

# ROLE PLAYER, ROLE MODEL

Diminutive Miami point guard has come a long way from Mason, Ohio to start for the Redhawks tonight in Rupp Arena

SEE PAGE 7

Atypical band brings mix of punk, emo to college music scene

CHECK OUT PAGE 5

WWW.KYKERNEL.COM WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2006

# KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

## Students fasting to raise funds for world hunger

By Kristin Sherrard  
news@kykernel.com

While most students will never face the pangs of starvation, two student groups are voluntarily fasting to raise money and awareness about starvation worldwide.

Beginning today at 10 a.m. and ending tomorrow at 4 p.m., students are taking part in the 30-Hour Famine, a nationally recognized event supported by World Vision, to kickoff the National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week.

For the event, sponsored by UK student groups Students Taking Ac-

tively Globally (STAG) and Helping Hands, participants can make an optional \$30 donation, the proceeds of which will go to World Vision to help improve hunger and poverty both globally and domestically.

Star-covered name tags, which read, "I am 'Star'ving for Hunger" will identify the 30-50 participating students.

Event organizers look for the event to be successful. "We are hoping for it to become an annual event," said Lexie Dressman, director of STAG.

Dressman contacted Kallie Turner, director of Helping Hands, to help

collaborate on the event, because she thought that it would be a good way to help commemorate the awareness week. Both Dressman and Turner participated in the 30 Hour Famine in high school, Dressman said.

"The famine brings the two sides together," Turner said, adding that both organizations address the issue of hunger and poverty (Helping Hands domestically and STAG globally).

According to the United Nations Hunger Project website, about 24,000 people worldwide die from hunger or hunger-related causes. Three-fourths of these deaths are children under the

age of five. Some students said participating in the event was eye opening.

"Starving for 30 hours helps you to reflect on yourself and on what you have and just to be thankful," said Heather Young, a journalism freshman and STAG member. "These people are hungry all the time, and afterwards I get to eat, so it just opens my eyes to everything."

Dressman said she hopes people will take notice of what the two groups are doing.

"I'm hoping that people will see that we are starving for hunger, ask us questions and wonder what we are

doing, which will help spread awareness about this issue," Dressman said. "We would also like to get people involved with STAG and Helping Hands and show them that if they are interested in these issues, there is a place on campus where they can act on them."

Students interested in the event or the student groups can visit the Student Volunteer Center website at [www.uky.edu/VolunteerCenter](http://www.uky.edu/VolunteerCenter) or the 30 Hour Famine website at [www.30hourfamine.org](http://www.30hourfamine.org) for more information.

## Post editor receives center's first annual award

By Walker Martin  
news@kykernel.com

After working for nearly 20 years to ensure freedom of speech for Kentuckians, Judith Clabes was recognized Oct. 19 with an award from the Scripps Howard First Amendment Center.

"I am very honored by the recognition of the First Amendment Center continue to grow in breadth and scope, and I think an annual award is a very good undertaking.

"The real reward for me, however, is in seeing the First Amendment Center grow into an important, viable and active place, knowing it will be sustained and its work be ever more significant. Its continued success is award enough."

Clabes is the first recipient of the award, which honors Kentuckians who have played a significant role in promoting or defending First Amendment values, specifically freedom of the press.

"As an editor she was a strong defender of the First Amendment and helped people to understand what their government is doing," said Director of the First Amendment Center Mike Farrell. "She was the driving force of the University of Kentucky's First Amendment Center, and for the past 20 years she has been instrumental in seeing that it is funded. She's passionate about freedom of the press, and when you see what she's done in her professional career it's clear she means it."

Clabes started as the editor of the Kentucky Post. Under her leadership the Post pursued government records and combated public officials who attempted to keep such records from the public.

In 1987, she helped start the First Amendment Center in the School of Journalism and Telecommunications at UK. In 1989, CBS newsmen Charles Kuralt appeared with Clabes at the center's dedication ceremony.

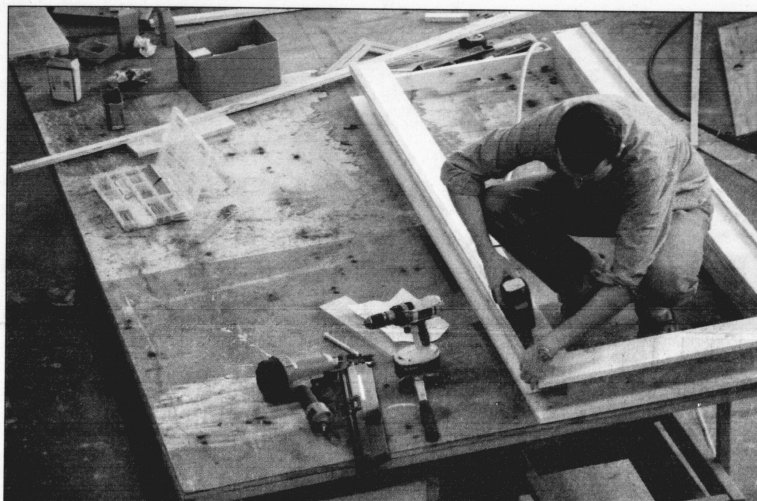
"There would be no First Amendment Center without Judy Clabes," said Buck Ryan, former director of the center. "She was the intellect behind it and the one who rallied support financially; she was the spirit behind it. There could be no finer choice than Judith Clabes to receive the first award."

Al Cross, a member of the center's advisory committee, also emphasized how appropriate it was that Clabes received the award.

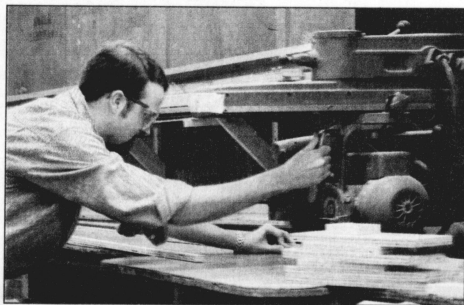
"Judy has been one of the most prominent leaders in Kentucky for First Amendment rights for more than twenty years, as a journalist and as director of the Scripps Howard First Amendment Center," said Al Cross member of the center's ad-

See Clabes on page 3

## SETTING THE STAGE



Civil engineering senior, Todd Preston, constructs a door for the set of the play "A Raisin in the Sun" yesterday afternoon in the Fine Arts Building. "A Raisin in the Sun" opens Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. in the Guignol Theater.



Civil engineering senior, Todd Preston, trims a piece of wood with a circular saw yesterday afternoon in the Fine Arts Building.

Students saw, hammer and drill on the set for the upcoming play "A Raisin in the Sun" in the workshop behind Guignol Theater. The play centers around a poor black family and its struggle to rise in America's class system.

## Documentary examines lives of AIDS orphans in Africa

By Linsen Li  
news@kykernel.com

Many women in African countries are forced to have unprotected sex with their philandering husbands, and that's a problem, a UK professor told students last night.

"We need to change the whole situation of gender and sexuality in these African countries," said Marie-Antoinette Sossou, assistant professor in social work at UK.

Sossou said leaders in some of these countries, such as South Africa, won't even admit to these problems or that their countries have AIDS epidemics.

Sossou spoke after the film, "Shouting Silent" was shown last night at the Gaines Center's Bingham-Davis House as the final film in the UK Gender and Women's Studies 2006 film series.

"Shouting Silent," a documentary that explores the South African HIV/AIDS epidemic, was directed by Renee Rosen and Xoliswa Sithole.

An adult orphan who lost her mother to AIDS in 1996, Sithole journeyed back home in search of other young women who lost their mothers the same way. These young women now struggle to raise themselves and, in many cases, their siblings, on their own.

The first half of the film concentrated on a 12-year-old girl who lost both her parents to AIDS. Alone and helpless, she was forced to live in a squatter camp without a roof over her head.

The other main story in the film is about a 17-year-old girl who has to take care of her seven siblings and her four-year-old son. What's even more unsettling is the fact that her younger sister is in imminent danger of becoming another victim

AIDS.

During the discussion after the film, Sossou said that the orphan problem can only be solved by containing the AIDS epidemic itself.

Currently Western countries are working to increase the production of HIV/AIDS medication and to decrease the cost of these drugs, she said. However, full global effort is required to overcome the epidemic.

Lauren Snyder, a biology freshman, came to the film for her geography course on Third World development. She left with more than her course on her mind.

"It was a touching and emotional film to watch," Snyder said. "It made me want to do something to help."

People don't often hear about the orphans brought about by AIDS in the news, Snyder said. She admitted that she hardly knew about the living

conditions of these orphans herself. Now she said she realizes this information should be shared by the world so positive changes can be made.

According to the film, 12.1 million children in Africa have lost one or both of their parents to AIDS. Public and private efforts have been put into building orphanages and caring for these children.

The film showed viewers the reality of these orphans' lives. It was saddening to some students, but Eric Stephens, a secondary social studies education junior, said he did not regret seeing it.

Stephens said the film gave him a more comprehensive understanding of the AIDS epidemic.

"I knew that these terrible things are happening in Africa, but these individual stories reinforce the knowledge that I already have," Stephens said.

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## THE DISH

**Angelina Jolie & Matt Damon**

The Good Shepherd, December 22  
Wedded miss. Damon, 36, plays a CIA-like operative during World War II whose marriage to Jolie, 31, unravels as his job grows more intense. Angelina's energy. Despite a small role, "Angelina lights up any room she walks into," producer Jane Rosenthal tells Us. "Matt's quiet, she's electric. They have great chemistry and are going to mesmerize the audience."

**Leonardo DiCaprio & Jennifer Connelly**

The Blood Diamond, December 8  
Romancing the stone. In this drama set in the 1990s civil war in Sierra Leone, mercenary DiCaprio, 32, flirts with reporter Connelly, 35, as they search for a rare pink diamond. How was the six-month Africa shoot? Easy. DiCaprio has joked, when "you've got your stylist with her Evian spritz and a hand fan."  
Cate Blanchett & George Clooney  
The Good German, December 25  
Lost love. In this post-WWII thriller, Clooney plays a journalist in Berlin pursuing his mysterious ex (Blanchett).  
Big prediction. Clooney, 45, has said he was intimidated working with Blanchett, 37:

## HOLIDAY MOVIE ROMANCES

'Tis the season for hot onscreen hookups! Get the inside scoop on the sexy couplings coming to theaters soon

"She will win the Oscar (for this role). She's the best working actor today."

**Two Sexy Matthews**

We Are Marshall, December 22  
Kimberly Williams-Paisley & Matthew McConaughey  
Getting over grief. In this true story, McConaughey, 37 — who gained 15 pounds for the part — plays a football coach (wed to Williams, 35) who rebuilds West Virginia's Marshall University team after 37 of its players are killed in a 1970 plane crash.  
I do! Married for years, "the couple still have a healthy sexual appetite for one another," director McG tells Us. "It's hot and exciting."

stop a banker from using casino tournament winnings to fund terrorist activities.

In the bedroom. The film's other Bond babe, Caterina Murino, 32, also seduces Craig. "Daniel has an incredible body," she tells Us. "All the women will love it."

**Paula Patton & Denzel Washington**

Deja Vu, November 22  
Conflict of interest. Law enforcement official Washington, 51, protects Patton from being killed. Then he falls for her.  
Easy on the eyes. "She's a sweetheart," Washington says of his costar. "And the camera sure likes her, that's for sure!"

**Rachel Weisz & Hugh Jackman**

The Fountain, November 22  
Forever young. This sci-fi romance spans more than 1,000 years as Jackman, 38, tries to save his dying wife, Weisz, 35, by searching for the fountain of youth.  
Awkward? Weisz's real-life fiancé, Darren Aronofsky, directed the pair, including a two-day tub scene. No worries. He tells Us, "I'm a lot buffer than Hugh!"

—Mark Cina

### LIVE PATIO MUSIC THE WORLD FAMOUS TWO KEYS TAVERN UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

### Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black

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

**Aries (March 21 – April 19)** Today is a 7 — Focus on doing a very good job, and gather enormous rewards. This is not only a lot of work, it's also a lot of fun.  
**Taurus (April 20 – May 20)** Today is a 9 — Be cheerful but consistent. Don't let the others talk you into spending money foolishly. They don't need whatever that much.  
**Gemini (May 21 – June 21)** Today is a 5 — You may have to hire something done you could do yourself. This is not a terrible humiliation. Successful people do it all the

time.  
**Cancer (June 22 – July 22)** Today is a 9 — Don't think about this moment, although it's the one you're in. Think about how what you're doing will change your life, for the better.  
**Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)** Today is a 5 — Hide low, and let the storm rage, without your intervention. You've earned a little time for yourself, in your own safe place.  
**Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)** Today is a 9 — Don't settle for second best. Be the champion. All it takes is a little more work, at something you really enjoy.  
**Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 23)** Today is a 5 — Hold onto what you've acquired, and get it all organized. File it where you can find it again. You'll soon be on to other things.  
**Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)** Today is a 9 — You and your friends can do just about whatever you decide. You're the leader and the planner; don't doubt that for a minute.  
**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)**

Today is a 5 — Maintain your course, even if there are temptations to left and to right. Just do what you said you would.  
**Capricorn (Dec. 22–Jan. 19)** Today is a 9 — You have a good team at your disposal, which makes your life easier. Tell them what you want done, and let them come up with the plan.  
**Aquarius (Jan. 20–Feb. 18)** Today is a 5 — You have an objective in mind, and don't forget it for a minute. Don't waste your money impressing your friends; use it to benefit others. Get them to join you. That's a good party.  
**Pisces (Feb. 19–March 20)** Today is a 9 — It's up to you to believe the goal can be achieved, without evidence. It's up to somebody else on your team to provide the data. If you don't have somebody like that, get one.

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# Bishop: Vote to support gay parishioners

By Louis Sahagun  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Trying to narrow the gap between ministry and strict core beliefs, the nation's Roman Catholic bishops Tuesday affirmed the need to make parishes more welcoming to gay men and lesbians but said people who engage in homosexual activity should refrain from receiving Communion.

The guidelines overwhelmingly approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops meeting in Baltimore sought to create a framework for being more supportive of homosexual parishioners.

But critics said the guidelines convey a mixed message. "I think it's a shame," said Mariette Sawchuk, of Los Angeles, a practicing Catholic and active member of a group called Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. "The message that Jesus gives us is an inclusive one. He always went out of his way to support the marginalized, and I think He would want us Catholics to do the same."

Nicole Sotelo, a spokeswoman for a Catholic group called Call to Action, agreed. "The bishops' actions sadden me because they will only marginalize the majority of Catholics who believe it is immoral to discriminate against gays and that it is ethical to use birth control."

Conservative Judaism and major Christian denominations — including the Episcopal Church and Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. — are confronting similar questions this year about the role of gays and religion.

Also Tuesday, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, the nation's second-largest association of Baptist churches, voted to cut its ties with congregations that approve of homosexuality, adopting a policy that allows the group to investigate whether member churches are "gay friendly."

"It's not something we wanted to do, but homosexuality is the only sin that has its own advocacy group," Convention spokesman Norman Jamieson said in a statement. "Those advocacy groups are pushing us into this stance. Other denominations that waffle and waver on the issue are getting torn apart."

R. Scott Appleby, a professor of Catholic history at Notre Dame University, summed up the conundrum facing the bishops.

"As pastors they wish to be as compassionate, warm and

loving, but as teachers they are also required to teach church doctrine as thoughtfully as they can," Appleby said. The bishops' actions show they view homosexual orientation as "disordered but not sinful," he said.

In a secret ballot, the bishops voted 194 to 37, with one abstention, to adopt a document called "Ministry to Persons with Homosexual Inclination: Guidelines for Pastoral Care," which was four years in the making.

Written by Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli of Patterson, N.J., chairman of the bishops doctrine committee, the document teaches that persons with "a homosexual inclination" must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity, and it condemns violence, scorn and hatred.

It also underlines the faith's teaching that although homosexual leanings are not necessarily "rejected by God or the Church," engaging in homosexual activity is inherently sinful and contrary to the divine plan.

Specifically, the guidelines encourage homosexuals to take a more active role in church activities but urges them to remain celibate and not tell anyone other than close friends and family about their sexuality. The guidelines free gays of a moral obligation to seek therapy, given that there is "no scientific consensus" on the cause of their sexual orientation.

The bishops also oppose same-sex unions and adoption by gay and lesbian couples, but they recommend that priests baptize their children, provided they are raised in the Catholic religion.

"The positive thing is that bishops are trying and welcome gays and lesbians into their parishes," said Jesuit priest James Martin, who has written frequently on the subject. "The drawback is that they are focusing almost exclusively on sexuality and repeat the church's warnings, restrictions and admonitions about it."

The bishops also called on Catholics who "knowingly and obstinately repudiate" church teaching on moral issues to not take Communion. The bishops approved the document, "Happy Are We Who Are Called to His Supper," 201 to 24, with two abstentions.

During the 2004 presidential campaign, St. Louis Archbishop Raymond Burke said he would refuse to give Communion to Democratic candidate John F. Kerry because of Kerry's support for abortion rights. On a voice vote, the bishops declined to amend the document to mention politicians.

## UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY CRIME REPORT

UK Police reports from Nov. 7 to Nov. 13.

- Nov. 7. Report of domestic disturbance; a female screaming for help at Shawneetown Building A at 9:14 a.m.
- Nov. 7. Theft of a Central Kentucky Blood Center phone at the Commons Complex at 2:38 p.m.
- Nov. 7. Assault report at Greg Page apartments at 5:14 p.m.
- Nov. 7. Theft of a purse from Holmes Hall at 5:46 a.m.
- Nov. 8. Alcohol intoxication at South Limestone Street and Transcript Avenue at 3:12 a.m. Arrest made.
- Nov. 8. Theft of a PDA from the Helen King Alumni Building at 9:11 a.m.
- Nov. 8. Theft from the Helen King Alumni Building at 9:55 a.m.
- Nov. 8. Theft from Greg Page Apartments at 2:28 p.m.
- Nov. 8. Theft from Greg Page Apartments at 7:29 p.m.
- Nov. 9. Theft of money from UK Chandler Medical Center at 9:12 a.m.
- Nov. 9. Injury accident at South Limestone Street and Prall Street.
- Nov. 9. Theft of a bike from near 305 Euclid Avenue at 4:42 p.m.
- Nov. 9. Alcohol intoxication at High Street and South Limestone Street at 5:49 p.m.
- Nov. 9. Student in possession of alcohol at Haggin Hall at 9:24 p.m.
- Nov. 10. Alcohol intoxication at Blanding Tower at 5:38 a.m.
- Nov. 10. Theft of a laptop from Smith Hall at 7:46 a.m.
- Nov. 10. Terroristic threatening at UK Chandler Medical Center at 9:07 a.m.
- Nov. 12. Criminal mischief at the Funkhouser Guardhouse at 2:11 a.m.
- Nov. 12. Theft of a car license plate near 305 Euclid Avenue at 12:19 p.m.
- Nov. 12. Theft of a car license plate at the W.T. Young Library at 12:54 p.m.
- Nov. 12. Theft of books from W.T. Young Library at 5:19 p.m.
- Nov. 13. Theft of money from UK Chandler Medical Center at 2:04 a.m.
- Nov. 13. Criminal mischief at the Frank D. Peterson Services Building at 9:46 a.m.
- Nov. 13. Theft from the Grehn Journalism Building at 11:41 a.m.

Compiled from reports at UK Police Department.  
Compiled by staff writer Sean Rose.  
E-mail: srose@kykernel.com.

## CLABES

Continued from page 1


visory committee. The Scripps Howard Foundation, whose corporate parent owns the Kentucky Post, has contributed nearly a quarter-million dollars to First Amendment-related programming activities at the School of Journalism and Telecommunications. A recent pledge of \$250,000 over the next five years will increase the Scripps Howard Foundation's support to the half-million dollar mark.

Clabes said the Center worked to get the state's other newspapers, lawyers and citizens to pull together and focus their energy on educating people and protecting the First Amendment rights of Kentuckians.

"It has done significant educational programming, lectures, conferences, and such to raise visibility of the First Amendment issues and concerns," Clabes said. "An expanded Web presence is vital to extending its reach. I think you'll see more aggressive advocacy of open records and open government in the future, and that's an important role for the Center and a key to increased public awareness of the challenges democracy faces."

The Center recently sponsored the eighth annual Scripps Howard Foundation First Amendment Celebration. Celebration events featured Pulitzer Prize winner Jeffrey Marx on a book tour, public policy forums on undecided voters in the presidential election campaign, two high school journalism workshops and a continuation of a popular "First Amendment Action" speaker series.

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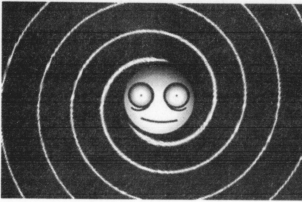
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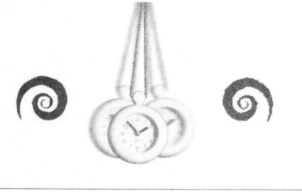
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# Election results shouldn't affect gas prices

By Tom Ichniowski  
Newsday

Gasoline prices seem headed upward again, but experts say it's unrelated to last week's election or efforts by Republicans to get prices reduced before it.

In fact, they say, the election and the big Democratic Party victories that gave them control of the House and Senate aren't likely to change anything in the near term that will affect what Americans pay for gasoline and heating fuels.

"In the short- to medium-term, the change in Congress has no impact whatsoever on supplies and prices," said Kevin Saville, managing editor of the Americas Energy Desk in Manhattan for the petroleum information company Platts.

For the longer term, experts expect higher taxes on the oil companies, more money for research into alternatives to petroleum, better tax incentives for consumers to buy fuel-saving hybrids and, perhaps, higher federal fuel economy standards. But, they say, there are limits to the U.S. government's ability to influence a global market like

that of petroleum.

The decline in crude oil and most refined products prices since the summer was due partly to a slowdown in demand for petroleum because of high prices and partly to a seasonal slowdown in demand for gasoline with the end of the driving season, Saville said.

A more important factor was the mild hurricane season, experts say, free of the disruptions of Gulf of Mexico petroleum infrastructure that sent gasoline to more than \$3 gallon last year. "The storm season in the gulf was pretty much nonexistent this year," said Saville.

Some experts believe prices could rise further in coming weeks. "If we have generally mild weather," said Saville, "people are going to be traveling for Thanksgiving and be out shopping for the holiday season."

A cold winter could send heating fuel prices climbing further, but the political power shift in Washington seems unlikely to affect prices that soon.

One exception, experts say, might be if the changes in the American political landscape can ease the so-called fear pre-

mium caused by world political tensions, which have helped keep oil more expensive than supply and demand would justify.

But Andy Lipow, president of the Houston consulting company Lipow Oil Associates LLC, said it's a stretch to believe that Democratic influences could dissuade Iran from developing nuclear weapons or persuade anti-government militants in Nigeria to stop attacking oil production facilities. "No. 1 on my list of political influences is Nigeria," said Lipow, "and I don't think there's anything we can do about it."

Some believe a Democratic Congress will look more favorably at raising the federal fuel economy corporate average for cars, now at 27.5 miles per gallon, as a way to reduce consumption.

But such efforts could be thwarted by the potential harm such an increase can do to General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, whose cars tend to be larger and thirstier and who have strong Democratic support in Washington.

Experts believe Democrats

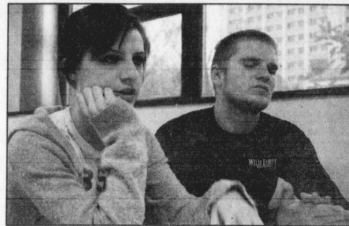
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## Q&A with the Gay-Straight Alliance

Spotlight on the founders and co-presidents,  
Ashlea Clemons and Justin Baas

By Ellen Sawyer  
esawyer@kykernel.com

Throughout the semester, the Kernel will spotlight various campus leaders. This week we are featuring Ashlea Clemons and Justin Baas, the founders and co-presidents of UK's Gay-Straight Alliance. Clemons is a philosophy junior, and Baas is a biology and chemistry junior.



ED MATTHEWS | STAFF

Ashlea Clemons and Justin Baas founded UK's Gay-Straight Alliance this year. After being members of UK Lambda, a social organization for gay and lesbian students at UK, Clemons and Baas formed the GSA to promote equality and activism on campus.

**Q.** When was the Gay-Straight Alliance founded?

**A.** Ashlea Clemons: We filled out the paperwork last year, and our first meeting was held in September 2006. This is the first Gay-Straight Alliance on UK's campus.

**Q.** Why was this group created?

**A.** Justin Baas: We felt like it was our responsibility to start this club. We were both members of Lambda (a previous "gay, lesbian and bi-affectional" student group), but Lambda disintegrated into a small group of people. Lambda was more of a social club, and we wanted to start a new club based on activism, education and community involvement and awareness.

**Q.** How many people are in the group now?

**A.** AC: The number of people at meetings varies from 15 to 30, but the whole group has about 40 to 50 people.

**Q.** What is the GSA's purpose?

**A.** JB: We're geared toward activism. If we have social events, we try to put a community involvement and educational spin on them. We also try to work with other organizations in the Lexington community, like AIDs Volunteers of Lexington (AVOL), Pride Center and the Kentucky Fairness Alliance.

**Q.** How was Coming Out Day (an event held in October to raise awareness about the gay and lesbian community at UK)?

**A.** JB: It came out magnificently. We had a lot more people come than we thought we would. A lot of members were involved, which was good, and we gave out information about other groups. We just had a fair of information and a social gathering. We had information about Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Queer (GLBTQ) issues, safe sex, and resources.

**AC:** Most importantly, it was a celebration of our diversity. Everyone could be who he

or she is.

**Q.** How do you incorporate people from different sexual backgrounds into the club?

**A.** AC: The best way to look at people at meetings is as individuals, so every person who comes to meetings is a unique person. We look beyond how people identify sexually.

**JB:** We don't ask people or force people to reveal their sexual orientation. We want to create a dissolution of labels. We're trying to bring GLBTQ students and straight students together. We're trying to find common ground to rely on, and we want to reach out to the GLBTQ community in Lexington and on campus.

**Q.** Why do you, Ashlea, as someone who is straight work with this club?

**A.** AC: For me it is important. These are my friends and people I care about. They're not separate from the rest of us. My involvement is to show people that the GLBTQ community is not separate from everyone else.

**Q.** What are common misconceptions about the club and/or GLBTQ people?

**A.** AC: GLBTQ people aren't different from anyone else. Just because they're attracted to someone of the same sex doesn't mean they're totally different. They have the same emotions and similar life experiences. GLBTQ people have spiritual lives and go to church, and most people who are involved have a strong sense of morality, and that's very important in their lives.

**Q.** How has the feedback to the group been?

**A.** AC: We expected more of a backlash than there actually was. We had only one student disrupt us during the whole

Coming Out Day. In general, we've gotten more positive responses than negative responses in what we've encountered.

**Q.** What are your goals for this year?

**A.** JB: We're having an AVOL speaker at our meeting this week to provide all-encompassing information on safe sex in general. We want to educate people as much as we can.

**AC:** We want to raise awareness of the GLBTQ voice at UK, and we want to be a voice for that community. We want to form a group where GLBTQ people and issues are recognized and feel like they're not silenced.

**Q.** What are your long-term goals?

**A.** AC: We're trying to build a strong organization and run it an effective way. As of now, we don't have many resources.

**JB:** It's a work in progress. Everything is planned on a tentative basis.

**AC:** Next year we would like to have a bigger Coming Out Day and make it into a week. We want to expand on what we're already doing and reach out to more students at UK.

**Q.** What sort of activism do you all do?

**A.** AC: AVOL is coming to our meeting this week, and sometime in the future we're going to volunteer with them. We want to get involved with Kentucky Fairness Alliance so they can let us know about legislation on local and state levels.

We also want to do a community service project somewhere along the lines of Habitat for Humanity. In the spring, we're commemorating a day of silence, which is a nationally recognized day where members of the GLBTQ community go an entire day without speaking to show what would be missing if these people were gone.

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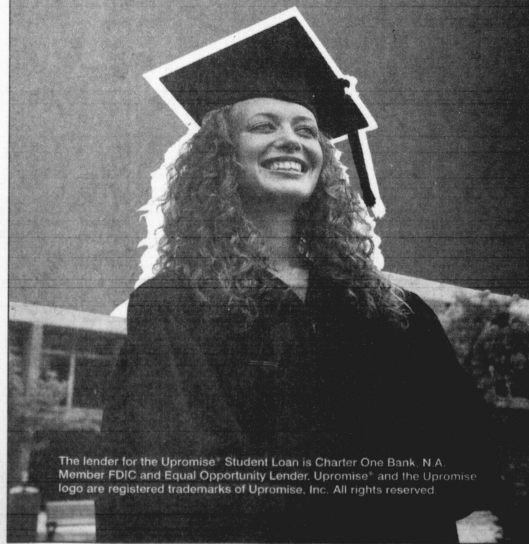
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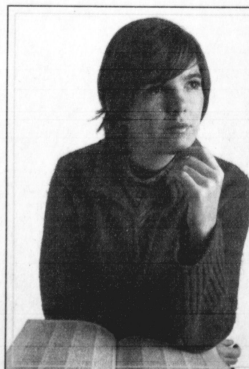
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# Band brings new sound to college-rock

By Ellie Fairbanks  
efairbanks@kernel.com

Growing up in Springfield, Ill., Andy Wildrick spent most of his childhood days listening to the Beatles and Paul McCartney albums his mother always had playing. He grew up loving the classics and thinks being exposed to this kind of music at such a young age caused him to become the musician he is today.

"I've always known that this is what I wanted to do with my life," Wildrick said. "I've been doing this since I was young, and it's pretty much all I know."

Wildrick's band, The Junior Varsity, is performing tonight as a part of the Student Activities Board's Beatnik Ball Series. This series, which showcases new and different music at UK, is dedicated to artists who are up and coming, said Josh Rupp, SAB's director of concerts.

The Junior Varsity has a strong fan base around the Springfield area, Rupp said. He hopes that their performance in the Beatnik Ball Series will show the people of Lexington a different kind of music.

"We wanted to bring a new genre of music to UK," Rupp said. "The Junior Varsity is a little more punk or emo than what we usually bring, and we wanted to mix it up a bit."

Members of The Junior Varsity pride themselves in being different than most "college bands."

"Most kids in college are in to the Dave Matthews Band and Guster," Wildrick said. "We know we have some work to do if we want to get a col-



The Junior Varsity is performing tonight as a part of SAB's Beatnik Ball Concert Series. The band is comprised of college-aged musicians who are trying to make a name for themselves in the punk-rock music industry.

lege following."

The Junior Varsity formed in 2002 after Wildrick and some of his friends graduated from high school. Because all of the members had previously played in other bands, The Junior Varsity originally formed so that the guys had a way to pass time.

"When we first started, we didn't really have any career ambitions," Wildrick said. "Then we ended up sounding better than we thought we would."

As the band continued to grow in popularity, some members found it hard to balance their schoolwork with the

band's lifestyle. By late 2003, only Wildrick was left as an original member.

"All of the other guys went off to college, and I pretty much had to start over," Wildrick said. "I just wanted to keep it going to have fun while I was in college."

## If you go

**What:** The Junior Varsity concert

**When:** Tonight at 8 p.m.

**Where:** Student Center Grand Ballroom

**Tickets:** Free

Wildrick searched central Illinois for new band members, he found it was easy to find musicians who shared the same interests and influences as he did.

"There isn't too much of a music scene in Springfield," Wildrick said. "I found all of the guys basically out of luck

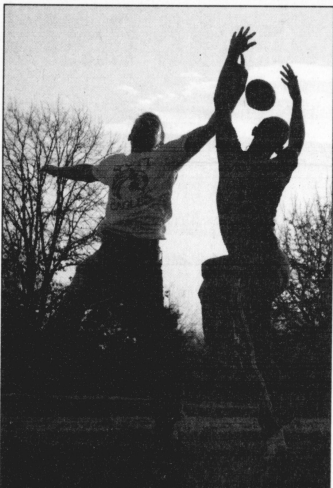
and because I knew a lot of people who were in to the same thing as me."

As the new band came together, their sound morphed into a mix of modern rock and pop rock, Wildrick said.

"We're trying to start our own trend with our sound," Wildrick said. "We don't scream, and that should tell people a lot about what we sound like."

Wildrick takes pride in The Junior Varsity being different from many of today's musicians. He thinks that the band brings something new and different to the stage.

"We hope people take this opportunity to see something that they probably haven't seen before," Wildrick said. "Besides, college kids are always looking for something fun to do that's cheap, and this is just that."



Beau McElfresh, left, an undeclared freshman, and mechanical engineering sophomore Bryan Hicks battle for a pass in the field next to Blanding | yesterday evening.

# A sweet solution

By Jia-Rui Chong  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

This should get your blood flowing.

Researchers from Johns Hopkins University have found that chocolate thins blood and protects the heart in the same way as aspirin. The key is a compound in chocolate called flavanol, which slows down platelet clumping that can block off blood vessels and lead to a heart attack or stroke.

You have to eat at least a couple of tablespoons of dark chocolate a day to see some benefit — and it's still not as effective as a single baby aspirin, which is usually prescribed to heart patients.

Matching aspirin would require eating several bars of chocolate a day, which could lead to other problems, such as obesity and diabetes — to say nothing of tooth decay.

"I would never tell people to go ahead and eat chocolate because chocolate travels with a lot of friends, like fat and sugar," said epidemiologist Diane Becker, who led the study funded by the National Heart,

Lung and Blood Institute.

Becker's discovery, presented at a meeting of the American Heart Association in Chicago Tuesday, came about because chocoholics just couldn't stay away from their addiction.

Her study of 1,535 people was intended to look at how aspirin affected blood platelets. Subjects were specifically instructed to stay away from chocolate, tea, strawberries and red wine.

But 139 people confessed to snacking on chocolate-chip cookies and other products. One subject admitted eating a gallon of chocolate ice cream.

Becker analyzed the cheaters' urine and found less thromboxane, a compound that indicates blood clotting. Blood analysis also showed slower clotting.

"It's a modest effect," said Dr. Karol Watson, a cardiologist at the University of California, Los Angeles who was not connected to the study. "But it's nice to say, 'You can't have that steak, but you can have chocolate afterward.'"

# Pirate catcher a welcome voice in sea of chaos

By John M. Gionna  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Noel Choong was working late the night he got the distress call: Just off the Malaysian coast in the darkness, a Japanese tugboat and barge were being attacked by a dozen pirates armed with AK-47s and rocket launchers.

The 154-man crew aboard the barge Kuroshio was frantic. As the vessel churned slowly northward through choppy waters it suddenly had been surrounded by three fishing boats.

The armed men stormed the little tug. Shots were fired. The captain and two others were taken hostage. The desperate barge crew plotted a rescue mission to free their shipmates, who were being held with guns to their heads.

A slender, tough-to-ruffle figure in his mid-40s, Choong urged the crew not to try anything stupid. "The pirates had high-powered weapons," he said later. "We told them: 'You're unarmed. You can't fight guns.'"

As his staff radioed for help from Malaysian marine police, Choong stayed on the phone with the terrified seamen. Pirates may be oceangoing desperadoes driven by poverty or greed, he assured them, but they usually are not killers.

Unless, that is, they were cornered or provoked.

"For that crew, this was a night from hell," Choong recalled. "I was just trying to be their friendly voice of reason."

Choong is a pirate catcher, a maritime crisis negotiator who handles the high-anxiety drama of modern-day pirate attacks in real time. He's also a detective, a high-seas sleuth with a host of shadowy shipping industry informants he uses to run down hijacked ships.

In the Strait of Malacca, whose waters are considered the most pirated in the world, his services as director of the International Maritime Bureau's Piracy Reporting Center are in near-constant demand.

The 550-mile-long channel, flanked by Singapore, Malaysia and the Indonesian island of Sumatra, is one of the world's most strategic international waterways and its busiest shipping lane.

Such seaborne commercial traffic attracts a sophisticated band

of piracy that has moved far beyond the scabbards and cutlasses of the 17th century.

Many are opportunists, Choong said, impromptu gangs of poor fishermen.

"They realized that robbing unarmed sailors is a lot easier than robbing a bank."

In recent years, Choong says, emboldened pirates have become more sophisticated. They forge passports and other documents to turn working maritime vessels into slave- and drug-running ships. They use satellite phones and global-positioning systems.

With high-speed fiberglass boats, they creep up from behind, using the cover of the ship radar's blind spot. With grappling hooks and expert climbing skills, they scale the vessel's mooring ropes and overpower isolated and vulnerable crews.

In a trick from centuries ago, some pirates disguise themselves to approach wary vessels. They pose as marine police, uniforms and all, doing routine checks.

Shippers have retaliated: In the Strait of Malacca, vessels use powerful water hoses to blast would-be boarders off the deck or to swamp the boats below. Some post mannequins dressed in overalls and hard hats to give the impression of a larger crew.

Many pirate attacks are hit-and-run robberies. In others, crew members are kidnapped for ransom, even tortured and killed. Countless vessels have been hijacked and turned into ghost ships used by syndicates for drug and slave smuggling.

Although the past 12 months have brought an uneasy hiatus, Choong says recent incidents suggest piracy may be back — with an ominous wrinkle.

On that night in March 2005, when bandits attacked the Japanese tugboat Ilaten and its construction barge, the Kuroshio, Choong alerted the ship owner to begin the delicate task of negotiating the release of the hostages.

After the ship owners paid an undisclosed ransom that Choong described as "way above market value," the men were released, but the pirates escaped. The saga made headlines — with scant mention of Choong. And that's the way he likes it.

"This time nobody died," he said. "Still, it's a dangerous game."

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# SPORTS

Jonathan Smith  
Sports Editor  
Phone: 257-1915  
E-mail: jsmith@kykernel.com

## Running game finds its groove

By Eric Lindsey  
sports@kykernel.com

With the Cats winning three straight Southeastern Conference games and clinching a bowl berth, it has been easy to overlook the reemergence of the running attack.

Labeled as the strength of the offense coming into the season, the running game struggled for much of the first half of the season.

However, during the Cats' current three-game winning streak, the running game has appeared to return to its 2005 form, with the Cats rushing for over one hundred yards in their past two games.

Head coach Rich Brooks said much of the success is because of better run-blocking on the offensive line.

"They've done a great job," Brooks said. "They're a hard-working group. They've got more physical as we've gone through the season, and I think we gave them a little bit better chance by emphasizing the run more after our bye week."

After averaging nearly 129 rushing yards a game last year, the Cats have had trouble establishing a ground attack this year.

The Cats rank 11th in the SEC and 103rd in the nation in rushing yards with just 96 yards per game.

A lot of the troubles could be blamed on the recent injuries to two of the tailbacks, Brooks said. Rafael Little missed three games with a knee injury, and Tony Dixon has been slowed with a sore hamstring.

Brooks said getting Little back was a plus, but that it all comes back to the offensive line.

"Of course it's always nice to have Rafael back, but he's just been in one of those three games," Brooks said. "Whether it's been Alfonso (Smith) or Tony or Rafael, they have to



TRICIA SPAULDING | STAFF

UK running back Rafael Little tries to shake off a tackler against Vanderbilt on Saturday. Little, who missed three games because of a knee injury, helped jump-start the ground game by rushing for 132 yards against Vandy.

have some blocks to make it all work."

The rushing unit hasn't been the only group that has had players go down with injuries.

With eight players injured — including five that are out for the year — offensive line coach Jimmy Heggins has had to shuffle his group around. One of the few consistencies on the decimated line has been guard Michael Aitcheson.

Running the football is just a fundamental thing in the game — period," Aitcheson said. "If you can run the football you control the clock, keep the ball longer, more snaps and it wears the defense down. The running game is just a plus in

all facets."

With the emergence of the running game, the passing game has opened up even more. It has forced teams to bring an extra man up to the line of scrimmage which is allowing quarterback Andre Woodson to go "over the top" more to his wide receivers, Aitcheson said.

As a result, Woodson threw for 450 yards in Saturday's 38-26 victory over the Commodores.

Aitcheson said the improved running game and the blossoming passing game have been a total team effort.

"It's everything," Aitcheson said. "The offensive line is doing a great job of opening up

holes, the running backs hitting the holes, the quarterback giving us good checks, wide receivers blocking on the perimeter.

"Everybody is doing their job collectively."

Heggins credited much of the improvement to the guys that are filling in at unfamiliar positions on the offensive line, but said it's important not to forget the type of talent the Cats have in the backfield.

"I think a lot of that has to do with the running backs coming through too," Heggins said. "They've decided on their own to pick it up, and we're just doing a little bit better job up front of getting a hat on somebody."

## Foul problems, depth trouble big men

By Jonathan Smith  
jsmith@kykernel.com

When UK takes the floor tonight against Miami University, freshman Perry Stevenson will likely be in the starting lineup.

Stevenson, a 6-foot-9 power forward, broke out in the Cats' first two exhibition games, averaging 6.5 points, 6.5 rebounds and 4 blocks.

But that's not why his name will be called as a starter in his first regular season game as a Cat in Rupp Arena.

His starting role, head coach Tubby Smith said, will come more out of necessity because of Randolph Morris' penchant for getting into foul trouble rather than for his consistent preseason contributions.

"That's one of the biggest concerns we have, and that is why we are starting Lukasz (Obrzut)," Smith said. "You just have to continue to do that until he (Morris) proves he can play without fouling."

Last season, Morris played in 21 games — he had to sit out the first 14 games because of an NCAA rules violation — and committed at least four fouls in 10 of those contests.

That changed slightly during the Cats' two preseason games. In those games, Morris picked up just six fouls.

Morris knows he has had a problem in the past of committing quick and cheap fouls.

"It has to be in the back of your mind," the junior center said. "As valuable as I am to the team, I know I have to play smarter."

Another reason Stevenson will be in the starting lineup is because of a sudden lack of depth in the front court.

Jared Carter is out tonight after he separated his right

shoulder in practice on Saturday. He will miss 3-4 weeks.

The 7-2 sophomore averaged 6.5 points and 3 rebounds in the Cats' two exhibition games.

Smith said Carter, like most players, made a huge leap from his freshman to sophomore year. "We're really going to miss him," Smith said. "Jared has been playing as well as anybody. He has improved probably more than anybody."

Also absent from the lineup will be senior forward Shery Thomas. Smith suspended Thomas for the first three games of the season after he violated team rules. His suspension ends Friday when the Cats play Mississippi Valley State.

With those two out, the only reserve big men will be Obrzut and freshman Mark Coury.

Miami opened its season with a 37-36 loss to Wright State on Saturday.

### Cats sign three

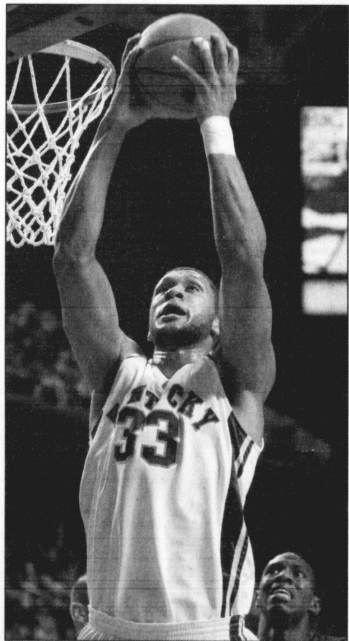
Smith announced the signing of three high school recruits yesterday, six days after the early signing period began.

A.J. Stewart, Mike Williams and Ramon Harris all committed to the Cats, and Harris could be eligible to play this season.

Harris, a 6-6 forward from Anchorage, Alaska, is in Lexington and is waiting for the NCAA Clearinghouse to allow him to play. He could be available as early as Dec. 15.

Stewart, a 6-9 forward from Arlington Country Day School in Jacksonville, Va. He is originally from England.

Williams is 7-foot center from Bishop Inton High School in Alexandria, Va. He is originally from England.



BRAD LUTTRELL | STAFF

UK forward Randolph Morris dunks against South Carolina Upstate on Nov. 6. Morris is trying to break his bad habit of picking up fouls when he can avoid them. "That's one of the biggest concerns we have," said head coach Tubby Smith.

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### ALCOHOL RESEARCH STUDIES AT UK

UK's Alcohol Research Center in the Department of Psychology is conducting a number of studies involving the effects of alcohol on behavior. Participants should be between 21-35 years of age for alcohol studies. Participants ages 18-20 are also needed for other studies not involving alcohol.

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## Richburg can teach us all a lesson

Plenty of people will be worth watching in tonight's basketball regular-season opener at Rupp Arena.

Ramel Bradley, in his first now-it-counts action at point guard, will be worth watching.

Perry Stevenson, who dazzled on defense in the preseason, will be worth watching.

Lukasz Obrzut, love him or hate him, will be worth watching.

And Ashley Judd will be there. She's always worth watching.

While all those people will be worth watching, I'll be watching someone else, and you should be too. But he won't be wearing the home white with blue letters. He'll be in Miami University's visiting red with white numerals. Be sure to bring your binoculars, because he might get lost in UK's sea of six- and seven-footers.

Miami's starting point guard, Carl Richburg, is listed on the Redhawks' roster rather generously at 5-foot-9. Richburg, who graduated a year before me at Mason High School in Cincinnati, was my teammate, and his story is one of perseverance, determination and the

benefits of hard work.

Richburg was a three-year varsity player and two-year starter at Mason, one of the biggest schools in the Cincinnati area. His electrifying quickness made him tough to guard, and his ability to score off the dribble made him always dangerous. And all he ever wanted to do was play Division I college basketball.

But even as Richburg racked up quality numbers his senior year, Division I programs shied away. Doubtful that he could overcome his height disadvantage, most schools simply crossed him off their prospect list.

"I pretty much figured there was nothing else I could do," he said. "I was waiting for people to call."

Those non-callers included Miami, which declined to recruit Richburg even after he put on the greatest single-game performance I've ever seen in a state tournament game played at Miami's home arena, Millet Hall. Richburg carved up the Hamilton High defense for 33 points and carried Mason to a near-upset of the eventual state champions.

One of Miami's assistant coaches watched Richburg play that day but still thought he was too short to play in Division I. So he waited. And waited. And no Division I program offered a scholarship.

"It was pretty disappointing," Richburg said.

So Richburg did what he

taught me to do — after accepting an offer to play at Division II Southern Indiana, he went back to work. He hit the weight room hard. He wanted to prove wrong those who overlooked him.

And he did.

Richburg became Southern Indiana's starting point guard in his first — and only — year on campus. After the season, Miami realized it had made a mistake and offered Richburg a chance to fulfill his dream of playing Division I basketball.

And tonight, this too short, can't-cut-it guard will start in college basketball's Mecca: Rupp Arena.

But Richburg's story is about more than just proving people wrong. There's some Every person has some deficiency, some excuse that can hold us back. Too fat, too slow, too stupid, too shy or too short. But we can't allow the negative to dominate. Richburg shows what can happen when we have faith in ourselves and refuse to be denied our dreams.

"Everyone doesn't take the same path, but this is the path I've taken," Richburg said. "It shows you've just got to believe it's going to work out. It shows you've got to keep on working hard, because you never know when the opportunity will arise."

But when the opportunity does arise, we can learn something from Carl Richburg.

We can be worth watching.



**CHRIS DELOTTCELL**  
Kernel columnist

## Sports Briefs

### Webb wins Cy Young Award

Former UK baseball player and current Arizona Diamondbacks pitcher Brandon Webb was named for the National League's Cy Young award yesterday in a runaway vote, making it the first time a UK player has ever won the award.

Webb received 15 of 32 first place votes from the Baseball Writers' Association of America giving him a total of 103 points.

Webb, an Ashland, Ky., native, finished second in the league in innings pitched, 235, and third in earned run average, 3.10. He set a Diamondbacks record for consecutive shutout innings with 30 between May 20 and June 5. On Sept. 9, Webb threw a one-hit shutout against the eventual World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals.

Webb lettered at UK from 1998-2000. He is third in UK history in career strikeouts with 259.

### Three Cats honored for academics

Three UK football players were honored yesterday as Academic District IV members.

Offensive lineman Hayden Lane, defensive tackle Lamar Mills and tight end Jacob Tamme were also nominated for Academic All America honors.

All three graduated in three years, and have grade point averages higher than 3.2.

Lane was honored last season as an Academic All American.

## UK VS. MIAMI (OHIO)

**Site:** Rupp Arena, 7 p.m.  
**Series:** UK leads 20-4  
**Last Meeting:** 1999 NCAA Sweet 16, UK won 58-43  
**Television:** Fox Sports South, Insight-52  
**Coaches:** UK: Tubby Smith (16th year overall, 365-133)  
Miami: Charlie Coles (17th year overall, 257-211)

### Miami (0-1)

Pos.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pts.	Rb.
G	Carl Richburg	5-9	173	So.	8.0	0.0
G	Michael Brianas	6-5	218	So.	7.0	5.0*
C	Monty St. Clair	6-9	241	Sr.	8.0	3.0
F	Nathan Peavy	6-8	227	Sr.	20.0	7.0
F	Tim Pollitz	6-6	230	Jr.	2.0	5.0

\* assists per game

### UK (0-0)

Pos.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pts.	Rb.
G	Ramel Bradley	6-2	176	Jr.	7.9	1.7
G	Joe Crawford	6-5	211	Jr.	10.2	3.9
F	Bobby Perry	6-8	215	Sr.	7.1	3.9
F	Perry Stevenson	6-9	178	Fr.	15.0	11.0
F	Ramellah Morris	6-11	259	Jr.	13.3	6.0

2005-06 stats; Stevenson's stats from high school

### WHO TO WATCH

**Miami:** Tim Pollitz. Pollitz got off to a slow start in the season opener against Wright State, but he was the second leading scorer for the Redhawks last season. Pollitz uses his strength to make up for his lack of size, but he won't be at as much of a disadvantage tonight against Bobby Perry. He will likely try to score down low and off the offensive glass.

**UK:** Ramel Bradley. Bradley will attempt to make a smooth transition in his first start at point guard. Bradley has always been a shoot-first player and don't expect that to change too much this season. He will just have to balance that with his job as the Cats' prime distributor.

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# OPINIONS

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## Newberry knows his job, even if he hasn't started

With the election fading rapidly in the minds of many voters, Jim Newberry has gone and done something that's bringing it all back and should make those who voted for him very pleased, even though he's not yet in office.

What's he doing? His job. Within 48 hours of being elected, Newberry had met with Mayor Teresa Isaac, whom he defeated handily 63 percent to 37 percent in last Tuesday's election, and began making arrangements to meet with the Urban County Council. On the Friday following the election, Newberry held a doughnut-and-coffee gathering with members of the council. He's also been cleared to work with city commissioners and been briefed on certain issues such as the EPA investigation of Lexington's stormwater system, according to an article in Thursday's Lexington Herald-Leader.

That should be news to the ears of many members of the council, according to that same article, who felt Isaac did not take the time to listen and have been waiting for a mayor who

### KERNEL EDITORIAL

would. Not only has Newberry made inroads with members of the council, he also appears to be making positive steps with one member of the council specifically, Vice Mayor Jim Gray.

Isaac has not had a good relationship with current Vice Mayor Mike Scanlon, as the two have been at odds both politically and otherwise. It doesn't appear that is what people should be expecting from Newberry and Gray. This doesn't necessarily mean they will be the best of bosom buddies, but it does mean they will communicate and work on the issues.

"I fully expect Jim to forcefully make a case for things he believes, and I'll be doing the same," Newberry said.

Politics isn't supposed to be where everyone is happy and cheerful and there are no disputes. Far from it. But politics should be about people doing their jobs to the fullest extent and commu-

nicating with other parts of the government to see that the best possible outcome is what citizens enjoy.

It's barely a week after the election and Newberry has already given everyone a reason to believe that he is willing to do what it takes to make the system work, and not only just barely function, but perform at the best it possibly can for Lexington residents.

Divisions have been one of the defining characteristics of Lexington politics over the past few years, ranging from issues with the smoking ban to water water condemnation to the Party Plan.

Out of all that division, Newberry said he sees unity, especially with such a landslide win in his favor.

"We've got a much more united platform on

which to build, and that's hugely important in the next four years of this community," Newberry was quoted as saying in the Friday Herald-Leader article.

At a debate in front of high school students before the election, Isaac said that should Jim Newberry be elected, the city would not function properly. Newberry said in a Friday Herald-Leader article that he saw that as one of the pivotal moments that turned the election in his favor.

From the way things are looking, weeks before Newberry even takes office, the city ceasing to function seems

highly unlikely. We praise him for his forward thinking, his work ethic and the effort that he even now is exerting to improve the city.

Jim Newberry is shaping up to be a mayor who won't hesitate to work with others, which should come as a relief to a politically-divided city.

## Make an educated vote — or stay home on Election Day

Voter turnout was higher than expected in some locations; some states received court orders to extend time because of technical errors, votes had to be re-counted, but in the end, the country had a democratic election.



MEGAN VAZMINA  
Kernel columnist

In the weeks preceding Nov. 7, the words "civic duty," "responsibility" and "right" were thrown out to everyone, especially college students who historically have the lowest voter turnout. But should we really have been pushed to vote? While the media tries to educate us for Election Day, what happens if they don't succeed? When should "civic duty" be put aside because voters simply don't know whom they are voting for?

The question of whether it is worse to not vote or to vote for someone you don't know isn't easy. Do you receive the chastisement for not bothering to vote or because you randomly voted for a candidate?

The ballot for Lexington was about five pages long, with about 70 percent of the people running unopposed, so it would have been difficult to know everything about every candidate. But is that an excuse? Obviously, you weren't meant to answer all these rhetorical questions. My objection is that often times Election Day is simply a day when people go out and vote because they have been raised to believe it's the right thing to do, they don't spend hours looking into the choices and options, it's just a thing they feel like they have to do.

But the democratic process shouldn't be about merely casting a ballot. It should be about choosing the person that is the best to represent people, not which name sounds

the coolest (not that I would know about that).

I had one friend admit to me that he stayed up the night before for hours researching the people on the ballot so he went in as informed as possible and made the choices that were best for the city.

But his votes may have been negated by someone who went in and spent 5 minutes choosing random candidates, or the ones with the most commercials or lawn signs. This isn't how elections should work.

People have a responsibility to vote for their leaders; they don't have the right to complain if they don't. But people also have a responsibility to educate themselves.

Walking out of a precinct with an "I Voted" sticker doesn't mean that you have automatically sustained the country's democratic principles; it means that you walked into a booth and chose some people. Next election day, take some time beforehand to research the candidates, what they stand for and why they should be chosen. For America to be the best country possible, its citizens should elect the best candidates.

It's not for anyone to tell you whether or not you have to vote and especially not whom to vote for. Don't succumb to the peer pressure to vote. Voting is a right and responsibility, but with every right and responsibility comes obligations.

When the time comes and you want to complain about an elected official and you are asked whether or not you voted, and you didn't vote because you didn't feel informed enough, just say that. Give a nice long speech about how Americans should be informed about who they are voting for, and that the action of voting isn't important unless there's thought behind it. Drive Carefully and Vote Intelligently.

Megan Vazmina is a political science and journalism junior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### Portrayal of dead students was disrespectful to victims, families

As a graduate of UK (Ph.D., 1998) I am always interested in what the Kernel is printing and do my level best to keep up with important stories and news from Lexington.

I am saddened by the article I read by Megan Boehnke concerning the deaths of three students thus far this semester ("Students who died were legally drunk, Nov. 13).

Obviously I am dismayed that students are engaged in high-risk behavior, but that's not what concerns me here.

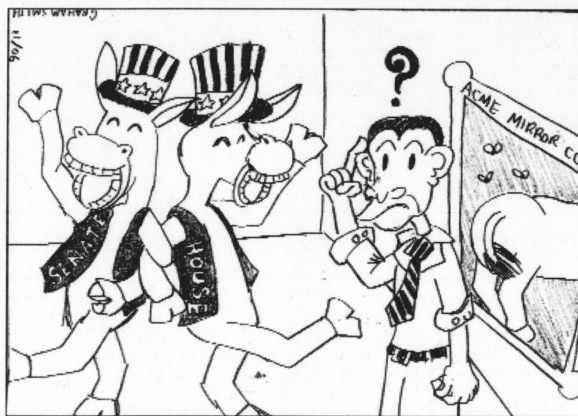
The troubling issue brought up with this particular article is the portrayal of these three young people. All three of them died senselessly — I don't dispute that. I am troubled by the manner in which Boehnke rendered their life stories. Each was portrayed in a systematically one-dimensional fashion: If one reads this article, all it is possible to discern about each is that they drank — a lot.

The exception to this was in the discussion of Tevis Shaw. His mother, Katherine, was profoundly eloquent in her quotations concerning her son. Yet I fear she wasn't completely heard either. Surely no mother wants her child remembered this way, correct?

Could Boehnke instead have acknowledged what a heinous loss Mr. Shaw's death brought and celebrate his life?

Surely the celebration of a life well lived (albeit a tragically short one) makes the point Boehnke was attempting to make — that excessive alcohol use causes needless pain — better than focusing on toxicology reports and assumptions made by trace elements of drugs found in the system(s) of the deceased.

Kristen Stauffer Todd, Ph.D.  
UK class of 1998



GRAHAM SMITH, Kernel cartoonist

## Despite Republican losses, Election Day was good for conservatives

It's been two years since GOP strategists boldly predicted a "permanent Republican majority" in Congress and launched a campaign aimed at achieving that end.



WES BLEVINS  
Kernel columnist

Following the 2004 elections, which saw George W. Bush re-elected and Republicans increase their numbers in both the House and the Senate, then-Majority Leader Tom DeLay said, "The Republican Party is a permanent majority for the future of this country." The now-disgraced political pariah added, "We're going to be able to lead this country in the direction we've been dreaming of for years."

But as DeLay and other Republicans can now attest, a lot can happen in two years.

Two years ago, conservative voters were ecstatic with victory, having defeated the stalwart liberal senator, John Kerry. Last Tuesday, however, Conservatives were angry.

And justifiably so. In 1994, when Republicans gained majorities of both houses of Congress, 1,500 public financing earmarks — basically pork barrel spending — passed through the halls of the Democrat-controlled Capitol. This year, 15,000 such projects passed through the Republican-controlled chambers.

Republicans gained control of Congress with promises to drastically cut federal spending. They lost control by substantially increasing pork over several years — best highlighted by the \$223 million "Bridge to Nowhere" project in Alaska.

In 1994, Republicans promised ethi-

cal government prior to several high-profile GOP Congressmen becoming mired in multiple scandals.

Conservatives are angry because they voted for a president and several Congresses that promised "compassionate conservatism" — a philosophy that proved to be anything but conservative.

To be sure, Tuesday's losses hardly represent a national repudiation of conservative values. On the contrary, Democrats ran a slew of conservative candidates against more moderate or scandal-ridden Republican incumbents.

In Montana, Jon Tester won't be falling in line with the Chuck Schumer-Ted Kennedy wing of the Democratic Party. And Bob Casey defeated Rick Santorum in Pennsylvania on a pro-life and pro-gun platform. In one of the most hotly contested races, Virginia Sen. George Allen lost his seat to Ronald Reagan's Secretary of the Navy, Jim Webb.

All in all, Democratic campaign strategy was brilliant — recruit moderate to conservative candidates whom disillusioned Republicans and independents could vote for — and it paid huge dividends.

Now the ball is squarely in the Democrats' court. If they prove to lead effectively, the nation could very well see Democratic majorities for the next dozen years or so. Any talk of permanent majorities, as Republicans learned, is simply that — talk.

In a healthy democratic system, power changes hands on a fairly regular basis. So Republicans must now look ahead to 2008 and beyond if they hope to recapture either house of Congress.

To do so, the first step must be a change in leadership, especially in the House of Representatives. Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert has already claimed to not be interested in becoming minority leader. This can hardly be seen as anything but a step in the right direc-

tion. In the last several years, the Republican Party has drifted away from its traditional conservative values of fiscal responsibility and smaller government. Essentially, the religious right has taken the reins of the party, leaving the large libertarian wing virtually ignored.

The Republican Party in 2006 is a shadow of the party that took control of Congress in 1994. The Contract With America was a principled stand against ineffective policies which dominated national politics for more than 40 years.

Republicans broke their Contract with America, and last Tuesday, voters made them pay for their misdeeds.

An argument could be made that the 111th Congress will be more conservative than the 110th. Democrats should make a point to bring their new conservative colleagues into the fray. Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid, the presumed Democratic leaders in the House and Senate, respectively, need to realize that liberalism did not win them their majorities.

The U.S. remains a predominantly conservative nation. It would be in the best interest of both parties to promote the ideas that got them elected to Congress in the first place.

In the next two years, if Democrats — under the leadership of Pelosi and Reid — show their liberal colors, they run the risk of alienating their freshman colleagues and losing control to Republicans in the 2008 election.

In sports, the phrase "addition by subtraction" is often used to signify that a team will be better off in the long run despite the loss of key players.

By shifting Congress to the right and pushing the bad seeds out of office, conservatives will prove to be the true winners of Election Day 2006.

Wes Blevins is a journalism senior. E-mail wblevins@kykernel.com.

### Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Wes Blevins. Please limit letters to 350 words or fewer. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions.

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### Columnists needed

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## Auto executives get little from president

By Sholun Freeman  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — President Bush promised Tuesday to deliver a message to Asian trading partners to "treat us the way we treat you," but offered top U.S. auto executives little help in their battle to turn around the industry.

The president met with the three chief executives of the Detroit-based auto companies for a little more than an hour at the White House after twice postponing the get-together over the past several months. In Michigan, where the economy is reeling from auto industry downsizing, the long wait came to symbolize the Bush administration's indifference to the manufacturing sector.

Alan Mulally of Ford Motor Co., Thomas LaSorda of DaimlerChrysler's Chrysler division and Richard Wagoner of General Motors Corp. laid out their concerns about fair trade, health care costs, rising steel prices and alternative fuel development. After the meeting, Bush said the executives had "tough choices" to make. He said he was confident that they were making the "right decisions."

Bush, who was preparing Tuesday to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Vietnam this week, said he would tell Asian trading partners that "our markets are open for your products, and we expect your markets to be open for ours, including our automobiles."

At a news conference after the meeting, the three auto executives said they found common ground with the president on energy issues. The executives said they asked the administration to help expand the supply and distribution of alternative fuels such as ethanol. In a joint statement, the automakers said they could make half of their annual vehicle production capable of burning ethanol by 2012 to lessen the nation's dependence on foreign oil.

The auto executives said Bush made no pledges to support any specific industry initiatives. Other company officials had said they had limited expectations of the meeting, which was also attended by Vice President Dick Cheney.

The auto executives said they were not able to persuade the administration to challenge the Japanese government on its U.S. trade imbalance and the weakness of the yen. Wagoner and other auto officials have accused the Japanese government of artificially weakening the yen, providing a cost subsidy of \$3,000 to \$9,000 per vehicle for auto exports to this country for automakers like Toyota Motor Corp. and Honda Motor Co.

"I can't honestly say the president 100 percent saw it that way," Wagoner said after the meeting.

Kate Bronfenbrenner, director of labor education research at Cornell University, said part of the administration's inaction has been because Michigan is a Democratic-leaning state. She said organized labor played a

major role in last week's elections and union members turned out in large numbers to help mobilize Democratic voters.

"But it's much bigger than that," Bronfenbrenner said. "Bush hasn't cared about health care, retiree benefits or pensions for any workers, and those are some of the issues that drove the Democratic victory in the last election."

The election put key Washington allies of the industry into power, including Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., who is set to lead the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and Rep. Sander Levin, D-Mich., who is to take the chairmanship of the House Ways and Means trade subcommittee. In a written statement, Dingell said he was pleased automakers had a chance to present their concerns with the president. "The meeting is a first step, now we need action," he said.

Democrats are pushing a number of industry-related initiatives on trade and health care. Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., said he will continue to try to build support for a proposal to have the government pick up part of the auto industry's retiree health care bills, if the carmakers promise to invest in new energy technologies such as hybrids.

"My hope is that the president and his staff are working to examine these approaches," Obama said Tuesday in an interview. "I can assure you if the president doesn't take the lead, the Congress will. We'll be working very hard as soon as we swear in the next Congress."

## U.S. Air strike in Ramadi balloons Iraqi death toll

By Solomon Moore  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A U.S. air strike in the restive town of Ramadi killed at least 30 people, including women and children, witnesses said Tuesday.

The aerial attack, which took place late Monday night, brought the number of violent deaths reported in Iraq on Tuesday to at least 91 people, according to military sources and witnesses.

Dr. Barakat Mansi, a Ramadi physician, said that many of the bodies arriving at the city's morgue Monday night and Tuesday morning were shattered and charred. Another doctor, who identified himself only as Dr. Kamal, said that others died because of U.S. roadblocks and heavy fighting.

"It was difficult for us to reach the location because the Americans cordoned off the area," he said. "This increased the number of the dead — some of the injured could have been evacuated and kept alive."

U.S. military officials had no immediate comment on an airstrike in Ramadi. Rather, the military released a statement announcing that American troops in Ramadi killed 11 alleged insurgents in a series of attacks that appeared to be unrelated to any air-strike.

"National reconciliation is a fiasco!" cried one bereaved relative.

Referring to a local Sunni Arab anti-insurgent group, another relative complained that "the Committee of Salvation is useless."

"They are calling for peace when it is time to jihad," the relative said.

The U.S. military, in its statement, said that American troops killed two alleged insurgents with small arms fire as they attempted to set an "improvised explosive device."

A U.S. tank round killed three other alleged insurgents after they returned to the same site shortly thereafter. "There were secondary explosions and the remains of the IED continued to burn for about an hour," the statement said.

After an insurgent attack on a U.S. military vehicle four hours later in the same area, U.S. forces opened fire with rifles and tank rounds, killing four more suspected insurgents who were allegedly scavenging "mission essential equipment."

In northeast Baghdad on Tuesday, a car bomb detonated near a crowded market, killing 15 people and injuring 16 others.

"I helped to evacuate the injured and the dead," said clothing salesman Gaiith Saadi during a phone interview. "Merchants and customers are leaving the market as early as possible these days because of the explosions. We used to close down at 4 p.m., now we close at 1 p.m. Most of the shops in our market are closed and the owners have left Iraq."

Additionally, in the northern oil-hub of Kirkuk, gunmen attacked a house late Monday night, killing four people and wounding two others. A bomb exploded Tuesday near a police patrol vehicle in Kirkuk killing two people, including one police officer and injuring four civilians.

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PERFORMING WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15  
**TONIGHT**  
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203 STUDENT CENTER | 859-257-8867 | WWW.UKSAB.ORG  
PAID FOR BY STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES. EVENT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL  
Z-FUJ  
4-SQUARE  
TOURNAMENT**

**Thursday Nov. 16  
AT 7:30 P.M.  
AT THE SEATON CENTER**  
CONTACT KELLY CONRAD:  
812-204-1858 OR  
DAVID LEEVER:  
513-600-7469

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