louisville. Tick-

ets cost \$13.

Same As It Ever Was
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$7.

The Swarthy Band w/ Cash Flagg
10 p.m., The Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$5.

SUNDAY, Feb. 18

Open Mic Night w/ Lance Kauffman
9 p.m., The Southgate House, Newport. Tickets are free.

Tickets are free.

TUESDAY, Feb. 19

Karaoke w/ KJ Swirl
9 p.m., The Southgate House, Newport. Tickets are free.

Tickets are free.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 20

Thrill and Say Anything
7 p.m., Bogarts, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$12.50.

Jason Ricci & New Blood
8 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$7.

Olden Cape
8 p.m., Headliners, Louisville. Tickets cost \$25.

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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY CRIME REPORT

UK Police reports from
Feb. 5 to Feb. 11

- Feb. 5** Arrest following traffic stop reported from the corner of Waller Avenue and Royalty Court at 3:35 a.m.
- Feb. 5** Theft of projector reported from Plant Sciences Building at 9:32 a.m.
- Feb. 5** Theft of wallet and medication reported from UK Hospital at 10:58 a.m.
- Feb. 5** Injury accident reported from the corner of Press Avenue and Virginia Avenue at 1:16 p.m.
- Feb. 5** Theft of five flat panel TVs reported from the basement of W.T. Young Library at 4:29 p.m.
- Feb. 6** Arrest following traffic stop reported from the corner of Maxwell Street and Rose Street at 12:47 a.m.
- Feb. 6** Explosion reported from Kentucky Tobacco Research and Development Center at 11:57 a.m.
- Feb. 6** Theft of backpack reported from W.T. Young Library at 6:43 p.m.
- Feb. 6** Drug/marijuana use reported from Kirwan Tower at 7:10 p.m.
- Feb. 6** Shots fired reported from Greg Page Apartments at 7:37 p.m. with a subject who ran into an apartment with a gun and then left.
- Feb. 7** Theft of bike reported from Memorial Hall at 3:06 p.m.
- Feb. 7** Injury accident reported from the corner of University Drive and Huguelet Avenue at 6:35 p.m. involving a vehicle and a pedestrian.
- Feb. 7** Suspicious person reported from King Library at 9:52 p.m. referencing a 30- to 40-year-old subject banging on the desk and looking at offensive material.
- Feb. 8** Suspicious circumstances reported from the Delta Tau Delta Fraternity House at 3:26 a.m. referencing men hitting golf balls off the roof.
- Feb. 8** Theft of laptop reported from Wethington Allied Health Building at 3:11 p.m.
- Feb. 9** Arrest following traffic stop reported from the corner of Nicholasville Road and Dantzer Court at 2:20 a.m.
- Feb. 9** Arrest following an alcohol intoxication report from Blanding Tower at 2:50 a.m. referencing a female kicking the door.
- Feb. 9** Arrest following an alcohol intoxication report from UK Medical Center at 3:48 a.m.
- Feb. 10** Arrest following warrant service reported from Greg Page Apartments at 7:55 a.m.
- Feb. 10** Drug/marijuana use reported from Greg Page Apartments at 1:42 a.m.
- Feb. 11** Theft of computer equipment reported from UK Hospital at 2:32 p.m.
- Feb. 11** Alcohol intoxication reported from Samaritan Hospital at 2:59 p.m.

Compiled from UK police reports
by staff writer Alice Haymond.
E-mail ahaymond@kykernel.com.



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OPINIONS

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The opinions page provides a forum for the exchange of ideas. Unlike news stories, the Kernel's assigned editorials represent the views of a majority of the editorial board. Letters to the editor, columns, cartoons and other features on the opinions page reflect the views of their authors and not necessarily those of the Kernel.

■ KERNEL EDITORIALS

Write, call legislators to say 'no' on budget cuts

Ideally, college students should seek out an active role in the legislative process every year, regardless of what's on the agenda. Except that that's not always possible — students are busy, and cramming for a test often trumps writing a letter to a legislator.

This year, though, it's worth putting the studying off for a few minutes to speak out against the potentially disastrous budget cuts proposed by Gov. Steve Beshear. If the governor's budget passes, state universities will be forced to contend with a 12 percent reduction in funding. The Kentucky General Assembly has an opportunity to reverse this before approving the budget.

As the Senate and House of Representatives debate over the next several weeks, it will be easy for the legislators in Frankfort to lose track of how their decisions will trickle down to students. Unless, that is, those students make it clear to the lawmakers that slashing

Every student with an opinion on the budget cuts should make his or her voice heard by writing a letter or making a phone call.

higher education funding will only hurt the state in the long run. Over the next week, every student with an opinion on the budget cuts should make his or her voice heard by writing a letter or making a phone call.

Right now, perhaps the easiest way to contact a state legislator is through Studes.gov's "Listen Up Legislators" campaign, which started yesterday but continues today, Monday and Tuesday. Laptops will be set up in the White Hall Classroom Building between

11 a.m. and 1 p.m., and sending an e-mail to your legislator only requires you to enter your name, home county, address and telephone number; the program will do the rest.

If the SG-sponsored e-mail campaign doesn't fit with your schedule, or if you want to make more personalized contact with your legislator, then get on the phone or write a letter explaining your opinion. Contact information for representatives of Fayette County and directions for looking up other legislators are listed to the right.

A reduction in state funding will almost certainly lead to larger tuition increases in the next few years, and it could mean cutting programs or scaling back faculty hiring. Considering UK's goals for growth and expansion under the Top 20 Business Plan, no budget cuts can have a positive effect. Students will be affected, and they should make sure legislators understand this.

Contact your legislators in Frankfort

Listed below are Frankfort phone numbers for Fayette County legislators. To find out who your local legislator is, visit the Legislative Research Council's Web site (lr.ky.gov).

Ruth Ann Palumbo (D)
Frankfort: (502) 564-8100 Ext. 600
Kathy Stein (D)
Frankfort: (502) 564-8100 Ext. 675
Work: (859) 225-4269

Susan Westrom (D)
Frankfort: (502) 564-8100 Ext. 740
Work: (859) 266-7581

Representatives

Jesse Crenshaw (D)
Frankfort: (502) 564-8100 Ext. 620

Robert Damron (D)
Frankfort: (502) 564-8100 Ext. 671

Bill Farmer (R)
Frankfort: (502) 564-8100 Ext. 628
Work: (859) 272-1425

Charlie Hoffman (D)
Frankfort: (502) 564-2217
Work: (502) 863-4807

Stan Lee (R)
Frankfort: (502) 564-4334

Senators

Tom Buford (R)
Frankfort: (502) 564-8100 Ext. 610

Julian Carroll (D)
Frankfort: (502) 564-8100 Ext. 651

Alice Forgy Kerr (R)
Frankfort: (502) 564-8100 Ext. 625

Ernesto Scorsone (D)
Frankfort: (502) 564-8100 Ext. 608

Efforts for racial unity in Greek community showing promise

The Greek community deserves commendation for its efforts to overcome historical racial divisions, though there is still much progress to be made.

Over the weekend, the Interfraternity Council, the National Pan-Hellenic Council and the National Pan-Hellenic Council met to discuss the racial divide in the Greek campus as well as at UK in general.

Spurred by the reaction to the Kernel editorial cartoon depicting white fraternity members auctioning off a black fraternity member, the IFC and NPC — organizations encompassing historically white organizations — assembled with the NPHC — representing traditionally black organizations — on a retreat designed to improve communication and teambuilding.

This retreat is a positive step forward for the Greek community in working on the historical racial segregation that remains a prominent aspect of many Greek organizations. However, as one participant in the retreat pointed out in a Feb. 11 Kernel article, there is a long road ahead before a significant change in cross-cultural relationships will be achieved.

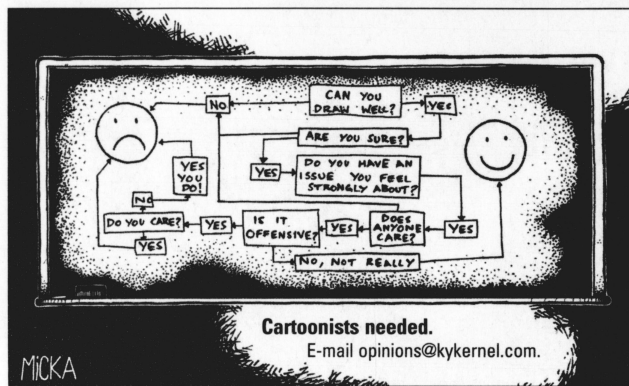
The Greek community should be commended for recognizing the

problem within its own structure and trying to mend those problems in ways that appeal to all parties. Other organizations and individuals across campus should take a cue from the Greek councils by engaging in dialogues on racial, cultural and ethnic diversity, in addition to branching out to others with whom they might not normally interact.

It is a good sign that campus and non-Greek leaders have taken some preliminary steps toward bridging the racial divide, but the real change must occur on an individual basis. Everyone has to take the initiative in trying to form lines of communication with others around them that are both serious and open to change.

Students cannot rely on their leaders to heal wounds hundreds of years in the making. Change can only happen if we are all on board together.

Looking at the bigger picture, mending the racial divide in the Greek community, on campus and in the outside world, is far from complete, but these meetings are a step in the right direction. Hopefully, the Greek councils will follow up on their plans and continue working toward the goal of ending racial division.



Cartoonists needed.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

PATRICK MICKA, Kernel cartoonist

Black History Month celebration is for all kinds of Americans

Black History Month is for all Americans. It's been that way from the start.

The legendary historian Carter G. Woodson first proposed "Negro History Week" back in 1926. The son of blacks once held as chattel slaves, he hoped to educate Americans about the accomplishments of blacks and, in turn, address racial prejudice.

"If a race has no history," Woodson declared at the time, "it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world."

At the time the celebration began, black Americans were widely viewed as inferior human beings, who had made no meaningful accomplishments. As long as this idea could be perpetuated in the culture and taught in the school systems of the country, it was easier for the nation, as a whole, to treat black Ameri-

cans like second-class citizens. It was also easier for some black Americans to accept their second-class treatment if they, too, believed they were inferior.

This is why Woodson's decision to establish the celebration, and his determination to make it last, was so important to the history of the nation. In 1976, the United States recognized and celebrated the first Black History Month during the nation's bicentennial. President Ford issued a proclamation stating that it was an opportunity for the nation "to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Now it is customary for the president, the national media and many public and private school systems to pause to recognize Black History Month.

School programs saluting blacks are the norm; educational programs on public television are commonplace.

But some people, including blacks, question the continued need for Black History Month. And others worry that it has been diluted and tokenized.

"The cynicism of our age has taken Black History Month far from the ideal-

ism of its founder," the novelist Tayari Jones wrote recently in *The Believer* magazine. "If February is Black History Month, is the rest of the calendar reserved for white people?"

The answer is no. We celebrate the achievements of blacks, no matter the month, as Martin Luther King's January holiday demonstrates. What's more, Black History Month allows us to focus on the central role the black experience has played in our nation's history: from slavery to the Civil War to Reconstruction and Jim Crow and then to the civil-rights movement right up to today with Sen. Barack Obama's presidential campaign.

And the arc of that history represents the highest aspirations of our nation's creed: freedom, opportunity and equality under the law. Black History Month is a celebration that must continue because there is still so much for all Americans to know and learn. It tells us who we are as a nation, and what we were not so long ago and where we're hopefully heading.

Brian Gilmore is a writer for *Progressive Media Project*. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

Submissions

Send a letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Linsen Li. Be sure to include your full name, class, major and phone number (for confirmation).

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

Columnists Needed

The Kernel is looking for columnists, especially those with an interest in campus and local issues, to write for the Opinions page regularly.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

Weekly Poll Question

Did UK officials notify campus quickly enough about the storm warnings and shots fired last week?

Vote online at www.kykernel.com

McCain's economic policy reminiscent of Republicans before Reagan

So, what might a John McCain presidency look like? As improbable as this prospect seemed six months ago, it could happen.

Despite all the snarling from the rightward precincts of the electorate, in the general election McCain will draw the lion's share of the conservative vote — given the sort of Supreme Court justices likely to be appointed by

Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton, or the disaster that would follow either Democrat's defeat-in-Iraq inclinations.

And of course McCain will draw solid support from independents. But a McCain presidency would be different from any GOP administration since Ronald Reagan. Up to now, he has

been largely deaf to the expansive, confident, Reaganesque rationale for tax cuts — and the imperative of economic growth.

Since Reagan, Republicans have put paramount emphasis on spurring the economy.

Reducing the deficit and shrinking government have been part of the to-do list, and received prominent mention in campaign rhetoric. But in practice, deficit reduction has been farther down the list. Reagan re-energized national defense, defeated the Soviet Union and touched off an economic boom. However much he wanted to shrink federal spending and reduce the deficit, he had little success.

McCain seems cut from the mold of pre-Reagan, root-cause Republicanism. Like many former military men, he seems suspicious of the whole process of wealth creation, which he seems to understand only dimly — as indicated by his responses in a recent debate. In that exchange, McCain noted

that when he wore the uniform, he ran the Navy's largest squadron — and "did it out of patriotism, not for profit."

Economics is clearly not McCain's strength. He has admitted as much. But it's the implied sneer that rankles. It doesn't seem to occur to him that at some point, the existence of every business in the American economy depended on the willingness of an entrepreneur or group of gutsy investors to risk scarce capital in an uncertain future. Memo to McCain: Without the profit motive, none of us out here in the private sector would have jobs.

Lacking a real understanding of the process of economic growth, a President McCain would be in a poor position to articulate and defend an effective economic program.

McCain voted against the Bush tax cuts. He says he now supports their renewal, but one senses little real enthusiasm. It's no surprise that the threat the tax cuts will be allowed to expire is now part of the climate of uncertainty

dragging down the stock market.

Take the two most important facets of the Bush tax cuts — the reduction in the capital gains and dividends tax to 15 percent. These lower rates are crucial because they reduced the cost of capital and encouraged more investment.

This is especially important because the baby-boom generation nears retirement. To adequately prepare for retirement, workers need to save heavily and invest for the long term in the stock market — the best investment strategy for beating inflation over time. Our political class should be doing more to encourage people to invest, not threatening to penalize investors with higher rates when the tax cuts lapse at the end of 2010.

Still, there are reasons to look forward to a McCain presidency.

He's a free-trader. His national security credibility is unassailable. On his watch, progress will continue in Iraq and the war on terror won't get short shrift. And there's no doubt he intends to

fight earmarks and hold the line on spending in general. Voters tell pollsters they worry about the deficit, but when push comes to shove many are unwilling to give up something tangible — a transfer payment or an earmark — for the sake of a smaller government and a lower deficit.

If McCain is determined to make real progress on spending, it will mean constant war with Capitol Hill — involving members of both parties. Well, bring it on.

It's fascinating, when you think about it. Over the years, McCain has managed to alienate virtually every segment of the conservative coalition, yet now he's headed for the Republican nomination.

But if it's a choice between Barack and Hillary on the one hand and Mr. Cranky on the other, the choice to me is an easy one.

E. Thomas McClanahan is a member of the *Kanawha City Star* editorial board. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.



TOM MCCLANAHAN
Syndicated columnist

Vandy's gymnasium poses unique challenge for UK

By James Pennington
jpennington@kykernel.com

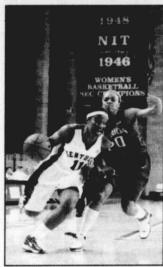
The women's basketball team has ventured as far east as Washington, D.C., as far north as Ann Arbor, Mich., and as far west as Honolulu this season.

But the Cats (12-11, 6-3 Southeastern Conference) have not encountered an environment quite like they will tonight when they play No. 25 Vanderbilt (18-6, 7-2 SEC) in the Commodores' infamous Memorial Gymnasium.

"It's a unique setup at Memorial Gym, and you don't ever coach this way except in that gym," head coach Matthew Mitchell said. "I've been on coaching staffs in this conference that have won at that gym, but it's a tough place to play. And Vanderbilt always has good crowds."

Vandy's arena poses an unusual challenge. Instead of the traditional setup where each team's bench is located along the sideline, benches are situated behind each basket. The odd arrangement may make it difficult for Mitchell to communicate with his players.

Mitchell watched Tuesday's game between UK's men's team and Vandy and made some observations on how Commodores head coach Kevin Stallings handled the game on his home court.



ELLIOTT HESS | STAFF
Senior guard Samantha Mahoney will be asked to help fill the void created by injuries to both of UK's point guards this season.

"Kevin Stallings looked like he was able to communicate with his players, because they're just used to that," Mitchell said. "I saw him whistling a lot. I practiced a little bit but I'm no good, so I'll scream really loud. I'll just be belting it out, but it may not matter. It's more about getting in our offense and knocking down shots. The communication between me and the players matters, but I don't think it'll be the reason we win or lose."

Getting into a rhythm on of-

fense has not come easily for UK this season. Through 23 games, the Cats are shooting a meager 37.9 percent from the field — last in the conference.

Mitchell hopes his team can overcome its shooting woes early and open up the floor against Vandy's stingy defense.

"Their defense is going to give you outside looks, but they don't let you get it inside easily," Mitchell said. "The way they match up against you depends on how you shoot from the outside. If you knock some shots down early on, the inside opens up a bit."

A plague of injuries has depleted UK's depth chart, especially at the point guard position. With no true point guard available to play tonight, Mitchell will turn to two veteran guards, seniors Samantha Mahoney and Chante Bowman, to fill the void created by injuries to junior Carly Ormerod and freshman Amber Smith.

The Cats had a week to prepare for the Commodores after last Thursday's victory against Ole Miss and are hungry to continue their SEC success, Mitchell said.

"It's going to be a challenge for us, but our team is trying really hard in practice," Mitchell said. "Whether or not it will translate to a victory, I'm not sure, but I'm really pleased with how they've prepared in practice."

Fans should not abandon ship after Tuesday's blowout

Going into the Tuesday night's Vanderbilt game, UK had taken five steps forward.

Wins over Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, Auburn and Alabama brought the Cats back from the dead and into the thick of the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division race. Then they played Vanderbilt.

UK went down to Nashville and got destroyed 93-52 by the Commodores. They were down 41-11 at halftime, and trailed by as many as 43 in the game. Ashley Judd, who hasn't made many appearances at UK games recently, chose the wrong one to attend.

The way the game turned out, it seems like UK negated those five steps forward by taking about 10 steps back. That's just not true. It was just one game.

All the UK fans ready to abandon ship on this season (again) — stop. Seven games still remain. There's time to forget about this one.

But, with that said, it needs to be mentioned that we just witnessed one of the worst performances ever by a UK basketball team. A case could even be made that it was the worst.

In the history of UK basketball, the Cats have only lost by more than 41 points four times.

Three of those games were played between 1910 and 1925, way before the shot clock, and way before the sport was mastered by players and coaches.

With so many low moments in the game, it's hard to pick the lowest. Among the nominees is Ross Neltnor, a Fort Thomas, Ky., product overlooked by UK during his high school days, outscoring the Cats 15-14 at one point in the sec-

ond half. Another is the five-second call on Derrick Jasper in the first half when none of his teammates were on the same side of halfcourt as him to help inbound the ball.

Back to the point: One game didn't erase the five previous games. UK didn't drop from 6-2 in the league to 2-6 with the loss. The Cats are 6-3 and are still very much alive for a bye in the first round of the SEC Tournament.

To get that, the Cats are certainly going to have to make some major improvements from the Vandy game.

They're going to have to find other ways to score when freshman Patrick Patterson is quintuple teamed and when he gets in foul trouble. They're going to have to learn to keep the intensity up on defense when the shots aren't falling. They're going to have to learn how to not let the game get out of hand on the road when they fall behind.

But they have time to do that because this one loss doesn't end their season.

UK has three games left (at Louisiana State, Georgia, at South Carolina) that it should be favored in. UK also has four games left against quality opponents (Arkansas, Ole Miss, at Tennessee, Florida) that can boost its NCAA Tournament resume.

Win five of those — they won five in a row before the Vanderbilt game, so why can't they win 5 out of 7? — and the Cats are probably back in the Big Dance bubble conversation.

Remember how good they were on defense in those five games. Remember how seniors Ramel Bradley and Joe Crawford were going a long way to reshaping their UK legacies in those five games. This one was just one game.

If they can return to that form, the Vanderbilt game could become a distant memory.

Jonathan Smith is a journalism senior. E-mail jsmith@kykernel.com.

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Edwin Apenbancik	Tyler Keller	Dylan Schwerdtfeger
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Samuel Aull	Mustafa Khan	Todd Steyer
Thomas Bailey	Stephen Kiene	Sami Gillespie
Taylor Baldwin	George Kington	Ryan Goy
Joseph Barkley	Austin Kinney	Eric Hartz
Andrew Bauer	Cameron Koshler	Alex Harrison
Joshua Beavers	Scott Loscheider	Bradley Hart
David Bell	Daniel Luedgening	William Haufe
Michael Blacketer	Andrew Lynch	Phillip Herich
Michael Bonomini	Blair Malench	Patrick Hill
John Brown	Joseph Mando	Ian Holbrook
Bradley Browning	Adam Marley	Tyler Holley
Phillip Bruce	Nathan Mauser	Jason Hope
Brent Burchett	Taylor Mayer	Eric Huelsman
Noah Burton	James McCullum	Paul Huynh
Hugh Campbell	Matthew McDermott	Clay Johnson
Daniel Carcara	Scott McIntosh	Bradley Sturdivant
Matthew Carr	Grant Mills	Matthew Swafford
Andrew Chalko	Aun Munis	Benjamin Talley
Sean Cockrell	Kurt Myers	Alexander Thompson
Philip Copeland	David Nelson	David Thompson
Gary Criscillis	Enk Ostling	William Thompson
Shaun Denney	Matthew Owen	Austin Tucker
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Elliott DeWaese	John Porter	Michael Vincent
Ryan Eads	Ryan Powless	Matthew Wade
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