

KENTUCKY KERNEL

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Smoke-out fire drills will return to campus



FILE PHOTO BY ED MATTHEWS | STAFF
Lt. William Norton, left, and firefighter Jeremy Bruner of Engine Five use a smoke machine on the second floor of Ingels Hall during a drill in September 2007. The smoke machine is used to simulate real-life scenarios when conducting fire drills.

By Rebecca Sweeney
rsweeney@kykernel.com

Dorm residents have settled into their home away from home, but one surprise may still await them: smoke creeping into their rooms. Within the next few weeks, UK fire officials will place a fog machine at an exit of a residence hall. Hopes are that someone will pull the fire alarm and students will avoid the smoke and find a safe exit, said Greg Williamson, an assistant fire marshal at UK.

In addition to drills in dorms, the Biomedical/Bio-

logical Sciences Research Building may be added to the on-campus sites for smoke-out drills, Williamson said.

Officials with the Biomedical/Biological Sciences Research Building, located at the corner of Virginia Avenue and South Limestone, have requested smoke-outs, although no date has been set, Williamson said. The Medical Science Building, located on Rose Street, had a smoke-out about two years ago, he said, but no decision has been made about smoke-outs in buildings other than dorms.

Before any smoke-out drill could take place, the

University Fire Marshal's office has to be asked and the office must assess whether a drill would be beneficial.

"It's not like we're going to set up in a building, set up a smoke machine and start throwing smoke," Williamson said. "We have to be asked."

This is the fourth year that UK fire officials have set up the simulation smoke-outs in the dorms. Like last year, three dorms will have smoke-out drills this semester at a cost to the university of about \$5 per drill. That price does not include the cost of the machine.

Having three drills allows

each shift of fire department personnel the opportunity to learn each building and gain experience of pulling their hoses inside the dorms, Williamson said. Dates for this semester's residence hall drills have not been set.

Student opinion differs on how much the drills may benefit dorm residents. Sarah Pierce, a pre-physical therapy junior, said despite the smoke filtering through her dorm, nobody pulled the alarm.

"We were expecting a drill, so I don't think people

See **Fire drills** on page 3

Professor to address state of free speech

By Austin Schmitt
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Forty-five words written in the 18th century may seem small, but for many it represents years of work.

The First Amendment will be the topic of a speech by University of Minnesota professor Jane Kirtley at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the auditorium of the W.T. Young Library.

Kirtley is the keynote speaker at the Scripps Howard First Amendment Center's annual First Amendment Celebration, which takes place Tuesday and Wednesday.

During her speech Tuesday, Kirtley will discuss recent threats to journalists' jobs and prospects of favorable changes in the future regarding journalists' rights.

Kirtley, who said she has been a believer in freedom of speech her whole life, called First Amendment rights essential for U.S. citizens.

"If they live in this country, then it's important," said Kirtley, director of the Silha Center for the Study of Media Ethics and Law at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Minnesota.

"Some people say students are not connected," she said. "I don't believe this; youths are the stakeholders of the future. Free flow of expression is an essential key to life. If you are living, you should care."

The State of the First Amendment

See **Kirtley** on page 3

Dame still looking for her band

By Laura Clark
lclark@kykernel.com

Three weeks remain until The Dame reopens, but there is still a lot of work that needs to be done to the popular venue before it opens its doors.

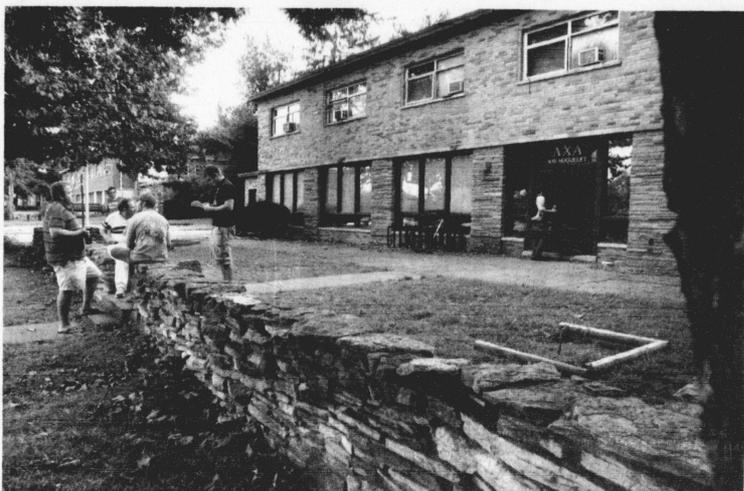
A band for the Oct. 3 opening of the new music hall has not yet been booked, said Nick Sprouse, The Dame's general manager and talent buyer.

"Since the opening's only three weeks away, getting a band is my number one priority," Sprouse said.

The Dame closed its West Main Street location in June and was demolished in July. The other buildings on the block between the corners of West Main and South Upper streets, and West Vine and South Limestone streets were demolished as well.

The new location for The Dame, at

See **Dame** on page 3



PHOTOS BY EMILY COVERT | STAFF
Above: Business marketing junior and Lambda Chi Alpha member Jacob Vanwinckle, far left, talks with chapter adviser Bobby McDowell, left, political science senior and Lambda Chi Alpha member Jonathan Ayer, and biology freshman and Lambda Chi Alpha member Matt Day in front of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity house on Huguelet Avenue on Monday. Below: The Phi Sigma Kappa house was shut down in April for several fire code violations, including old doors.

Empty '6-pack' in UK's future?

By Rosalind Essig
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The "6-pack" fraternity houses have been a staple on UK's campus for several decades, but they are now disappearing, leaving some to wonder why.

Questions have been raised about university intentions regarding the South Campus area between Hilltop and Huguelet avenues, and the "6-pack" of fraternity houses is now half-empty, leaving fraternity members concerned.

The area has become more of a "4-pack" since the Kappa Alpha and Pi Kappa Alpha houses were torn down. The Phi Sigma Kappa house, which is still standing, will be empty for at least the rest of the semester after being shut down in April for several fire code violations, including old doors.

The three other houses on the South Campus block are FarmHouse Fraternity, Lambda Chi Alpha and Kappa Sigma.

These changes, which have all come in the last 10 years, have contributed to questions about the health of the buildings, the university's interest in their location and the possible construction of a student center on the land.

"We've all heard rumors," said Daniel Charles, an accounting senior and president

of the Kappa Sigma fraternity.

Plans for a new Student Center where the "6-pack" now sits are part of the university's long-term plan, but nothing is slated to occur anytime soon, said UK spokeswoman Kathy Johnson.

But Lance Broeking, director of finance for Campus Services, said UK has no systematic effort to move the fraternities from the current location.

Broeking said UK hopes to someday consolidate these Greek chapters in the block made up by Rose Street, Rose Lane, Woodland Avenue and Columbia Avenue. However, any plans to consolidate are long-term, he said.

Broeking did say, though, that the houses, which he referred to as 1950s, barack-style buildings, have suffered from wear and tear.

"Over the years they've kind of fallen into disrepair," he said.

Now, the remaining four houses are exploring the possibility of moving or renovation.

Kappa Sigma is working to get started on a new house, Charles said. He said the house would begin to have structural issues in a few years if they did not address the current problems.

See **6-pack** on page 3



Courtroom fairness focus of judge's speech

By Courtney Thomas
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The first black woman appointed to the Kentucky Court of Appeals judge in the 4th Appellate district, division 2, will present "Racial Fairness Commission - What is fair, what is just?" at noon in the College of Law courtroom.

Denise Clayton, a Circuit Court of Appeals judge in the 4th Appellate district, division 2, will present "Racial Fairness Commission - What is fair, what is just?" at noon in the College of Law courtroom.

During the event, which is sponsored by the UK Libraries and the College of Law, Clayton will discuss bail, sentencing and jury selection and how it relates to ethnological issues surrounding the judiciary process.

She will also outline the work of the Racial Fairness Commission, created in 2001 by Joseph E. Lambert, then-chief justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court. The commission examines racial fairness in Jefferson County's courts after members of the black com-

munity complained about fairness, according to the Kentucky Court of Justice Web site.

The result of her presentation will benefit students of many disciplines, said Reineette Jones, the event's coordinator.

"All people in Kentucky are affected by the court systems," Jones said. "Students need to care about issues like this because the whole reason for being in college is to become better people and to help better our community."

The lecture should be a good way for students to learn, said Louise Everett Graham, the interim dean of the College of Law.

"Our responsibility is to give our students an opportunity to explore issues like racial fairness and demonstrate issues by inviting speakers to campus," Graham said.

Following the presentation, those in attendance will have a chance to ask Clayton questions in the reception hall of the College of Law building.

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Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black

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

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — Provide strong leadership, even if it means you have to wrestle the power away from somebody else. Your plan is more likely to work than his or hers.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — Now's a good time to go looking for something you thought was lost forever. Maybe it's not. Maybe you put it in a safe place. This will be worth the trouble.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 7 — After the issues are all argued out, a workable plan emerges. So all that shouting and emotion was worth put-

ting up with. Hang in there.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 6 — It's wonderful to get swept up in the group's enthusiasm, if they're working on a project that benefits others, so much the better.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 9 — Something you thought was handled isn't there when you need it. Don't waste time worrying; be in the moment.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — Don't give up on a purchase you've been thinking about. This is not a treat, it's substantial and for your home.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — Follow a strong leader to a successful conclusion. Be careful whom you choose, by the way. Pick the one who's most trustworthy.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — You're racing to keep up with the orders, and everyone's changing their minds. Help them decide and you'll make their lives, and yours, a lot

easier. Limit their options.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 7 — Love stirs your heart and inspires you to postpone all other social engagements. Let people know you still care about them, but that you have a private life.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 6 — A roommate or family member sorely tries your patience. There's no point in arguing with somebody who isn't listening. That goes for both of you, so watch a movie instead.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — New information helps you leave some of your worries behind. Jump right over that old stumbling block and get on to other things.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — The money's coming in, or perhaps there's an opportunity to get a better job at more pay. Read the latest want ads and check the e-job sites.

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kernel POP

Mom's kiss-and-tell

Singer Britney Spears faces intimate revelations from her mother's memoir

Wearing a form-fitting, custom-made Versace dress, a radiant Britney Spears, 26, took the stage at the Paramount Pictures Studio Lot in Los Angeles to claim her third trophy at the 25th MTV Video Music Awards Sept. 7. To a standing ovation, she picked up the Moonman statue for Video of the Year, the biggest prize of the night, for her media-ripping track "Piece of Me." "I'm in shock right now," said Spears, who also won the Best Female Video and Best Pop Video awards. "I want to dedicate this to all my fans." And there were many on hand. "She looked beautiful," Spears' former partner in crime Paris Hilton gushed to Us backstage, while VMA host Russell Brand told Us, "This is the resurrection of Britney Spears."

But on the heels of Spears' triumphant return to the VMAs — following last year's disastrous lip-synching of "Gimme More" — comes a tell-all memoir from her mother. Described as "the inside story of the Spears family — as only a mother can tell it," Lynne Spears' *Through the Storm: A Real Story of Fame and Family in a Tabloid World* (out Sept. 16) mines the troubled lives of daughters Britney and Jamie Lynn, 17. Lynne promises intimate details of Britney's 2007 "meltdown," Jamie Lynn's teen pregnancy and her falling-out with Britney's former Svengali Sam Lutfi. ("She has done nothing but spread lies about me," Lutfi tells Us.)

Some outlets assert Lynne dishes much more. U.K. newspaper *The Sun*, which claims to have details of the book, reports that Lynne, 53, who has had a tumultuous relationship with her elder daughter, relates how Britney began drinking at 13, lost her virginity at 14 and began experimenting with drugs at 15. A source close to the singer says she's less than thrilled with her mom's literary effort. "Britney is aware her mother started this book when they were not speaking," says the source. "Of course, part of her wishes it wouldn't come out, but she'd rather her mother tell her story than an unauthorized biographer." Spears' manager, Larry Rudolph, tells Us, in fact, "There is absolutely no truth to the rumor Britney is angry with Lynne about Lynne's book." Curt Hard-

ing, Lynne's rep at Thomas Nelson, the Christian publisher behind the memoir, denies Storm includes details about Britney's early sexual experiences. "Lynne wrote this book for her children," he tells Us of the tome, adding, "She is absolutely not talking about when they lost their virginity. The last thing she would do is sell them out."

Cashing in

It wouldn't be the first time Lynne has profited from her children. In addition to a cut of her daughters' income (as "co-manager," she earns cash on everything from perfume to CDs), she brokered a

\$1 million deal with OK! magazine to announce then-16-year-old Jamie Lynn's pregnancy. "Lynne knew OK! would pay the most," a source told Us at the time. "It was her decision." Not to mention her two previous books with Britney, 2000's *Heart to Heart* and 2001's *A Mother's Gift*. "Lynne got all her money through those girls and loved it when it started rolling

Looking forward

Despite the potentially embarrassing book, Britney has her sights firmly set on the future. The VMAs appearance was only the beginning of a comeback for the singer, whose sixth studio album is in the works (no release date has been set). "It's amazing to see where she is now compared to a year ago," says a source who recently spent time with her. One reason? Aside from working out three to four times a week for an hour and cutting out high-calorie Starbucks runs, she's sticking to her medications. Adds the source, "Of course, she seems somewhat chemically controlled, but considering how deeply troubled she was last year, it's an amazing turnaround." Yet she's not completely out of the woods. Another pal tells Us, "Britney is happier now, but she's still very lonely. She misses having girlfriends and gets very sad, especially when her kids leave after a visit."

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The State of the First Amendment

6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16
W.T. Young Library Auditorium

Speaker:
Jane Kirtley



director, Silha Center for the Study of Media Ethics and Law, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Minnesota

Sponsored by The Scripps Howard First Amendment Center

Who's A Journalist?

10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17,
W.T. Young Library

Are bloggers journalists? Who should be protected under the proposed federal shield law for reporters?

Moderator:
Judy Clabes
chairman, Scripps Howard Foundation Trust Board



Panelists:

- Tom Eblen**
Columnist
Lexington Herald-Leader
- Jon Fleischaker**
Dinsmore & Shohl
Louisville
- Jane Kirtley**
Director
Silha Center for the Study of Media Ethics and Law, School of Journalism and Mass Communication
University of Minnesota
- William Nichols**
Managing Editor
Politico.com






Sponsored by The Scripps Howard First Amendment Center

FIRE DRILLS

Continued from page 1

were panicking like they should have been," Pierce said. "People were still going down the smoke-filled stairway, so the drill was pretty pointless."

The fire drills may be a good idea for students, said Sarah Hines, an international studies sophomore.

"It would simulate a real fire," she said. "It shows how people would really act."

UK firefighters have gotten encouraging feedback about the drills from the national media, Williamson said.

In February, UK was ranked by Reader's Digest as the nation's fourth-best campus for safety, and as a best practice university for fire safety, in part due to the fire drills.

USA Today featured UK's fire drills in an October 2007 article that highlighted colleges' efforts in raising fire awareness.

"These drills are a great opportunity to show students how they might react in a real situation and make them think about whether or not their reactions were safe," Williamson said.

STAFF WRITERS ALLI GIBBERN AND JILL LASTER CONTRIBUTED TO THIS STORY.

DAME

Continued from page 1

367 E. Main St., will occupy the Club Level and the AIA Concert Level, on the right side of Main Street Live.

Sprouse said a number of things have to happen before he could sign a band for opening night, including looking to see how well The Dame's two rooms can hold the night's events.

In addition to the musical performance on opening night, Sprouse said The Dame will host an '80s dance party during or after the show.

The new music hall will also undergo a lot of work in the next three weeks to look like the old Dame, Sprouse said.

Along with the old look, the staff that had worked for The Dame when it closed will be returning, Sprouse said. He also said some employees that moved from Lexington will be returning to work for the new venue.

KIRTLEY

Continued from page 1

Address coincides with UK's celebration of Constitution Day on Wednesday.

Kirtley will sit on a panel Wednesday morning and discuss the effects of evolving media, such as the Internet, have on the protections of the First Amendment. The panel will also discuss the possibility of bloggers gaining the same protections and privileges that print and broadcast journalists hold.

Despite the controversy around bloggers, Kirtley stressed the importance of having the ability to freely express thoughts and ideas.

"Everybody understands and wants the right to say what they think. Development of the Internet reminds us every day that we should be able to speak freely," Kirtley said. "In my mind, it's the basis for the flow of democratic values and a key to participation in society."

Mike Farrell, director of the Scripps Howard First Amendment Center, expressed the importance of understanding the issues surrounding the First Amendment today.

"All of us need to be concerned about what the First Amendment means to us and be vigilant protectors of our rights," said Farrell, an assistant professor at UK. "The First Amendment has provided, more or less, protection throughout our history and Americans have to be vigilant about it."

"Jane is one of the foremost advocates. This is a great opportunity for the students."

6-PACK

Continued from page 1

"We haven't had any major issues," Charles said. "Every year they get a little more strict but we haven't had to do anything drastic to keep up to code."

Wes McDaniel, an accounting senior and the president of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, said the fraternity would have to replace the house's roof soon. The roof was estimated last year to cost about \$19,530, fraternity member Spencer Joyce said.

FarmHouse currently has a prospective location and plans for a new house on campus, said Adam French, the president of the fraternity. He said the fraternity has finalized a land lease with the university.

"We're doing it all based on donations from alumni," said French, who estimated the project to cost between \$4 and \$6 million. "We have a very active alumni base."

French also said the active chapter members have been very involved over the years.

"Whenever we have some extra money we set it aside," French said. "Throughout the years we've actually been our own biggest donor, which is cool."

French said that they had been taking good care of the house but they knew it would become more difficult as the building ages.

He said they had been watching trends in fraternity houses and he knew when the university started building the W. T. Young Library that the university would eventually be interested in their location.

"Instead of being reactive about it, we decided to be proactive," French said.

The University Fire Marshal's office closed Phi Sigma Kappa in April 2008, and the fraternity will have the option to reopen Spring 2009 if the violations have been fixed, according to Greg Williamson, the assistant UK fire marshal. "It was kind of a shock to all of us," said Andrew Baughman, the Phi Sigma Kappa president.

One of the repairs Phi Sigma Kappa faces is replacing all of the doors in the house, said Baughman, a civil engineering junior.

"Right now we're in constant communication with the university," Baughman said. "They have sent out a bid to alumni." He said the fraternity's alumni are comparing contractors for the renovations, and he said the goal is to get back in the current house.

The lease requires the fraternities to pay for and make "repairs and alterations or additions" that the university says are necessary "to safeguard the health and well-being of the students."

Baughman said the leases were written "so long ago and so vague, it kind of gave the university unlimited power."

"We did actually have our alumni legal team go over the lease," Baughman said.

The original 1954 lease was only about three pages long, Broeking said.

"In today's legal world the lease would probably be 30 to 50 pages," he said.

Susan West, dean of Fraternal and Sorority Buildings, said some of the older sorority buildings on campus were built in the late '50s, around the same time as the fraternities, and are also having to do a lot of repairs.

"They're a little more financially stable because they plan for those kinds of things," West said.

STAFF WRITER JILL LASTER CONTRIBUTED TO THIS STORY.



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Legislating saggy pants catches on

By Malcolm Venable
The Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK, Va. — When Virginia state Del. Algie Howell Jr. introduced what was dubbed the "droopy drawers" legislation in 2004, his proposal to fine people \$50 for wearing clothing bordering on indecent brought him international notoriety.

Media outlets from around the world descended on Richmond to cover the debate about the bill directed at kids who expose their bottoms, or at least their underwear. The ACLU and black leaders derided him and talk show hosts poked fun at him. But who's the joke on now?

In the years since, several localities across the country have passed similar laws, including more than six cities in

Louisiana. The laws apply to women, too, but are aimed primarily at men wearing pants that fall too far below the waist.

"Sagging," as it's usually called, has been illegal in Delcambre, La., since June 2007 and can result in a fine up to \$300 and a six-month jail sentence. Chicago suburb Lynwood made it illegal in July of this year, around the same time it became illegal in Riviera Beach, Fla.

Flint, Mich., banned them in July, too, with offenders subject to up to a year in jail and \$500 in fines. Police officers there even have a visual guide to punishment: Visible underwear gets a warning, pants below the butt with underwear fully showing is considered disorderly conduct and a fully exposed bum (meaning, skin showing) warrants an

indecent exposure charge.

At least 10 other cities nationwide, including Atlanta, Baltimore, Dallas and Charlotte, are considering a sagging ban.

To be sure, saggy pants laws are no longer tongue in cheek; lawmakers are cracking down.

Having seen his idea go from being mocked to a full-on trend, Howell, who represents parts of Norfolk, Chesapeake and Virginia Beach, can claim pioneer status.

"I knew I was right then," he said. "It didn't bother me that people did not understand it. Parents have lost control."

Though he said he would not reintroduce the legislation, he said, "I'd like to see it passed all over the country."

Apart from legislation,

adults have tried appealing to saggies' intellect and egos, informing them that the style, in fact, comes out of prison culture, where inmates are not allowed belts. So why would you want to look like a prisoner?

That appeal has largely been rebuffed.

Howell has even linked the practice to slavery — telling young men that masseters discouraged belts so slaves couldn't run very far but that didn't get him very far either, he said.

For their part, saggies don't offer much by way of justifying their attire.

"I just do it," said Bennett Moore, a 21-year-old student at Tidewater Community College who was waddling up Granby Street in downtown Norfolk recently, his booty on full display.

Office of Student Activities, Leadership & Involvement

WWW.UKY.EDU/CAMPUSCALENDAR

CAMPUS CALENDAR

The Campus Calendar is produced by the Office of Student Activities, Leadership & Involvement. Registered Student Orgs. and UK Depts. can submit information for FREE online ONE WEEK PRIOR to the MONDAY information is to appear. Call 252-8867 for more information.

Tuesday 16 th	Wednesday 17 th	Thursday 18 th	Friday 19 th	Saturday 20 th	Sunday 21 st
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Engineering Career Fair Clues, 12:00 PM, Raymond Bld, Room 112 •Honors Program Student Council Meeting, 7:30 PM, Student Center 231 •Prelaw: KY Law Schools Info Panel, 4:00 PM, 209 Main Building •UK Trap and Skeet Practice, 7:00 PM, Bluegrass Sportsman League 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Business Career Fair, 10:00 AM, UK Student Center Ballroom •UK Trap and Skeet Practice, 7:00 PM, Bluegrass Sportsman League •Comedy Caravan, 8:00 PM, UK Student Center Cats Den •Vine Book Club Meeting, 6:00 PM, MLKCC •Fellowship of Christian Athletes, 8:00 PM, Room 211 of the Student Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •VANITY, Fashion Show, 7:00 PM, Cats Den, UK Student Center •UK Trap and Skeet Practice, 7:00 PM, Bluegrass Sportsman League •Campus Cruasde for Christ, 7:30 PM, Center Theatre in the Student Center •STUDENT PLAY FESTIVAL, 7:30 PM, Briggs Theatre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •UK Trap and Skeet Practice, 7:00 PM, Bluegrass Sportsman League •STUDENT PLAY FESTIVAL, 7:30 PM, Briggs Theatre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •UK Trap and Skeet Practice, 7:00 PM, Bluegrass Sportsman League •STUDENT PLAY FESTIVAL, 7:30 PM, Briggs Theatre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •UK Trap and Skeet Practice, 7:00 PM, Bluegrass Sportsman League •STUDENT PLAY FESTIVAL, 7:30 PM, Briggs Theatre



High expectations for UK baseball newcomers

By Jon Hale
sports@kykernel.com

Most freshmen enter college with the hopes of a large paycheck awaiting them after graduation, but one UK baseball player is here after turning down a seven-figure offer to play professional baseball. Alex Meyer, ranked the fifth best high school baseball player in the nation by Baseball America, leads UK baseball head coach Gary Henderson's first recruiting class after turning down a reported \$2 million from the Boston Red Sox.

Meyer was selected by Boston, the defending World Series champions, in the 20th round of the Major League Baseball Amateur draft in June. The fire-balling left-handed pitcher was considered a first-round talent by Baseball America, but fell to the 20th round because of his strong commitment to UK.

Major League teams had until Aug. 15 to sign draft picks. With the clock ticking toward the deadline to sign Meyer, the Red Sox used their biggest weapon to try and reel in the lefty. Theo Epstein, the Red Sox general manager, visited Meyer's home on deadline day and offered Meyer a \$2 million signing bonus, according to Baseball America. If Meyer had signed, the bonus would have been a record for any player drafted after the third round.

Meyer, ranked as the second best high school graduate in the nation who didn't sign a professional contract, is one of a number of highly touted incoming players for the UK

baseball team. Henderson's first recruiting class as head coach boasts four draftees and five Louisville Slugger All-Americans.

"This is our best class since I've been here," said Henderson, who was an assistant coach at UK for the past five years. "Come talk to me in three years, and I'll tell you how good it was, but if this group stays healthy they will have a chance to be one of the best classes ever at UK."



Henderson

Andy Burns, an infielder from Fort Collins, Colo., was considered a third-to-fifth-round talent, but fell to the 25th round after clubs were scared away from his commitment to UK.

Braden Kapteyn, an infielder and right-handed pitcher from Lansing, Ill., was drafted by the San Francisco Giants in the 39th round. Cory Farris, a catcher and outfielder from Florence, Ky., was drafted in the 43rd round by the Chicago White Sox.

The class also features three junior-college transfers. Gunner Glad, a right-handed pitcher and utility player, was an all-region and all-conference performer for Eastern Oklahoma State College. Nick Kennedy went 8-1 with a 2.00 earned run average last season for East Los Angeles College. First baseman Will Campbell batted .337 with four home runs and 21 RBIs for Bellevue Community College in 2008.

"I think we all wanted to be here," Burns said. "I pretty much knew I was going to come, but it helped when we all decided to come together."

The UK signees were thrown a curve ball

one day after the draft when John Cohen left the program to take the head coaching job at Mississippi State. Any hesitation among the UK players that were drafted was quickly relieved when UK promoted Henderson to the head coaching position the same day Cohen left.

"That (the coaching change) didn't really matter," Burns said. "Coach Henderson and I had a great relationship. It was hard to see coach Cohen go, but the program went into the hands of a great guy."

Said Henderson: "I didn't feel like the coaching change hurt at all. (Assistant coach) Brad Bohannon and I had been the guys that recruited them. The families were comfortable with the staff that was going to be here."

The Cats didn't escape the draft process completely unscathed. Three of their commitments signed professional contracts after being drafted in the first four rounds. Daniel Webb, a right-handed pitcher from Paducah, Ky., declined to sign a professional contract after being drafted in the 12th round by the Arizona Diamondbacks, but enrolled at a junior college in Florida instead of attending UK.

Praise for the recruiting class before they play their first game for the Cats has been widespread. In Baseball America's pre-draft preview, Jim Callis projected that Meyer would be in the mix for the number one overall pick in 2011.

Until then, Meyer and the rest of the heralded UK recruiting class will try to help the Cats to their fifth consecutive winning season.

"It's the same game," Glad said. "We're going to have a target on our back, but that's what makes it fun."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Women's golf hires new assistant coach

The UK women's golf team hired Brendan Ryan as an assistant coach, head coach Myra Blackwelder announced Monday. Ryan has run his own golf consulting business since 2005, where he helped high school golfers obtain scholarships.

"Brendan is a great fit for our developing program as he brings experience in three key areas: coaching, recruiting and camp development," Blackwelder said in a news release. "This will allow him to help current players raise their golf IQ, but also significantly help in the areas of identifying and recruiting the best players in the world to elevate this program back to national prominence."

Ryan has also worked golfing clinics for the last eight years, in addition to previous coaching experience at Ohio Wesleyan University as an assistant coach.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to apply my coaching, teaching and recruiting background to help develop the University of Kentucky into a national contender," Ryan said.

Hartline garners SEC honors

After leading UK to a 20-14 victory on Saturday, sophomore quarterback Mike Hartline was named the Southeastern Conference Offensive Player of the Week on Monday.

Hartline directed the Cats on a crucial scoring drive in the fourth quarter, connecting with sophomore running back Derrick Locke for the final touchdown to give UK a 17-14 lead. The sophomore threw for 254 yards and two touchdowns against Middle Tennessee State, both career highs.

COMPILED FROM UK ATHLETICS

Three who shunned pros for Cats

Alex Meyer

Pitcher
Height: 6-foot-7, Weight: 205
Hometown: Greensburg, Ind.
Previous school: Greensburg High School
20th-round draft pick of the Boston Red Sox
Ranked as a top-five prospect out of high school by Baseball America.

Andy Burns

Infielder
Height: 6-2, Weight: 185
Hometown: Clemson, S.C.
Previous school: Rocky Mountain High School, Fort Collins, Colo.
25th-round pick by Colorado Rockies
Named ninth-best prospect in the Northwoods League during the summer.

Cory Farris

Catcher/Outfielder
Height: 6-0, Weight: 190
Hometown: Cincinnati
Previous school: Boone County High School, Florence, Ky.
43rd-round pick by the Chicago White Sox
Named a Louisville Slugger High School All-American last year.

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Three fashion tips to brighten the 'gross-weather-blues'

Though I've previously written three other fashion columns this past hot (and gloriously carefree) summer, many, if not most of you fashion-hungry cohorts, probably haven't had (what I assume to be) the immense pleasure of reading one of my columns.



MAGGIE LANHAM
Kernel columnist

With the sad rainy day weather we've been subjected to (under-served!) and the freak gales that threatened to pick up my lonely house and move me to California and made me slip on my ruby red slippers (just in case), I thought it would only be appropriate to make you privy to what constitutes the most fabulous of dreary weather attire, to lift us all out of what we've come to know as beginning-of-the-semester-gross-weather-blues.

First and foremost, the most annoying thing about rainy days (and I know for a fact I'm not a sole soldier in fighting this never-ending battle) is the perpetual and seemingly ever-expanding mass of hair that not-so-gracefully graces the top of my head. Frizzy hair is inherent in humid weather and so very hard to fight when you're running from class to class trying to remember if you actually have class in this building — or wait, are we supposed to have class in the computer lab today? — without having to worry about the state of your hair.

My advice to you, lady pals, is not to straighten your hair. It only gets ruined the moment you step out of your dorm/apartment/house and into all class. My advice is to wear a headband, or have one handy in case of emergency. You never know where a rainy day will take you, and it's important to always be fabulously prepared. If you are blessed, however, to have naturally curly hair, let it go, let it flow! Be as natural and flaunt what Grandma Jean gave you (rather than that truly awful sweater for your birthday).

Second, the problem most encountered with rainy days is how to keep your feet nice

and dry. Though I'm not an advocate of the rain boot (I know! I know! Can you believe it?), I most certainly see the necessity of them. Who wants to have sopping wet feet and pants all day? I've dealt with it (and still do) and have found that rain boots, are, in fact, the way to go. But instead of the polka dots and duck patterns, try out some funky leopard or plaid (which is the pattern for the fall) and show off some sassy personal style.

For all you bikers out there, however (myself included), this shoe is not the right fit for you. Can you imagine trying to make it up Rose Street with those clunky things weighing you down? Nay, I say! For you all, I suggest a slip-proof sandal or your favorite pair of sneakers. Flats, I'm afraid, though a staple of almost every girls' wardrobe, are a no-go when cats and dogs are falling from the sky at alarmingly increasing rates. They dampen easily and when that happens, foul-smelling flats are the order of the day.

Finally, when another dreary Tuesday rolls around and we're all left wondering what happened to the nice, dry summer, my advice to you is to brighten up your life with some color. It is oh-so tempting to just want to throw on some jeans and a T-shirt and trudge to class (oh, I've most certainly fallen victim to that trap), but I've recently taken just 30 more seconds out of my morning routine to add some pop to my outfit to keep me going through the storm. Whether it's just a red bracelet or some bright orange shorts or even a neon yellow tank top (my personal favorite), find at least one piece of your outfit that cheers you up and electrifies your walk to class at 7:45 a.m., giving you just enough pep in your step to summon the energy to hop over that looming puddle.

These three suggestions, along with a personal belief of always carrying those grease-bone magic makeup sheet things (they work so well), are just a few ways to prepare yourself for the inevitable storms that lie ahead. And as long as you're comfortable in the skin you're in, these rainy days won't ever keep you down.

Maggie Lanham is a merchandising, apparel and textiles junior. E-mail features@kykernel.com.

Fall TV lineup brings back classics

By Ricky Simpson
rsimpson@kykernel.com

This year's fall lineup is bringing back the old along with a lot of new. Stations like the CW, ABC, NBC, CBS, and HBO are airing news shows with new faces this year to start the season right, although there's no guarantee the shows will be on the whole year, half a year or even a month.

Dramas

90210 (CW)

Premiered: Tuesday, Sept. 2, 8 p.m.

Yes, they are actually doing this. The Beverly Hills lifestyle is being exploited at a record pace. Don't they understand people only like to watch staged reality shows about Beverly Hills?

Crusoe (NBC)

Premieres: Friday, Oct. 17, 8 p.m.

In this intriguing adaptation of Daniel Defoe's classic novel, we follow Robinson Crusoe (Philip Winchester) as he is shipwrecked on a deserted island and forced to survive. For those who don't know, this was "Cast Away" 200 years before Tom Hanks was born.

The Ex List (CBS)

Premieres: Friday, Oct. 3, 9 p.m.

After a physic informs Vivian (Alexandra Breckenridge) that the man she will one day marry is actually a past romance, she sets off to contact each of her ex-boyfriends. This may actually be a lasting show that keeps loyal viewers guessing about Mr. Right.

Fringe (Fox)

Premiered: Tuesday, Sept. 9, 9 p.m.

This show should be full of supernatural experiences and paranormal phenomenon in tradition of "The X-Files." Following "House," this show has a fighting chance to be a hit.

My Own Worst Enemy (NBC)

Premieres: Monday, Oct. 13, 10 p.m.

After a chip placed in his head begins to malfunction, Edward (Christian Slater) begins to battle with his personality as a family man and that of his life as a government



Christian Slater stars in the new series "My Own Worst Enemy" on NBC. PHOTO COURTESY OF NBC

spy. If you think this sounds a little sci-fi for NBC, you're probably right.

True Blood (HBO)

Premiered: Sunday, Sept. 7, 9 p.m.

Playing off the popularity of the "Twilight" novels, creator Alan Ball, the genius writer of "American Beauty," has put together a teenage vampire drama that could thrive behind the production of HBO.

Life on Mars (ABC)

Premieres: Thursday, Oct. 9, 10 p.m.

Based on the BBC show of the same name, a present-day detective awakes from an accident to find himself in the 1970s. All I have to say is there better be something in this plot to make it believable or "Mars" is going to fall out of orbit.

Knight Rider (NBC)

Premieres: Wednesday, Sept. 24, 8 p.m.

"90210" is a reprisal, "Crusoe" is an adaptation, "Mars" was stolen straight from the Brits, and "Knight Rider" seems to be the exact same series as it was in the mid 80s with KITT now as a new Mustang. Not original, but when is Hollywood ever original?

Comedies

Surviving Suburbia (CW)

Premieres: Sunday, Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m.

In Bob Sagel's return to television, the Stevers are living the perfect suburban life, until new neighbors move in and begin reeking havoc on

the peaceful family. In a short list of new comedies, "Suburbia" will probably find it a challenge surviving.

Privileged (CW)

Premiered: Tuesday, Sept. 9, 9 p.m.

Sage (Ashley Newbrough) takes over as the nanny of spoiled siblings who are new to the Palm Beach area. The rebellious teens spend most of their time making Sage's life miserable.

Game Shows

Hole in the Wall (Fox)

Premiered: Thursday, Sept. 11, 8 p.m.

I'm not making this up: The whole concept of this show is people contorting their body so they can fit into compromising shapes in a wall that quickly approaches the contestants. This is sick, but I'll probably watch.

Opportunity Knocks (ABC)

Premieres: Tuesday, Sept. 23, 8 p.m.

ABC converts an unsuspecting neighborhood into a game show set after knocking on the door of a family willing to participate in America's newest form of reality TV.

America's Toughest Jobs (NBC)

Premiered: Friday Aug. 25, 8 p.m.

From the creator of "Deadliest Catch" and "Ice Road Truckers," "Jobs" gives us ordinary people performing a number of the world's most dangerous jobs in hopes of keeping their hides and taking home cash in the end.

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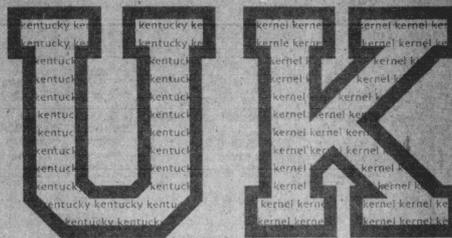
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The opinions page provides a forum for the exchange of ideas. Unlike news stories, the Kernel's unsigned editorials represent the views of a majority of the editorial board. Letters to the editor, columns, cartoons and other features on the opinions page reflect the views of their authors and not necessarily those of the Kernel.

■ KERNEL EDITORIAL

Campus alert should expand its boundaries

After the Virginia Tech tragedy in 2007, campus safety became a major issue across the country. Stemming from that was UK Alert, the university's emergency notification system.

According to a Kernel article last Tuesday, Christy Giles, director of emergency management at UK, said the system was only used to notify users if "immediate action is required" or if there is a "major disruption to campus operations." Listed as examples for alerts were explosions, hostage situations and campus closures.

While this is a great step, the campus community is usually not notified by UK Alert of abductions, rapes or other crimes of this nature if the emergencies occur outside the university's jurisdiction. When students' lives could possibly be in danger, how is this not a "major disruption?"

Even when there is a major occurrence on or off campus, UK Alert will issue messages on a "best effort" basis, according to the UK Alert Web site. Best effort? When there is an emergency and it could affect students, we have the right to know what is happening on, and around, our campus. Students shouldn't get a "best effort." They deserve results in those situations and in a timely manner.

When a Lexington woman was abducted near Waller Avenue and Elizabeth Street between the hours of 2:30 and 3:45 a.m. on Sept. 5, a campus-wide e-mail was not sent out until 6:45 that night.

Many students found out about the abduction from local news media before anything was sent out from the university or UK Police. Besides, how many students honestly check their school e-mail on a Friday night?

With UK Alert, a text message would have gone directly to subscribers' cell phones no matter their location. This would have reiterated the importance of caution and safety to everyone.

Another UK Alert flaw is the fact that it is only used when an event happens on campus. Is the safety of off-campus students not equally important because they don't pay outrageous prices to live in inadequate (aside from the four new dorms) university housing?

How do you define "on campus," anyway? UK has property throughout the city of Lexington from the Student Center on Avenue of Champions to the Coldstream Research Campus on Newtown Pike.

If Waller Avenue and Elizabeth Street are not considered on campus, why are they on campus maps? The boundaries of campus are not very well defined.

Giles also mentions that UK does not want students to disregard the system, which is why they don't send alerts for every incident. While this is understandable, an abduction, or similar crime should not be taken lightly by administration, police or students.

If a student is upset by a minimal text message fee when a fellow student's life could be in danger, maybe they should reconsider signing up for UK Alert in the first place.

UK Alert is a step in the right direction for the university, but there are still many noticeable flaws and plenty of improvements that need to be made. With a little more time and effort put into the program, it has the potential to be a top-notch system and could possibly save lives.

■ LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Library hours only inconvenient for those who make it that way

The whining needs to stop. In the last several days, everyone's been complaining about the library's new hours. I would like to take the time to point out that there are a myriad of other universities and colleges around the nation that don't have a 24-hour library. Yet somehow, those students don't seem to have a problem completing their work. Shocking.

In a Kernel editorial on Sept. 12, the Kernel editors pointed out that "having a 24-hour library only during midterms and finals week only fosters procrastination." So having a 24-hour library during crucial exam weeks fosters procrastination, but keeping the library open during the hours of 2 a.m. and 7 a.m. doesn't? I think it's safe to say that the majority of the students who use the library between the hours of 2 a.m. and 7 a.m. are there because they procrastinated.

Students need to remember that this is a temporary change the university is undergoing, and one that has been made to cut costs. So if you really want to keep the library open while most of the campus is sleeping (or more likely, out drinking), I suggest you stop whining and start offering alternative ways to cut costs so the library can stay open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. So until then, sayonara, slackers.

Katie Murrell
communications junior

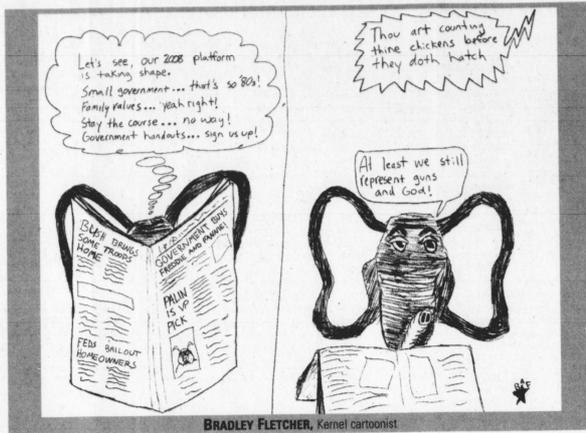
Proof is needed for why Obama will enact change in America

As an observer of this presidential race, I find myself disappointed in those supporting Sen. Barack Obama. In a Monday article entitled "Obama, not McCain, will move our country in a different direction," Robert Kahne grabs readers' attention by speaking of "the precipice of change," and how Obama will bring about a "more inclusive and progressive presidency."

Reading on, however, I find that Kahne offers no description of Obama's "different direction" or how he will take us there. Instead, the remaining seven paragraphs of the article revert to linking Sen. John McCain with President George W. Bush and referencing Gov. Sarah Palin's shortcomings during Friday's Charles Gibson interview.

As a voter, however, I need a reason to vote for a candidate. This constant dragging of candidates' pasts through the mud accomplishes little. I believe it is the reason that the Democrats failed to beat President Bush in 2004. So I challenge Kahne to stop slinging arrows and start building up the man he supports. If Obama is the man for change, then why? The fact that he is not McCain won't suffice for everybody.

Kevin Floore
mechanical engineering junior



BRADLEY FLETCHER, Kernel cartoonist

Enhancing your social network will make college more exciting

College life presents most students with new opportunities, as well as increased freedom. This is especially true in a city like Lexington, where there's always something happening somewhere at some specific time.



BRAD BOWLING
Kernel columnist

Part of the battle for incoming students is dealing with the change in lifestyle that college presents. Some are better at this than others. If you have no problem meeting people, and you can make the best of any situation, your transition will probably be smooth and painless.

But if you're like me, meeting people and "fitting in" is difficult for you. The prospect of forming new social circles can seem daunting and unappealing. However, once you start down this path, it gets easier. And ultimately, you'll find yourself enjoying your college career more because of it.

If you came to UK with several of your friends from high school, that's great. These are probably your best friends, your roommates and the people you hang out with on the weekend. And there's absolutely nothing wrong with that.

But I would also suggest expanding

your group of friends. The college years present students with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for meeting people. Once we become inundated in our careers, that opportunity just isn't there.

Since I've been at UK, one of the things I've come to dislike most about the summer is that I am so disconnected with my "non-hometown" friends. So I love it when the school year starts back, and I have the chance to hang out with them and catch up.

As I already said, branching out is easier for some than others. If you are involved in a bunch of campus clubs and organizations, it's probably easier for you to meet new people than for people who aren't as involved.

But campus organizations are just a way to expedite the process. They aren't required to expand your social circle. The only thing you really need is the courage to go up to someone and start a conversation.

The most logical place for this, of course, is in the classroom. Straight lecture classes are perhaps not as conducive for socializing, but try to get to know your classmates in classes where discussion and group projects are involved. Talk about life outside the classroom. One of my good friends I've met since coming to college is someone I worked on a group paper with in an English class. I have a class with her this semester, and I talk to her almost every day.

Another place where you can meet

people is in your dorm or apartment. During my freshman year in Haggin Hall, my neighbor across the hall came over and introduced himself to me one day. I quickly found that we had a lot of similar interests, and we also had classes together last semester. He is now one of my best friends here at UK.

Start with small talk if necessary to break the ice. Talk about classes or UK basketball. Those are two things that most people on campus enjoy discussing.

I still have my friends from my hometown. Heck, my roommates are three guys I've known since elementary school, and we get along as well now as we ever have.

Yet, I am also extremely glad that I've expanded my social network here at UK. I have learned so much just by being around different people. And by hanging out with new people, I've gained a new respect for everyone else around me. Trust me, you are not as different from your next-door neighbor as you think.

In a time where people have fewer and fewer "close friends," I like knowing that I am a friend of someone who actually cares about me. And as you start to make more friends here at UK, I think you'll start to feel the same way.

Brad Bowling is a journalism and finance senior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

Campus diversity not about statistics, but about people

In just a little over three years at UK, I'm not sure how many times the word "diversity" has been used.

Whether it was over the failure of our administration to recruit minority students, or over the numerous racially insensitive remarks that were propagated by our student leadership, diversity has been the catchphrase of my tenure at UK. The only problem appears to be that most of us fail to see what diversity really means. The university administration's touting of this year's record minority recruitment is another example of this misconstrued conception of diversity.

For the most part, our university sees diversity as both a means and an end. Having a higher proportion of minority students makes our administration happy because it means that we get ranked higher in those categories by the likes of the Princeton Review or the U.S. News and World Report. In the quest for the elusive Top 20 Business Plan distinction, what other thing about us is surely the most important thing. But in the same way that our university uses its supposed diversity as a recruitment tool, we fall short of taking full advantage of the diversity already present in our community.

Having more black, Asian, Hispanic, female or gay and lesbian students means absolutely nothing if they aren't made welcome on campus. Similarly, if we stick to our exclusive social groups and avoid learning important lessons from one another, we are missing not

only the point of diversity, but also the point of higher education.

Diversity in the university setting is important because it allows us to experience an intellectual environment that isn't one-sided or one-shaded. It means progressing us with more than one opinion on any number of issues — from critical studies of race in society to medieval British literature.

And while we are all certainly tempted to give greater importance to our own opinions, we should remember that regardless of skin tone, religion, socio-economic background or political party affiliation, our voices are all important, so long as they reflect the intellectual integrity that should be indicative of a university student.

In a Kernel column on Sept. 3, Karen Lightbourne expressed her discontent that a white person was teaching an African-American Studies course that she is enrolled in. The fact that it may not be so wise to insult the person who gives you your grades based on their skin color aside, her article lacked the kind of understanding of diversity that UK should have. Lightbourne saw this as a smack in the face to diversity at UK.

On the contrary, this is exactly what diversity should be. She wrote that we shouldn't speak about it — we should be about it. This is, however, the definition of being about it — recognizing that all people, especially those who have dedicated their intellectual and academic careers to a certain subject, have a relevant opinion, regardless of any group distinctions. We shouldn't limit ourselves by saying that just because an instructor is not white, black, Asian, Hispanic, male, female, gay, straight, urban or rural, that they should be precluded from having

any particular set of academic interests. While this particular African-American Studies instructor may not fully know what it is to be black, to say that they would not have a unique and insightful perspective on the subject, or the simple ability to teach the class successfully, is preposterous.

Likewise, just because someone isn't a native speaker of Spanish, French or German doesn't mean that they should be kept from pursuing those academic interests at an undergraduate, graduate or professional level. The same goes for those who study Appalachia, feminism, civil rights or any number of other demographically or temporally specific topics.

What is more important than the color of one's skin, one's gender or sexual orientation, or even their field of study, is that we respect one another's opinions and allow all people, whether students, faculty or staff, to participate equally in the intellectual discussion that should typify a college campus.

Rather than worrying about whether we have reached a quota of minorities or whether an African-American Studies professor is black, we should concern ourselves with answering the larger questions of whether or not we have actually used our status as a supposed beacon of higher education for the betterment of those students who trust that they made the right decision by coming to UK.

As long as we tout our record minority recruitment but continue to have a misguided attitude toward their place in our society, it doesn't matter who comes to UK — what matters more is who runs UK and how.

Taylor Shelton is a geography and political science senior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

HIP-HOP AND DROP IT

Broadcast journalism junior Leslie Neeley practices her dance moves in the Cats Den during the first class of a series of hip-hop dance classes. The instructional series taught by Larkin Wetzel, a communication disorders senior, teaches a variety of songs and dances. The next class will be held Sept. 29 at 8 p.m. in the Cats Den.

PHOTO BY BRITNEY MCINTOSH STAFF



Spelling, grammatical errors on signs becoming a 'regular' occurrence

By Eric Asan
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — A cup of "regular" coffee sounds like the perfect way to start your day.

Wouldn't some cheap gas be nice? But if you park your car, you've been warned: No in-and-out "privileges."

These mangled spellings — on real-life signs around the Dallas-Fort Worth area — underline the obvious: Spelling isn't always high on our list.

And our grammar ain't that good, too.

It's enough to make your English teacher cringe — and drive others to break the law.

Last month, two men were sentenced to probation and banned from national parks for a year after getting busted for fixing errors on a sign in Grand Canyon National Park.

The men travel the country correcting signs as part of the Typo Eradication Advancement League.

And, yeah, they might have crossed the line by messing with a historical sign in a national park, but they've got a point.

Across the country, our land is littered with signs, posters, ads, menus — you name it — that are riddled with spelling and grammatical errors.

In some cases, human spell-checkers battle these boo-boos by fixing the errors on their own. Others snap pictures and trash the typos on their blogs.

Grammarians say these are bad signs of the times — our language is on a downward spiral. Others say: lighten up.



PHOTO BY LARA SOUL | DALLAS MORNING NEWS
Bargin City at Westmoreland Road and Fort Worth Avenue in Dallas, is an example of bad signage around town with typos and misspelled words.

Correct spelling and proper grammar matter and help us understand each other, said Martha Brockenbrough, who founded the Society for the Promotion of Good Grammar.

"There are rules for how you play football and there are rules for how you drive," she said. "Standards of football keep things interesting, fair and fun. I think they do the same for language."

Sign offenders abound around Dallas-Fort Worth.

Need money? An Oak Cliff gas station offers this service: "Check Cashed."

Hungry and in a hurry? A fast-food restaurant sign showcased a deal for "10 pieses of chicken." A Knox-Henderson restaurant is "Now Open for LUNCH FRIDAY'S" (drop the apostrophe, guys).

Want a bargain? You can get it at the "Bargin City Bazaar" in Oak Cliff.

How about this twisted apology at a toy store: "We, apologise for the inconvenience."

short notes and abbreviations and spelling-be-damned — are seeping into formal writing.

Students are writing informally now more than ever, said Diana Grumbles, director of the First-Year Writing Program at Southern Methodist University.

Some of her students don't capitalize or use punctuation when they send her a quick e-mail. Some will submit in-class writing assignments with symbols.

"I always just circle these things and tell them at the end of the paper that they have to write the words out," Grumbles said. "This is not a quick note dashed off to a friend."

Then there are these gems collected by Grumbles and her colleagues:

"There is nothing wrong with my writing, maybe it is her that doesn't know what she is doing," one student wrote.

"After writing numerous papers I feel I have improved existentially," another student wrote.

One student meant to say "ludicrous," but instead wrote "Ludacris," the rapper.

And in another paper: "He should not have taken that for granite."

Grumbles isn't willing to cut her students that much slack. "Certain standards need to stay in place," she said. But even Brockenbrough admits that there are times when bad grammar or spelling is a good thing.

The song "I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" sounds a lot better than "I Cannot Receive Any Satisfaction," she said.

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