

# KENTUCKY KERNEL

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## Legion's leaving; freshman guard to transfer from UK

By Travis Waldron  
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After an afternoon filled with speculation and rumors, UK head coach Billy Gillispie confirmed last night that freshman guard Alex Legion will transfer from UK.

"It's unfortunate and not what I wanted to hear, but I understand," Gillispie said in a statement.

"We met with Alex and his mother Friday, and she informed us of her desire to seek a release for her son," Gillispie said. "Shortly after that meeting, Alex told me that he still wanted to be a part of our program. He played in

the game against North Carolina Saturday and seemed happy when I spoke with him Sunday."

UK Athletics spokesman Scott Stricklin said Legion would be released from his commitment to UK. If Legion enrolls at another school for the spring semester, he will not be able to play in any games until January of the 2008-09 season because of NCAA rules.

Legion, a 6-foot-5 guard, has averaged 17.5 minutes per game while earning two starts in six games this year. The Inkster, Mich., native was part of a four-man recruiting class that ranked in the top 25 by most recruiting services. Legion was the No. 44 recruit

in the class of 2007, according to Rivals.com.

"You always hate to lose a valued member of your program, and Alex was definitely that," Gillispie said. "He has tremendous potential as a player and a student, but most importantly, he is a wonderful young man. We hate to see him leave, but if he can be happier elsewhere then all you can do is wish him the best."

FOX Sports broke the news yesterday just after 4 p.m., citing an unnamed source. Gillispie, who missed practice yesterday to attend the funerals of former UK players Ralph Beard and Tommy Kron, said during his weekly radio show last night that Legion did not practice yesterday.



Legion

Gillispie would not confirm or deny the rumors on the show, only saying that there was "definitely some credence" to the report. At the time of the radio broadcast, Gillispie said he had not spoken with Legion since Saturday's North Carolina game. He confirmed the transfer after meeting with Legion last night. Legion did not enter UK's game

against North Carolina until the 11:06 mark in the second half, but Jeff Goodman of FOX Sports said Legion's decision to transfer was not based on playing time.

"Whoever gets it earns it," Gillispie said following the UNC game when asked why Legion sat out the first 28 minutes of the game.

Rodney Legion, Alex Legion's father, had no comment on his son's transfer as of last night, saying that he "doesn't have much contact at all" with his son.

STAFF WRITER ERIC LINDSEY CONTRIBUTED TO THIS STORY.

## Chamber measures higher-ed progress

By Jill Laster  
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The state can measure its progress toward higher education goals today as the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce releases a report of analysis and recommendations based on the 1997 Postsecondary Education Improvement Act.

With Kentucky situated near the bottom of national education rankings, the state legislature passed the act 10 years ago mandating that UK become a top-20 research institution by 2020, along with other educational improvements.

A task force created by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce has worked for the past eight months to assess how these reforms — including new state organizations and new funding strategies — have affected the state, and what Kentucky still has to do.

"The bottom line of the report is it affirms the goals of the '97 reforms," said Dave Adkisson, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce president and CEO. "So this is a 10th anniversary review of what we've been doing."

Today's release will include a review conducted by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems of Boulder, Colo. The organization used data like graduation and enrollment rates, interviews with postsecondary education officials and state officeholders, and comments from 18 open forums held across the state to gauge public opinion on higher education problems.

Colleges' dependence on state government for funding is one of the issues the 26-member task force has examined, Adkisson said.

"The funding in Kentucky is still heavily in-

See **Chamber** on page 3

## Prof says alternative fuels beneficial, not a cure-all

By Will Aaron  
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Many scientists across the nation are experimenting with more environmentally-friendly fuels, but one UK professor said that while alternative forms of fuel are beneficial, they are not a cure-all.

"There will never be a point where we drop what we're doing and switch to another source; there are serious costs involved," said Rodney Andrews, director of the Center for Applied Energy Research. "The need is so large and complex; there is no one magic answer."

Society cannot depend solely on renewable energy sources, Andrews said. Development of alternative forms of fuel relies on fossil fuels, he said, and the costs involved and economic impacts of developing these fuels must be considered as well.

For approximately 30 years now, researchers representing the agriculture, chemistry, biology, forestry and engineering fields at UK have made concerted efforts to change energy consumption habits and reliance on fossil fuels.

"Energy is a large research topic for UK, very spread out across the departments," Andrews said. The U.S. consumes almost 21 million barrels of petroleum per day, Andrews said, and this rate demands that scientists investigate more efficient uses of available resources as well as renewable sources of energy.

UK researcher Burt Davis and his team have

See **Fuel** on page 3

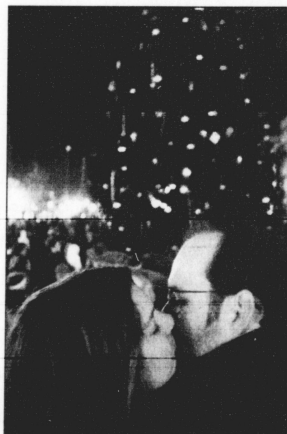
## LIGHTING UP CHRISTMAS



PHOTOS BY BRITNEY MCINTOSH | STAFF

Street vendor Ross Greenhill sells inflatable candy canes, balloons and other toys to people waiting for the Downtown Lexington Christmas Parade procession to travel down Main Street on Saturday. Greenhill says he's been selling the inflatables at parades for 10 years.

Thousands of people, young and old, lined Main Street Saturday night to catch a glimpse of the parade floats that rolled by as part of the 2007 Downtown Lexington Christmas Parade. The parade, which consisted of about 50 different organizations, started at Midland Avenue and traveled down Main Street to the Robert F. Stephens Courthouse Plaza. There, Santa Claus turned a key, setting off a display of lights and fireworks. The parade was organized as a joint effort between the Downtown Lexington Corporation and the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government.



Emily Rice, left and Eric Whitaker kiss near the Christmas tree in the Robert F. Stephens Courthouse Plaza downtown while waiting for the tree's official lighting Saturday.

## No charges filed in MySpace suicide case

By Joel Carrier  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. CHARLES, Mo. — The St. Charles County prosecutor said Monday there will be no criminal charges filed in the case of the teenage girl who committed suicide after being bullied on the Internet.

Prosecutor Jack Banas said that based on available evidence, the actions of the people involved in the Internet bullying did not meet the standards required by state laws for either harassment, stalking or endangering the welfare of a child.

Banas announced his decision at a news conference called to discuss the Megan Meier case. Megan, 13, of Dardenne Prairie, Mo., hanged

herself last year. Her parents said her suicide was the result of harassment via her MySpace web page.

Her parents said an adult neighbor created a teenage boy who pretended to be interested in Megan before he began bullying her. The neighbors admitted to police that they created the account.

The prosecutor's office had been investigating whether any laws were broken or charges could be filed.

Megan hanged herself Oct. 16, 2006, shortly after receiving cruel messages on the social networking Web site MySpace. Megan's parents, Ron and Tina Meier, found out six weeks after Megan's death that the boy their daughter had been chatting with online never existed.

The boy's profile, they learned, was the creation of Lori Drew, her daughter and Drew's employee, Ashley Grills. The Drews and the Meiers live four doors apart in Dardenne Prairie.

Vicki Dunn, who is Tina Meier's aunt, said she was disappointed in Banas' decision, but she understood the limitations of state law. "I'm not happy with what happened," she said. "All we can do is move forward and look at the bigger picture, and get laws changed."

Banas said the fake MySpace page was not the creation of Lori Drew. He said the Web site was created by Grills, 18, and that Drew was aware that she had created the profile. For six weeks, Megan ex-

changed messages with Josh Evans through MySpace. The password to the fake MySpace account was later given to another teenage girl, Banas said, who sent messages to Megan, as Josh Evans, saying Megan was mean and no longer wanted to be her friend.

It was Grills who sent the last message before Megan committed suicide, Banas said. That message, through Josh Evans' profile, said something to the effect of, "The world would be a better place without you," Banas said.

"I think you have a lot of facts that have gone out across this country that are a misstatement of facts,"

See **MySpace** on page 3

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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 9 — Hurry and make your move, while the odds are in your favor. Make big plans for the future and also do something really fun now. Celebrate coming up with an awesome goal.

**Taurus (April 20 - May 20)** Today is a 5 — Continue with what you've been doing, without attracting a lot of attention. Don't worry about a problem you encounter, find a way around it. Ask somebody who's been there.

**Gemini (May 21 - June 21)** Today is an 8 — It doesn't happen often, but today it could. Somebody else puts your exact feelings into words better than you could. Let yourself be convinced.

**Cancer (June 22 - July 22)** Today is a 5 — You can fix up your home quite nicely, and stay within your budget. That's the good news. The bad news is that a lot of your own work is required.

**Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22)** Today is an 8 — Share your wealth of knowledge with a very attractive person. You'll have a fascinating conversation and make a good impression. You'll even learn something new.

**Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)** Today is a 6 — You give a lot of attention to doing things up right. You do a good job of it, too. You capture the essence of the latest styles and fashions. You make it look so easy. Today, it'll also be fun.

**Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)** Today is a 9 — Your investigation progresses to the next level. Learning about something is fun, but not as much fun as doing. Take the risk and participate.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)** Today is a 7 — You're good at keeping secrets, and you have a lot of them. This is one of the reasons why

you're so successful. Move quickly to make the best deal.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)** Today is an 8 — Others come to you for advice, and you're good at dishing it out. You're fair and objective naturally. You keep the big picture in mind. Do that again.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)** Today is a 5 — Silly requests fill your list of things to do, much to your annoyance. Organize them so it won't take much time. You're good at this sort of thing and the others will be so impressed.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)** Today is a 9 — You're meeting interesting people, discussing important things. Can you really make the world a better place, together? Sure you can. Have fun at it.

**Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)** Today is a 6 — If you ask for what you have coming, the odds are good you'll get it. Ditto for fringe benefits, payable in the future. Show how you've helped the company make a profit and the odds are even better.

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## THE DISH

**Jim Parsons: If at first you don't succeed, try another pilot**

By Luaine Lee  
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

PASADENA, Calif. — Jim Parsons, who plays the tall, nerdy Sheldon on CBS' "The Big Bang Theory," is no science whiz. While he was both a competent and obedient student, he failed a science course in college because he took it for the wrong reason.

"I said I wanted to be a meteorologist because we were living on the Gulf Coast and there were hurricanes. We went through Hurricane Alicia which intrigued me to no end," he says over lunch at a restaurant here.

"I realized later on it was the sheer drama of it. I really don't care about studying meteorology... I took it for a science credit, and it's the only time I ever failed a class. I didn't need to fail it. I was overwhelmed by the theater I was doing and completely under achieving in studies outside of that. It was pathetic," he shakes his head.

Parsons, who resembles the genius he plays on the show, is actually the veteran of 15 failed pilots. "I like auditioning, very much. I enjoy working on things, getting prepared," he says.

When he read "The Big Bang Theory" he says he knew he could play the part. "My first pilot was 'Blitt Happens' with Fox. The Farrelly brothers directed. It didn't go. The next one was for CBS. It was 'Taste,' Jane Krakowski's show. And that didn't go. But that's where I

met up with CBS and did a holding deal with them for the next year."

He managed a six-parter on "Judging Amy" and tried all of CBS' pilots for the next year. None of them worked.

"That's the way it goes," he says, shrugging his bony shoulders. "That's what's so rare about it. I tested for several that year and just didn't get them. That's why I had to prepare for this one because I felt this was probably the one that was going to fit, so you've got to be ready if the door's going to open."

He got the script the night of the Academy Awards, and Parsons would much rather have been at one of the Oscar parties, but instead he sat on the floor of his sub-let apartment and wrote and re-wrote all the lines.

"I knew if I didn't get the part and felt I couldn't live with myself because I just knew it was a wonderful fit — whether or not they thought so... I wrote them all out, which I still do to this day. I'm very visual. I literally need to be able to see it in my head, and when I get stuck, nine times out of 10, I can tell you the word begins with a D-A something. It's a little computer-esque. It's not funny until it's in you so you can come out and play everything under it that's there for the lines. But it can be an arduous process to get there."

Getting there hasn't been easy for Parsons who attended graduate school with seven other students at San Diego/The

Old Globe Theater on a scholarship. Armed with a master's degree he headed for New York.

Along with unemployment and a short-term job with a construction company, Parsons managed to make ends meet.

His dad was the president of a plumbing supply company and his mom is a first grade teacher. He has a sister, who's also a teacher. His father was the humorous one, says Parsons, 34.


His dad was killed in an auto accident six years ago. "And I still don't know all the ways that changed and affected me, but there's no way it didn't," he says.

"It changed the whole family dynamic. When I went home after that I still hadn't graduated, I had a final project and I know they told me, 'You don't have to come back right away.' It was very interesting that I knew I had to go back and do that because whether or not you could be of use at home — I realized in the end I could only be of use to the family fully if I did what I needed to do and then went on."

"What's funny is I then moved to New York and have a terrible sense of direction — my dad was very good at it — and I understood the city and how to get around so quickly that it boggled my mind. And still, to this day, I think it had something to do with that [his death]."

Once he hit L.A. the gift was gone, he says. "Here I just have to MapQuest it and if I get off the path I just have to say, 'I won't be making it today.'"

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## CHAMBER

Continued from page 1

fluenced by legislative politics," he said. "Each university goes to the legislature on its own and asks for funding."

A more rational system would be for the Kentucky legislature to give money based on the state's goals instead of those of individual universities, Adkisson said.

Beginning in January, UK — along with other Kentucky universities — will petition the General Assembly for funding. UK President Lee Todd said programs, such as the university's plan to become a top-20 public research institution by 2020, would not be successful without state dollars.

"This year's full funding of the Top 20 Business Plan by the General Assembly has been critically important in our efforts to increase faculty numbers, lower class sizes and continue increasing research efforts that will help Kentucky," Todd said in a statement to the Kernel last month.

The state must "quicken the pace" to achieve better unity among universities and other goals of the act by its 2020 deadline, Adkisson said.

One of the areas the state needs to improve in is college affordability, which he said is as much an image issue as a monetary issue.

"In one sense college may be affordable, but parents around the state may not think so," he said.

The report has recommendations but there is no call for specific dollar amounts, Adkisson said. "There is not a price tag on this plan, but it calls for a strategic plan," he said.

## FUEL

Continued from page 1

been experimenting with the Fischer-Tropsch process, in which coal can be made into a viable liquid fuel with a chemical catalyst, Andrews said.

Fischer-Tropsch fuels are low in toxicity and provide a cleaner substitute for diesel fuel, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The substitute can also be mixed with conventional diesel to produce less hydrocarbon and carbon monoxide emissions.

UK is also in the process of developing new strains of bio-organisms, which are key in the production of bio-diesel fuel, Andrews said. As these bio-organisms are modified, bio-mass fuels, such as ethanol, will be replaced by cleaner burning alternatives.

Ethanol is a colorless liquid that can be made from corn grain starch, sugar cane or other materials, including grass, vineyard grapes or wood, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. About one-third of gasoline in the U.S. contains some form of an ethanol blend.

UK researchers have partnered with the Kentucky Rural Energy Consortium, the University of Louisville, Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Consortium for Fossil Fuel Science to make headway in finding alternatives to fossil fuel, Andrews said.

## MYSPACE

Continued from page 1

Banas said.

Last fall, Megan and the Drew's daughter were friends but had been quarantined. According to a police report, Lori Drew said she had "instigated and monitored" the fake MySpace account because wanted to know what Megan was saying online about her daughter.

Both the FBI and St. Charles County Sheriff's Department investigated the Meier case over the past year and could find no appropriate criminal charge. Prosecutors didn't see a crime either, and high-profile law firms did not pursue a civil suit.

The Meiers have sworn to fight for new laws that punish people for online misconduct.

Last month, Dardenne Prairie and Florissant, Mo., passed ordinances making Internet harassment a crime. In coming weeks, St. Louis, St. Louis County, St. Charles, O'Fallon, Mo., and St. Charles County are expected to consider similar measures targeting online harassment.

Also, state lawmakers have promised to introduce legislation designed to protect the people who communicate over the Web and punish those who abuse it.



6 to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 5

at the

King Alumni House

Music, giveaways and food  
courtesy of Moe's Southwest Grill

All December graduates are invited to celebrate and take care of graduation details at the December Grad Bash. Grads can check their UK record for stops, speak with a financial aid representative, get their senior portraits taken, learn about university career services and alumni association, and shop for alumni merchandise and graduation supplies. Parents are invited to attend. Parking is available behind the King Alumni House and the Career Center.

Questions? Call 859-257-8905 or 1-800-269-ALUM

## Global warming? Trees offer bizarre clues

By Sandi Doughton  
The Seattle Times

CARSON, Wash. — Suspended 20 stories in the air, Ken Bible looks down on the crown of a 500-year-old Douglas fir and ponders a mystery.

It's not the obvious one: How does a man without superpowers hover above the treetops?

That's easy. The University of Washington forest ecologist rose to his lofty perch in a metal gondola hoisted by a 285-foot-tall construction crane.

The vantage point allows Bible to study the upper reaches of this old-growth forest, where a reproductive cycle is under way.

"We've never seen anything like this here," he says, reaching over the edge of the open-air gondola to grasp a limb laden with cones.

He counts at least 30. "Normally, a branch like this would have about three," he says. "Why so many this year? We really don't know."

Maybe global warming nudged the trees to procreate. Perhaps it's a natural cycle.

In either case, Bible wants to pinpoint the trigger. Did the forest crank up cone production in response to temperature? Is moisture the key? Or could the flush of fertility be traced to high spring winds that whipped up a sexy cyclone of pollen?

The work is part of a bigger effort to figure out what climate change, both natural and man-made, will mean for the Northwest's iconic forests. The University of Washington's Wind River Canopy Crane, erected in 1995 near the Columbia River, is proving an ideal tool.

The crane and the research area that surrounds it have already helped answer several fundamental questions about forests and their ability to counteract global warming. A cooperative venture with the Forest Service, the crane is the largest in the world dedicated to forestry research, and the only one in North America.

It was here that scientists put to rest the myth that mature forests are biologically moribund. By rising above the treetops, they were able to take measurements that showed old forests continue to grow and act as a sink for carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas.

Studies here also proved it doesn't make sense from a global-warming perspective to cut older forests and replace them with seedlings, which grow faster and had been thought to absorb more carbon dioxide. Old forests are storehouses for such vast amounts of carbon that it would take many decades for new forests to catch up on the carbon balance sheet.

Riding the crane is like taking an elevator to the sky.

As the gondola glides upward, the gloom of the forest floor falls away. Sun-



Perched in a canopy crane, researchers Dave Woodruff, right, and Dan Johnson, from Oregon State University, take samples from a Douglas fir, November 4, 2007, in Carson, Washington.

light floods in and the temperature climbs 10 degrees. Branches draped with tattered lichens called old man's beard float past.

When the gondola reaches its apex, startled hawks sometimes circle around to see who's intruding on their bird's-eye view of the forest canopy, which spreads out in every direction like a lumpy green blanket.

The Douglas firs here can reach between 180 and 220 feet above the forest floor. The species mix also includes Western red cedar, Pacific silver fir and grand fir.

In addition to counting cones, Bible and his colleague Matt Schroeder are using the crane on this November morning to examine the buds that will determine how many new branches the trees will produce next year.

There's abundant evidence from around the world that crocuses, lilacs and other flowering plants are blooming earlier each spring in response to rising temperatures.

But nobody has figured out how to look for a similar response in full-grown trees. Buds may hold the answer, says Bible, director of the crane facility.

"The first thing we're going to look at is whether these buds are going to break earlier in the spring over time."

Warming is expected to bring more fires and insect infestations to Northwest forests, says Mark Harmon, an Oregon State University forestry expert who has used the canopy crane in his research. But experts are split on whether forest productivity will increase over time.

Carbon dioxide is a basic building block plants use to generate energy through photosynthesis, so it's possible higher CO2 levels in the atmosphere will act like a fertilizer. But other nutrients could eventually put the

brakes on forest growth, as would the drying predicted as snowpacks diminish in the Northwest, Harmon said.

That uncertainty about what to expect reflects how little is known about the basic biological responses of trees — even the mainstay of the region's timber industry, Bible says.

"We know next to nothing about Douglas fir, and it's the species we know the most about," he said.

Without a better understanding of the way trees will respond to a changing climate, it's hard to evaluate programs that claim to offset carbon emissions by planting trees or protecting forests.

Many of the existing data gaps could be filled if the federal government funds an ambitious proposal for a nationwide network of ecological monitoring stations called NEON — the National Ecological Observatory Network.

The 10,000-acre Wind River Experimental Forest, now home to the canopy crane and a wide array of other forestry-research projects, is on the shortlist to be included in the network.

The area would be wired with a variety of sensors to monitor the way changing climate and different land-use practices, such as logging, affect flora, fauna, soil chemistry and the entire web of life.

In the meantime, Bible and Schroeder plan to spend part of the winter poring over weather data from the past year, to see if they can tease out the factors behind this year's bounty of cones, which seems to extend well beyond the boundaries of the research area.

"It's a very big cone year all around," Bible said. "There has to be a reason."

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The Kentuckian yearbook will be taking senior portraits during the UK Alumni Association's December Grad Bash, a festive event where December graduates are invited to celebrate their success and take care of graduation details all in one stop.

When: 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5

Where: King Alumni House, near the corner of Rose Street and Euclid Avenue

What to wear: Professional dress is suggested for those sitting for their senior portraits; cap and gown will be provided.  
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Office of Student Activities, Leadership & Involvement

## CAMPUS CALENDAR

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The Campus Calendar is a product of the Office of Student Activities, Leadership & Involvement. Registered Student Orgs. and UK Dept. can submit information for FREE online ONE WEEK PRIOR to the MONDAY information is to appear. Call 257-8867 for more information.

Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Volunteering at the Carnegie Center, 3:00PM, Carnegie Center</li> <li>•Volunteering at the Hope Lodge, 6:00PM, The Hope Lodge (right next to Commonwealth Stadium), 2:45PM, Cassidy Elementary</li> <li>•Yates Elementary, 2:45PM, Cassidy Elementary</li> <li>•OLD MASTER WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE COLLECTION, 12:00PM, Singletary Center</li> <li>•STAG, 5:00PM, SC 211</li> <li>•UK Art Faculty Exhibition, 12:00PM, Singletary Center</li> <li>•Cassidy Elementary, 8:00AM, Cassidy Elementary</li> <li>•LTMS, 11:00AM, Cassidy Elementary</li> <li>•Volunteering at Landsdowne Elementary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•OLD MASTER WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE COLLECTION, 12:00PM, Singletary Center</li> <li>•LTMS, 11:00AM, Cassidy Elementary</li> <li>•Volunteering at Landsdowne Elementary</li> <li>•Volunteer w/ Beaumont Buddies, 4:00PM, Beaumont Middle School</li> <li>•Volunteering at the Carnegie Center, 3:00 PM, Carnegie Center</li> <li>•Bingo at Mayfair Manor, 3:00PM, Mayfair Manor</li> <li>•Yates Elementary, 2:45PM, Cassidy Elementary</li> <li>•Cassidy Elementary, 8:00AM, Cassidy Elementary</li> <li>•Student Employee of the Year Banquet, 6:00PM, Student Center Rm. 359</li> <li>•UK Art Faculty Exhibition, 12:00PM, Singletary Center</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Volunteering at the Carnegie Center, 3:00PM, Carnegie Center</li> <li>•ART@Noon Lecture, 12:00PM, Singletary Center</li> <li>•The Naked Truth, 7:00PM, Worsham Theater in the Student Center</li> <li>•Volunteering at Landsdowne Elementary</li> <li>•OLD MASTER WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE COLLECTION, 12:00 PM, Singletary Center</li> <li>•The Naked Truth, 7:00PM, Worsham Theater in the Student Center</li> <li>•CCO Board of Directors Meetings, 5:00PM, 106 Student Center</li> <li>•LTMS, 11:00AM, Cassidy Elementary</li> <li>•The Naked Truth, 7:00PM, Worsham Theater in the Student Center</li> <li>•Cassidy Elementary, 8:00AM, Cassidy Elementary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Cassidy Elementary, 8:00AM, Cassidy Elementary</li> <li>•Crafts at Ashland Terrace, 1:30PM, Ashland Terrace</li> <li>•UK Art Faculty Exhibition, 12:00PM, Singletary Center</li> <li>•Bingo at Mayfair Manor, 3:00PM, Mayfair Manor</li> <li>•Volunteering at the Carnegie Center, 3:00PM, Carnegie Center</li> <li>•Volunteering at Landsdowne Elementary</li> <li>•Sing-A-Long at Ashland Terrace, 1:30PM, Ashland Terrace</li> <li>•UK Timmy Foundation Meeting, 6:30 PM, Nursing Building, Room 213</li> <li>•Hailan Conversation Practice, 5:00PM, Coffee Island</li> <li>•LTMS, 11:00 AM, Cassidy Elementary</li> <li>•OLD MASTER WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE COLLECTION, 12:00PM, Singletary Center</li> <li>•Mancure Magic at Mayfair Manor, 1:30PM, Mayfair Manor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•OLD MASTER WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE COLLECTION, 12:00PM, Singletary Center</li> <li>•Volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House, 10:00AM, the Ronald McDonald House right next to Commonwealth Stadium</li> <li>•Volunteering at the Carnegie Center, 10:00AM, Carnegie Center</li> <li>•Holiday Art Spark: Printmaking Workshop, 9:30AM, Singletary Center</li> <li>•UK Art Faculty Exhibition, 12:00PM, Singletary Center</li> <li>•Crafts at Ashland Terrace, 1:30PM, Ashland Terrace</li> <li>•Great Outdoors Red River Gorge Clean-Up, Red River Gorge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Compline Service, 9:00PM, Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church</li> <li>•OLD MASTER WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE COLLECTION, 12:00PM, Singletary Center</li> <li>•UK Art Faculty Exhibition, 12:00PM, Singletary Center</li> </ul>

## Sunday's defeat likely to hurt Chavez's international standing

By Pablo Bachelet  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's stunning loss in a constitutional referendum Sunday has dealt a severe and possibly fatal blow to his ambitions to spread his political ideology and succeed Fidel Castro as the leader of Latin America's anti-American left, analysts and U.S. officials said Monday.

Few analysts were willing to bet that Chavez won't recover and try again to strengthen his grip on power in Venezuela. But the rejection of his proposed constitutional changes hurt Chavez because it came on top of a string of international gaffes and missteps that have made him look erratic and even buffoonish.

"The specter of Hugo Chavez dominating the Western Hemisphere was not particularly attractive" to most Latin Americans, said Riondan Roett, a Latin America expert at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. "One finds that the Latin Americans don't like being tarred with the image of Hugo Chavez."

An 18-country poll by the Santiago, Chile-based Latino barometro polling organization recently found Chavez as one of the least popular leaders in Latin America. Only Castro was less popular.

At home, Chavez also is facing rising inflation and a scarcity of many basic goods.

All of which is good news for U.S. officials, who want to blunt Chavez's influence, but who are fearful of helping him by acting too openly against him.

"The question we're wrestling now is whether a tipping point has been reached now with the kind of antics we've seen by Chavez of late," said a U.S. senior intelligence official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the situation publicly.

No recent Latin American leader has had such an active international agenda as Chavez.

Not only has he lashed out against the U.S. "empire" at every turn, but he also has tried to parlay Venezuela's oil wealth into political influence. He's signed deals with countries to provide oil at favorable prices, invested heavily in Argentina's



Manuel Rosales, governor of Zulia state, speaks after the announcement of the possibility that the "no" option could win the referendum in Caracas, Venezuela on Sunday.

national debt and has overtly backed political allies in places such as Peru, Bolivia, Nicaragua and Ecuador.

Chavez began alienating the international community in the spring of 2006, when he called Peruvian presidential candidate Alan Garcia, a former president, a "thief." Garcia went on to defeat a pro-Chavez candidate.

In September of last year, Chavez horrified Latin American diplomats when he appeared before the United Nations General Assembly and denounced Bush as a "devil" and said that the podium still smelled of sulfur from Bush's recent appearance. Chavez was widely denounced, and the speech probably cost Venezuela key votes in its failed quest to secure a seat on the U.N. Security Council.

Still popular among Venezuelans, Chavez bounced back and easily won re-election in December.

But his international image took another beating when he revoked the broadcast license of opposition station RCTV, arguing that it had backed a 2002 coup against him. The move sparked protests by students, who also formed the backbone of the campaign for a "no" vote in Sunday's balloting, and including another wave of international condemnations, including by the senates of Chile, Brazil and the United States.

The Brazilian Senate has blocked Venezuela's entry into a South American trade pact known as Mercosur ever since.

Brazil, while outwardly friendly with Chavez, also has opposed some key Chavez initiatives, including a trans-South

American natural gas pipeline.

And last month, Saudi Arabia opposed a Chavez initiative to make the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries a more political and anti-U.S. body.

At a summit of Latin American and Spanish leaders in Santiago in October, Chavez drew an angry "why don't you shut up" rebuke from King Juan Carlos of Spain, who was angered by Chavez's frequent interruptions of a speech by Spain's prime minister. Chavez froze contacts with Madrid until he received an apology.

After that summit, Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, a moderate socialist, publicly criticized Chavez for trying to meddle in a Chile-Bolivia territorial dispute and for his hawkish positions at OPEC.

An additional embarrassment for Chavez was a decision by Colombia's conservative President Alvaro Uribe to pull the plug on Chavez's effort to mediate a hostage crisis with a left-wing guerrilla group in Colombia. After a round of mutual recriminations, Chavez decided to freeze relations with the pro-U.S. country.

Chavez, given his oil wealth, remains a force to be reckoned with, said Peter DeShazo, a Latin America analyst with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. But his international ambitions are inevitably weakened by his domestic setbacks.

"Clearly, his own political agenda in Venezuela is now off track," DeShazo said, "and so that will definitely hurt his overall image."

## Romney taking political risk with speech on Mormon faith

By David Lightman  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Mitt Romney's address Thursday on his Mormon faith could be the most politically risky speech on religion by a presidential candidate since John F. Kennedy defended his Catholic faith in 1960.

Romney will be addressing two audiences — the evangelical Christians who've helped fuel his rival Mike Huckabee's recent surge in Iowa and an American public that knows little about Romney or his faith, but views the latter skeptically.

If Romney can reassure each audience, the lead he'd held almost all year in first-to-vote Iowa could return, and a victory in its Jan. 3 caucuses could be the springboard he needs to win the Republican presidential nomination.

But calling heightened attention to his Mormonism on Thursday also could backfire, because polls show that many Americans are suspicious and mistrustful of Mormonism.

It seems clear that "the suspicious have found a candidate," said Julian E. Zelizer, a professor of history and public affairs at Princeton University. That would be Huckabee.

Huckabee, a Baptist minister and former governor of Arkansas, has opened up a 5-percentage-point lead in Iowa over the former Massachusetts governor, according to a survey released Sunday by the Des Moines Register. Error margin: plus or minus 4.4 percentage points.

A good part of Huckabee's momentum comes from the state's large conservative Christian community, polls show. Steve Sheffler, the president of the Iowa Christian Alliance, estimates that about 40 percent of the state's GOP caucus-goers consider themselves evangelical Christians, while an equal number see themselves as social conservatives. The Register poll found that Huckabee led Romney by 16 points among those who consider themselves born-again Christians.

"It seems very likely that the sudden decision to finally do the speech is in response to the latest polling," said David Redlawsk, the director of the University of Iowa Hawkeye poll.

Romney will speak Thursday morning at the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library in College Station, Texas.

"Governor Romney believed this was the right moment, the right time to address an issue that is important to him and millions of other Americans," said spokesman Kevin Madden. "It was a personal decision related to the issue of faith and his desire to share his views with the nation he's running to lead."

Analysts suggested that Romney also is looking ahead. If he gets the GOP nomination, chances

are he'll have to explain his religion to an even wider audience, much as Kennedy did in September 1960, when skeptics questioned whether he was more loyal to his Catholic faith than to the U.S. Constitution.

Kennedy was under fire from many quarters that summer — including from many Democratic leaders — who wanted him to make an emphatic statement that he firmly understood that church and state were separate.

So he addressed the Greater Houston Ministerial Association and said at the outset: "I believe in an America where the separation of church and state is absolute, where no Catholic prelate would tell the president — should he be Catholic — how to act, and no Protestant minister would tell his parishioners for whom to vote ..."

Romney faces a similar challenge and needs to address two distinct concerns, experts said. First, he has to demystify Mormonism.

"To some it seems cult-like, un-Christian," said Bruce Schulman, a professor of history at Boston University. Mormonism, practiced by an estimated 5.2 million Americans, concerns some Christians because Mormons see the Book of Mormon on a par with the New and Old Testaments.

In addition, some theologians find that Mormonism, a proselytizing religion, tends to compete with certain evangelical Christian denominations.

So what Romney must do is "explain, particularly to evangelical Christians, how Mormonism is Christian," said Merle Black, an expert on Southern politics at Emory University in Atlanta.

Second, Romney has to show that although Mormonism is a hierarchical religion, like Catholicism, he won't be taking orders from any church authority.

"He has to make it clear that there is a separation between church and state," Schulman said.

For months Romney's advisers have been debating whether a Kennedy-type speech was needed. Romney has discussed the politics of his faith at length, at one point telling reporters last year that people previously had said: "Mitt Romney can't be elected governor of Massachusetts, the now — well, one of the most Catholic states in America." Romney won the governorship in 2002 with a 5-percentage-point victory.

Now, "the idea that they decided to give the speech suggests the Romney people think they have a problem," Black said.

Today, historians generally credit Kennedy's speech with defusing the "Catholic issue" 47 years ago. Schulman noted that "it was important to a lot of party leaders."

Most important, the speech gave Kennedy a renewed confidence; it was as though a burden had been lifted.

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## Women's basketball hopes to correct shooting woes, turnover problems

By James Pennington  
jpennington@kykernel.com

The women's basketball team has yet to storm the court and fire on all cylinders for 40 minutes during the first seven games of the season.

Although they have shown flashes of excellence, the Cats' inconsistency has led to a 3-4 record and sloppy play at times.

For first-year head coach Matthew Mitchell, the only way to ensure the Cats improve is in practice.

"Consistency starts on the practice floor," Mitchell said. "If we're not practicing consistently at a level high enough to win games, we won't win games."

The stat most easily linked to the Cats' early-season woes is field goal percentage.

Through seven games, UK is shooting 39.7 percent as a team, including a meager 29.2 percent from 3-point range.

However, the low average may be misleading because of how inconsistently the Cats have performed.

UK has broken the 40 percent mark for field goals in three games this season, all coming within their last four matches, including a season-high 52.4 percent in a 92-80 loss to Minnesota on Nov. 23.

The other four outings this season have been characterized by particularly poor shooting. Although they won the game 61-53, the Cats' worst performance from the field was against Florida Atlantic on Nov. 18, when the

team hit only 28.8 percent of their shots.

"Everybody has to step up," freshman forward Victoria Dunlap said. "When you question how you're going to shoot, it leads to a lack of confidence."

Another problem that has marred UK's season so far is the Cats' inability to hang on to the ball. The Cats are averaging 16.7 turnovers per contest.

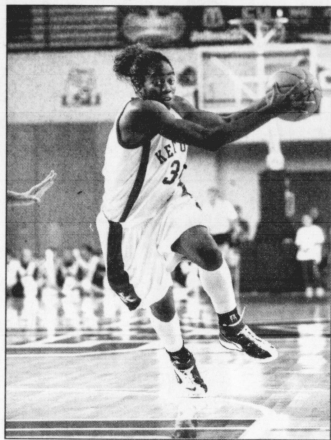
"We have to work on handling the ball, especially under pressure," Dunlap said. "We just need to be more patient."

Minimizing poor shooting and sloppy ball handling is what the Cats have been working on in preparation for tonight's game against William & Mary.

However, running drills in practice is much different than running the floor during a game. For practice performance to directly translate to in-game results, the team must focus on maintaining mental toughness every time they hit the court, Mitchell said.

"We have to make sure we're mentally prepared and that we execute in practice," Mitchell said. "We have to come out of the blocks prepared and ready to go, otherwise we won't execute."

So far this season, senior guard Samantha Mahoney leads the team in scoring with 17.4 points per game. Although she is shooting 41.0 percent from the field, which is above the team average, she acknowledged that there is a long season ahead and that



Freshman forward Victoria Dunlap drives to the hoop during an exhibition win over Kentucky Wesleyan on Nov. 1 at Memorial Coliseum.

everybody, including herself, must continue to work hard.

"This season has just started, so we have a lot of time," Mahoney said. "Improving our turnovers is at the top of our list, but we just have to maintain focus."

Although the Cats wish they were sitting at 7-0 right now, Mitchell said all teams

go through dry spells every season. The Cats hope to end their early-season slump when they battle the Tribe tonight at 7 in Memorial Coliseum.

"Teams struggle and sometimes, there's no control over that," Mitchell said. "We just have to prepare ourselves to compete every time we have the opportunity."

## Playing tough teams early on will benefit Cats in the long run

Most basketball teams take it easy the first couple weeks out of the gate. After all, it takes time to warm up to a new season that stretches over the cold winter months, especially with a new coach and a new system being introduced to a team.



J.D. WILLIAMS  
Kernel columnist

That's why all those no-name teams searching for an identity are on the top of the schedules of schools from powerhouse conferences. They're supposed to be easy wins.

But when head coach Matthew Mitchell took over at UK after former head coach Mickie DeMoss headed south to the border, he inherited a schedule that was anything but easy.

To start the season, UK hoops has tipped off against two top-25 teams, George Washington and Texas, and played another team, Minnesota, that has received a number of votes in both polls.

All three of those games were on the road — a true test for any team under new management.

And it's no wonder why the Cats lost to Texas — most of the players suiting up for UK were recruited and taught by the lady on the Longhorns' bench.

DeMoss, who now serves as an assistant there. A nice scouting ace for Texas, but a thorn in the side of Mitchell and the Cats.

It's common for teams to struggle in the early going. But the Cats' losses could benefit them in the long run of the season. While other teams are getting off easy playing cupcake schedules, the Cats are getting an early lesson on digging deep.

Although the four defeats hurt the Cats in the four coliseum, the games all provided the Cats with an opportunity to play against stellar competition. As the old saying goes, not every loss is a bad one.

If the Cats find the good in these losses and learn from their mistakes, then they will be a more equipped team when the Southeastern Conference opponents start rolling in next month.

However, Mitchell doesn't anticipate waiting for next month to start grabbing up wins; he wants them now. But his team is learning valuable lessons early.

As for the time between now and when the conference schedule starts, the Cats could use a few wins to keep their confidence up against good teams. Tonight is a chance to do just that. William & Mary has lost three of its last four games and will take a win just as badly as the Cats.

And with UK coming off a tough overtime loss to intra-state rival Western Kentucky, there's not a more perfect time to rebound against than a slumping William & Mary team.

Tonight will display just how much they want a game they can win.

J.D. Williams is a journalism senior. E-mail [jdwilliams@kykernel.com](mailto:jdwilliams@kykernel.com).

## Redskins mourn Taylor at funeral in Miami

By Michelle Kaufman  
McClatchy Newspapers

MIAMI — This was, arguably, the toughest road trip in Washington Redskins history.

Fifty-three Redskins players and a few hundred staff members stepped off their charter flight from Washington to Miami International Airport on Monday morning, most of them in stylish dark suits, a No. 21 pin on their left lapels, their weary eyes hidden behind expensive sunglasses. They boarded six buses, bound for Pharmed Arena at Florida International University, where their 24-year-old red-headed teammate, Sean Taylor, waited in a casket.

One by one, the broad-shouldered Redskins entered the somber arena and settled into their folding chairs, where they watched a highlight video of Taylor's playing days — first in his blue and white Gulliver Prep uniform, then his orange and green University of Miami jersey, and finally, in Redskins' burgundy and gold.

The Redskins are used to watching game footage on Mondays, but not this kind of footage, the kind that rips their hearts in two. By the end of the nearly three-hour service, several of the Redskins were in tears. Others admitted they were emotionally drained. On this day, there was no macho bravado. Just honest pain.

Coach Joe Gibbs told the audience of thousands that he often pictured God looking down at Taylor during Redskins games, and proclaiming, "Man, I made a great football player." The coach went on to say he had watched Taylor mature over the past four years, turn to religion, and become a devoted father to his 18-month-old daughter, Jackie, who waddled around in front of her daddy's casket Monday, waving a funeral program, oblivious to

the grief that surrounded her. The baby was wearing a burgundy dress, her dad's team color.

The next Redskins tribute came from Clinton Portis, one of Taylor's best friends and a former college teammate. He brought the house down when he said: "Nobody played with more heart than Sean Taylor."

Portis talked about the special bond he shared with fellow Hurricanes Taylor and Santana Moss, how the three of them were always the last to leave the locker room before games, how they always wished each other luck before games with a handshake or a high-five. He said Taylor was a locker room motivator. "If anyone complained that they were tired after practice, Sean would say, 'We've only been out there an hour and a half, c'mon.' What can I say about a man I admired so much, a man who means so much to me?"

The Redskins had memorialized Taylor on the first play of Sunday's game against the Buffalo Bills. They lined up with only 10 men on defense, instead of 11. It was their way of saying that he was still on the field with them. Washington lost the game 17-16, but it was the absence of Taylor that hurt more than the score.

"Sunday was one of the toughest games of my life, actually, one of the toughest days of my life," Redskins defensive tackle Cornelius Griffin said after the funeral as he headed back to the bus. "It was so hard to get motivated for a football game when we had such heavier things on our hearts and minds, but we chose this profession, and we have to keep on playing."

The Redskins must now try to put the funeral behind them and focus on Thursday night's game against the Chicago Bears. Asked how he'll be able to block out

his grief, Griffin replied: "We don't have a choice. Plus, we have to play for Sean. This is what he'd want."

Milling around near the Redskins' team buses after the funeral were a few dozen fans, decked in maroon and gold. They weren't friends of Taylor's, never spent one minute with him, but they felt compelled to be there.

Jeremiah and Nicole Wingo, and their friends D.J. Brown and Amber Summers, drove five hours from New Port Richey to attend the funeral. They all had D.C. ties, and are diehard Redskins fans. Jeremiah wore a Redskins jersey over his dress shirt and tie. Brown wore a Redskins visor.

"Even though I never met Sean, I felt like a brother had died and I wanted to come out of respect for him," Jeremiah Wingo said.

Added Dunsmore: "We wanted to learn what kind of man he really was, and we did."

Joey Kernisky, a bartender from Cutler Ridge, had gotten off work at 4 a.m. and was going on three hours' sleep. But the Washington native is a lifelong Redskins fan and had become a huge fan of Taylor's. He wore a No. 36 jersey (Taylor's number as a rookie) and said attending the funeral was a cathartic experience.

"I felt a spiritual evocation in there, just looking around and seeing all the love that can fill a room, listening to the music, learning more about the black community and the very religious culture Sean came from," Kernisky said. "Sean obviously touched the people who knew him in a much deeper way than he touched us fans, but being here allowed me to see peace among people, and I think I leave a better person. Hopefully, some good can come from this tragedy and we can spread the love."

## UCLA fires football coach

By Robert Kwada  
The Orange County Register

LOS ANGELES — UCLA fired football coach Karl Dorrell on Monday after going 35-27 after five seasons.

Dorrell has been given the option to coach the Bruins in the Las Vegas Bowl.

After meeting with UCLA athletic director Dan Guerrero and with the team, Dorrell said he proud of what he accomplished.

"I've done a lot of good here," Dorrell said. "I've done what I've set out to do, other than get enough wins. Everything else I've done."

He also said he thinks the program in good shape.

"(The team) has a great foundation," Dorrell said. "Everything is in place for it to move forward. And we worked hard to get to that point.

"A couple of more recruiting classes and it'll be in good shape. I really enjoyed working with the kids and watching them develop. We progressed pretty well. I am encouraged by that. And, like I said, the program is in good shape to move forward."

He said he has not made a decision on whether he will coach the bowl game. If Dorrell decides not to coach the game, defensive coordinator DeWayne Walker will

be the interim head coach.

"This was a very difficult decision for me," said Guerrero in a prepared statement. "Karl has represented this program with dignity and class. He is a true Bruin and I respect what he has accomplished in his five years as our head coach, particularly off the field. But, at the end of the day, the focus has to be on results and I felt that a change was in the best interest for the future of our program."

UCLA also said in a release that a national search for a new head coach will begin immediately.

Acting independently or as intermediaries for Guerrero or athletic department officials, UCLA boosters already have made contact with several potential replacements.

That list includes Texas Tech coach Mike Leach, former Cal and San Francisco 49ers coach Steve Mariucci and Baltimore Ravens offensive coordinator Rick Neuheisel, a former UCLA quarterback.

Boise State coach Chris Petersen and former USC and current Tennessee Titans offensive coordinator Norm Chow also are considered to be candidates.

UCLA freshman defensive lineman Brian Price, the top prize in the Bruins' 2007 recruiting class and a second-team freshman All-American, said he was considering a transfer after learning about Dorrell's firing.

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# OPINIONS

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### ■ KERNEL EDITORIAL

## UK treasurer's dedicated career epitomizes loyalty

In a time when university employees' loyalty is often outweighed by desire for better benefits and financial gains, UK Treasurer Henry Clay Owen sets a shining example of dedication and devotion.

Owen, who is retiring this year, has worked in UK's treasury department for more than 43 years and had spent three years as a UK accounting student before that, the Kernel reported Nov. 29.

According to UK's Work-Life survey results released in 2006, 35 percent of UK staff respondents don't agree that they feel loyal to UK, and among UK faculty respondents, 48 percent don't agree that they feel loyal to UK.

In addition, 53 percent of staff and 31 percent of faculty indicate they have very seriously or somewhat seriously considered leaving UK during the 12 months prior to completing the survey.

Those who leave UK to seek a position at another institution are often in

search of financial gains. Among UK employees, 39 percent answered the primary reason they considered leaving the university is salary, according to the survey.

Owen said he faced a number of opportunities to receive a higher salary from different institutions himself. However, he never seriously considered leaving UK because it has become a second home to him, he said.

It is generally accepted that UK employees are often underpaid for the job they are doing ... it is our hope that faculty and staff believe in a little loyalty for the university.

"You look at opportunities and you measure them thinking, 'Here's my home, here's my family,' and ask if the differential in salary is enough to leave home for, and the answer's always no," Owen said. "I've always been

happy doing my job."

It is generally accepted that UK employees are often underpaid for the job they are doing, and hopefully the university can improve treatment of its employees. In the meantime, it is our hope that faculty and staff follow Owen's example and believe in a little loyalty for the university.

### ■ LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### Late UK star deserves to be in hall of fame

Ralph Beard was one of my athletic heroes when I was a youngster. Like so many young boys in the late 1940s shooting two-hand set shots on an alley basketball goal, I often fantasized I was Ralph Beard.

My dad and I listened to many UK basketball games on the radio in those pre-television days. In the sixth grade, I started a sports scrapbook that included articles, pictures and UK game results that specifically featured Beard.

In early March 1949, when I was 11 years old, my dad took me to see the "Fabulous Five" play in the semifinals of the Southeastern Conference Tournament at the old Jefferson County Armory in Louisville. What a thrill that was!

During the past few years, I wrote two letters to the editor to two different newspapers saying Beard belonged in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Following the publication of both letters, Mr. Beard called me on the phone and expressed his appreciation for my letters. I was on cloud nine talking to one of my boyhood heroes of 60 years ago. And to think that he took the time to call me, that says a lot about the kind of person Ralph Beard was.

If anybody belongs in the Basketball Hall of Fame, it is Beard, who should have been inducted while he

was still alive. He was one of the greatest players of his two-hand set shot era and would be great in any era.

After 56 years, one would think Beard could be forgiven for making the mistake of taking a few hundred dollars for agreeing to shave points in two collegiate games.

After a brief stint with the Indianapolis Olympians of the NBA, Beard paid dearly by being banned from playing professionally the game he loved so much and played so well.

Over the last 56 years, Beard displayed more-than-adequate, humble repentance. He acknowledged his transgression at the time it was revealed, was sincerely sorry for what he did and lived as a model citizen the rest of his life.

I believe Beard was resigned to the fact he would not get into the Basketball Hall of Fame during his lifetime. Also, I believe he realized that earthly halls of fame do not come close to matching his now richly deserved heavenly reward.

I'm grateful to Beard for being an important part of my childhood and for giving me the opportunity to talk to him on the phone many years later. His life brought me and countless others much joy.

Paul L. Whiteley, Sr.  
Louisville resident

#### Cartoonists Needed

The Kernel is looking for a cartoonist to draw pieces for the Opinions page on a regular basis. Those who have an interest in campus and local issues will be given special attention.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

#### Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Linsen Li. Please limit letters to 350 words or fewer. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions, as well as a phone number for confirmation.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

#### Weekly Poll Question

Do you think today's college students take HIV/AIDS seriously as a potentially fatal disease?

Vote online at www.kykernel.com

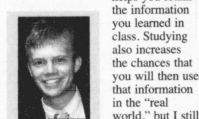


TOM WILKINS, Kernel cartoonist

## Have fun joking about studying, but take it seriously before finals

You know what really grinds my gears? Studying.

Sure, I know studying for tests helps you retain the information you learned in class. Studying also increases the chances that you will then use that information in the "real world," but I still hate it. Just like pennies, commercials and sales tax, studying is one of the unfortunate realities of life.



TYLER MONTPELL  
Contributing columnist

Experts say that if students attend every class, take good notes and review those notes when they go back home every day, they should float above C level. According to Carnegie Unit standards, for every hour a student spends in class, they should expect to spend two hours studying outside of class.

Unless you're Jessie Spano from "Saved by the Bell," this isn't always do-able. Let's face it, college students are busy people, and if we can't do it while on Facebook, it's just not happening.

While these above principles can certainly help, there are other ways to keep academically fit.

For instance, if you have Span-

ish class, try listening to your favorite songs, in Spanish. I really don't know where you can find these songs, or even if anyone has ever done a Spanish version of Lyle Funky Ones' greatest hits, but I am positive it would help. I'll tell you what, if you find that album, buy it and I'll pay you back double in Scrute bucks.

Also, if you sleep with a book under your pillow, you will wake up not so refreshed, but all of the information in the book will be in your head. Osmosis, the scientists call it, is where the words travel, like text messages, from the book into your ears. It's half science, half magic, so you aren't supposed to understand it. I got this information from greatest thing ever, Wikipedia, so it has to be true.

Some people don't even like going to class. One kid I know has a minimum temperature that he tolerates for going to class. It has to be above 50 degrees. He didn't get "thrown out" of UK, just "not invited back," either way he doesn't have to pay tuition anymore.

The moral of this story is that if you get a letter saying you're on "academic probation" and that you will get kicked out if you don't get your grades up, take it seriously; they aren't bluffing.

While it is true that going to class is important, keep in mind George Washington never went. He didn't

turn out so bad now, did he? Hey, I'm just giving you all the facts.

The truth is, although studying is the devil's work, we have some pretty good tools here at UK that makes it a little easier.

Check out the Hub @ WT's in the basement of the WT Young Library. It has computers that will please both guys in the Apple commercials, comfortable furniture and a Jerry's Restaurant. Well, the Jerry's is still in the works, I've been told.

Also, while you're there, check out the Writing Center, where consultants can help you improve your papers and ultimately help you make better grades, and technically it isn't studying. If you plan on going, keep in mind that it isn't open on Saturdays.

Above all, the most important thing to remember during your stay here at UK is that you are students first, and that means your main focus should be learning and making good grades. It's sometimes easy to forget that with so much going on, but you just can't forget and expect to be successful.

With a little hard work, creativity and some good advice from your friends at Student Government, you'll be on that Dean's List in no time. See you in Nashville at the Music City Bowl!

Tyler Montell is the UK Student Government Senate president. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

## Bite-sized food servings may be trendy, but I'd rather not remain hungry

Little food. Food so small it disappears on the plate.

Tiny, infinitesimal servings that may look splendid on the cover of Bon Appetit, but fail to achieve one key goal of dining — the feeling, at the end of the meal, that you've actually had something to eat.

Is that too much to ask of today's fashion-conscious restaurateurs? Get used to it. The National Restaurant Association made it official Thursday. Small food is the dining trend of 2007-2008. Smaller is definitely bigger now. No other dining change was mentioned as often in the restaurant association's "What's Hot ... What's Not" survey of 1,282 professional chefs.

"The trend of small plates is definitely hot, including offering tasting menus of small portions of food, wine or other alcohol beverages," said chef John Kinsella, president of the American Culinary Federation, who helped to gather up the chefs.

It's brilliant, really: Less food. Same (or higher) prices. Watch the margins go through the roof. Yes, these telegenic whisk-wavers and their buzz-tuned owners have found another way to separate status-conscious diners from their seemingly inexhaustible credit cards — and still

leave them hungry for more.

Literally. Today's micro-meals are touted by many different names on the menu. There are "small plates" and "taps" and "mezzes" and the ever-popular "bite-size desserts."

Yummy! But can I please have some more?

I don't order dessert every time I go out to dinner. But when I do, I'd almost always prefer two or three or four bites, thank you very much.

What's next? Thimble-size cocktails?

I can hear it now: "Honest, officer, I only had 417 mini-Cosmos. I don't feel buzzed at all!"

So what's with the price? If you eat where I've been eating, little will almost certainly cost more, if only because of all the pressure to order multiple plates.

I had dinner the other night at the Spanish place near me. Table for two. Five plates between us. The waiter sounded distraught by my order.

"Five won't be enough," he sniffed.

"Why don't we start with five and see how we do?" I said, proud of my unwavering comeback.

He got the last laugh, of course. We left hungry — and broke.

At the dim sum places in Chinatown, they count the little plates and the bill's still cheap. Why can't they just do that in the trendy spots?

each."

Sue Hensley from the Restaurant Association thinks I'm being way too grumpy about this. She says her members are merely trying to accommodate their diners' tastes. And they must be doing something right, she says. Business has been growing 16 years straight.

"We're really seeing the American palate becoming more and more sophisticated," Hensley told me last night. "People want different cuisines, different flavors. They want to indulge in dessert in a way that doesn't expand the waistline. Small plates allow for that."

Well, OK. And it's true that some food had gotten too big.

I don't need a whole "individual" pizza. That could last two days. And the muffins at my local deli are the size of a kindergarten's head. They must have 1,500 calories and enough fat in there to float a sailboat.

But you'd think with all this little-plate eating, American waistlines would already have begun to shrink.

Don't kid yourself. If you doubt me, go take a walk around the mall. No one is getting skinnier around here.

All those small-plate trendy diners who are filling all the restaurants, they must have a secret they don't want to share.

They're stopping at the drive-through on their way home from dinner.

Ellis Henican is a columnist for Newsday. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.



## Student talent showcased at art exhibit

By Kelly Wiley  
features@kykamel.com

Hours of dedication and hard work are finally paying off for several UK art students.

The Carey Ellis Juried Student Show, which has been held for the past 17 years, features around 57 pieces of student-made artwork, said Crismon Duvall, an art studio graduate student.

The show has an open viewing in the Barnhart Gallery of the Reynolds Building No. 1 through-out the week at 1:10 p.m. Admission is free.

A juror chose the artwork featured in the student show, Duvall said, and during this Friday's Open Studio event, the juror will judge the artwork and hand out awards.

"All the entries were at a higher level than previous years, so the juror had a tough time making the selections, but I think he did a great job," Duvall said.

Duvall and a few other graduate students have spent a lot of time preparing the show. She said it has been a lot of work, but it was worth it.

"I think it looks great," Duvall said. "There is a wide variety of art and it's representative of the student body. I think it's the best quality work I

have seen in years."

Robert Dickes, president of the Art Graduate Student Association, said he was excited about the student show because he feels that it represents all the different mediums of art. He said he believes the student artwork featured in the show is a big contribution to the local arts.

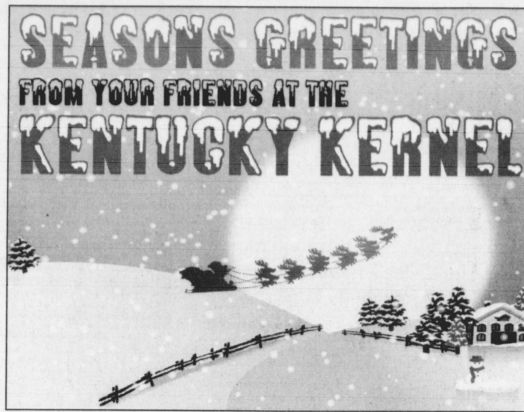
"Many of these students will go on to be the leaders in the art community both here in Lexington and elsewhere," Dickes said.

Dmitry Strakovsky, associate professor of new media, said he was also excited about the event because many judge cultures by their art.

"It is one of the defining characteristics of a culture," Strakovsky said. "When you are looking at a culture historically, you start seeing the importance of art and it really defines the culture."

Duvall said she believes that students should come just to show their support for their fellow students.

"We have work featured in the student show that ranges anywhere from freshman all the way to graduate level," Duvall said. "There are a lot of different concepts, and everything has a different meaning. The whole show is very exciting."



## Travel services among those embracing environmental action

By Robert Manor  
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — The threat of global warming, by no means unanimously accepted five years ago, has now reached a significant threshold in terms of public awareness: corporate marketing.

As delegates from 190 nations meet in Bali for a crucial climate change summit, an increasing number of American businesses are looking to play off that concern, offering consumers a chance to feel they are participants in the battle to save the planet while generating goodwill for their own brands.

For example, Megabus.com, the discount bus company with its hub in Chicago, said Monday it will give away 100,000 trips in 2008, describing the promotion as a way for travelers to reduce their "carbon footprint."

"Environmentally, it goes without saying that if we can get people out of their cars, we are

saving carbon dioxide from going into the environment," said Dale Moser, president of Megabus.com. The company estimates the free rides will cut carbon dioxide emissions by 6.9 million pounds for every 100 miles traveled.

Meanwhile, Orbitz Worldwide Inc., the Chicago-based Internet travel service, is making it simpler for customers to reserve hybrid rental vehicles and to make contributions to offset the greenhouse gases created by their plane flights.

"This is to make it easier for people to find sustainable travel," said Steve Barnhart, CEO of Orbitz. "We are certainly trying to be more friendly to the environment."

Orbitz uses the services of Carbonfund.org for what are commonly called "carbon offsets."

Carbonfund.org partners with other environmental groups to take action that will remove greenhouse gases from the at-

mosphere, or prevent their creation in the first place.

"Reforestation in Nicaragua is one of our bigger projects," said Russell Simon, spokesman for Carbonfund.org. Trees take up and store carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. Reforestation projects are also popular because they provide habitat for wildlife and prevent soil erosion.

Simon said his not-for-profit is undergoing explosive growth. In 2005 Carbonfund.org received \$40,000 in donations and offset an estimated 8,000 tons of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. This year the group expects to receive \$4 million to \$5 million and offset 800,000 tons of greenhouse gases.

"Consumers are demanding that companies do meaningful things on behalf of the environment," Simon said. And the businesses that respond are leaders in fighting greenhouse gases and deserve respect for that, he said.

**SKATE PASS SHOOT**

**SCORE**

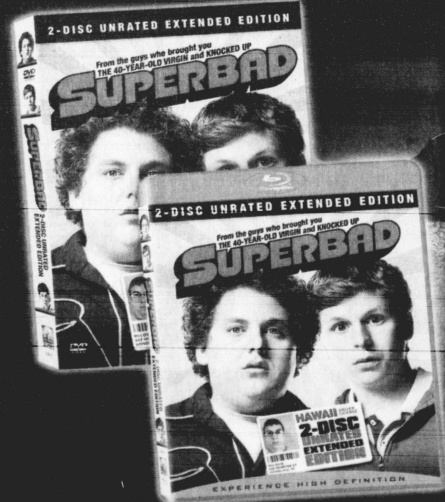
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