

THE Kentucky Kernel

Thursday, July 6, 2006

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ERIC THOMPEN | STAFF
Nelson A. Felix Jr. walks on a tenor saxophone Tuesday as part of downtown's Fourth of July activities. An estimated crowd of 20,000 watched the evening's fireworks display.

Thunderstorms don't deter crowd from Fourth of July celebration

By Julie Fitzpatrick
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Tuesday's afternoon thunderstorm didn't stop fireworks from popping or deter concertgoers on the Fourth of July.

In fact, the rain provided a welcome respite from the afternoon heat — and it helped fire up spectators for the annual parade.

Earlier in the day, Faith Cassell said she had to take a break from the parade to sit in the shade, prompting a Lexington police officer to stop and make sure that she was all right.

"All these men in their uniforms are just too much for me," Cassell joked.

Cassell, and her coworker Linda Rice, both UK Healthcare employees, said they enjoyed themselves downtown.

"We enjoy coming," Rice said. "Even in the heat, it's worth sweating for."

Included in the festivities were many vendor booths, which boasted items ranging from custom wire and glass wind sculptures to combination lock change banks.

Following the parade was "Red, White and Boom," a concert sponsored by local country radio station 98.1-FM The Bull. Performers included Brad Alford, Eddie Barber, Ashley Monroe, Carolina Rain, Gary Nichols, and Eric Church, with Sara Evans headlining.

After the third band played, rain threatened to overwhelm the audience. But Paula Patton and James Gross waited out the storm.

"Sara Evans is going to put on a good show," Patton said, "and we're going to stick it out."

She did stick it out — and her patience was rewarded.

Evans closed the show with "A Real Fine Place to Start," then gave an encore performance of Belinda Carlisle's '80s classic, "Heaven is a Place on Earth."

Tuesday's downtown festivities ended with a fireworks display that lit the sky.

Stephen Schuler was impressed with the show. "They're the perfect ending to the perfect day," Schuler said.

E-mail features@kykernel.com

Kinko's opens on campus

By Crystal Little
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Yesterday marked the first day of operations for the two locations of UK's new FedEx Kinko's Office and Print Services, Inc.

The duplicating operations located in Kinkead Hall have closed, UK announced in a news release last week.

As of yesterday, FedEx Kinko's has taken over UK's Duplicating Services to serve the entire UK community, said Sarah Nikirk, acting director of Auxiliary Services.

The two campus locations are in the basement of White Hall Classroom Building and the UK Medical Center's Medical Education-Dental Science Building.

"We wanted to be able to offer 24-hour operations on campus with a company that had expertise" with copying and duplicating tasks, Nikirk said, adding that Kinko's was the obvious choice.

The development has been in the works for about six months, Nikirk said, and will offer a broader variety of services to students, not just faculty and staff.

"We wanted to open this up to students," Nikirk said. Before, Duplicating Services was primarily used by UK faculty and staff, and did not accept the Plus Account; the limited hours of operation also discouraged students from using Duplicating Services, she said.

The two new campus locations will be fully equipped and running by Aug. 1, and plans are in the works to accept the Plus Account, Nikirk said.

In addition to the two campus venues, FedEx Kinko's are also located on Rose Street and Larkin Road. Another location on Richmond Road is being planned, and in the future another one may be constructed

See Kinko's on page 2



ERIC THOMPEN | STAFF
Above: Tuesday night's fireworks display, seen here from the Fifth Third Bank building's roof, lasted 16 minutes.

JULIE FITZPATRICK | STAFF
Right: The crowd lined Main Street in downtown Lexington Tuesday to watch the Fourth of July parade.

Bleeding red, white & blue



Live bands, a parade and lots of fireworks kept downtown Lexington lively Tuesday. From a musical medley that included everything from live concert-hall bands to country singers, to the blazing reds, bright whites and beautiful blues of the city's fireworks show, the crowded downtown streets seemed to have a pulse that beat strongly American for the estimated crowd of 25,000 that rocked patriotic on Independence Day.

Safety cited as reason for shrub removal

By Julie Fitzpatrick
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

During the last two months, landscaping and lighting improvements have been made to help students feel safer on campus, including the removal of overgrown plant life and the evaluation of emergency call boxes.

Shrubbery has been removed in a number of different areas, including the front of Lafferty Hall, Donovan Hall, McVey Hall and the Grehan Journalism Building. Work has also been done around the Student Center, Maxwell Place, and M.I. King Library.

The removal of the shrubs on various parts of campus is related to safety, according to UK police.

"We're looking at areas and pathways on campus," said Maj. Joe Monroe, spokesman for UK police. "We look at it at night to see what we can do to make it feel more comfortable for students."

The area in front of McVey Hall and the Grehan Journalism Building is part of the CATS Path, which is designated by paw prints on the concrete sidewalks and patrolled regularly. UK police is focusing on making especially these paths safer for students, Monroe said.

"We are taking away places where people can be hiding in bushes and lighting up paths that may seem to be dark," he said. The Physical Plant Division, which over-

sees a majority of the maintenance work done at UK, also had a concern with the shrubbery.

"Primarily, it was a safety issue," said George Riddle, superintendent of the grounds department for the Physical Plant Division. "The shrubs in that area were overgrown, and we were starting to become alarmed that there were areas that people could hide in. They were also a maintenance issue and needed to be replaced."

Twice per year, the Physical Plant Division participates in a safety walk through campus with members of Student Government, surveying lighting and landscaping on campus to target areas that students might

See Safety on page 2

FedEx Kinko's

Where: White Hall Classroom Building, lower level in room 29; UK Medical Center, Medical Education-Dental Science Building, MN 246

When: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Aug. 1; as of Aug. 1, the office will be open 24 hours

For more information, faculty, staff and students may call FedEx Kinko's for pick-up and delivery at 859-253-1360 or 859-276-4673.

Bond set at \$1 million for Ragland trial

STAFF REPORT

In his second trial for the sniper-style killing of UK football player Trent DiGiuro, Shane Ragland will have to post a \$1 million bond to stay out of the Fayette County Detention Center until the trial begins.

Fayette Circuit Court Judge Thomas Clark set the bond on June 29 with the condition that Ragland, who has violated bond conditions in the past, couldn't leave his father or mother's Frankfort homes except to go to court or meet with his high-profile attorneys, the Lexington Herald-Leader reported last week. Leading his defense team is David Broderick of Bowling Green, Ky.

Other conditions of Ragland's bond are that he must cover the expense of the electronic tracking device that he must wear at all times, and the expense of the drug tests that he must undergo while he is on bond. Ragland is not allowed to drink alcohol or use drugs while on bond.

Ragland was convicted of the murder of DiGiuro in 2002 and sentenced to 30 years in prison, but his conviction was overturned in March by the Kentucky Supreme Court. DiGiuro was shot and killed while sitting on his front porch in 1994.

In 2000, before Ragland's first trial for the slaying, his bond was set at \$1 million. His father, Frankfort businessman Jerry Ragland, was his benefactor then, though the elder Ragland told the Herald-Leader that he isn't sure if he can do it again and pay for Ragland's defense team.

"Lawyers took all my money," Jerry Ragland said, but admitted on the witness stand that he had sold \$16 million in PurchasePro stock in 2000 and owns \$4 million in property, which he is still paying loans on, according to the Herald-Leader.

See Ragland on page 2

North Korea test-fires missiles; U.S. calls move 'provocative'

By Dana Priest and Anthony Faiola
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — North Korea test-fired at least six missiles Tuesday, including its long-range Taepodong-2, senior U.S. officials said, defying strong warnings from the United States and regional powers in Asia.

The controversial long-range missile failed less than a minute after launch, falling into the Sea of Japan, along with the other, less-sophisticated missiles. Diplomatic and military officials played down any imminent threat, but Stephen Hadley, President Bush's national security adviser, called the display of firepower on the Fourth of July "provocative behavior."

In addition to prompting swift condemnation in Washington and Japan, the launches set off a flurry of diplomatic consultations. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice began calling Asian capitals that were waging to the news, and the U.N. Security Council was set to take up the matter yesterday. Meanwhile, a special U.S. envoy, Christopher Hill, was dispatched to consult with allies.

Japanese Foreign Minister Tarō Aso said Tokyo was likely to impose economic sanctions against North Korea in response to the missile tests, Japanese

authorities said they would begin by banning North Korean ships from Japanese ports for six months or more.

Japan's NHK television quoted Foreign Ministry official Lee Byung Dok as saying: "This is an issue of national sovereignty, and other countries do not have the right to judge. We are not bound by any agreement regarding missiles."

Over the past several weeks, U.S. intelligence officials had warned of a possible long-range missile test by North Korea, and the issue became the subject of increasingly acrimonious exchanges between the United States and North Korea. Japan, South Korea and other nations had urged the North not to proceed with a test. Tuesday night, Hadley said the launch "just shows the defiance of the international community by North Korea."

In South Korea, Suh Choo-suk, senior presidential secretary for security policy, said in a nationally televised announcement that the North "should assume full responsibility for its missile launches."

He expressed "deep regret" for the "provocative act" that he said would deepen the North's isolation and affect inter-Korean ties.

The South Korean government has said it would punish Py-

ongyang in the event of a missile test by curbing the massive investment and humanitarian aid that has formed an integral part of its rapprochement with the North in recent years. President Roh Moo-hyun is now likely to face international and domestic pressure to follow through. A scaling back of financial assistance to the North by South Korea and China is considered key to the success of any international sanctions against Pyongyang.

North Korea last test-fired a long-range missile in 1998; it had observed a moratorium on such launches since 1999.

Hadley said that although the test was a clear violation of that moratorium, it offered the United States important insight about North Korea's weapons capabilities. "The Taepodong is a failure. That tells you something about capabilities," North Korea's intentions were left unclear, he said.

U.S. surveillance observed all the launches, said an official at the Pentagon, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"None posed a threat," a Pentagon spokesman said in an e-mail account of the incident, and "no action (was) required."

The Taepodong-2 missile failed after about 35 seconds, he said.

Kinko's

Continued from page 1

in Hamburg Pavilion, said FedEx Kinko's senior projects manager Emily Proctor. Proctor, who usually works at the Larkin Road location, manned the office in the Classroom Building yesterday.

Proctor said business had been a little slow during the first day, but she received several phone calls about the new service and expects it to pick up during the regular semester.

E-mail
clittle@kykernel.com

Ragland

Continued from page 1

Court documents show that Ragland violated the terms of his last bonding more than 50 times, but the director of adult probation said most of the violations were "minor" and the bond wasn't revoked.

Fayette Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Larson, who led the prosecution of Ragland during the first trial, tried to get the bond set at \$250,000, saying he couldn't afford the \$1 million.

But after the amount of the bond was announced, Jerry Ragland told the Herald-Leader that he still didn't know if he could get his son out of prison before the trial, and if forced to make a decision, that it wouldn't be his highest priority.

"It's not so much the bonding that's important to me than making sure he has a fair trial with good lawyers," Jerry Ragland said.

He said he would make his decision in "a week or so," which would be today. Visit www.kykernel.com for updates.

E-mail
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Safety

Continued from page 1

view as potentially unsafe.

"We're always going around campus and seeing what needs to be done, or if things are unsafe," Riddle said.

Emergency call boxes are also being evaluated. Currently, there are 69 phones, but weekly checks have found that 14 are out of service. Monroe said that call boxes will still be in key locations such as parking garages, residence halls and recommended walking paths, but because of the abundance of cell phones, officials are debating whether to install new ones in their place.

"We're finding that 95.8 percent of students on campus have cell phones ... and take them back and forth to class," Monroe said. "They'll always have that phone with them and when they use the number it will go directly to the police department for assistance."

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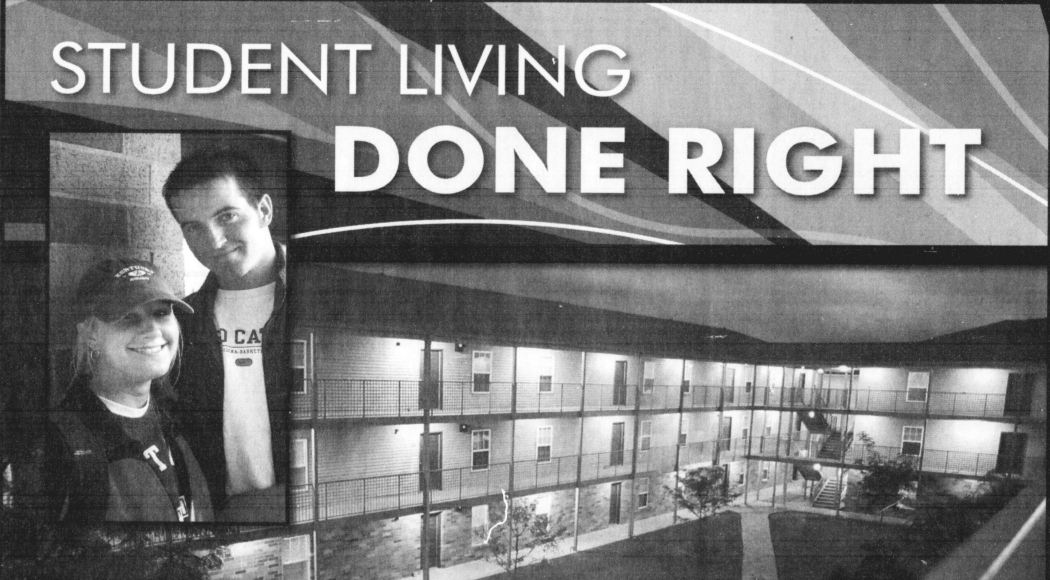
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PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES
Movie studios slack off on sending their press kits to *The Kernel* during the summer. Lame, we know. So we're running this picture from the Wayans family's latest endeavor, 'Little Man,' which doesn't open till next week.

IN THEATERS

A SCANNER DARKLY
In the adaptation of the Philip K. Dick science-fiction novel, Bob Arctor (Keanu Reeves) is a dealer of the illegal drug Substance D, which apparently gets you pretty baked, but eventually splits its user's brain into two entities that hate each other. Fred (Reeves) is the cop/user assigned to the prosecution of Arctor, and to bring him to justice he has taken on the identity of a man with the same name. But, in a true twist, it turns out Fred's narcing on himself. Remember those "this is your brain on drugs" commercials where that chick would completely destroy a kitchen with a frying pan, knocking stuff over and smashing things to bits? She was hot. That commercial was awesome. Anyway, if you like, science fiction, go see this movie. If you don't, but you like drug movies like "Requiem for a Dream," then go see this movie. If you like romantic comedies and Sarah Jessica Parker, don't go see this film. That's all I can tell you. Because I'm on drugs. **Rated R** for drug content, sexual content, language and brief violence; it pretty much just brings the party. A lot like cocaine. **Opens tomorrow in limited release and July 14 at the Kentucky Theatre.**

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST

In the sequel, Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) finds

out he owes a blood debt to Davey Jones. He must pay it off, or face eternal damnation. Keira Knightley, Orlando Bloom, and director Gore Verbinski are all back, as they will be for "PotC: World's End" when it comes out next May. The first "PotC" wasn't difficult to like, but I don't know if every successful movie that cost a lot of jack to make should become a trilogy, which is becoming a Hollywood trend, it seems like. I personally can't wait for "Passion of the Christ 2" to come out; that'll be an action-packed sequel. They should look into casting Tucker Max; he wouldn't even have to act. **Rated PG-13** for sequences of intense violence. Note: if she doesn't already, your girlfriend will have a crush on Orlando Bloom after seeing this movie. **At Cinemark Fayette Mall, Regal and Woodhill.**

ON SHELVES

THE LIBERTINE

The story of the Earl of Rochester (Johnny Depp), a 17th-century poet who famously drank and fornicated his way to an early grave only to be lauded years after his passing for his work. John Malkovich also stars. This film, released in 2004, has some of the best opening lines ever: "Allow me to be frank at the commencement. You will not like me. The gentlemen will be envious and the ladies will be repelled... Ladies, an announcement. I am up for it. All the time." Within the first

five lines of the movie, we understand this guy's entire life, and why he got no critical acclaim for his work until he wasn't around to talk about it. The rest is just color, but really good color. **Rated R** for strong sexual content, including dialogue, violence and language.

THE MATADOR

Continuing the "The" theme of this week's DVD releases, a melancholy hitman (Pierce Brosnan) meets a traveling salesman (Greg Kinnear) in a bar in Mexico City. Their lives become entangled as their friendship grows deeper and both do things they never would have ordinarily accomplished. Brosnan's grasp of the dark, offbeat humor in the part makes his character (sample one-liner: "I'm as serious as an erection problem"); Kinnear is a poor man's Philip Seymour Hoffman for his feel of character acting. **Rated R** for strong sexual content and language.

—Compiled by managing editor
Chris Johnson

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FYI

For theater listings, showtimes, ticket prices and more, visit www.fandango.com or www.movieone.com. For information about what's playing at the Kentucky Theatre, located at 214 E. Main St., visit www.kentuckytheatre.com or call 231-6997.

ONTAP | For the week of JULY 6 - JULY 12

TONIGHT

Kenny Chesney
7:30 p.m. Freedom Hall, Louisville. Tickets cost \$53.50 to \$63.50.

Alicia BB w/ Southerly, Lauren Hoffman and Thao Nguyen
8:30 p.m. Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$7.

Phat Mavericks w/ Orangorhimp
9 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$3.

TOMORROW
Parlour Boys w/ Modena Vox
9 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

The Stardevils w/ Honky Tonk Damnation
10 p.m. Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$5.

SATURDAY
Sexual Disaster Quartet
9 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

SUNDAY
Ryan Cabrera w/ Josh Hoge and Jay Duchanan
8 p.m. Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$16 to \$18.

TUESDAY
Panel! At the Disco w/ Dresden Dolls and The Hush Sound
7:30 p.m. Bogarts, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$18 to \$20.

Tim McGraw w/ Faith Hill
7:30 p.m. U.S. Bank Arena, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$63 to \$88.

The Icy Demons w/ Crime of the Black Cat
9 p.m. Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$8.

WEDNESDAY
Counting Crows w/ The Goo Goo Dolls

7 p.m. Riverbend Music Center, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$25.25 to \$67.50.

Gin Blossoms w/ Chris Campbell Band
8 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door.

COMING SOON
Poison
7 p.m. July 13. Riverbend Music Center, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$15 to \$35.

Six Organs of Admittance w/ Eyes & Arms of Smoke
9 p.m. July 13. The Dame. Tickets cost \$6.

Yellowcard
7 p.m. July 18. Bogarts, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$23.50.

Dressy Bessy
9 p.m. July 18. The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

Petticoat Petticoat w/ Nana & the Boy Noise and The Love Coats
9 p.m. July 20. The Dame. Tickets cost \$3.

Pharcyde
9 p.m. July 21. The Dame. Tickets cost \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door.

The Roots
9 p.m. July 22. Bogarts, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$10 to \$17.

Jolie Holland w/ Sean Hayes
7 p.m. July 23. The Dame. Tickets cost \$10.

Def Leppard w/ Journey
7:30 p.m. July 25. Riverbend Music Center, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$20 to \$75.

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IN OUR OPINION

Don't declaw CATS reform

Kentucky's Department of Education might be trying to curb a new program approved earlier this year by the General Assembly.

Under the plan, the American College Test will become part of Kentucky's academic achievement tests by the 2007-08 school year.

The collaboration of achievement tests, collectively known as the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System, or CATS, is used to gauge schools' accountability in teaching vital subjects to prepare students for college.

But the state's Department of Education, according to the Louisville Courier-Journal, has been "kicking around" ideas to minimize the impact of the ACT on the current CATS exams.

Under the department's proposal, the ACT will count only 5 percent toward schools' overall state accountability scores.

Some people inside the Department of Education, the Courier-Journal reported, have concerns about how disruptive adding the ACT might be to the state accountability system.

The primary sponsor of the bill requiring high school students to take the ACT, Sen. Dan Kelly (R-Springfield) said the legislature intended the exam to carry heavier weight for schools.

He attributed the Department of Education proposal to people being "closed-minded about adjusting the current test," he told the Courier-Journal.

It should be worth noting that legislators did not pass the measure on a whim. Rather, "Ken-

tucky has been a leader" in such measures in education reform, said Ross Wiener, policy director at the Education Trust in Washington, D.C., in the Courier-Journal.

Lisa Gross, a spokeswoman for the Department of Education, said despite the proposal, students will still have incentive to perform well on the ACT because of its importance in college entrance and scholarships.

That's true for those students who plan on attending college — in 2004, 49.3 percent of Kentucky high school graduates enrolled in colleges or universities — but what about the other half of students who maintain no vested interest in earning high scores?

Weighting the ACT at only 5 percent for school accountability will give those students no further incentive to learn the skills necessary to earn a high score; nor will it give teachers incentive to ensure students are taught vital subjects.

It would be reasonable to assume that the state legislature intended the ACT to hold more weight when lawmakers passed their bill earlier this spring.

Department of Education bureaucrats should defer to the will of the legislature when implementing those laws designed to reform education in the Commonwealth.

Kentucky's students deserve better. The General Assembly has done its part to help reform high school accountability. The ball is now in the Department of Education's court.

UK athletes' in-class competition must mirror athletic endeavors

Last month, 47 UK student-athletes were named to the 2006 Southeastern Conference Spring Academic Honor Roll.

To be selected, students must have a grade-point average of 3.0 for either the preceding academic year or have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 at their university. Students must also be on scholarship; and must have completed 24 semester hours of non-remedial credit.

UK students represented on the Honor Roll are from the baseball team, men's and women's golf teams, softball, women's tennis and men's and women's track teams.

To be certain, the 47 students who made the Honor Roll deserve our accolades. The pressures of traveling and performing with an athletic team, combined with the rigors of college education can take their toll on academic and athletic performance.

But as we've seen, UK athletes excel not only on the field of play, but also where it really matters: in the classroom.

The SEC Spring Honor Roll numbers revealed something else, however: Out of 12 SEC in-

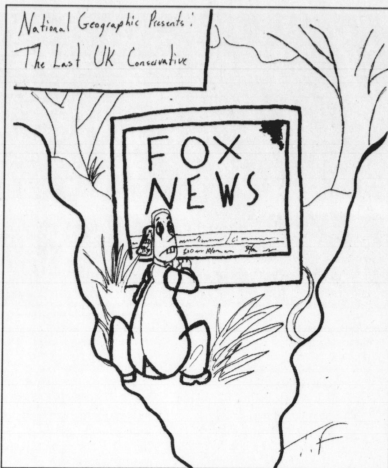
stitutions, UK's 47 Honor Roll students ranked 10th, ahead of only Ole Miss and the University of Arkansas.

UK stands 63 students behind SEC leader South Carolina at 110. Rivals Tennessee and Florida claim 75 and 85, respectively. While we laud the accomplishments of the 47 individuals who represent UK, we have to wonder: Why did UK stand near the bottom of the conference in the 2005-06 academic year?

Hopefully the scarcity of UK student-athletes on this year's Honor Roll represents nothing more than a one-year anomaly. UK should set a goal this summer to at least double UK's representation on next year's list.

When we write our editorial next summer praising the students on the SEC Spring Honor Roll, we hope to congratulate them for being at or near the top of these standings.

UK has been rising through the ranks of the SEC in numerous sports. It's time for student-athletes to begin to compete with their SEC brethren in the classroom as well.



TONY FISHER, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Environmental apocalypse likely not on the horizon

In this information age there lies a paradox to be confronted. It is said that Western culture

promotes the free exchange of ideas, yet specters of conformity linger everywhere. This is most troublesome to the enlightened skeptic, who today is constantly haunted by a dogmatic intelligence, ubiquitous political correctness and a hostile politico-media complex.

Take the issue of global warming. Nearly all climatologists who study the phenomenon of global warming believe it results, at least partly if not primarily, from human activity via the greenhouse effect: Carbon dioxide, once released into the atmosphere, traps the sun's heat and warms the planet.

Seizing on the scientific research and prediction, scientists, environmentalists and the media have concocted an avalanche of cataclysmic scenarios. This trend is best epitomized by Time Magazine's April 3 cover, which shows a polar bear floating on a glacier beneath the foreboding words, "Be Worried. Be Very Worried."

So far, these prophecies of doom have denounced critics with success as corporate flunkies, right-wing ideologues, curmudgeonly contrarians or misinformed heretics. And they continue preaching their apocalyptic gospel, promising worldwide catastrophe unless industrialized countries repent now. To them, the debate is over.

And along comes a most unlikely skeptic, one hard to pigeonhole: author Michael Crichton. Now, Crichton is not a climatologist; he writes fiction novels and used to be a practicing medical doctor.

But his grasp and employment of complex scientific theory and fact in books such as "Jurassic Park," "The Lost World" and "Prey" have been so well-praised by the mainstream media that it would look disingenuous to try and paint him as a fool now.

In 2004, Crichton wrote a novel called "State of Fear," in which he castigates the environmental movement for treating its calling like a religious duty instead of a scientific responsibility. In the book, a wealthy patron of environmental causes disappears, and suspicious activity occurs in remote locations around the world — preparations for man-made environmental catastrophe by eco-terrorists who must be stopped before untold thousands perish.

But let's set aside the provocative storyline for now in order to examine the meat of Crichton's counterarguments to the claims

of the environmental establishment:

Crichton does not question whether the mean global temperature is increasing. It has been, almost continuously, since around 1850, when the Little Ice Age ended.

Likewise, the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased steadily since the period of industrialization. Although the data seem to corroborate the establishment claim, there's one gaping hole: from 1940 to 1970, the mean global temperature dropped almost steadily, despite increasing levels of carbon dioxide.

From this data, a skeptic can only conclude that the greenhouse effect theory is wrong or at the very least needs to include more variables. Such nuance, while it may be present in scientific journals, is usually absent in media stories.

Another point of contention is the temperature adjustment made for weather station data. Increasingly the world's weather stations, where temperature data is recorded, are located in urban areas. This creates a bias toward warming because of something known as the "urban heat island" effect, where cities, due to the abundance of asphalt, concrete, and buildings therein, register warmer because such materials emit a good deal of heat.

These temperatures are adjusted for such a bias, but a reading of Crichton's novel suggests they aren't adjusted as much as they ought to be, because adjustments are based on population and not energy use.

Third, many dire environmental predictions are based on computer simulations, and not calculations made by scientists out in the field.

Crichton has contempt for desk-chair scientists who feel they can discover more about the world from behind a computer screen than out in the field. Such simulations have produced disparate results, and as such no estimate coming from a climatologist can mean anything more than an educated guess.

Lastly, scientists cannot accurately predict the future because both humans and the geological processes of the Earth behave erratically. Responsible scientists have an obligation to admit the limitations of their research.

How can climatologists reasonably expect to predict climate 100 years from now, when meteorologists are still struggling to predict the weather a week from now?

And how much climate change

can be attributed to human behavior versus the geological processes of our planet, which still include advancing and retreating ice caps, moving tectonic plates, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes and storms, just to name a few?

The honest answer is: No one knows. Environmentalists insist on restoring balance to nature. But just how is balance in nature possible on a planet where change was and is constant, even millions of years before humans began inhabiting the planet?

Crichton isn't excusing big business for the earth's degradation or claiming the environment can be ignored. What he's saying is that scientists, activists and the media need to take a more scientific approach to science. The civic discussion about the environment has become so embroiled with words like "destruction," "catastrophe" and "disaster" that it has lost any semblance of being rational.

When advocates admonish human activity that they claim dangerously alters the earth's climate, they suggest more environmental controls. The net effect of such controls will be that developing countries will not be able to afford the prescribed environmental remedies, and the West can then hypocritically protect its own economic interests.

Climate scientists, ever concerned with grant money and reputation, are loathe to adhere to any rigorous standards of verification. To undo this counterproductive development, funding should be depoliticized or blind (meaning scientists wouldn't know where their money was coming from), studies should be subject to more stringent peer review and scientific journals should stop taking editorial stances on issues and just report the facts, Crichton wrote.

Questioning established science, particularly when it means downgrading human perception of its own pre-eminence, is usually a thankless endeavor.

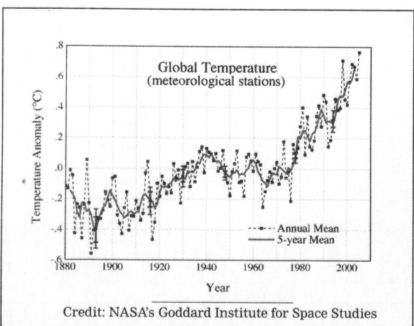
In 1616, Galileo stood before Catholic Church authorities in Rome, defending his idea (to no avail) that in fact the sun, and not the Earth, was the center of the universe. Only 350 years later did the church acknowledge its error in banning his ideas.

So far, Crichton's protests have been all but ignored. Let us hope today's secular zealots don't wait as long to pardon the so-called blasphemies of Crichton and other enlightened skeptics when in fact their concerns have merit.

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Andrew Martin
COLUMNIST



Credit: NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies

Submissions

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COMMENTARY

NL may be out of its league now

By Tom Boswell
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Most of the big stories in baseball at the moment are really just different manifestations of one large trend. The American League is kicking the living daylight out of the National League like no league has ever dominated the other.

Baseball has never seen a slaughter like this. With interleague play mercifully ending on Sunday, the AL entered Thursday's games with a stupendous 127-75 advantage, the kind of 629 winning percentage that we associate with a 102-win champion. This season, a typical interleague game has been a travesty of a mismatch—the equivalent of a World Series contender playing a cellar-dweller. Or — and this is a painful thought for baseball — a big league team playing a bush league bunch. Is the NL now the new Class AAA?

On the surface, we see teams that have suddenly gotten scalding hot as the summer arrives while other clubs seem to have simultaneously fallen apart. The stunning hot streaks of the Tigers, Twins, White Sox and Red Sox compete for our daily attention with the collapses of supposed contenders like the Braves and Phillies and the slump of the Cards. In every case, the truth serum of interleague play has brought each team's strengths or weaknesses into the spotlight.

What is at work, under

the surface, is complete hegemony by the AL. The NL hasn't won an all-star game since 1996, and has lost the past eight World Series games.

This phenomenon is completely new. Since interleague play began in '97, the two leagues have been nearly identical with the NL holding a slim 1,104-1,095 lead. Neither league has ever had truly dramatic superiority even for one season — until now, unless the NL does a dazzling turnabout by Sunday to restore some of its dignity. Day after day, the lopsided results roll in. Even Pedro Martinez returned to Fenway Park this week as a Met and was crushed for eight runs in three innings.

To some degree, this disparity must be an exaggeration. The law of averages, as well as common sense, almost demands it. But, just as surely, such a stark record must contain considerable truth.

The reason for this disparity is staring us in the face, so big we seldom notice it, the elephant in the room. Within the last few years, the AL has unveiled a whole generation of young pitchers, most of them still under 25 and many of them physically imposing. Inspect every starter and important reliever in the two leagues. The conclusion is inescapable. The huge preponderance of gifted 25-and-under pitchers call the American League home.

The proof is in the numbers. The American League,

despite having the DH, almost has as low an ERA as the NL—4.56 to 4.51. That never happens. Take the pathetic Royals (5.87) out of the AL and its ERA would be 4.47.

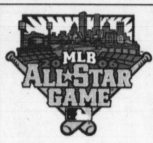
"The American League is full of big arms," said Phillies Manager Charlie Manuel, who spent years in the AL. Central watching big-body power pitchers developed by the White Sox, Tigers and Indians.

The Tigers, with the game's best record and its lowest ERA, are the most obvious example. Many fans are just learning the particulars of Justin Verlander (10-3) and Jeremy Bonderman (7-3), both 23. Zach Miner (4-1, 2.59 ERA) and reliever Joel Zumaya, 24 and 21, play key roles. Even the "old" Tiger pitchers are under 30 — Mike Maroth, Nate Robertson and closer Fernando Rodney.

And what about the NL? True, two of the game's "big arms" — Josh Beckett and A.J. Burnett — went to the AL either via trade or free agency over the winter. But the senior circuit's problems may be more systemic.

"Veteran pitchers like to pitch in the National League where they don't have to face the designated hitter, so they migrate over there," said Baltimore Manager Sam Perlozzo.

When a player is extraordinarily hot, veterans say, "He belongs in a higher league." Now there may be one. Unfortunately for the National League, it's the American League.



PNC Park, Pittsburgh
AL is 0-0-1 in last nine

All-Star Starters

American League

- C: Ivan Rodriguez (DET)
- 1B: David Ortiz (BOS)
- 2B: Mark Loretta (BOS)
- SS: Derek Jeter (NYY)
- 3B: Alex Rodriguez (NYY)
- OF: Manny Ramirez* (BOS)
- OF: Vladimir Guerrero (LAA)
- OF: Ichiro Suzuki (SEA)

National League

- C: Paul Lo Duca (NYM)
- 1B: Albert Pujols* (STL)
- 2B: Chase Utley (PHI)
- SS: Jose Reyes (NYM)
- 3B: David Wright (NYM)
- OF: Jason Bay (PIT)
- OF: Carlos Beltran (NYM)
- OF: Alfonso Soriano (WAS)

* Received most votes

SPORTS BRIEFS

Webb named an All-Star

Former UK standout pitcher Brandon Webb has been named to the 2006 Major League Baseball All-Star team. It is the first All-Star selection for Webb and the first time a former UK letterman has ever been named to the team.

Webb, a right-handed pitcher for the Arizona Diamondbacks, will suit up for the National League at Pittsburgh's PNC Park, where the game will take place on Tuesday. In 132.1 innings, Webb has compiled a 9-3 record and a 2.73 ERA. He has also tossed three complete games this season.

Webb, an Ashland, Ky., native, was a three-year letterwinner at UK from 1998-2000, and he ranks third in school history with 259 strikeouts.

Track and Field hires assistant

James Thomas was hired as an assistant with the UK track and field program. He will coach jumps for the Cats.

Thomas comes from Ft. Worth, Texas, where he served two seasons as an assistant coach at Texas Christian University. During his time at TCU, the Horned Frogs were ranked in the Trackwire.com Top 25 on both the men's and the women's sides.

UK Baseball finishes in Top 20

For the first time in 18

years, the UK baseball team ended the season ranked 20th in the final Baseball America poll of the season.

UK finished the 2006 season with a school-record 44 wins and earned the first Southeastern Conference Championship in school history.

UK's last final top-25 ranking came in 1988.

Horsemen lock up No. 2 seed

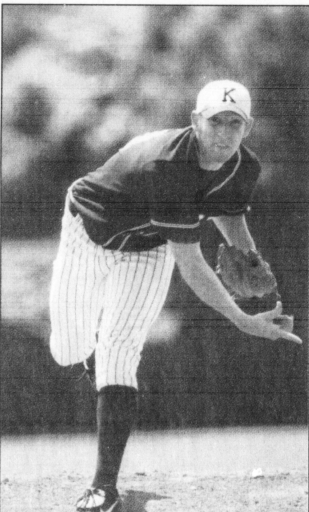
The Lexington Horsemen secured the No. 2 seed in the United Indoor Football playoffs with a 70-44 road win over the Ft. Wayne (Indiana) Freedom last week.

The Horsemen (12-2) finish the regular season Saturday in Bloomington, Indiana, against the Extreme, but they have already wrapped up a first-round bye and home game in Rupp Arena in the semifinal round of the playoffs July 22.

So he likes it?

White Sox Manager Ozzie Guillen to the Chicago Sun Times, on having to attend the second of two sensitivity sessions because of recent derogatory remarks: "They said only one more time, but I'm going to tell my wife it's like seven more times so I can get out of the house."

COMPILED FROM STAFF, WIRE REPORTS



Right-hander Brandon Webb became the first former Cat to be named to the MLB All-Star Game, when the Arizona Diamondback was selected to the National League squad.

ALCOHOL RESEARCH STUDIES AT UK

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