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Gymnasts say farewell
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Sources suggest Nietzel will leave UK

University to announce president
at 10:30 a.m. Central time today

By Adam Sichko
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

UK Provost Mike Nietzel remained quiet yesterday on whether he has been chosen as the new president of Southwest Missouri State University.

Nietzel is one of three finalists for the position. The SMS Board of Governors — the equivalent of UK's Board of Trustees — met in closed session Wednesday to vote on the university's next president.

"I have not talked to them at all today," Nietzel said last night.

SMS is introducing its new president today at 10:30 a.m. Central time.

Asked whether he would be in his office today, Nietzel said, "I don't have any comment on that."

SMS Board of Governors member Mary Sheid confirmed that the vote was a unanimous 7-0 tally. Sheid hinted that the results of the meeting favor Nietzel.

"I think you probably have a fairly clear



Nietzel

idea who we selected," Sheid said. She declined to comment on whom she voted for.

"If you wait to see the results of the announcement (today), you'll have a good article to write," she said.

Media outlets in Springfield, Mo., the home of SMS, have done their fair share of guesswork.

KOLR-TV reported Wednesday night that an unidentified assistant in Nietzel's office said he would be out of the office the rest of the week. That same night, KYTV cited an unidentified source that said the board wanted to pick Nietzel.

Yesterday, the Springfield News-Leader cited three anonymous "campus sources" who

all said Nietzel was the board's choice. Sheid said she has seen the television reports.

"I thought that they were fairly accurate," Sheid said.

Nietzel was at work yesterday and held a late afternoon meeting with a UK dean, said Maria Kempin, a temporary secretary in Nietzel's office.

Since Kempin was filling in for Nietzel's regular secretary, she said she didn't have access to his calendar for today.

John Sellars, a vice president at Syracuse University and a finalist for the SMS presidency, said he would not be out of town today.

See Nietzel on page 2

Private Monologues

To raise awareness to stop violence against women and to raise funds for UK's Women's Place initiative, "V-Day UK" presents Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* at 8 tonight in the Student Center's Small Ballroom, and at 8 p.m. tomorrow and Sunday in Worsham Theater.

Tickets cost \$5 to \$10.

E-mail v_day_uk@hotmail.com for more information.

Communication sophomore Lauren McAlpin clinches her fists as she gives her monologue entitled "My Vagina" JONATHAN PALMER | STAFF

Was My Village.

Forum discusses eating disorders

By Michele Fernandez-Cruz
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Marketing and management junior Suzanne Jackson was always involved in high school, describing herself as a people pleaser who received good grades and was always involved.

Her transition from high school to college was no different. In the spring semester of her freshman year, she began to work out, losing more than 30 pounds by the end of the summer.

"I was 5'11, weighing 155 pounds," she said. "I don't know why, but I just wanted to lose more and more weight. I wouldn't eat much of anything, but I thought it was a lot at the time."

Jackson shared her experience battling anorexia at a forum for hope and recovery for eating disorders last night at the WT Young Library.

Running four to five miles a day, Jackson said she ate only salads, adding a little chicken occasionally. The need to be perfect continued to drive until an intervention by friends and parents caused Jackson to get help.

"I missed out on the best times of my life because I was obsessed with food and eating," she said. "It's a long recovery, but you can do it."

The forum was part of National Eating Disorder Awareness Week, which seeks to inform students about eating disorders and treatment options.

Nearly 5 to 10 million women and 1 million men in the United States have an eating disorder, while \$40 billion are spent on dieting and diet-related products each year, according to the National Eating Disorder Association.

Eating disorders are tied to a combination of behavioral, emotional, psychological, interpersonal and social factors, often beginning with a preoccupation with food and weight as a means of coping and gaining control over an individual's life.

Low self-esteem, feelings of lacking control, depression, anxiety and anger can also be accompanying factors, feeding the disorder.

The damages and consequences on the body and overall health require counseling, careful attention to medical and nutritional needs, and a strong support system.

Students looking for help on campus can visit the Counseling & Testing Center. They can provide referrals for off-campus treatment as well, said Jill Kindy, health education coordinator for University Health Services. More information on eating disorders can be found at www.eatingdisorder-anonymous.com.

Kindy said students seeking help should know recovery is a slow but worthwhile process.

"There is no instant cure," Kindy said. "It's a multifaceted approach."

"Don't look for big changes right away; you have to be patient with it."

E-mail neus@kykernel.com

"I missed out on the best times of my life because I was obsessed with food and eating."

— Suzanne Jackson,

a marketing and management junior, on her battle with anorexia

Cats' comeback attempt falls short in the SEC tourney

Just like a leader, Potts didn't quit

GREENVILLE, S.C. — Sara Potts got one last look. Her 3-pointer drew nothing but air.

Junior guard Nastassia Alcius would feed the rebound to freshman center Sarah Elliott for UK's final points — Auburn still leading 80-57.

The Tigers would swish two final free throws, and knock UK out of the Southeastern Conference Tournament. But it's not that UK's senior forward and all-time 3-point scorer didn't try.



Derek Poore
KERNEL COLUMNIST

See Potts on page 3

By Lindsey Keith
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

GREENVILLE, S.C. — UK simply just ran out of time on the clock.

In its 62-57 opening-round loss in the Southeastern Conference Tournament yesterday to the Auburn Tigers in front of 2,602 fans at the Bi-Lo Center, the rally came up short.

The Cats fought back within three points late in the game, after they had been trailing the Tigers by 15 points with less than 12 minutes to go.

Despite shooting 30.8 percent from the field in the second half, UK (15-15, 4-11 SEC) scrapped back against Auburn (16-12, 7-8 SEC). The Cats relied on their defensive pressure to get back into the game. UK used a trapping, full-court press to rattle the Tigers.

"The press effected us," said Auburn head coach Nell Fortner. "When they got in the full-court press, it got us out of our offensive rhythm. Their press was aggressive and gave us some problems."

The tough defensive effort was not enough to overcome the Tigers sizeable lead, but senior forward Sara Potts did

not go down without a fight, leading a rally that cut the Tigers' double-digit lead to three points.

"We just got ourselves in a hole," said UK head coach Mickie DeMoss. "It was a little too much to overcome, we just did not have enough. But I am proud of the way we fought, and made a game out of it at the end."

Potts led the Cats with 22 points on 8-for-15 shooting from the field.

"We wanted to make her put the ball on the floor to score," Fortner said.

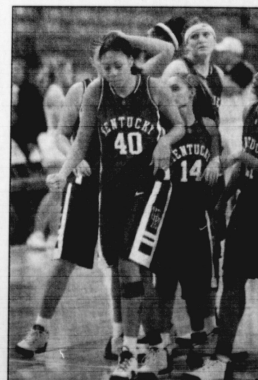
An early 15-5 Auburn run in the middle of the first half gave the Tigers some breathing room after the teams exchanged the lead eight times early on. Despite the run and poor shooting, the Cats were down nine points at the intermission.

The Auburn lead quickly grew early in the second half as the Cats came out slow from the locker room.

"Typical of us to have a lull at the beginning of the half," DeMoss said. "I don't know what it is, maybe my halftime talk puts them to sleep."

See Cats on page 3

AUBURN 62, UK 57



Members of the UK women's basketball team corner senior forward Keiko Tate after UK's loss yesterday in the first round of the SEC Tournament.

KEITH SMILEY | STAFF

Nietzel

Continued from page 1

"I will be here tomorrow morning," Sellars said yesterday.

When reached in the evening, Sellars said he hadn't heard anything from SMS during the day.

"I'll probably be here (today), unless something changes this afternoon or tonight," Sellars said.

The third finalist is David Belcher, provost at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. A family member at his home said he attended a theatrical performance last night, but declined to comment on whether he would be in his office today.

"His schedule is not set for tomorrow yet," said Rozland Smith, an institutional assistant to Belcher. When asked if SMS had contacted him, Smith said, "I can't give out that information."

Whoever the new SMS president is, he has been notified, Shied said. "Our new president knows he is our new president," Shied said. "He and his wife will both be present."

"Everything's been finalized with the new president. The other two, I'm sure, are aware that we've made the choice," Shied said.

In July 2001, UK President Lee Todd created the provost position and temporarily selected Nietzel for the position. In October 2002, Nietzel took the position permanently. Shied said the Board of Governors wanted to wait to announce the candidate until the appropriate time.

"We really wanted to have the chance to do this right, make it exciting for the new president," she said.

E-mail: asichko@kykernel.com

Our new president knows he is our new president. He and his wife will both be present."

— Mary Shied, Southwest Missouri State University Board of Governors member

Bush promises search for bin Laden will continue

By Jim Vandehiel and Peter Baker
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — When President Bush made a rare mention Thursday of the country's most wanted terrorist — Osama bin Laden — he returned to a person and issue that dominated the presidential election but has largely vanished from Bush's speeches afterwards.

In the three months since his re-election, Bush has focused speeches on Social Security, limiting lawsuits and Iraq, but said little about al-Qaida or measures needed to head off attacks in the United States that had dominated his campaign speeches. He did not say the word terrorism in his inaugural address.

White House officials said the president is simply transitioning from a wartime candidate to a second-term president with a robust domestic agenda. But Democrats — and a few Republicans — said Bush is not putting enough emphasis on securing ports, borders and

airlines from another attack. At a congressional hearing Thursday, Rep. John Hostettler, R-Ind., said he was "deeply disappointed" that Bush is not fighting for the large increase in border patrol agents called for by the bipartisan commission that investigated the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"We need more agents and we need to do a smarter and better job," Robert Bonner, commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, said at the hearing.

"I've been disappointed that more emphasis has not been put on homeland security because the threat is genuine and real," said Lee Hamilton, a former Democratic congressman and vice chair of the 9/11 commission. "We must, must accelerate our efforts to protect the homeland. ...

There really is a need for a greater sense of urgency throughout the government and the president has to provide that leadership."

"We need more agents and we need to do a smarter and better job."

Robert Bonner
commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection

ty and limiting lawsuits. "We're on a constant hunt for bin Laden, we're keeping the pressure on him, keeping him in hiding," Bush said.

Oil, gasoline prices set to surge in response to high demand

By Justin Blum
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Prices for crude oil and wholesale gasoline surged Thursday, extending a recent run-up and leading analysts to predict steep increases at the pump in coming weeks.

A combination of high worldwide oil demand, cold weather and fears of tight supplies has helped push

prices higher in the past two weeks. Oil traders also cited an influx of speculators moving money from the stock and bond markets into oil.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange Thursday, U.S. benchmark crude oil for April delivery hit more than \$55 a barrel before receding to close at \$53.57, up 52 cents from Wednesday. Traders pushed the wholesale price of gasoline to a record high on

Wednesday and again Thursday.

The increases will quickly be passed along to consumers at gas stations, analysts said.

Kloza said he expected prices for a gallon of regular gasoline to increase nationally from Thursday's average of about \$1.92 to between \$2.10 and \$2.25 by later next month. Prices could go even higher, he said, depending on whether crude oil price in-

creases continue.

Analysts attributed the recent rise in crude prices partly to higher-than-expected demand from China and other countries. Cold weather also has caused prices to rise as consumers use more home heating oil. In addition, oil traders fear that a supply disruption could cause shortages because the world has little ability to pump additional oil from the ground.

NEWS BRIEFS

Parking spaces reduced in R3 Sports Center lot

Beginning March 12, 35 parking spaces in the R3 Lot on Sports Center Drive will be taken for construction purposes. This will allow for the construction of three new tennis courts.

The new staging area is clearly marked with signs. Make sure all vehicles have

been moved from this area before the beginning of Spring Break.

Students with R3 permits may park in the remaining portion of the lot, in the R3 area along Complex Drive, in the K area at Commonwealth Stadium, or in Cooperstown (R2) if all R3 parking spaces are occupied.

UK Parking offers Spring Break shuttle to airport


UK Parking & Transportation Services is offering Spring Break shuttles to Blue Grass Airport.

The shuttle will run March 8 through March 11 with daily campus pick-up times of 8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

To schedule a pick-up, e-

mail the following information with the subject "Spring Break Shuttle" to ukparking@lsvuky.edu at least 48 hours in advance: name, campus address, campus phone number and/or cell number, date, time and location of campus pickup.

A representative from parking will call to confirm a pickup time and location.



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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY RESEARCH

Healthy Volunteers Needed for Cardiology Study

Researchers at the University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center are conducting a clinical research study with healthy volunteers to evaluate an experimental drug that may be useful in treating persons with heart conditions, including those who have experienced a stroke or heart attack.

You may be able to participate if you are a healthy adult between 18 and 55 years old.

Qualified participants will receive at no cost, study-related lab tests, medication and compensation for your time. Participation in this study will require:

- two, two-hour clinic appointments and one 24-hour hospital stay; or
- two, two-hour clinic appointments and two 24-hour hospital stays.

For more information, please contact the University of Kentucky Clinical Research Organization at (859) 323-4714.

See our Web site at:
<http://www.mc.uky.edu/research/clinicaltrials.htm>

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Seniors to close storybook chapter

By Ryan Mabry
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The toughest opponent tonight for members of the UK gymnastics team may be their own emotions.

It's Senior Night at Memorial Coliseum, and although the team is facing two ranked opponents in Central Michigan and Michigan State, fighting back tears for its four seniors might provide more trouble.

"We are going to take that emotion and try to use it to our advantage," said head coach Mo Muhammad. "Most of the kids made pledges that they want to make this the best home meet of the year, and let (the seniors) go away from Memorial Coliseum feeling great about themselves and feeling great about being Kentucky Wildcats."

The sentiments were already starting to take hold during a routine team meeting Thursday.

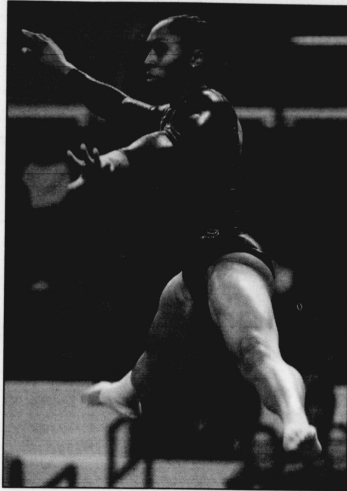
"The emotions in the room with the kids knowing that this is their last time on the Memorial floor with these athletes is very touching, very moving," Muhammad said of the meeting. "That in itself tells you what the seniors bring to the team."

This will be the last home meet for seniors Michelle Gales, Lindsay Cameron, Krista Prestigiaco and Kara Prestigiaco. Gales has been a force for the squad this year in the all-around competition, and her floor routine has become a fixture of the team's success. Muhammad said that she has come a long way since her first appearance on the roster.

"Michelle Gales came here being kind of a shy, introverted person," Muhammad said. "Now if you go to a meet and watch her floor routine, you go, 'Wow!'"

"I've opened up a lot," Gales said. "I didn't really talk to anybody when I first got here — I kept to myself." While Gales was getting acclimated to college life, her fellow senior Cameron was busy just trying to keep afloat.

"Lindsay, to me, is a Cinderella story," Muhammad said. "A kid who came here, wasn't recruited, walked on the team, and has competed for us in every meet except



UK senior gymnast Michelle Gales is among four seniors who will be honored tonight during the Cats' last home meet of the season. The Cats host Central Michigan and Michigan State at 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Coliseum.

one in her college career. That's huge — you've got scholarship athletes who don't do that."

"Just the fact that I'm here, and I've stayed and lasted the whole four years and accomplished more than I thought I would is the biggest memory that I'll have from UK," Cameron said. "There's so much support, and Mo has helped me so much to accomplish my goals."

As for Krista and Kara Prestigiaco, fighting through injuries and displaying a courageous work ethic have been the staples of their careers.

"I've had a lot of injuries, so I've faced a lot of adversity," Krista said. "It's really made me step back sometimes and look at things and realize how lucky I am in other areas of my life. It's made me work that much harder."

Krista's twin sister, Kara, may have gotten the worst of the injury bug, as a bulging disk in her back has forced her to stay on the sidelines

this season.

"I've grown up a lot, for sure," Kara said of her time at UK. "This year, since I'm hurt, I've had to take on a new role. Maybe I can't contribute as much athletically, but I've learned to contribute any way I can."

Muhammad agreed. "Krista and Kara both work hard," Muhammad said. "They could very well go down as some of the hardest workers to ever come into UK gymnastics. It's rewarding to see that their efforts are paying off."

Even though the seniors may be feeling sentimental about their last home meet, they still have definite goals in mind for the rest of the season.

"It's kind of bittersweet," Kara said of Senior Night. "It's the end of an era for me, but in another way, I kind of look at it as the beginning of our postseason. We're going to have a long postseason hopefully."

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Softball opens home season

The UK softball team will host the Kentucky Invitational at the UK Softball Complex Saturday and Sunday.

UK (7-14) plays Belmont at 2:30 p.m., and Youngstown State at 5 p.m. on Saturday. The Cats play Youngstown State at 12:30 p.m., and Belmont at 3 p.m. on Sunday.

The Cats enter the invitational riding a wave of strong play. UK went 5-1 last weekend, winning the Frost Cutlery Invitational in Chattanooga, Tenn. UK won two

games last Sunday to claim the title. UK defeated Bowling Green State 1-0 in 10 innings in the first game. The Cats turned around for another shutout in their 1-0 win over the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga in the second game of the day to claim the tournament's title.

Against BGSU, freshman pitcher Samantha Allen pitched all 10 innings for the win. Allen is 6-6 on the season with a 4.59 earned run average. Allen has four complete games on the season.

Junior Meghan Cooper

drove in the winning run for the Cats' win.

Cooper (1-6) then pitched in the second game for her first win of the season. She didn't allow a hit until the fourth inning. But UK's offense couldn't manage must of anything either, except for one hit in their first six innings.

Amber Janneck hit a game-winning home run to lead off the bottom of the seventh inning to win the tournament for the Cats.

COMPILED FROM UK ATHLETICS REPORTS

KENTUCKY

SATURDAY

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SUNDAY

UK VS. YOUNGSTOWN ST. - 12:30 PM
UK VS. BELMONT - 3:00 PM

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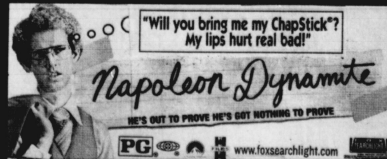
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Potts

Continued from page 1

Potts' southern revival

Overcoming a late season slump, the Rochester Hills, Mich., native, tied her season high, torching Arkansas for 27 points last Sunday in Lexington. Yesterday Potts' 22 points shot her past Jodie Whitaker to take eighth place on UK's all-time scoring list.

Potts' late-season resurgence is a testament to her ability to adapt and shrug off opposing defenses that placed her in big foul letters at the top of their scouting reports.

After four straight games scoring 11 points or less — including a two-point performance the last time the Cats

played Auburn — Potts adjusted, like she had to all year against focusing defenses.

"I had to make sure they didn't frustrate me," Potts said. "And I think I did a pretty good job at that."

Auburn head coach Nell Fortner wanted to shut down Potts wasn't going to be dictated.

"We wanted to make her put the ball on the floor," Fortner said. "If she's going to shoot, make it a '2.' She played like a senior who was playing for something."

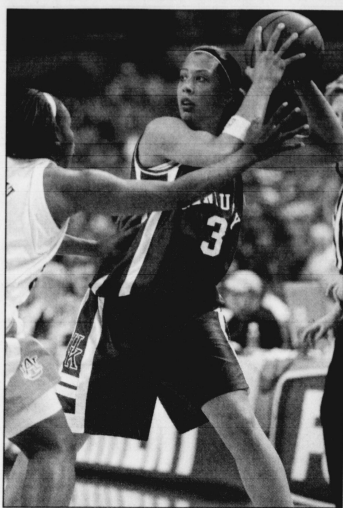
Late in the game, freshman point guard Samantha Mahoney repeatedly looked for Potts off screens.

And Potts moved frequently to get open and looked for her teammates. She knew she was their scorer and their leader.

Despite intense pressure from the Tigers, she continually defied their defense, scoring seven late points in a key UK run which cut Auburn's lead from 15 to one point in the second half to three.

"We got her the ball to come off ball screens," said UK coach Mickie DeMoss. "We set an isolation for her and she got to the foul line."

The ground up Forever the optimist, Potts is confident in her coach. She believes in what DeMoss is trying to build for UK women's basketball. "I think everyone had higher expectations than our record shows," Potts said. DeMoss, who has coached Potts for her final two collegiate seasons, has praised Potts for just about everything besides doing the team's laundry this season. "I wish we could keep



Senior forward Sara Potts scored 22 points in what could have been her final collegiate game.

her for two more years," DeMoss said of Potts. "She represents exactly what we want our program to stand for — teamwork and working hard." "We're certainly going to miss her." But Potts won't be at UK to see the trophies and accolades DeMoss is planning for. Instead she'll forever be at the foundation. Potts will leave Lexing-

ton soon — quietly having made her mark on women's basketball at UK. And she can smile when the Cats pull off the first big NCAA upset or win their first SEC championship in more than two decades. Because she'll know she was there at the beginning — when the Wildcats needed her the most.

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Kentucky (57)

NAME	pts	reb	3pt	ft	a	pf	st	bl
Potts	27	5	2	2	2	1	1	2
Boorman	25	25	0	0	0	3	4	7
Ellott	21	5	0	2	2	1	7	11
Mahoney	27	4	0	0	0	1	3	8
Phillips	17	9	0	0	0	2	0	0
Alkus	17	1	1	1	2	2	3	3
Frank	19	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Humphrey	9	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Walters	15	2	0	0	0	0	3	2
TEAM	200	23	52	412	713	6	15	37

Auburn (62)

NAME	pts	reb	3pt	ft	a	pf	st	bl
Dugdale	27	7	0	0	0	1	0	9
Payne	36	14	0	0	0	2	0	4
Louden	29	7	1	3	8	1	2	10
Ensign	34	11	0	0	0	2	0	4
Bracklett	40	8	2	1	1	2	2	3
Thompson	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brown	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Proffitt	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rossman	21	2	0	0	0	0	1	4
TEAM	200	23	64	215	345	12	36	62

Field goal shooting: UK 44.2, AU 45.9. Free-throw shooting: UK 51.8, AU 51.3. Technical fouls: UK 1, AU 1. Turnovers: UK 16, AU 11. Fouls: UK 20, AU 23. (Bracket: 2, Roundout: 2, Roundout: 2). Blocked shots: UK 4 (Ellott: 2, AU 0). (Fouls: 4). Officials: Sally Auld, Wesley Dean, Yvette McKinney. Attendance: 2,602. Records: UK 15-15, AU 16-12.

Cats

Continued from page 1

Auburn guard Nicole Loudon lead the Tigers out on a quick 6-0 spurt at the beginning of the half. Loudon led all scorers with 23 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and made all eight of her foul

shots. "One of the best games I have seen her play all year," DeMoss said. "She picked a good night to play her best game."

And Loudon had some help down low. Auburn center Marita Payne, a 6-foot-5 shot-blocker, blocked two shots — which helped her get the most blocked shots in an SEC season. Auburn's defense

swarmed the Cats on most possessions. Auburn forced 16 turnovers, while committing eight.

"I just did not want them to frustrate me," Potts said. "And I think I did a good job of that."

N.I.T. is still an option Even though the Cats will not qualify for the NCAA Tournament, they still may play in the postseason. The

Women's National Invitational Tournament has been in contact with UK officials about the possibility of receiving a tourney invite. DeMoss said.

"(We) certainly be excited to participate in it," DeMoss said. "It would be a step forward for the program."

E-mail lkeith@kykernel.com

Agassi, Roddick to lead America in Davis Cup

By Lisa Dillman LOS ANGELES TIMES

CARSON, Calif. — Thirty-one Davis Cup championships to none. Nine Grand Slam singles titles to nil. Four players versus two.

If it seems Croatia is the prohibitive underdog against the United States in the first round of the Davis Cup at the Home Depot Center in Carson, starting Friday well, that's a logical conclusion based on those numbers. But if the statistics don't lie, they are misleading.

They don't account for recent history, namely the sudden surges of youngster Mario Ancic of Croatia or his teammate, 25-year-old Ivan Ljubicic, who is showing the best form this side of Roger Federer. He is tied with Federer for most victories, 20, on the ATP Tour and has reached four finals in 2005, losing to Federer in three of them.

At 1 p.m. (PST), in the opener, Ljubicic will play Andre Agassi, returning to Davis Cup for the first time in nearly five years and relishing the experience with a new group of teammates.

"It feels great. It feels better than I remember it," Agassi said after Thursday's draw ceremony at the Home Depot Center. "We've had a great few days here together. This is when it gets really fun. ... I know I missed it; I just didn't realize exactly what I was missing."

U.S. Davis Cup captain Patrick McEnroe knew something special was unfolding at the first team dinner when Agassi was holding court.

"I usually say, 'If anyone wants to leave go ahead.' We got to that point and nobody wanted to leave," McEnroe said. "Nobody stood up."

Already, Agassi's presence and eight Grand Slam singles titles have taken some of the pressure off 2003 U.S. Open champion Andy Roddick, who had been shouldering the Davis Cup burden recently.

Agassi-Ljubicic will be followed by Roddick against Ancic. Roddick is 2-0 vs. Ancic, having scored the victories last year on grass, the second in a semifinal at Wimbledon. More recently, Ancic reached the final at Scottsdale, Ariz., losing Sunday to

Wayne Arthurs of Australia. Agassi is 1-1 against Ljubicic, though they have not played since 2001.

"I've had many experiences on both ends of it, going out there up 1-0, down 1-0, watching a long painful match that sort of takes your emotion," Agassi said. "Get out there first and getting off to the races, you just sort of prepare yourself for whatever you have to do."

The other Grand Slam title on the U.S. squad belongs to twins Mike and Bob Bryan, who won the French Open doubles in 2003. The Bryans, of Camarillo, are scheduled to play Ancic and Ljubicic on Saturday, though Croatia's captain Niki Pilic left the door open for a possible substitution, as he did when he was West Germany's captain against the U.S. in a relegation match in 1987. The reverse singles are Sunday.

"If something happens Friday that the matches are very very long and let's say four hours each match, which happened in Hartford against (John) McEnroe and (Tim) Mayotte, 11-hour day,"

Pilic said. "So take the guy (Boris Becker) off and somebody else will play doubles. We have four guys, not two."

He was reminded that they nominated only two at the draw.

"Yes, yes. But this is our tactic," Pilic said. A couple of days ago, Ljubicic seemed unconcerned about a heavy workload. "Me and Mario (Ancic) have played a lot of tennis lately (so) one singles match and one doubles match is nothing negative for us," he said. "I've played six matches in three weeks and I'm definitely fit physically for all three days."

Two of Agassi's three losses in 2005 have been to Federer, and three of Ljubicic's six defeats were administered by the top-ranked player.

Pilic was asked about Ljubicic's impressive improvement. "He got married," Pilic said, smiling. "He's coming close to No. 10. Everything grows in time. It's not like every year you take two steps up. Now he has good confidence and he's playing good."

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Around-the-world, non-stop flight sets record

By Lois Romano and Guy Gugliotta
THE WASHINGTON POST

SALINA, Kan. — After three sleepless days and a nail-biting 24 hours wondering if he would have to ditch in the ocean for lack of fuel, millionaire aviator Steve Fossett rode a rollicking tailwind into America's heartland Thursday to become the first pilot to complete a solo nonstop flight around the globe.

Fossett guided his single-engine jet to a flawless landing here at 2:50 p.m. Eastern time and triumphantly disembarked on a brilliantly sunny day as thousands cheered. Elated but a bit wobbly, he hugged his wife, Peggy, and Richard Branson, the flamboyant chairman of Virgin Atlantic airline, which financed the trip.

Branson promptly hosed down Fossett with champagne, which Fossett then swigged from the bottle. He looked remarkably chipper for someone who had been crammed into a seven-foot cockpit for 67 hours with only fortified milkshakes for sustenance.

"Well, that was something I wanted to do for a long time," Fossett, 60, told spectators and reporters. "It was a major ambition. I'm a really lucky guy."

Asked if he wanted to take a shower, he replied: "I wouldn't mind finding a toilet."

The landing was a huge relief to Virgin Atlantic and ground control officials, who had been distressed along with Fossett about whether he had enough fuel to complete the 23,000-mile journey — the Earth's circumference at the latitude of the Tropic of Cancer or Capricorn, recognized as a circumnavigation in aviation.

The innovative plane, a virtual flying gas tank, unexpectedly burned or lost more than a ton of fuel right after takeoff Monday, forcing Fossett to consider aborting the trip in Hawaii. But by late Wednesday, he had minimized the problem and decided to keep the GlobalFlyer going across the eastern Pacific.

The mission recovered so quickly in fact, that questions were raised about whether the fuel problem was a stunt to boost public interest.

"I think the incredible thing in life is that the truth is often stranger than fiction," Branson said. "As it turns out, almost everything that could have happened seemed to happen. There has been a lot of drama."

This small town was chosen as the departure and landing site because of its location in the middle of the country, as well as for a two-mile runway built by the Air Force decades ago at an airstrip now used by a flight school.

Fossett, of Chicago, is a sportsman and aviator who made history in 2002 for flying solo around the world in a hot-air balloon, and he holds dozens of other aviation, sailing and gliding records. He once ran a marathon two days after being out to sea for a month.

Fossett left from Salina at 7:47 p.m. Eastern time on Monday. He said Thursday that he did not sleep the first night and took about a half-dozen one- to three-minute catnaps each of the other two nights.

"It's sort of a unique human achievement," said Thomas Crouch, senior aeronautics curator of the National Air and Space Museum.

"Steve is this incredibly gutsy guy who goes out looking for challenges and taking them on. ... Then you have the technological achievement of designing an airplane that will go around the world fast enough so one pilot can do it."

The GlobalFlyer looks like a trimaran, with 13 gas tanks, three fuselages and a minuscule cockpit. Its one engine sits atop the plane, which has a wingspan of 114 feet, comparable to a Boeing 737. To save weight, the plane dispenses with some equipment considered essential in most airplanes, such as radar.

A spokesman for the mission said the fuel problem surfaced when sensors in the 13 tanks indicated that the plane was burning fuel at a faster rate than anticipated. The ground control crew had to assume that 2,600 pounds of fuel from the original 18,000 were gone. It was still not clear Thursday why the

fuel loss occurred. The flight was the first time that the tanks had been completely full.

"We are still puzzled," said Burt Rutan, an aircraft innovator based in Mojave, Calif., who designed and built GlobalFlyer with his chief engineer, John Karkow.

"The fuel consumption as measured by a flow meter showed that everything was fine, Rutan said in a telephone interview from his Mojave offices. "But the gauges showed a loss."

The aircraft either somehow vented 2,600 pounds of fuel over the side during its climb, "or we never put the fuel on to begin with—it's either one or the other, and we still don't have a good answer."

Even with the shortfall, though, "we managed to talk Steve into flying slower" and more efficiently. "When you're tired, you want to get home faster, but we had to slow him way down."

It was Rutan's prop-driven Voyager that in 1986 carried his brother, Dick, and a co-pilot on the first nonstop, no-refueling flight around the world. Last year, a Rutan-designed rocket won the \$10 million Ansari X Prize as the first commercially built spacecraft to fly a person into sub-orbital space twice within two weeks.

"Voyager was a full nine-day adventure, flown at low altitude, without a pressurized cabin," Rutan said. "At that time, I didn't think it was possible with jet engines, which are much less efficient."

The secret, he said, was advances in "structure and aerodynamics" achieved much more easily and inexpensively with modern construction techniques. "We had to build a plane that was 82 percent fuel, by weight, rather than 73 percent, like Voyager."

Crouch, from the Air and Space Museum, pointed out that both the balloon gondola from Fossett's 2002 "Bud Light Spirit of Freedom" and Rutan's Voyager were already on display in the Air and Space Museum, adding, "I wouldn't be surprised" if GlobalFlyer ends up there as well.

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Pope continues to improve but may miss Easter celebrations

By Tracy Wilkinson
LOS ANGELES TIMES

ROME — The health of Pope John Paul II, who has not been seen in public for four days, continues to improve, the Vatican said Thursday. But the ailing pontiff might miss ceremonies leading up to Easter, the most important holiday on the Christian calendar.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls would not say when the pope would be released from the hospital, where a week ago he underwent an emergency operation to insert a breathing tube in his neck.

Navarro-Valls, speaking to reporters after issuing an update on the pope's condition, said it was also unclear what role John Paul will play in the hectic week of Masses and services beginning on Palm Sunday, March 20, and culminating in Easter the following Sunday. It is Christianity's most solemn period, and also an especially taxing schedule for the head of the Roman Catholic Church.

"The pope must decide, once he has returned, the way he will participate in these ceremonies," Navarro-Valls said. "But at the moment, nothing has been decided."

The uncertainty left open the possibility that the 84-year-old pontiff might spend Easter in the hospital. An Easter week without the pope officiating would undercut the score how increasingly frail he has become. He is barely able to speak or walk, and each new affliction further limits his ability to minister and evangelize.

John Paul was admitted to the Gemelli Polyclinic hospital on Feb. 24 for the second time in less than a month, suffering from severe breathing difficulties. On the first visit, he was released after nine days and some Catholics now think that might have been an overly hasty discharge that contributed to his relapse.

"He would come back tomorrow if he could," said one senior church official. "But this time he's listening

to the doctors."

Eager to quell speculation that the pope can no longer carry out his duties, Vatican officials announced a series of tasks that they said he had completed. He had named bishops for Brazil and Mexico, and sent a letter Thursday to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, one of the departments that govern the church, which is holding a plenary session. The pope signed the message with the Latin variation of his name: "IOANNES PAULUS II, from the Gemelli Polyclinic."

"He daily follows the activity of the Holy See and the life of the church" with aides, Navarro-Valls said. "The health of the Holy Father John Paul II continues to improve and show progress."

Access to the pope has been restricted to his closest associates and an occasional cardinal. His doctors have not been permitted to speak to the media, so a fuller picture of the pope's condition has not been made available

Another cholesterol-lowering drug, Crestor, to get special warning

By Marc Kaufman
THE WASHINGTON POST

The popular new cholesterol-lowering drug Crestor may cause an increased risk of potentially life-threatening muscle damage, especially in people of Asian ancestry, the Food and Drug Administration said yesterday.

In a formal advisory, the agency said the risk is small and was largely identified

and understood when the drug was approved in 2003.

But because of new post-market studies that underscored the concerns, the agency concluded that the public should be informed and that warnings on the product label should be strengthened.

The advisory, and accompanying new instructions to physicians, reflect a recent policy shift in how and when the FDA releases po-

tentially troublesome information about a product.

In the wake of criticism that the agency did not move fast enough in communicating potential problems with COX-2 painkillers, including Merck's Vioxx, FDA officials said they plan to give out more preliminary information than in the past. Merck voluntarily pulled Vioxx from the market a few months ago after studies suggested the drug could cause muscle problems.

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IN OUR OPINION

Diversity harbors growth and understanding



One of the appeals of going to a larger university is having more student diversity and interaction. These aspects, along with a safe campus, help boost retention rates, grades in the classroom, the likelihood of getting hired and the development of a well-rounded individual.

These are so important, in fact, that they directly coincide with two of UK's goals to make UK a top-20 research institution: "attract and graduate outstanding students" and "nurture diversity of thought, culture, gender and ethnicity."

Each also plays a hand in the success of the other. With greater diversity, students come in contact with people of different backgrounds more often, whether that is through more student organizations or a more varied mix of people in the classroom. And with the interaction of students from different backgrounds, a greater level of understanding is achieved, which could help curb crimes between students.

Diversity
UK ranks 20th out of its 20 benchmarks for racial diversity on campus, according to the U.S. News and World Report America's Best Colleges 2005. At UK, 91 percent of students are white.

To be fair, most of the benchmarks are within one or two percentage points of each other, but regardless, this type of figure shouldn't be found at any top-tier institution. Developing the worldly skills students need cannot be done with such a low number of

minority students. ("Students must ask themselves how important it is for me, as a student, to meet people that look different from me, speak to people different from me and come from a completely different background?" posed Victor Hazard, dean of students. "There's something about diversity in general that adds to all our experience. But one must look at diversity in its broadest context, he said. We agree.

UK has 3.6 percent more women than men enrolled, according to U.S. News and World Report, putting it 10th with its benchmarks for percentage of women.

And 14 percent of UK's students come from out-of-state. UK's Office of Institutional Research points out the most out-of-state students come from states bordering Kentucky.

"Having all our students coming to UK come from just southern states makes no sense to me," Hazard said.

Student interaction

Despite the opportunities at benchmarks, UK students have ample ways to interact with other students through the over 300 student organizations on campus, campus events and resident opportunities, like the Living-Learning communities in the residence halls where students with similar interests are grouped together.

U.S. News and World Report measured involvement in Greek organizations, in particular. UK ranks 19th and 16th for number of fraternities and sororities, respectively. This number, though, is adjusted some when you factor in each school's enrollment. Fifteen percent of eligible students are

Greek Life at UK's Benchmarks

School	# of Fraternities	Fraternity members	# of sororities	sorority members
Texas A&M	30	4%	22	7%
Ohio State	37	5%	21	6%
U. of Arizona	25	7%	20	10%
U. of Wisconsin	26	9%	11	8%
U. of Maryland	23	9%	14	9%
U. of Iowa	21	9%	17	13%
U. of Texas	26	9%	23	14%
Purdue	49	10%	29	7%
NC State	28	10%	13	9%
UCLA	27	12%	18	9%
U. of Washington	28	12%	16	10%
Penn State	56	13%	28	10%
U. of Florida	32	15%	24	15%
U. of Kentucky	23	15%	16	19%
U. of Michigan	34	16%	24	15%
U. of Georgia	32	18%	22	22%
U. of Illinois	58	22%	33	22%
UCLA	32	30%	22	30%
U. of Minnesota	27	N/A	14	N/A
UNC	31	N/A	19	N/A

involved in fraternities, placing it sixth. (Two benchmarks — North Carolina and Minnesota — did not have any available data.) For sororities, 19 percent are involved, putting it at 4th.

But when comparing interaction opportunities, one can't start more groups to reach a particular number. Just because another school has a certain number of fraternities, for example, does not mean UK should immediately try to open the same number to catch up.

"It's (the number of organizations that are) going to be unique to the campus," Hazard said. "Whether or not it's in the top 20, it's going to be hard to gauge that."

The number of student groups we have must come from the students, which is why registering a student group should be as easy as possible. UK seems to be facilitating this well. To start a group, interested students must go to the Student Organizations Center in

Diversity at UK's Benchmarks

School	Men	Women	African-American	Asian-American	Hispanic	White
UCLA	43.6%	56.4%	3%	38%	15%	40%
U. of Texas	48.1%	51.9%	4%	17%	14%	61%
U. of Washington	48.5%	51.5%	3%	26%	4%	64%
U. of Maryland	50.7%	49.3%	12%	14%	6%	66%
U. of Michigan	48.8%	51.2%	8%	13%	5%	69%
U. of Illinois	52.9%	47.1%	8%	13%	6%	70%
U. of Florida	46.6%	53.4%	9%	7%	12%	71%
U. of Arizona	46.9%	53.1%	3%	6%	15%	71%
U. of Virginia	46.6%	53.4%	9%	11%	3%	73%
UNC	41.2%	58.8%	11%	6%	2%	79%
Ohio State	52.7%	47.3%	4%	4%	2%	80%
NC State	57.1%	42.9%	10%	5%	2%	81%
U. of Minnesota	47.2%	52.8%	4%	9%	2%	82%
Texas A&M	50.9%	49.1%	2%	3%	9%	83%
Purdue	59.2%	40.8%	3%	5%	2%	83%
Penn State	46.8%	53.2%	4%	6%	3%	85%
U. of Wisconsin	46.9%	53.1%	2%	5%	2%	87%
U. of Georgia	43.0%	57.0%	5%	4%	2%	88%
U. of Iowa	45.5%	54.5%	2%	3%	2%	90%
U. of Kentucky	48.2%	51.8%	5%	2%	1%	91%

the Student Center for consultation.

They must fill out a form, submit a constitution, identify at least five people interested in the group, find a faculty member to be the adviser and complete an affirmative action statement on nondiscrimination for membership.

Safety

Central to a good campus experience is feeling safe on a campus.

Unfortunately, UK is about 15 to 20 officers short of the number they need, said Director of Public Safety Ken Clevidence. Among its benchmarks, UK ranks second to last, a January Kernel story found. (Michigan is excluded from this figure; their numbers couldn't be confirmed.) Currently, UK has 43 sworn officers; Clevidence said UK needs to have 55 to 60.

Despite the staff hiring freeze, Clevidence has received an OK to hire one more officer and four more security officers for the Medical Center, he said. But more

needs to be done.

Even in tight financial times, the police department is not an area where administrators can save a couple bucks. Clevidence said the department has \$17,000 allotted for expenses — uniforms alone cost \$35,000 a year to maintain.

The UK Police try to make up for their lack of officers by having their officers continue their education after being hired. For example, Maj. Joe Monroe of the UK Police is finishing up training for police officers at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va.

This helps, but UK needs to have an ample amount of police patrolling the campus, despite the amount of education the force has.

A positive student experience is key to success in the classroom. Everyone in the UK community needs to make sure these three areas are maintained. They will contribute to more achievement for UK as a whole in the future.

Q&A with Lee Todd

UK President

Kernel staffers sat down with UK President Lee Todd to talk about general issues pertaining to UK.

Q. What are the prospects for increased state funding of higher education?

A. The House put \$50 million into the base budgets for the universities, and I think the Senate has put in \$45 million. That would be the biggest increase since I've been around, and that would be extremely helpful to us. We've already said we would increase tuition 14.5 percent. We're willing to reconsider that as the budget gets closer to finalization. I think they're going to put some real money back into it.

The biggest push I've been talking about this year is faculty and staff salaries. We've averaged 1.3 percent for the last three years, and that's just not going to keep us competitive. We're falling behind. That's our highest priority for right now and will be for the next couple of years.

Q. Do you know when you might lift the staff hiring freeze?

A. We'll wait until after the budget's passed and look at that and see what we're going to do. We will always watch hiring quite closely while I'm here to ensure that we make every effort to run the place as efficiently as we can.

One of my philosophies is that I'd rather have fewer people paid well than a lot of people. As you go through times like this you need to pare down. We need to make every effort to hire carefully if we do take that freeze off. It's more important for me to try to pay people that work hard here every day than to try and hire more people.

Q. If you only get \$32 million of your desired \$40 million for the pharmaceutical project, are there possible sources of money you could use to get that extra \$8 million?

A. I don't know if we could or not. We've had cuts the last three years. The first year I was here the university had certain reserves they would generally hold. But in order to try to protect the departments from having to field the squeeze, I authorized spending our

reserves to try to deal with these cuts. So we've used up a lot of reserve capacity that we've had. We have some reserves in the hospital, but they need to be held in order to back up the bonds for that hospital project.

There's something I've been trying to speak about on a national level that I'm really trying to take a position in. There appears to be, on the behalf of legislators and businesses, the general assumption that universities are inefficiently run and they've got enough money to make things work whether we give it to them or not. And we've got to dispel that. And here I would say that it is.

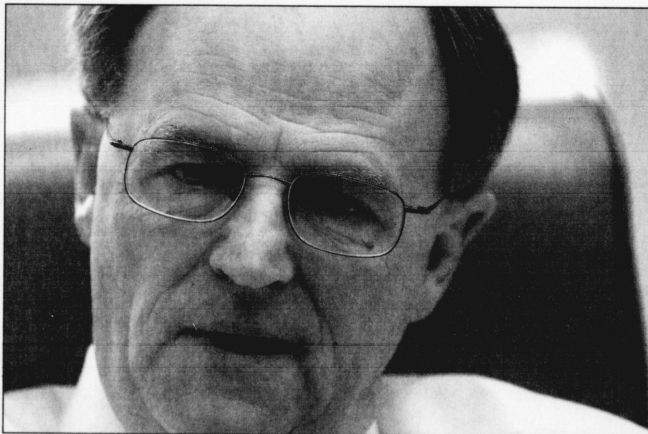
We've cut \$35 million in costs in three years. So we are watching our expenditures very carefully. If you look at the cuts we've undergone on a per student basis — let's just say it was \$2,500.

We raised tuition to cover \$1,500 of it. We're absorbing about \$1,000 per student, or somewhere in that magnitude. I'm not sure that's the case for everybody else. What I'm trying to do is come up with that number so I can tell people. You talk about us raising tuition, and I want you to know that we are still having to absorb a lot of these cuts internally in order to make this work out. We could increase tuition even more and balance out those cuts. We have not done that.

Q. In light of the fact that some money was taken away from projects for universities, there was sort of an eleventh-hour addition for \$15 million for a UK basketball practice facility. How do you react to that?

A. It was not on our priority list. It's unclear who put that on there. It's something that we've been talking about for some time. It is a priority for the university to have the practice arena. We have women's volleyball, women's basketball, men's basketball and gymnastics over there right now. And we have a premier basketball program. So we need a facility for both men and women's basketball.

But when we list our priorities, the pharmaceutical building, the hospital and the Student Health Services and the diagnostic lab were our top priorities. We're not the only ones. It seems like they added \$41 million onto KCTCS' (Kentucky Community and Technical College System) request that they weren't sure where that came from. If you look at the \$54 million facility at Northern Kentucky University I'm not sure that was on (President) Jim Votruba's list; he wants a science building.



HILLY SCHIFFER | STAFF

That's more of a community project, yet it kind of goes under NKU. It's gone up from \$42 million to \$44 million to \$54 million.

Q. If tuition keeps going up at the rate it is now, far outpacing inflation, do you think some people will get to the point where they say 'Enough is enough,' I can't afford to go to school anymore?

A. Well I'm sure we've already gotten to that point with some people. And certainly, if we start getting some increases from the state government — if the economy picks up and the state picks up some of its share — then I wouldn't expect tuition to continue to go like it has gone.

I would say that over the history of the university, it has been extremely frugal with tuition. Last year, Kiplinger's listed us as the fourth-best value for the total cost of attending.

For the things we're trying to achieve, we've probably kept the tuition too low to give us the operating capacity that we needed over the years. My hope would be that the state would begin to fund it as the economy picks up and hopefully tax modernization will stabilize things that we would not have to put things on the backs of the students.

When you talk about it rising more than inflation, the university is so different than a cost-of-living institution because most of our expenses are in personnel, and healthcare is moving a lot faster than the cost of living.

If you look at a general household, its budget has electricity, food, gasoline, and every now and then a refrigerator has to be bought. And those things kind of do go up as a cost of living. If you look at a university, 85 percent of your budget is kind of. And if they expect to have a cost-of-living raise, then that goes up by that amount, but in addition, healthcare is going up two or three times the cost of living.

In addition to that, we've got to have all of this latest technology to try to make classrooms competitive. When we hire faculty, we've got to have research startup funds to get them started. We're not a cost-of-living institution.

But I'm certainly concerned about it. I know the board's concerned about it. If you look at the benchmark universities tuition-wise, we're still pretty reasonable. It's the best investment students can make. I think they get a heck of an education for what they presently pay. But there is no doubt it could certainly affect the low-income side.

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ETCETERA | the poore philosophy

Caution: Oxymorons at work



NORTHBOUND. SOMEWHERE ALONG I-65 — While taking a trip to Tuscaloosa, Ala. last week, I realized why the United States is \$90 billion in debt.

Road construction signs. As common on most interstate, there are construction "zones" about every three feet or so. In these "zones" you can always find highly skilled construction workers — absent. But you can see the fruits of their labor, namely big orange construction signs.

When you see, "Road work 1,500 feet," they really mean, "We've constructed signs 1,500 feet ahead, so you better watch out!"

And once you travel 1,500 feet, you are greeted with no actual construction.

It's rare that you see any actual construction, and any that is currently taking place has been ongoing since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, yet there's no actual evidence of it. Actually, I believe the Declaration of Independence



Derek Poore
SERIAL COLUMNIST

specifically states, "Road construction, and big orange road signs hitherto, must commence immediately in these solemn states, free and independent of any British intervention or obstruction."

The Bill of Rights was specifically delayed in Congress because of the absence of any road construction sign provisions. These vacant construction sites are sometimes full of government ploys and booby traps, like dozens of construction vehicles and no one to drive them. In fact, if you pull over to the side of the road and approach any of those vehicles they will only plant more road signs.

But in regards to the national spending, there are enough metal orange road work signs to arm the Moroccan Navy, so this is an obvious waste of American taxpayer funds. Why not advertise on these signs? Or attach sails to them and race down the Ohio River, advocating against the misuse of big orange road signs?

There is also a trend of creativity among the highway departments in this country. Catchy slogans, fancy text and vicious taunts are popping up all over this nation's proud paved highways.

My favorites are the "Slow

down, my daddy/mommy works here," written in crayon, and "Leave the racing to the horses" — a nice, big, orange road sign with a Bluegrass flavor. I'm sure in Nevada there are plenty "Slow down! We can tempt you with more roadside casinos that way!"

And Florida: "Slow down! Even though you can't possibly go any slower because one of our 600 million retired residents is driving in the passing lane at speeds generally slower than most lawn mowers."

What bothers me is that fines are doubled in these so-called construction zones (requiring more signs to inform you of this). Fines collected by state troopers are most likely used to build more signs or to pursue you ruthlessly from disobeying the mighty big orange road sign.

We're a signed nation, from billboards to restaurant signs. It's just unfortunate that nobody can read them because there's still a Florida retiree in the passing lane doing 20 miles per hour, and because there are 6,000 big orange road work signs in the way they can't see the more important one:

"Slower traffic keep right."

E-mail: dpoore@kykernel.com

Arnold crowned Miss UK in pageant



Journalism sophomore Michelle Arnold of Alpha Delta Pi blew kisses to the crowd after winning the Miss UK Pageant last night at the Singletary Center for the Arts.

BRAD WILDER | STAFF

'Fat Actress': Kirstie Alley's big breakthrough

By Lynn Smith
LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD — About a year ago, comic actress Kirstie Alley spent five days in bed, thinking The hiatus she'd taken to spend more time with her children had lasted too long, she thought.

Her phone wasn't ringing so much. She missed acting as if it were oxygen. "Cheers," the *Look Who's Talking* movies, the People's Choice Awards and her last sitcom, "Veronica's Closet," were old news. She had gained 60 or 70 pounds. She was 53 years old.

She had come face to face with "the void," something women in Hollywood had complained about since the first screen actress passed 40. But face-in-the-pillow victimhood felt to her like "a pretty creepy position."

So Alley gathered up her 200 pounds, got out of her funky Italianate villa in Los Angeles and created a vehicle for herself that Hollywood would never have offered. Her semi-scripted series, "Fat Actress," will debut March 7 on Showtime. "If you still want to play the game, you've got to get creative," Alley said. "And I still wanted to play the game."

"Fat Actress" is not only a way one actress found to crack the system, it will also be the first of a wave of women-in-Hollywood comedy that will hit TV this year. Rather than complaining about their humiliation and indignity with the earnest, outraged tone we're used to hearing on the subject, older actresses are now embracing and even exploiting the comic value of their ego-killing career troubles.

Comedian Kathy Griffin has been working this terrain for a while now in one-woman comedy shows such as "Kathy Griffin: The D-List," which served up her frustration and angst along with sharp, sometimes nasty observations about the Hollywood scene. Bravo ran it as a special last year, and now the cable channel is spinning it out into a six-episode, unscripted series called "Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List."

But Griffin has said the last thing she wants is privacy. "The entire industry can come to my house and photograph me in my underwear..." (There are more humiliating things than being on a reality show.)

The key to avoiding real humiliation, Zalaznick said,

is that Griffin is in control of the show. "It's the empowerment argument in forms of media, especially those with women at the core. If they're in control of their image, no matter what it is, who's to say that's not a positive?"

"Comedy is about tragedy," Alley said, sitting cross-legged on a deep, shabby chic couch in her hillside home. "My best kind of comedy is comedy as self-deprecation," she said. "There wasn't something physically funny about me before. Now there's something physically funny about me."

But Alley said she still feels vulnerable playing a version of herself in "Fat Actress." The premiere episode has cringe-worthy scenes of Alley sashaying obviously through NBC's corporate offices to pitch a snickering Jeff Zucker. She pursues black men romantically because she's heard they like large women.

In subsequent episodes, she tries to squeeze into size-6 pants to attract Kid Rock, dates a crybaby billionaire and considers using parasites or laxatives, surrounding herself with small people and things (the "koi effect"), and smoking crack cocaine to lose weight.

Alley said that while her main intention was to write something funny, she had to complete some serious inner work before she could do it. Once she got herself out of her five-day bed funk, Alley, a devotee of Scientology, said she did "some different Scientology activities" that promote personal responsibility. She would, she decided, lose weight and write something to suit her sense of humor — not Hollywood's.

"I don't ever want people to think I'm degrading somebody's body size," she said. "But if you see a big, fat dachshund walk in here, you're going to start laughing."

Scientists believe "that which you resist, you become," she said. "It was 'Matrix'-ish. You just let the bullet pass through. It felt like that. Whoosh! Yow!"

"The second I announced the show, it was like I was free. Then it became the reverse vector. It became, 'Bring it on.'"

In Hollywood, she said, dates a crybaby billionaire and considers using parasites or laxatives, surrounding herself with small people and things (the "koi effect"), and smoking crack cocaine to lose weight.

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