

Not all that far away

Professors
reach out
to a devastated
Indonesian
university
with close ties
to UK

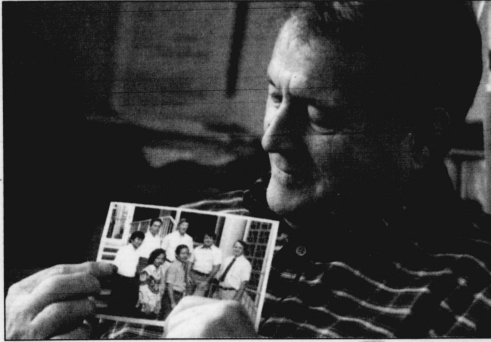
By Dariusz Shafa
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Half a world away from Indonesia, UK faculty and alumni are working to fund the rebuilding efforts at a university in one of the regions hardest hit by the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami.

"It's unbelievable, but it happened," said John Ragland, a professor emeritus in the College of Agriculture and one of the faculty members spearheading the effort. "Those people who are suffering are students just like we were."

The University of Sindh Kuala, also known as Unsyiah, is one of eight Indonesian universities that UK helped by training graduate students to be faculty and staff there. Nearly 200 members of Unsyiah's staff received masters and doctoral degrees from UK in the 1980s.

As part of the fundrais-



CHARLES DOUGHERTY | STAFF
Charles Dougherty, a plant and soil sciences professor, points to a picture of Abdi Wahab, a 1986 doctoral student of his. Wahab is president of the University of Sindh Kuala, which was hit by the Dec. 26 tsunami.

ing effort, e-mails went out on Jan. 27 to over 13,000 alumni connected with the College of Agriculture, asking for their help. Before the e-mails even went out, Ragland said, several thousand dollars had already been donated, and he expected much more to come in.

Charles Dougherty, a plant and soil sciences professor, taught Unsyiah's current president, Abdi Wahab, and other students from Indonesia.

"Of all the students, he was as hard-working as I've ever seen," Dougherty said of Wahab. Ragland said he learned that Wahab survived the disaster, but no other information is available because no one has been able to make further contact with him.

"It's about a community of science, a circle within a circle," he said. "We're all part of the UK community, and he's one of us."

Agus Hudoyo, an agricultural economics graduate student, has a friend who is the general secretary of a damage task force in Sumatra. According to his friend, Hizir Sofyan, 30 percent of the buildings and equipment on campus were damaged, not by the tsunami itself, but by the earthquake. More than 5,000 of Unsyiah's 16,000 students are listed as dead or missing, along with 247 faculty and staff.

Though hundreds of millions of dollars in relief are pouring into Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and other affected countries, UK is organizing long-term help, rather than immediate relief. The project includes bringing over 20 Indonesian students, educating them, and sending them back to Unsyiah to restaff the university.

"I expect us to collect a quarter of a million dollars to fund this re-education

and reconstruction for the university," Ragland said. "They're wounded, and we are in a position to help mend them, and we are going to do it to the best of our ability."

Ragland said that full plans of how the money will be used are incomplete. "This is tentative because we have our college director of international studies (Mike Reed) in Sumatra right now to see first hand," Ragland said. The donated money will be held in a fund until Reed brings information on how the money is needed.

"They are alumni of this university," Ragland said. "Beyond that connection, this is an unbelievably destructive natural disaster. This is as big as disasters get. Anyone who stops to think of it will want to do something."

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Agency plans trips to southeast Asia

By Achlee Key
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Students now have an opportunity to travel and volunteer where the Dec. 26 tsunami in Southeast Asia hit hardest.

Local company STA Travel and partner company i-to-i have teamed up to offer a community building program to volunteers willing to help with the disaster relief efforts in the Dehiwala suburb of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

According to STA Travel, the two-week program will send anyone, including students, to Sri Lanka to help at refugee camps. Volunteers will help with a variety of duties, including putting up tents, rebuilding homes for 3,000 refugees, and helping with health and sanitation.

"I would definitely go with the volunteer group to

help the Sri Lankans, if I had the chance," said UK's International Student Council president Malya Delgoda. "This would mean a lot to the international students here at UK and also will definitely set an example for the rest of the students and the community in Lexington."

The death toll in Southeast Asia has risen to over 200,000 people, and the tsunami caused an estimated \$14 billion worth of damage across the 11 devastated nations.

STA Travel and i-to-i introduced the program in response to the large numbers of inquiries received from people wanting to help in the disaster relief efforts.

"Volunteer travel is an amazing learning experience," said Lee Ellis, UK's branch manager of STA Travel. "You get to be an actual part of the country and

not just a tourist."

Volunteers are asked to pay \$895, of which \$200 will go directly toward the purchase of building materials and other needed supplies.

The rest of the cost will include food and accommodation, insurance, airport pickup and a brief orientation.

STA Travel is also donating a portion of the fee to a partner company Net-Aid, World School House, which provides education for the world's poorest children.

Ellis says that even though February dates for the program are already full, extended dates will be available as soon as they can be organized. So far no UK students have committed to the trip, but Ellis said some have shown interest.

"If students wanted to go over Spring Break or do

STA Travel

■ For more information on the program to Sri Lanka or volunteer travel in general, contact STA Travel at 257-4961 or email ukly@statravel.com. The office is located in room 255 in the Student Center

it as a summer thing, they will have plenty of opportunities," she said.

Sri Lanka is not the only volunteer travel opportunity, Ellis said.

"Volunteers can go anywhere in the world," she said. "It is a completely different experience. It is so much more meaningful than regular travel. You get to see things you would never see as a tourist."

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news@kykernel.com

Todd lobbies for more funding in trip to state capital

By Troy Lyle
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

FRANKFORT, Ky. — President Lee Todd spoke before an interim Senate education committee yesterday to stress the need for increased higher education funding in the upcoming General Assembly session.

"Higher education is getting the short end of the budget stick," he said. "Last legislative session we reached a plateau, and plateaus are dangerous. If we don't get (adequate funding) in this session, the plateau will start to decline."

The session formally starts today with Gov. Ernie Fletcher's State of the Commonwealth address to the assembly at 7 p.m.

As part of the push for increased funding for UK, Todd and UK's government relations department put together a list of priorities outlining the university's needs.

The list includes additional operating funds to support growth, increased bonding authority and construction of a biological sciences and pharmaceutical complex. All three priorities are important, said Steve Byars, UK's government relations direc-

tor, but increased operating funds are critical since UK has seen budget cuts in recent years. The Consensus Forecasting Group, composed of leading economists from Kentucky universities, has projected an increase in state revenue above the \$22 million according to the state's budget office — but a lot of the money has been claimed, he said.

"However, we are cautiously optimistic the state will allocate some of those funds to UK," Byars said. Despite the recent budget cuts, the state has put significant resources into postsecondary education since 1986, and Kentucky has done a great deal to increase resources in higher education, said Jim Applegate, vice president of academic affairs for the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.

"But we're playing catch up compared to other states and we're going to need more resources from our legislators," he said. "We're working hard here to make sure the state realizes that one of the long term solutions to Kentucky's problems, such as public health

and economic development, is an increased focus on higher education.

"Kentucky must have and retain more educated citizens to be competitive in the future," Todd said.

Kentucky's colleges and universities have to compete for national talent, Todd said.

"We're trying to work our way out of a hole," Todd said. "We desperately need the cash to make this happen if we're going to achieve a top-20 status."

Thomas Layzell, president of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, also urged the committee to consider increasing funding for higher education. "We're seriously concerned that achieving this top-20 status by 2020 isn't going to happen," he said.

There are several indicators warning that higher education is starting to suffer in Kentucky, Layzell said, noting Kentucky's decline in national affordability ratings as one example.

Students are being asked to pay increased tuition while their ability to obtain financial

aid or grants is remaining the same or declining, he said.

"Public education in Kentucky is still a very good deal despite all these tuition increases," said Todd, pointing to Kiplinger's Magazine's rankings placing UK as the fourth-best overall value among public universities in the nation.

Despite the magazines findings, the Council for Postsecondary Education found that between 1999 and 2004, tuition increased 10 percent while the state's general fund declined by 10 percent.

Coming on the heels of a hiring freeze for UK staffers paid through general funds, Todd said UK is doing everything it can to make the campus more efficient to offset costs.

"We want to earn the respect from you the legislators and the citizens of Kentucky," he said, referring to the fact that he and all the presidents of Kentucky's colleges are doing all they can to maximize efficiency.

"We are trying to keep tuition increases down and use our money wisely," Todd said. "So don't ignore higher education when funding time comes."

E-mail tlyle@kykernel.com

SG Senator begins bid for presidency

Becky Ellingsworth vows to promote student rights, change culture at UK

By Tricia McKenny
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Emerging from the crowd accompanied by flashing lights and blaring music, Student Government Sens. Becky Ellingsworth and Kyle Burns kicked off their campaign for SG president and vice president last night in the gallery of the William T. Young Library.

Ellingsworth and Burns were met by cheers and applause from about 150 supporters as they announced their candidacies and introduced the rest of the students running for SG positions under what they called the UK Students First banner.

Before introducing Ellingsworth, Burns described the platform as "a new way of life for UK students" and described the campaign as the beginning of change at UK.

After thanking supporters and students for taking an interest in SG, Ellingsworth, a communication junior, echoed the description of her campaign's platform as one of change and stressed her desire to put students first at UK by educating, empowering and elevating them.

"We have an opportunity to do great things," Ellingsworth said. "Our candidacy and our mission throughout the campaign is to bring about a cultural change at UK ... We are going to change the culture by making student rights a priority for everyone — students, faculty, staff and officials at the university, city, state and national levels," she said.

Ellingsworth said she wants to educate students about their rights at UK, empower students by ensuring them that SG will be behind them and elevate students by focusing on what it means to be a UK student.

Ellingsworth also outlined ways to improve safety, communication and student services.

Some of the plans include providing online video of SG meetings, improving the campus parking situation, creating a student rights commission and expanding SafeCats and providing a free weekend taxi service for increased safety measures.

Ellingsworth later introduced the senate candidates running with her and Burns, and she said after the event that she believes these candidates have the same goals and desires to see these plans through.

"(The senate candidates) believe in the same things I do and are people that are proactive," she said.

"I believe they will get involved and work toward the same goals," Ellingsworth said.

Senator at large candidate Christie Mitchell, a communication and musical performance freshman, said she is willing to work toward these goals because she believes Ellingsworth and Burns have a vision that will benefit UK.

"They are there to help students, and not just for name recognition. They will be proactive and fight for student rights," Mitchell said.

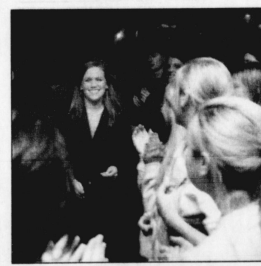
Being proactive and taking action are things that SG needs, said agricultural biotechnology sophomore Brandon Owen. "The potential for good things is there, but (students) must feel that we are involved in SG," Owen said.

Burns said the candidates were very pleased with the involvement from students and the response at the event.

"We received a positive response from students, which is reassuring that we are doing the right thing for students," Burns said.

Other candidates for SG positions, including SG president and vice president, will be announcing their candidacies in the coming weeks.

E-mail tmckenny@kykernel.com



Student Government Sen. Becky Ellingsworth announced her candidacy for SG president last night at the W.T. Young Library gallery, Sen. Kyle Burns will be her vice presidential candidate.

SCOTT LUTHER | STAFF

NEWS BRIEFS

The President's Commission on Diversity is seeking nominations for the 2005 President's Award for Diversity.

UK established the President's Award for Diversity in honor and appreciation of those who have demonstrated outstanding efforts toward advancing the university's mission of embracing diversity while maintaining academic excellence.

The President's Award for Diversity will be awarded in six categories: UK student, UK staff member, UK faculty member, UK administrator, UK unit or department, and other individual or agency from Kentucky.

Recipients of the President's Award for Diversity will receive \$500 and a plaque in recognition and appreciation of their achievements.

A public award ceremony will be held April 1. Deadline for nominations is March 4.

Award criteria and nominations can be found at www.uky.edu/PCD/pad/pad05.php.

CLARIFICATION

In yesterday's article "Todd bans staff hires to save money," the 3,000 staff positions affected by the hiring freeze are strictly "general fund positions." In total, more than 10,000 staff members work at UK, including those at the hospital. The article failed to mention that the hiring freeze does not affect the Chandler Medical Center, since the state government does not fund the majority of its staff positions.

Also, the Staff Senate has not taken any action on the December 2004 report cited in the article, and questions remain about some of its findings, said David Ellis, chairman of the Senate. The figure of 61 percent of staff members living below the "Lexington living wage" is therefore incorrect.

To report an error, please call the Kernel newsroom at 257-1915 or e-mail news@kykernel.com.

CORRECTION

Yesterday's article "Senate revisits cheating rule" made several incorrect statements. First, under the proposed policy, any punishment the instructor decided to apply to a student caught cheating would need approval from the department chair.

Second, the proposed "XE" or "XF" marking on that student's transcript would only be applied if the instructor thought the offense deserved that special marking. If that is the case, the instructor then must get the approval of

that college's dean in order to do so. Otherwise, the failure of the class would still show up as an "E," which is the current policy.

Finally, if a student is caught cheating or plagiarizing more than once, the minimum punishment will be denoted on the transcript as an "XE" or an "XF."

To report an error, please call the Kernel newsroom at 257-1915 or e-mail news@kykernel.com.

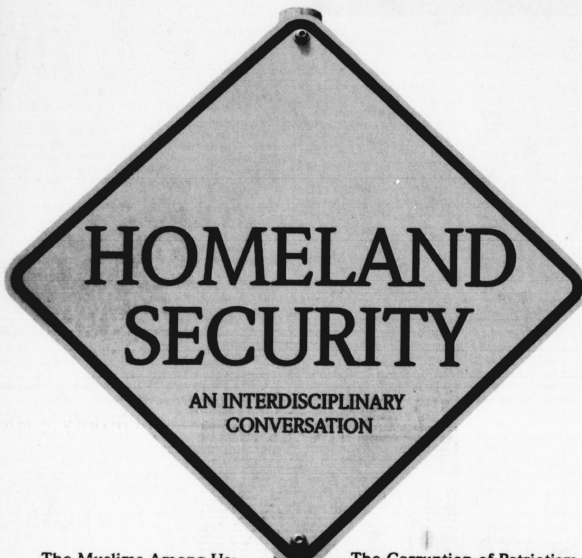
SEVERE

HIGH

ELEVATED

GUARDED

LOW



The Muslims Among Us: Danger or Asset?

Thursday, February 10, 2005
6:30-8:00 p.m.
Center Theatre

'Homeland Security' and the Experience of Japanese-Americans

Internment and Terror: The Japanese-American Experience and Threats to National Security
Wednesday, February 16, 2005
3:00-4:00 p.m.
Center Theatre

The Japan in Japanese-American
Thursday, February 17, 2005
12:30-1:45 p.m.
Center Theatre

Assessment of Homeland Security Laws and Policies and Their Impact on the American Muslim Community

Tuesday, March 1, 2005
8:00-9:00 p.m.
Center Theatre

All events are free and open to the public.

For more information, please visit www.uky.edu/AS/WomenStudies/homeland.html

UK UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
College of Arts and Sciences

The Corruption of Patriotism in an Age of Terror

Tuesday, April 5, 2005
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Center Theatre

War, Terrorism, and Our Global Environment: Feminists Take on Homeland Security An all day symposium

Tuesday, April 12, 2005
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Worsham Theatre

Alternatives to Garrison Cities in an Age of Terror: Resilient Cities and Sustainable Cities

Tuesday, April 19, 2005
7:00-8:30 p.m.
230 Student Center

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Air + 5 nights at the Pangas

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Package includes round-trip airfare from Cincinnati and accommodations. Subject to change and availability. Taxes and other applicable fees not included.

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IN OUR OPINION

UK must admit higher standards



One of UK's stated goals in achieving top-20 status is to "attract and graduate outstanding students," and that process starts at the admissions desk.

But the most noticeable trend in admissions over the past few years has been bigger incoming classes, not rising standards. And higher enrollment means larger class sizes. For example, the number of freshmen taking three or more classes with 100 or more students has tripled since 2001.

If freshman enrollment keeps increasing, class sizes will keep getting worse — possibly holding UK back from achieving top-20 status.

As Provost Mike Nietzel said in December, future incoming classes should not be larger than 3,800 to 3,900 students.

After all, almost a quarter of freshmen — 23 percent — don't even come back for their sophomore year.

Among its benchmark schools, UK is tied for lowest in freshman retention.

In order to raise its standing, UK should look into the admissions profiles of those who don't come back and adjust admissions standards accordingly in hopes of stopping high turnover before it starts.

Higher standards wouldn't just boost retention. They would keep freshman enrollment — and with it, class sizes — at reasonable levels.

Keeping class sizes down would help ensure that students can take the classes they need to graduate, helping to boost UK's academic graduation rates.

Twenty-seven percent of UK students graduate in four years, and 61 percent do in six years. UK ranks third to last in both areas among its benchmarks.

The six-year graduation rate has increased every year since 1997, and — assuming it does not decrease — UK has already reached its goal of 60 percent by 2005. But the university must set its sights

higher to climb into the top 20 — after all, even the rate of 60 percent leaves UK far behind most of its benchmarks.

Higher admissions standards would also improve UK's statistical standing when compared to its benchmarks, almost all of whom outperform UK when it comes to admissions statistics.

Compared to the benchmarks schools, UK is third to last in SAT verbal scores, second to last in SAT math scores and tied for second to last in ACT composite scores.

In addition, only 26 percent of incoming UK students were in the top 10 percent of their high school classes. All but one benchmark school outperforms UK in this

regard. UK recognizes the necessity of higher standards; the university hopes to increase the middle range of ACT scores by at least a point by fall 2006.

Until such standards go up, UK will con-

tinue to rank below its benchmarks in these areas.

And until UK's rankings rise, top students will not consider UK as seriously. Those top students, however, are just the people UK needs in its applicant pool.

As better students come to UK in greater numbers, they will bring up its admissions statistics, freshman retention and graduation rates.

That's why higher admissions standards are a crucial step toward top-20 status.

Higher admissions standards and capped enrollment would help UK attract and graduate outstanding students.

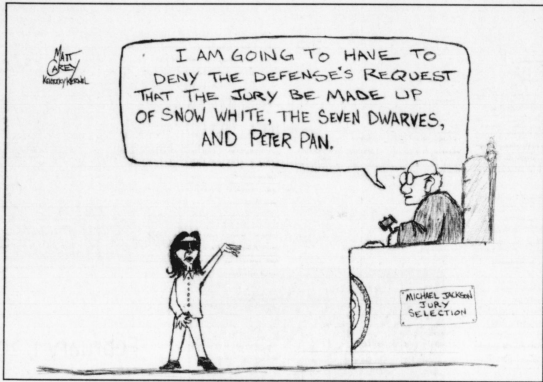
ONLINE POLL

Which of the following should receive higher priority from UK admissions?

Quality of students

Quantity of students

VOTE ONLINE AT WWW.KYKERNEL.COM



MATT CAREY, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kernel story about cheating policy took comment out of context

In the Jan. 31 Kernel article "Senate revisits cheating rule," I was quoted as saying, "A lot of times, it's a mistake. Everybody makes mistakes."

This statement was taken out of context, and I feel obliged to clarify it so that my students and colleagues do not think I take cheating lightly.

The point I was trying to make, and which I am sure I could have expressed better, was that not all cheating and plagiarism incidents are the same, so a one-punishment-fits-all policy is not a wise one.

Consider these cases: the student who panics in an exam and momentarily glances at a neighbor's paper; the student who downloads a paper from the Internet and hands it in as her own work; the students who work together on a homework assignment that was supposed to be done independently; the student who steals an exam key from an instructor's office; the newly arrived foreign student who plagiarizes a source because he does not appreciate American standards of scholarship.

These incidents range from misunderstandings through spontaneous bad decisions to premeditated, almost criminal behavior.

All should be punished, but an instructor is a far better judge of the particular situation than anyone else, and he or she should be given discretion to handle the incident.

The committee hopes that returning discretion to instructors will encourage them to handle cheating incidents according to the rules and report them so that repeat offenders can be caught and brought to justice.

Bob Grossman
UK chemistry professor

Columnist a voice of reason, morals shouldn't be relative

After reading Stephen Burnett's article about the insanity of many anti-Bush protesters, I must say that I am relieved to finally hear a voice of reason on campus. However, I would like to take a few of his points a step further.

Often, anti-Bush and anti-Christian protesters go hand-in-hand. Many argue that an atheistic, humanistic worldview centered on the ability of man and his achievements is more beneficial to our society. They argue that a religious worldview is simply counterproductive and primitive. I respectfully disagree, and with good reason.

I would like to say a few words about moral standards, since they have been the center of much controversy following the outcome of the 2004 presidential election.

There are two types of moral standards: absolute and relativistic. Christians, Muslims and members of other religious groups adhere to absolute moral systems in which there is a universal distinction between right and wrong.

Though disagreements exist between different groups concerning right and wrong, this is a step up from the relativistic moral system, which atheists simply must adhere to since they do not believe in a God and, therefore, cannot believe in a source of absolute moral standards.

Therefore, an atheistic worldview can only result in confusion and anarchy, as everyone would possess his or her own definition of right and wrong.

Though I am a Christian, I believe a society operating under any sort of religious worldview is better off than one based upon an atheistic worldview, since it is a prospect simply doomed to failure.

Therefore, whether your religion is Christian, Muslim, Hindu or the like, you can take comfort in the fact that your conscience is facilitated by a set of moral standards shared by many other people. This only streamlines and facilitates legal and judicial processes.

So, in conclusion, I would like you to take a moment and question many of the actions taken by liberals lately — the removal of the Ten Commandments (an absolute moral standard) from schools, the attempted removal of God from the Pledge of Allegiance and the criticism of Bush's supposed integration of church and state.

Maybe we would prosper from a moral code, Christian or not.

David Hicks
history sophomore

Burnett's criticism of protesters lacked constructive purpose

I write in response to Stephen Burnett's Jan. 27 article, "Most protesters selfish, averse to reason."

I do agree, though not to the extent of your beliefs, that some protesters cross a line of civility and decency in their actions, such as a few denoted in your article.

I, however, believe it to be a much more inconsequential number of protesters that cross this line. Furthermore, to chastise an increasingly large group of Americans who do not cross this line for simply exercising their right to free speech, no matter how extreme, is neither constructive nor appropriate in divisive times such as we find ourselves. But it is your right. I will concede.

The point about the history of warfare and the 42 previous presidents raises alarm. No, not every person who asserts that President Bush is the "worst president ever" is a presidential and historical scholar.

A great majority of these protesters are not focused in on the historical accuracy of their claims, however subjective the topic may be, when they make such assertions.

But I seriously doubt, all opinions aside, neither you nor anyone in our generation has the authority or the education necessary to make such a decree.

Climb down off your mountain and stop taking political dissent so literally.

In conclusion, as I am sure you will agree, your right to publish this opinion is just as founded in the First Amendment as those who disagree with you, however radically their dissent may be asserted.

Regardless of religious, political or social opinions, we are united by a right to say what we want.

That being said, it must never be abused, as it may be at times. But equally, it should not be belittled or used against one group for the advancement of another.

Thomas Patterson
history senior

Celebrate Iraq's election, but remember history will judge Bush's policy

Democracy, it seems, has finally come to Iraq. It doesn't matter whether you think President Bush's commitment to democracy is genuine or shallow, whether you supported or opposed the war, or whether you think the role of the U.S. government is to promote democracy around the world — to see Iraqis voting in a free election, mostly undeterred by terror, is gratifying.

In fact, we've achieved what was, in the end, our stated objective in Iraq: to oust Saddam Hussein and to hold free elections.

That means it's time for Bush to dig up his flight suit and "Mission Accomplished" banner, because we've done what we said we were going to do, and now we have to get out.

If the election produces a result undesirable to the United States — e.g., a fundamentalist Shiite government like that of Iran — that's too bad. If Bush had wanted to prevent fundamentalism from taking hold, he should have more carefully considered how the occupation was fermenting radicalism.

And this possibility — that Iraq will become another Iran — is why we can't pat ourselves on the back yet. Only history will tell the ultimate, significant outcome of these elections.

But the United States shouldn't stick around waiting for a perfect democracy to blossom. Democracy is a process, not a momentary occurrence — and that process now must be left in the hands of Iraqis.

Now that our Iraq venture is (or should be) over, it's time to engage in some serious reflection about democracy promotion and our foreign policy.

We can't yet answer the question of whether the war was worth it, but we can look at our mistakes before engaging on another such mission — in "axis of evil" member Iran, for example.

We've learned that, however righteous our mission, a country's citizens aren't going to shower us with roses after we invade and occupy their country.

We've learned to double-check our intelligence before we go to war instead of cherry-picking it to make a case for war.

And we've learned that immense missions carry with them the immense potential of great human casualty rates.

Even the success of the Iraq war — which, as I said, history has yet to confirm — does not validate the full Bush approach to foreign policy.

There is no evidence that the use of torture — which was, at best, tacitly approved by administration higher-ups or, at worst, explicitly encouraged — helped the U.S. at all in its mission.

With this in mind, President Bush and the Senate should seriously consider whether Donald Rumsfeld and Alberto Gonzales deserve a place in the Cabinet.

The United States also needs to repair its relations with Europe and the United Nations. As the Oil-for-Food scandal has shown, the United Nations is far from perfect, but instead of declaring it "irrelevant," the U.S. should push for reform within the body.

It's always been hard to penetrate Bush's motives for going into Iraq. Some think he genuinely wanted to promote democracy. Others saw it as a cynical political move to help him win re-election. Yet others thought it was about oil, Israel or a number of other factors.

But Bush's actions in the coming months and years are what will reveal his mindset. If he is truly concerned about democracy, he will slow down before rushing into another war — and he will listen to the wishes of the American people instead of presenting them with cherry-picked, misleading evidence.

Bush must pay attention to how history will judge him, or we're in for four long years.

Brenton Kenkel is an English freshman. His column appears on Tuesdays. E-mail bkenkel@kykernel.com

Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Andrew Martin or Assistant Opinions Editor Ben Roberts. Please limit letters to 250 words or less. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions.

E-MAIL

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TECHCHECK | not just for geeks

Wireless internet, no strings attached

We're college students. We live in the cloistered student slums, terribly disgusting dorms and large apartment complexes. With these uncomfortable living situations, however, comes an unexpected and welcome advantage: Chances are, you live close enough to someone who's using a wireless access point (WAP).



Ian Conley
TECH COLUMNIST

Even better, that person has probably left the WAP unencrypted, allowing easy and free Internet access to all who can pick it up.

Then again, if you're the owner of said WAP and don't appreciate people freeloading your overpriced Internet service, you're probably pounding your fist into this paper.

Either way being knowledgeable about the insecurities of wireless Internet technology is fast becoming as trendy as AOL Instant Messenger and person-to-person file sharing.

Well, maybe not, but it's still great to know.

First, you need to know some basics of wireless terminology. Every WAP has its own unique name, or service set identifier, also known as an SSID. Furthermore, every WAP can be encrypted — that is, made to require a password for use — with Wired Equivalent Privacy.

I know it's a lot to take in, but bear with me. At the outset of writing this article I became incredibly curious as to just how many unencrypted WAPs were broadcasting in the stu-

dent-populated areas of Lexington.

In the interest of such science, I drove around downtown for a few hours running a really handy program called NetStumbler, which picks up wireless signals and determines each one's strength, the brand of its wireless access point and its service set identifier.

And if your laptop has a global positioning satellite unit, NetStumbler can also give you the location of the WAP.

Though it seems like a completely banal and monotonous activity, driving around looking for WAPs, or "wardriving," has accrued something of a cult following.

During this noble quest I uncovered more than 100 unencrypted access points in and around the student slums.

Yes, I picked up several fraternities and sororities with open, unencrypted WAPs.

A word of the wise to WAP owners: If you're leaving your service set identifier as whatever the brand name of your WAP is, you're probably not encrypting it either.

These are highly noticeable service set identifiers to, say, your neighbors — and you will be taken advantage of.

The steps for encryption vary from wireless router to wireless router, but they're usually simple and easy to understand. Unencrypted, it's only a matter of time before someone starts sucking bandwidth off of your precious access point.

Yes, I actually sent this article to my editor using my neighbor's wireless connection.

Is it illegal? I have no idea, but chances are that it isn't.

Cracking into encrypted WAPs, however, is another story and another column to be written.

Nevertheless, either have fun with this information, or at least pay heed and protect your wireless Internet from would-be freeloaders.

E-mail

features@kykernel.com

Tips to Protect Your Wireless Access

From <http://www.linksys.com>:

While the following is a complete list, users should at least follow steps A through D:

- A. Change the default SSID.
- B. Disable SSID Broadcasts.
- C. Change the default password for the Administrator account.
- D. Enable MAC Address Filtering.
- E. Change the SSID periodically.
- F. Enable WEP 128-bit encryption. Please note that this will reduce your network performance.
- G. Change the WEP encryption keys periodically.

Links

- <http://www.netstumbler.com>
- <http://www.linksys.com/splash/wirelessnotes.asp>
- <http://www.wardriving.com>
- <http://www.wifimaps.com>

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Thursday, February 24 Memorial Hall	Eric Adelberger Professor of Physics and Adjunct Professor of Astronomy, University of Washington, Seattle "How Many Dimensions Does the Universe Have... Really?"
Thursday, March 3 Memorial Hall	Barry Barish Director of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave (LIGO) and Linde Professor of Physics at the California Institute of Technology "Einstein's Legacy: Our Best Description of the Universe"
Thursday, March 31 107 Thomas Hunt Morgan Biological Sciences Building	Joseph Polchinski Professor of Physics, University of California, Santa Barbara "The Search for Nature's Ultimate Building Blocks"

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