

KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 36 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Domestic partner bill dies in House committee

By Sean Rose
srose@kykernel.com

A controversial bill that would ban state agencies from extending health benefits to domestic partners failed in a House committee yesterday.

The bill was one vote short of the required nine to pass in the Health and Welfare Committee in the House of Representatives. The legislation had passed in the Senate by a vote of 28-7-1 in mid-February.

Among other institutions, the bill would prohibit universities from offering benefits to same-sex and opposite-sex unmarried couples. UK is considering implementing such a plan, while the University of Louisville became the first public college in the state to launch a partner-benefits program in January.

"This was a major victory," said Sen. Ernesto Scorsone, D-Lexington, a staunch critic of the proposal. "It was both a hateful piece of legislation and an improper interference in

the university."

Scorsone and other opponents of the bill had called it discriminatory against gays. Being in Frankfort and hearing anti-gay comments from legislators was proof enough, Scorsone said.

"They're championing this bill because of the same-sex couples," Scorsone said. "It's pretty transparent to see what drives these people."

"They can't put lipstick on this pig. It is what it is."
Rep. Bob Damron, D-Jessamine

and Fayette counties, who is a member of the Health and Welfare Committee, supported the legislation, saying public sentiments toward gay marriage influenced his stance.

"I personally believe this is an attempt by some folks to go around the marriage amendment," he said referring to the 2004 Kentucky constitutional amendment where voters overwhelmingly defined marriage as a heterosexual institution. Over 80 percent of Damron's district voted this way, he said.

"Who are we as public officials to tell 80 percent of the public that you don't know what you're talking about?" he said.

Even though UK is only considering domestic partner benefits, Damron said the university's pending decision could be interpreted as "thumbing its nose" at the 2004 vote and could affect its state funding.

"My concern for UK is I don't know how the Senate, who is staunchly in support of this bill, will

See **Partner** on page 5

SG condemns late posting of trustees' agendas

By Blair Thomas
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Student Government Senate unanimously passed a resolution at last night's meeting asking the Board of Trustees to reverse its decision to wait to release its full agendas until 9 a.m. the day of its meetings.

"This university claims to be open to student input, but the board, its top governing body, puts restrictions that will likely prevent students from being informed about the issues being discussed and being able to assemble and attend the meetings," said resolution co-sponsor Sen. Brittany Langdon.

SG President Jonah Brown, who is a member of the Board of Trustees, answered senators' questions about the board's new policy.

"This was not a decision that was voted on by the board," Brown said. "It was a response to the concerns expressed by some board members that the media was spinning articles that previewed board meetings to sound like decisions had already been made."

This legislation asks the board to return to the practice of posting its agenda four days in advance.

"We are asking them to take a second look at the new policy and consider coming up with a different solution that would not take away from the students' right to know what is going on and be aware of the decisions that affect this campus," said resolution co-sponsor Sen. Tegan Alexander.

Also at last night's meeting, SG concluded its eight-week discussion of Senate committee reorganization by unanimously passing the Senate Committee Organization Act of 2007.

"This is a combination of a lot of work from a group of dedicated senators and several different bills," said Senate President Brent Burchett.

The legislation formed five standing committees: the Committee on Committees, the Graduate and Professional Student Affairs Committee, the Appropriations and Revenue Commit-

See **SG** on page 5

Law students help with low-income tax returns

By Emily Covert
ecovert@kykernel.com

Tax time can be hard enough for those strapped for cash, but some law students are lending a hand this year.

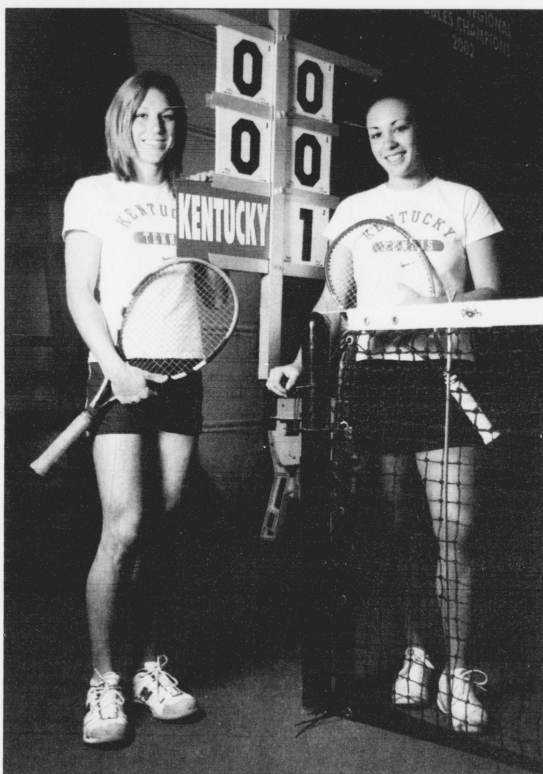
Several students from the UK College of Law are volunteering for a program that will help low-income individuals with their taxes.

The project, UK's version of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, is a walk-in service that focuses on helping foreign students and low-income families in the Earned Income Credit program," said Lesley Cayton, a first-year law student and volunteer.

"People come to us thinking they owe taxes to the government and, with the assistance of our students, they often walk away knowing they will instead be getting a refund," said law pro-

See **Taxes** on page 5

A PAIR OF ACES



UK women's tennis doubles team Joelle Schwenk (left) and Kim Coventry are currently the No. 2 doubles team in the nation. The two attributed their success to being able to complement each other's strengths.

Tennis duo ranks second in nation

Travis Waldron
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It's the kind of potent combination that all coaches look for.

Kim Coventry has the power. Joelle Schwenk brings the speed. Together, they have become the second best doubles tennis team in the nation.

"We make up for whatever the other person's strengths are," Coventry said. "My strengths are hitting bigger shots, coming to the net and a bigger serve. Joelle's strengths are being very consistent. She moves well and she's got great returns."

"The things each of us doesn't do as well, the other one does as their strengths."

Coventry began the year ranked 8th with then-partner Carolina Escamilla. But head coach Carlos Drada had a plan. He paired up the two senior tennis players in October, creating a dynamic force.

"The advantage that we have is that we have a very versatile team," Drada said. "We have a lot of players that can have different combinations. We had a new freshman coming in and she was very strong and we thought it was a great matchup for her to play with Carolina (Escamilla)."

Drada paired up Schwenk and Coventry at the Wilson/ITA Southeast Regional Championships where the pair beat three ranked pairs before moving to the National Intercollegiate Indoor Championships, where they knocked off two more ranked teams. They even-

tually fell to the No. 3 team in the country.

By January, Schwenk and Coventry were No. 3 and by the release of the Feb. 21 polls, the duo had risen another spot.

"They're the backbone of the program," Drada said. "You know that when they go out there and they compete you have the feeling that they're going to give their best effort, and their best effort, on any given day, can beat anyone in the nation."

On Friday, Coventry and Schwenk got a big win as they defeated Shashida Robinson and Gabriela Duch of South Florida, the No. 22 ranked doubles team in the nation.

As their resume as a team has improved, so has their confidence. The women are now 15-2 and starting to get comfortable with each other on the court.

"We have more confidence now," Schwenk said. "I know her game so well and she knows my game so well. We know where we're going to move, we know what shots we're going to hit."

Drada also recognizes the evolution in their game.

"It's a perfect example of synergy," Drada said. "They actually become better together than they would be (individually)."

It's that success this season that has both girls thinking about a National Championship this spring.

"Now that it's in reach, we want it really bad," Schwenk said. "It's not even being number one; it's just being the best."

Study highlights employee programs

By Katie Saltz
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UK's Institute for Workplace Innovation (iWin) recently released a report highlighting Kentucky businesses that accommodate personal needs of employees while maintaining productivity in the workplace. UK's own Elder Care Program was featured in the report.

Diane Loeffler, co-author of the study and research associate at iWin, said the purpose of the report, titled "Making Workplaces Work: Employer Best Practices in Kentucky," was to showcase the advances being made in Kentucky businesses.

The study focuses on 24 businesses in 19 different cities across the state. Some of the programs recognized in the study include businesses that allow flexible hours so employees can attend their children's school or sporting events, health and fitness programs for all employees, 24-hour on-site childcare, and employer-assisted housing programs.

"We wanted to highlight employers in Kentucky that are being innovative," Loeffler said. "It is an example for the commonwealth and for other states as well."

The study began last spring in a search for businesses that offered their employees a little something extra, Loeffler said.

"We found them through business publications and through word of mouth," Loeffler said. "We contacted them and interviewed managers or small business owners, depending on the size of the business."

According to the study, businesses were chosen based upon the type of business, the geographic location, the program type and the consent to participate.

UK's Elder Care Program was chosen partly because it is a unique program, Loeffler said.

"It allows staff and faculty to access a wide range of supportive programs if they are caring for an elderly person," she said.

The program is one of the university's most valuable resources for employees, said Elder Care Coordinator Terri Kanatkar.

"It used to be that childcare was more of the focus, but now we are seeing employees with elder care needs," Kanatkar said.

Some of the services the program provides are seminars, counseling and support groups for employees who are responsible for an elderly family member. The program is beneficial for everyone because it actually saves the university money, Kanatkar said.

"It keeps employees from missing work and reduces stress," Kanatkar said. "They're not worrying or spending time trying to find good care for their elderly family."

The results of a 2005-2006

See **Work-life** on page 5

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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 an 8 - Finish an old task and you can collect the money that you're owed. The task may simply be asking for the money. You can do it; don't be afraid.

Taurus (April 20 May 20) - Today is a 6 - Take a back seat, and let somebody else do the driving for a while. Better yet, stay out of the vehicle altogether. There's too much confusion out there.

Gemini (May 21 June 21) - Today is an 8 - You're asked to take on a new and very difficult assignment. Don't worry, luck is with you in this. Proceed with confidence.

Cancer (June 22 July 22) - Today is

a 7 - An otherwise blissful interlude is rudely interrupted. The disagreement is about how the money should be spent. Postpone big purchases until next week.

Leo (July 23 Aug. 22) - Today is a 5 - Real estate and home improvements are usually well favored. This time, however, your purchase could spark a domestic confrontation. Better talk it over first.

Virgo (Aug. 23 Sept. 22) - Today is a 7 - As you reach the next level, you find that you've outgrown some of your methods. You may need to revise your procedures and update your equipment, too.

Libra (Sept. 23 Oct. 22) - Today is an 8 - Finally, the money's coming in. All that work was not for nothing. Unfortunately, a loved one and/or child wants you to take them shopping.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 Nov. 21) - Today is an 8 - You're the strong silent type for a reason. That's how you're most effective. Maintain the mystery now;

excessive info will cause confusion. **Sagittarius (Nov. 22 Dec. 21)** - Today is a 7 - You're more interested in working now because you must. You do well under pressure; maybe that's why you wait. You love that adrenalin rush.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 Jan. 19) - Today is an 8 - Discuss your most recent insights with friends who can help you understand. The part that at first is the most confusing turns out to be the most basic.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 Feb. 18) - Today is a 9 - There's plenty of money to be made, if you can do what's required. To be part of the team, you must learn there's always someone who out-ranks you.

Pisces (Feb. 19 March 20) - Today is an 8 - Encouragement from far away is certainly heart warming. But, can you accept adoration from one who doesn't know the whole story? Sure, if it makes them feel good.

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THE RECORD

Engaged

R&B singer Usher, 28, has popped the question to his girlfriend of more than a year, stylist Tameka Foster, 37.

Baby News!

Amanda Peet, 35, and her husband of five months, screenwriter David Benioff, welcomed their first child, Frances Pen, February 20. . . Country crooner Brad Paisley, 34, and his wife of four years, actress Kimberly Williams, 35, had a son February 22 in Nashville. . . Ex-New Kids on the Block singer Jordan Knight, 36, and his wife, Evelyn, welcomed a son, Eric, in Boston February 21.

Baa-d?

Avid Uggs boot-wearer Pamela Anderson, 39, declared on her Web site that she will no longer sport the footwear because it is made from real sheepskin. Countered an Uggs rep, "There is no animal abuse in our production."

Idol News

Gwen Stefani, 37, and Jennifer Lopez, 37, will coach contestants on upcoming American Idol episodes.

New Gig?

Jimmy Fallon, 32, is reportedly in talks to replace Conan O'Brien, 43, as host of NBC's Late Night in 2009 when

O'Brien takes over for The Tonight Show's Jay Leno, 56.

Sex Suit

Kim Kardashian is suing Vivid Entertainment to stop distribution of a sex tape of her and her ex Ray J, 26, without her consent. She seeks unspecified damages, attorneys' fees and tape sale profits.

Sale!

Martha Stewart, 65, slashed the price of her Turkey Hill home in Westport, Connecticut, to \$4.5 million, from \$8.9 million. She is dividing the estate into two 2-acre properties and selling the parcel with the main house. . . Ricky Martin, 35, is reportedly selling his seven-bedroom Miami mansion for \$16.9 million. He paid \$10 million for it in 2005.

Busted

Bobby Brown, 38, was arrested February 25 for missing a court appearance and failing to pay \$19,150 in past child support.

Seeing Green

Orlando Bloom, 30, announced he is building an eco-friendly home in London, complete with rooftop solar panels and energy-efficient lightbulbs.

Out of the Closet

CNBC host Suze Orman,

55, revealed to The New York Times that she is gay. Orman, who is worth an estimated \$25 million, wishes she could legally wed her partner of seven years, coproducer Kathy Travis, so half of each of their estates won't be lost to taxes if one of them dies.

Ka-ching!

Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen, 20, led Forbes' list of the top-earning stars under 21, ranking in an estimated \$40 million last year. No. 2: Daniel Radcliffe, 17, with \$13 million.

Trump & O'Dell: Bump War!

Did Donald Trump try to bump Access Hollywood's Nancy O'Dell as Miss USA host because of her bump? TMZ.com reports pageant co-owner Trump, 60, wanted to ax O'Dell, 41 - who will be six months pregnant when the March 23 show airs - because he doesn't like the way pregnant women look. (In a 2005 interview with Howard Stern, he memorably called his then-pregnant wife, Melania, a "bimp.") Luckily, O'Dell is under contract with NBC, which "never had the intention of firing her," a source says. "Just because you're pregnant doesn't mean you can't work!" Still, the insider insists, "she has no animosity toward Trump." Reps had no comment.

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March 27 - 30, 2007
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily
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- Receive information about student loans
- Check your record for stops
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- Order the *Kentuckian* yearbook
- Purchase a class ring
- Check out diploma frames and announcements
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- Enjoy FREE refreshments and door prizes

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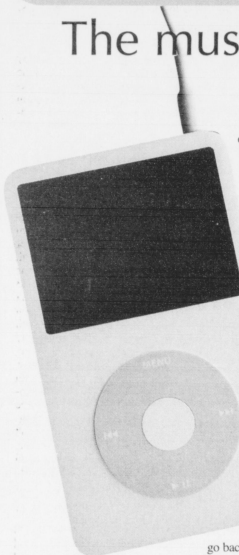
JAZZ UP SPRING BREAK

Students from the Music Industry Management class, WRFL and the Jazz Arts Foundation planned just the event to wrap up spring break: a concert featuring Zach Brock and The Coffee Achievers on Sunday, March 18. The show will take place in Memorial Hall at 3 p.m. The cost is \$5 for students and \$10 for general admission. Brock, a Lexington native, plays the jazz violin. He moved to Chicago in 1992, where his love for jazz blossomed. His latest CD, "When You're There," was released in September 2006.

Highway Anthems:

The music to steer you through spring break

By Meghan Cain
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You've got your shoes kicked off and miles of open road to travel—Spring Break is almost here, but no road trip is complete without your favorite tunes playing in the background.

Student Activities Board is ready to help you make that perfect mix. They will be handing out 300 free, blank CDs in front of the classroom building today at 11 a.m.

"A lot of people forget about making a CD for that long trip," said Britt Pennington, SAB President. "We hope we can remind people this year, so it can make their ride a little easier."

Pennington said the CDs will be something quick-and-easy for students to pick up, and they are adorned with an SAB sticker which she hopes will make students think of SAB while they are gone.

The event is part of SAB's "Getting Crafty" series. "We are letting students be their own artists by putting their own music on the CD," Pennington said.

This is the first time SAB has sponsored this event, and Pennington said she hopes it is something that will be continued.

Pennington said she already knows what music she is going to put on her Spring Break Mix.

"Right now I am listening to James Morrison and Lilly Allen, so they are going to make it on the mix," she said.

Making a CD for Spring Break helps you go back to that time when you return home said Pennington.

"I think having specific music for each Spring Break can take you back to that place," she said. "It evokes the feelings of fun you had on that trip."

SONGS FOR THE ROAD

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) Cecilia Simon and Gorkinzel | 9) 'Nu Ouyta Know' - Alvin Mimselle |
| 2) 'The Sign' The Mountain Goats (see of Blue cover) | 10) The entire 'PET Sounds' CD, The Beach Boys |
| 3) 'Good Morning Captain' SKIT | 11) 'Disruption' Le Tere |
| 4) 'Back Plum Plum' Joanna Newsom | 12) 'Only Love Can Break Your Heart' Neil Young |
| 5) 'The Will Be Our Year' The Combs | 13) 'The Brain Era |
| 6) 'Pep of Corson' New Order | 14) 'The Purple Bottle' Animal Collective |
| 7) 'Wavelengths of London' Magnolia Electric Co. | 15) 'Lovered' The Cardigans |
| 8) 'This Must Be The Place (Nite Mindy)' Talking Heads | — Shanna Sanders |

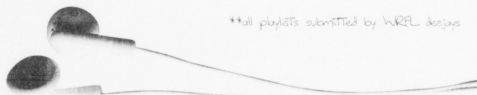
SONGS FOR THE BEACH

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) 'Kisses Made of Sand' Jim Henson | 9) 'Today Was a Good Day' Ice Cube |
| 2) 'Sleep With Me' Sade and Johnny | 10) 'Push On' Sand Producers and Sunned |
| 3) 'Close To Me' The Cure | 11) 'The Touchable Mink' Bushier |
| 4) 'Margarita' Sleepy Brown et. Big Bo | 12) 'L.R.E.A.M.' Wu Tang |
| 5) 'Resurrection' Common | 13) 'A Rose in the Sun' David Leeves |
| 6) 'Still on the Deck of the Bay' Otis Redding | 14) 'Goshoming Sunshine' Queensrÿche |
| 7) 'Sun is Shining' Bob Marley | 15) 'A Sentence of 500 in Kingsinger' DC Muffinhead |
| 8) 'Back Like That' Ghostface Killah et. Kane West & Nelly | — Chuck Conroy |

SONGS FOR SITTING AT HOME

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1) 'Dead Dog Blues' Gospelred and Black Em-porn | 6) 'Lost Faces' Ugly Casanova |
| 2) 'Gon' Against Your Mind' Butter To Spill | 7) 'Kitty Regna' Spetter |
| 3) 'Punkalike' TV in the Face | 8) 'Emily' Joanna Newsom |
| 4) 'Diamond Sea' Same both | 9) 'Two Sisters' Tim Wette |
| 5) 'First Farewell to Friends' Elliot Smith | — John Crowell |

**all playlists submitted by WRFL deejays



WHAT PRESIDENT LEE TODD IS LISTENING TO:

- The Beatles
- Roy Orbison
- Elvis Presley
- Jimmy Buffet
- Music from "Phantom of the Opera"
- Music from "Les Miserable"

UK music piracy complaints lower than area schools

Students urged to keep guard up, RIAA can make bust at anytime

By Meghan Cain
mcain@kykernel.com

UK faculty and staff are proud the university didn't make it onto at least one top-20 list.

The Recording Industry Association of America, by request of the Associated Press, recently listed the top 25 colleges that have received the most illegal downloading complaints. UK was not one of them.

"I am really proud of the student body and hope we can attribute some of this to the educational activities we have put in place," said Katherine Adams, UK associate general counsel.

Jeff Dembo, faculty representative on the Board of Trustees, said limiting the speed of downloading on campus

computers has been part of the process to decrease illegal downloading.

Ohio University topped the RIAA list with 1,287 students illegally obtaining music since the beginning of 2007.

Purdue University in Indiana took second with 1,068 complaints from the RIAA.

Other schools in the top 25 were the University of Tennessee, University of South Carolina and Western Kentucky University.

UK, however, has not always been exempt from trouble in this area.

In February 2005, three students faced a civil suit accusing them of copyright infringement due to illegal peer-to-peer music downloading, according to a Feb. 4, 2005 Kernel article.

No illegal downloading lawsuits

have been filed against UK since 2005, Adams said.

"I don't want people to feel complacent or safe," Adams said. "A lawsuit like this could pretty much ruin your financial life, and just because UK wasn't on the list doesn't mean we need to take our guard down."

In addition to the possible thousands of dollars students could pay if they are charged, universities also have separate punishments.

At UK the first complaint results in a deletion of the file-sharing program and copyrighted material, and if a second complaint occurs, students are made to meet with the dean of students, according to a Feb. 3 2006 Kernel article.

Ohio University removes the student's internet access the first time they are caught, and after access is restored, if a second complaint is filed, a student faces a judiciary hearing and could be suspended or expelled, said Shawn Oxtermann, the school's interim chief information officer.

Erin Bevins, a communications

sophomore, said downloading often occurs in her dorm at UK.

"I don't have a ton of friends that try to find different sites that work on campus computers," Bevins said. "I think Limewire is a sight that some people use."

Although Bevins loves buying CDs and said she would feel bad stealing music off the Internet, she knows how much of a temptation it can be.

"So many people do it, so they think they are not going to get caught," Bevins said. "Because it is done through a computer, you just don't feel the danger of doing something wrong."





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Most-played songs of the week

1. Andrew Bird, "Armchair Apochrypha"
2. Peter Bjorn and John, "Writer's Block"
3. Shins, "Wincing the Night Away"
4. MV and EE with the Bummers Road, "Green Blues"
5. Fratellis, "Castello Music"
6. Apostle of Hustle, "National Anthem of Nowhere"
7. High Llamas, "Can Cladders"
8. Mum, "The Peel Session"
9. Aqueeduct, "Or Give Me Death"
10. Deerhunter, "Cryptograms"

MAKE YOUR

WEEKEND PLANS

1. Dinner and a Movie

Have you ever wished you could go to the cinema and eat dinner at the same time? Well now you can. The Movie Tavern opens tomorrow night and offers popular, new movies with a menu of burgers, pizza, chicken sandwiches, wings, fries and an array of specialty drinks and beer. "Music and Lyrics," "The Number 23," "The Astronaut Farmer" and "Ghost Rider" are showing. The Movie Tavern is located on 1300 Locust Drive.

2. Soup and a Play

This Sunday, Natasha's Café is presenting Ronald Harwood's "The Dresser." This is a Tony Award-winning drama that is set in Britain during WWII. It focuses on an aging manager and his relationship with his third-rate touring theatre group. The play starts at 7 p.m., and is a soup performance as well. All you need to bring is a bowl. The play and food are free and open to the public; donations are encouraged.

3. The Old and the New

If you relish the old and appreciate the beauty in something new, the Lexington Antique and Garden Show is just for you. This weekend The Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation will be hosting this event at the Keene Barn at Keeneland. The show hours on Friday and Saturday are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Daily show tickets are \$10 and proceeds go to the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information call 253-0362.

ONTAP | For the week of MARCH 8 - MARCH 17

TONIGHT

Bob Seger and the Silver Bullet Band
7:30 p.m., Rupp Arena, Tickets are \$61

The Lucky Stiffs w/ Hearhrob and Arsenic on the Rocks
9 p.m., The Dame, Tickets are \$5

Little Big Town
7:30 p.m., Singletary Center Concert Hall, Tickets are \$27 general admission and \$25 for with UK ID

FRIDAY, March 9

Same as it ever was an inspired tribute to Talking Heads
9 p.m., The Dame, Tickets are \$6

Calla w/ Eat Sugar
9 p.m. doors open, 10 p.m. show starts, Southgate House, Newport, Tickets are \$10

The Ataris w/ Asobi Seksu and Wax On Radio
7 p.m. doors open, 8 p.m. show starts, Bogart's, Cincinnati, Tickets are \$15-18

T.V. on the Radio
8 p.m. doors open, Brown Theater, Louisville, Tickets are \$18.50

SATURDAY, March 10

RJD2 w/ Busdriver, Anti-MC and Happy Chichester
10 p.m., The Dame, Tickets are \$12

Alejandro Escovedo w/ Chuck Prophet
7 p.m. doors open, 8 p.m. show starts, The Southgate House, Newport, Tickets are \$15-18

MONDAY, March 12

The Walkmen w/ The Broken West and Ferraby Lionheart
8 p.m. doors open, 9 p.m. show starts, Southgate House, Newport, Tickets are \$10-12.

TUESDAY, March 13

Blind Com Liquor Pickers w/ Packway Handle
8 p.m., The Dame, Tickets are \$5

The Applesced Cast w/ Manhatta
7:30 p.m., The Mad Hatter, Covington, Tickets are \$10

WEDNESDAY, March 14

Phelgthon w/ A Nightmare and a Cataclysm
9 p.m., The Dame, Tickets are \$3

THURSDAY, March 15

Lance Whalen
9 p.m., The Dame, Tickets are \$3

Justin Timberlake
7:30 p.m., U.S. Bank Arena, Cincinnati, Tickets are \$100

FRIDAY, March 16

The Scourge of the Sea w/ Zavala
9 p.m., The Dame, Tickets are \$13

SATURDAY, March 17

Goo Goo Dolls
7:30 p.m., Taft Theatre, Cincinnati, Tickets are \$100

Sparta w/ Me Without You and Aloha
7 p.m., The Mad Hatter, Covington, Tickets are \$15

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Sunday - Newcastle \$2.75 Pints

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Girl Scouts' marketing gives new meaning to Internet cookies

By Joann Klimkiewicz
Los Angeles Times

OK, even the Luddites among us get it by now. We live in an online age when friends and lovers connect via social networking sites, when politicians rely on the viral reach of YouTube to get their message to the masses, and the entertainment industry promotes its projects with slick pages on MySpace.

But what to make of this cultural phenomenon when now even a cookie — the beloved Girl Scout Thin Mint, but a cookie nonetheless — has its own MySpace profile?

And when it can boast more than 200 friends to boot?

Could this possibly be the moment traceable on a pop-culture timeline when social-networking sites "jumped the shark"? Is it all downhill for these services, already littered with advertising interests, when a sugary treat sold by smiling girls in brown sashes enters the fray?

"It's a judgment call as to whether this phenomenon has been played out yet," says Mark Robinson, senior editor at Wired magazine.

"Even though everyone might be suddenly talking about some other service, and there's a critical mass for the Next Big Thing, as long as there are so many eyeballs at places like YouTube and MySpace, you can say it's still an effective marketing tool."

Burger King and Wendy's Toyota Yaris and Nike. Presidential hopefuls Chris Dodd and Hillary Clinton. Even legendary (and dead) singer Johnny Cash. All have dabbled with these services in an attempt to reach their target audiences in a way that traditional print and television no longer can.

But even as these services — intended as networking tools to link friends and business interests — have been flooded in the last year or more with commercial interests, most industry watchers say users

don't appear to be bolting, nor the marketing trend cooling, any time soon. It's too cheap, easy and effective a method in creating brand buzz.

Marketers are expected to pump \$865 million into social-network ads this year, according to the research firm eMarketer. The figure is expected to climb to \$2.15 billion by 2010.

So why shouldn't the Girl Scouts of America get a bite of the Peanut Butter Pattie?

The organization last month unveiled a MySpace page to promote its annual cookie sale (www.myspace.com/GirlScoutCookieSale). And it's trying its 95-year-old hand at viral marketing, dusting off four vintage cookie commercials and posting them at video-sharing sites YouTube, Google and Usher.

It's just one piece of the organization's online efforts, headquartered at GirlScoutCookies.org. There, cookie lovers can type in their ZIP code to find a local Girl Scout troop to purchase from. (The organization eschews online orders to keep the cookie program about teaching its Girl Scouts business and finance skills.) "It makes a lot of sense," says Abbey Klaassen, digital editor of Advertising Age. "Virtually every marketer has a pretty significant Web presence these days, and I don't see why the Girl Scouts should be any different."

"You go where your consumers are. And frankly, a lot of those consumers are on MySpace and YouTube. The more places your brand can be, the better."

Consider the traffic to the sites that dominate their categories. In January, YouTube saw 30.3 million unique U.S. visitors, with MySpace getting 61.5 million, according to comScore Media Metrix.

One just need look at the smash success of Dove's "Evolution" commercial, a 75-second spot that proved a viral marketing darling last year. In less than one month,

the free vehicle pulled more than 1.7 million views on YouTube, according to Advertising Age. It brought Dove its biggest spike in visitors to its CampaignForRealBeauty.com, and was more than three times more effective than the company's Super Bowl commercial, the magazine reported.

"The numbers are staggering," says Jamie Joyce, executive producer for interactive marketing at Girl Scouts. "I think people have realized that ... these sites are something that businesses in 2007 simply can't ignore. It's just too useful. There's just too many eyeballs."

And the eyeballs the organization is angling for don't belong to teens and tweens, but to the adult cookie-buying population who look back fondly on their own Girl Scout days. Or who simply can't resist a caramel Samoa, trans fat or no.

Of the vintage commercials, Joyce says, "They're kitschy, they're fun, they're engaging. And maybe they'll tug at (people's) heartstrings a little and get them reconnected to the Girl Scout cookie program."

But branding expert Rob Frankel questions the cyber pairing. "What you have here is a wholly inappropriate coupling," says Frankel, author of "The Revenge of Brand X: How To Build a Big Time Brand on the Web or Anywhere Else."

With concerns over online fraud and MySpace predators, he says, the venue appears to clash with the organization's sunny core values. "It's just a bad fit," he says. "It's a case of the right message, wrong messenger."

More than that, Frankel is one of the lone voices who questions the ultimate effectiveness of MySpace marketing.

"People are falling for this whole concept of the Web is free, and since it's cheap it must work. But the fact is, nobody's making a killing with MySpace," Frankel says.

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As seen on the Blue Collar Comedy Tour

SG

Continued from page 1

tee, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and the Internal Affairs Committee.

"These committees will each serve a more specific purpose than our current committees, which will better benefit what we are able to give back to the students," said bill co-sponsor Sen. Josh Odoi. "It has been a rough road but we're glad to have it all done."

The Senate has not determined whether it will restructure its committees this year or wait until the new SG administration in the fall.

"It's really up to the senators to decide if they want to reassemble themselves on new committees for our remaining couple of months," Burchett said. "There is nothing in the legislation we passed tonight

that says we have to do it immediately."

The Senate also approved Sen. Jason Robinson's Senate Special Project that will allocate \$7,500 to purchase 2,500 DART cards to give out to students for copying and printing during finals week.

"The heart of this bill is to bring Student Government to the students and reach out to those students who don't know what this organization is about or what it does," Robinson said.

Senators and members of the Freshman Representative Council will distribute the cards at the W.T. Young Library during finals week to the first 2,500 students.

Some senators expressed concern with giving that much money to one Senate Special Project.

"We still have time in the semester for senators to come forward with projects to bene-

fit their colleges or other organizations," said Operations and Evaluations Committee Chairman Sam Gaines. "We shouldn't take the right to do these projects away from senators who may have ideas in the works."

Only three Senate Special Projects have been funded since August and approximately \$21,000 remain in the Appropriations and Revenue Committee budget, which funds these projects and gives money to campus organizations that make funding requests.

"Students are paying their fees not to see us build a cushion in our A and R fund, they want to see the benefits of their money," Robinson said.

Brown said he was willing to transfer money from the executive budget to help fund Senate Special Projects that senators come up with in the remaining six weeks.

TAXES

Continued from page 1

fessor Doug Michael in a news release.

Michael became involved with the program when he was a student and has been leading it for more than 15 years.

"The process seems easy to law students, but when they see it through the eyes of someone who does not have the same skills or experience in preparing a return, the students see their desperation and realize what an impact they have made when that individual walks away with a two or three thousand dollar refund coming to them," Michael said.

Last year the program assisted 333 households that make \$39,000 or less per year with tax returns and many others who had tax questions or problems, according to the release.

About 20 law students volunteer for the program each year. They receive no course credit or pay for their work. The students complete 12 to 18 hours of federal income tax courses and must pass

a tax certification test from the Internal Revenue Service.

The program is held in Room 47 in the basement of the College of Law, where computers are set up so that tax returns can be filed electronically.

"Filing electronically is simpler and saves money," Cayton said.

The UK VITA program began on March 3 and will run through April 17. Volunteers will be available Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 2 until 6 and Saturday from noon until 5. The program is not offered March 12-16 due to spring break.

Walk-ins are encouraged and are asked to arrive no later than one hour prior to closing. Those wanting to participate are asked to bring a photo ID, social security cards or individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN) cards for themselves and all others on their return, all W-2 forms from employers, and all 1098 or 1099 forms.

For more information, call professor Doug Michael at 257-1485 or visit the Web site at www.uky.edu/law/tax.

BENEFITS

Continued from page 1

react to UK in terms of funding," he said. "It's pretty emotional and some of those guys don't forget old battles."

UK spokesman Jay Blanton said the university has had a good working relationship with the legislature and wouldn't comment on whether the university interprets these statements as threats.

"Obviously we were very pleased with the funding we received in 2005," Blanton said. "Our hope and expectation would be that that would be the case again."

Both Scorsone and Damron doubted the bill would be revived before this legislative session ended on March 27.

"But the bill will return next year, and 'with a vengeance,'" Damron said.

With 2008 as an election year, Damron said extra pressure would be placed on legislators to pass the bill, while Scorsone thought support was diminishing.

"With each passing day, there's less and less interest with passing discriminatory laws," he said. "I really think the anti-gay campaign is losing some steam, particularly in trying to keep

people from trying to buy health insurance."

Damron also said he had spoken with UK employees who would rather the money for these "shack-up benefits" be used for retirement plans or currently covered employees. Allowing partner benefits would be irresponsible insurance policy because there wouldn't be enough commitment involved in taking out a policy without marriage as a requirement, leaving the opportunity for employees to take advantage of the system, he said.

He emphasized that his support of the bill was based on his constituency's stance, not on an individual's sexuality.

But no matter how much legislators deny the presence of gay prejudice in the bill, neither side can avoid discussion on the issue.

"The marriage amendment is one thing, healthcare is totally different," Scorsone said. "A single healthcare benefit is not the equivalent of marriage."

"Nobody is saying that someone who's homosexual should not be covered with health insurance," Damron said. "They can buy health insurance, just not as a couple."

Rep. Kathy Stein, D-Lexington, a member of the Health and Welfare Committee who voted against the bill, could not be reached for comment last night.

WORK-LIFE

Continued from page 1

survey of UK faculty and staff proved the need for an Elder Care Program, Kanatzar said.

"One in 10 respondents said they have elder care responsibilities," Kanatzar said. "And even more expect to have them in three to four years."

The need for this program is growing and UK is very progressive to have it in place, Loeffler said.

"There is a change in the demographic in the workforce because you have more people working and providing care for elderly family members," Loeffler said.

Kanatzar hopes the study will influence other institutions and businesses to take the initiative to implement programs such as these.

"We definitely think this could be inspiration for other places to create their own programs for employees," Kanatzar said.

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UK 21, CINCINNATI 7

Baseball down early, rallies to dominate

By Eric Lindsey
elindsey@ukkernel.com

With the wind blowing out of Cliff Hagan Stadium, the UK baseball team belted four home runs and used a nine-run fifth inning last night to defeat Cincinnati 21-7.

After a seesaw battle for the first four innings, the No. 17 Cats took control in the fifth inning with a pair of home runs and timely hits. The win extended the nation's longest regular season winning streak to 23 games and put the Cats just two wins away from matching the best start in school history.

"It was a great win for us," said junior shortstop Brian Spear. "We got out of the gate really hot. We still have a lot of doubters about our lack of a tough schedule but if we just continue to keep doing what we're doing, we'll prove ourselves in the long run."

The game-changing bottom of the fifth inning came with the Cats trailing 7-5. Freshman left fielder Brock Wright got the Cats going with an RBI-single to cut the deficit to 7-6. After a throwing error by the Bearcats brought in another run, the Cats took the lead 8-7 on a wild pitch, scoring Wright. The Cats weren't finished yet.

After leading the bases, se-

nior designated hitter Sean Coughlin lined a single up the middle to bring in two more runs, extending the lead to 10-7. Spear continued the inning with a towering three-run homerun off the scoreboard in left center, his second home run of the year.

"When the momentum is going your way, you can have those huge innings," Spear said. "Luckily, I got a fastball in a good spot and I just put the barrel (of the bat) on it."

Junior third baseman Matt McKinney followed Spear's blast with a solo home run to left-center to put the Cats up 14-7.

In all, the bottom of the fifth inning featured 12 UK batters knocking in nine runs on six hits, a walk, a hit-by-pitch, an error and two wild pitches.

"When the wind is howling out in right field, you can do some things that you can't do in other parks," Spear said. "When we have those kind of conditions we're going to try to stay underneath the ball and put the ball in the air."

Coughlin, the reigning Southeastern Conference Player of the Week, followed up last week's outstanding performance with four RBIs on two hits, including his second home run of the year.

"I just came out and tried to do a bit of the same thing,"

Coughlin said. "I just stayed within myself and went with where the pitchers were and it seemed to work out."

Although the Cats scored 21 runs — the most since March 7, 2004, against Wright State — they fell behind early thanks in large part to Cincinnati's Neall French. The Bearcat first baseman belted a three-run home run in both the second and third innings to give the Bearcats to a 7-3 lead. A solo home run by Coughlin in the bottom of the third inning cut the deficit to 7-4.

The Cats added four runs in the sixth inning and three runs in the seventh inning to seal before having their stellar nine-run eighth inning.

Senior pitcher Dewayne Oxford picked up his second win of the season, pitching in relief of junior Andrew Albers after just two innings. Oxford was roughed up in the third inning, giving up four runs, but remained in the game to pitch seven innings to help the Cats to their first victory over Cincinnati since 2004.

"I'm really pleased with (the win)," head coach John Cohen said. "I've been here four years and we have not played a good game against Cincinnati since I've been here. I think our players were aware of that so we wanted to do a really good job."

Infielder Brian Spear slides head-first past Cincinnati catcher Ryan Baker to score another run for UK last night in Cliff Hagan Stadium. Spear scored 3 of the Cats' 21 runs.

ELLIOTT HESS STAFF



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Time is running out to update computer clocks

By Michelle Quinn
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Springing forward in the computer age just got more complicated.

At 2 a.m. Sunday, Daylight Saving Time starts three weeks earlier than usual in a federal effort to save energy. But millions of computers, servers and networks are programmed to move the hands forward on the first Sunday in April.

So information technologists are racing against the computer clocks to make the software fixes. Otherwise, heat and lights in some buildings could come on an hour later than they should. Meeting rooms might be double booked. Sprinklers might go haywire. Doors might lock and unlock when they aren't supposed to. People could be late to meetings with their bosses if their computerized calendars aren't tweaked in time.

"People will start associating anything that happens wrong that day with the change in Daylight Saving Time," said Bruce Vincent, Stanford University's chief technologist whose staff of six spent two weeks on fixes.

Moving Daylight Saving Time up three weeks isn't producing anywhere near the anxiety Y2K did heading into the year 2000. Doom-sayers then were predicting havoc because computers would not recognize the 00. But the technology industry mobilized, fixed the problem and Y2K fears ended when the ball finished dropping in Times Square.

This time around, the threat is at best mayhem lite.

Few alarms have been sounded, in part because the fears are more subtle. Meetings off by an hour isn't a calamity, and people still can still check their watches.

For most people at home who do not tap into work e-mail or a network, the news start for Daylight Saving Time could pass virtually unnoticed. TiVo and other digital video recorders have made fixes. Those with older computer systems might have to hunt online for software fixes called "patches" or endure having a clock out of sync for three weeks.

Still, Kevin Watne, president of Generation IX, a Los Angeles technology consulting company, has a novel solution for Californians if all else fails: Set their haywire technology on Mountain Standard Time for three weeks.

"Buys you time," he said.

Congress' rationale in making the time shift

was to give people more daylight hours in the late afternoon and evenings, cutting their electricity needs. It's similar to the argument Ben Franklin made in the late 1700s when he suggested people save money on candles by taking maximum advantage of the sunlight.

In 1966, Congress passed the Uniform Time Act, which established Daylight Saving Time as beginning the last Sunday in April and ending the last Sunday of October. The federal government extended it during the 1973 Arab oil embargo and, in 1986, pushed up the start date to the first Sunday in April.

Small businesses could be vulnerable since many lack access to technologists who can make fixes. Generation IX has spent hours working with high schools and small companies to fix everything that has an internal clock, such as accounting systems, electronic punch cards, fax machines, fire walls, and even shredders and iPods.

In big organizations, making fixes is proving considerably harder than nudging forward a clock's hands. Patches from Microsoft, Oracle and other firms have not been enough.

"The computers all talk to each other about time," said Shelton Waggener, chief information officer at the University of California, Berkeley. "It is more complex than people in Washington considered."

For information technology professionals, the challenge has been figuring out how to synchronize the myriad of devices and computers people have, then testing whether it worked in the least disruptive way.

"I have to go find people's mobile devices and fix each one," said Andrew Laurence, systems analyst at the University of California, Irvine.

Some institutions have quickly applied patches and moved on. But for some, those patches have created new problems, such as making some appointments appear to be an hour later than they should.

"You have no idea what the original time of the event was," said Dave Thewlis, executive director of Cal Connect, a consortium of individuals and companies focused on electronic calendar and scheduling problems.

At Stanford, information chief Vincent balked at telling people at the university they would have to correct the calendar themselves, as software companies have instructed.

But he worried about the looming tech sup-



Eric Fowler, right, and Chris Reeves of technology consultant Generation IX fix a client's server to avoid problems with the early start to daylight saving.

port nightmare if he didn't act fast. On campus and off, 75,000 computers are registered, roughly three per person, including mobile devices like Blackberrys and smart phones.

So on a recent Sunday Vincent and his staff shut down the campus calendar for 12 hours, installing software programs they wrote them-

selves. Vincent's change was a success, although some of the ways people color code their appointments didn't survive the fix.

"We avoided that train wreck," he said. "But it has highlighted that we have to take action ourselves instead of hoping the software companies will fix things."

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Police, UK officials should take close look at crime stats

An essential part of fighting crime is to take a step back and analyze what crimes happen, where they happen and how often they happen. By taking a close look at the data, resources can be allocated and police can fight crime smarter, not harder.

According to the statistics released about 2006, UK's campus crime as a whole decreased substantially — a total of 12.7 percent. Reports of alcohol intoxication decreased 47 percent. Also, reports of sexual assault went from eight in 2005 down to only two in 2006. At first glance, this seems like good news. After all, a decrease in crime means the student population is safer.

However, before conclusions can be drawn, questions must be asked about the data itself.

The massive decrease in alcohol intoxication reports must be questioned by UK police and UK officials. Alcohol abuse on campus has been an issue for years because of the student deaths that have resulted from it. In response to a student alcohol-related death occurring in five out of the past six years, police pledged to crack down on drinking and reduce the number of fatalities that result from alcohol-related incidents.

According to UKPD's Acting Chief Joe Monroe, UK has ramped up the number of officers working at the beginning of the school year in order to combat alcohol-related offenses.

"One of the big areas of that is really a concern of mine and Capt. (Kevin) Franklin is intoxicated student issues at the start of school. This year, we'll be out in force with probably double the amount of officers we had last year," Monroe said in a Feb. 2 Kernel opinions page piece. "It was doubled last year, so we'll really put a heavy emphasis on that in that first month of school. I'm sick and tired of telling parents that students, their sons and daughters, have been killed related to an alcohol incident."

Because of the associated increase in police deterrent activity, a decrease in alcohol intoxication arrests and citations would not be a stretch of the imagination. However, the magnitude of the decrease means police have to take a closer look and ask more questions. It is absolutely imperative for police to ascertain whether or not this truly

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reflects a change in student drinking habits and the campus population. The alternative, which would be inaccurate reporting of the incidents — whatever the reason — must be dealt with if police are to make progress in fighting alcohol problems on campus.

Still, police are to be commended for taking such an aggressive stance and working hard to protect the student population. That is all the more reason for them to not let up in this fight, so that they do not lose ground in the struggle to keep students safe, sound and alive when they choose to make alcohol a part of the celebration.

Finally, the sexual assault statistics reported in the 2006 report are in need of similar close examination. Carol Jordan, director of the Center for Research on Violence Against Women, said that such a drastic decrease in sexual assault reports might not be indicative of an actual decrease in instances of this crime.

In a Feb. 7 Kernel article, Women's Place Director Dorothy Edwards said her staff has taken 17 reports of such violence this semester alone. Rape itself is a crime that is only reported 5 percent of the time nationally, with an even smaller percentage reporting that crime at UK. These facts, when taken together, make it clear that further action is necessary in order to reduce the occurrences of sexual crimes on campus.

In this regard, students, police and campus administrators must work together to make education a priority. Resident Advisers and other officials and administrators should be similarly educated about this as they have been about alcohol abuse and work must continue in order to make sure that students who have been victimized feel safe in coming forward and naming those responsible. Only when those who prey upon others are not able to roam freely will the campus population truly be safe when it comes to sexual crimes.

In the end, UK police must question the results they are seeing, to make sure that there isn't more than meets the eye. By doing so, and by continuing their commendable fight against all campus crime, they will fulfill their role as protectors of the campus community.

Case provides model for police-public cooperation at UK

Late last month, UK police arrested a man in connection with a string of recent thefts from campus buildings and a Student Center robbery.

And judging from reports, collaboration between police and the public made the arrest possible in the first place.

On Feb. 26, police issued a detailed description of the suspect from information gathered from a College of Engineering employee. It included a description of a visible tattoo on the subject's neck, which Maj. Joe Monroe of the UK Police Department said was especially helpful.

Later, an employee in the Anderson Engineering Building called police after seeing a man matching the description. UK police arrived on the scene in time to find Louis Payne Jr. leaving the building with a cell phone they say he had just stolen.

"We couldn't have done it without the public being alert and helping us out," Monroe told the Kernel.

Whenever crimes occur on campus, UK issues public safety alerts to

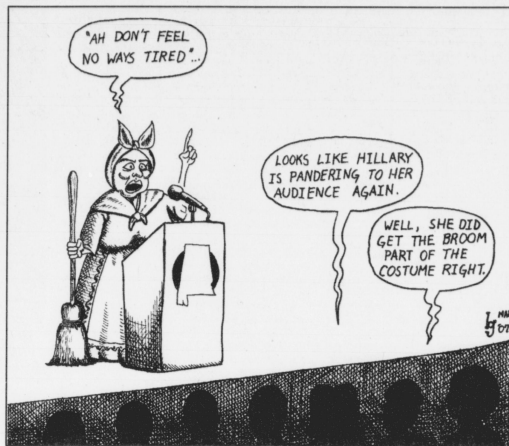
KERNEL EDITORIAL

departments and through e-mail. It is the job of department heads to post the information so their employees will be vigilant in looking for subjects matching the description given.

In this particular case, the system worked exactly as it should. Employees saw and absorbed the information, matched the description to the suspect and called police, who responded quickly to arrest the individual.

UK police and other members of the campus community should use this case as a model of how the public and police can work together to bring justice to those who commit crimes.

Crime watches are set up in residential neighborhoods for this very reason; and the same system can — and does — work at UK. Campus police and the employees who participated in this case should be commended for bringing an end to a campus crime spree.



BRIAN GOODLEY, Kernel cartoonist

Supreme Court should maintain students' First Amendment rights

In 1969 the Supreme Court made a monumental precedent when they decided that high-school students attending public schools have First Amendment rights. This of course was the Tinker vs. Des Moines case, in which several students were suspended for wearing black armbands in protest of the Vietnam War.



WESLEY YONTIS
Kernel
columnist

Since then, the Supreme Court has revisited this ruling, and now again on March 19 the Court will decide either to respect the rights of students or further split hairs in an attempt to smooth out most cherished freedoms in the one place it is needed most — schools.

On a cold morning in Juneau, Alaska in January 2002, Joseph Fredrick and several accomplices unfurled a giant banner across the street from their high school that read, "Bong hits 4 Jesus" as an Olympic torch runner passed through their city.

When I first read this in USA Today, I couldn't stop laughing; and I dearly hope others reading this share my sense of humor or this may be a moot argument falling upon deaf ears. Needless to say, Deborah Morse, principal of Juneau-Douglas High School, which sponsored the event and that Fredrick was attending, does not share the same sense of humor that I do. Upon seeing the banner, she rushed across the street and seized it, claiming its display violated the schools stringent anti-drug policy.

But that isn't where this ill story ends. Morse proceeded to suspend Fredrick for 10 days, which he appealed to the superintendent. The superintendent denied the appeal, however, and afterwards, Fredrick appealed the suspension to the school board, which also upheld the suspension.

So Fredrick sued Morse and the school board for violating his First Amendment rights. The District Court of Alaska ruled in favor of Morse and the school board; but later the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed their ruling. Now the case is up before the highest court in the land, where it will be heard on the 19th of this month.

As I said before, the Tinker precedent was immensely important; it stated that "the First Amendment does apply to public schools and that administrators must demonstrate constitutionally valid reasons before they could uphold

any regulation of speech in the classroom." Since 1969, however, other Supreme Court decisions have backpeddled from the Tinker precedent.

For example, in the case of Bethel School District vs. Fraser (1986) the Supreme Court sided with the school district in its decision to suspend student Matthew Fraser for delivering a speech that was laced with innuendo during his campaign for student body vice president on the grounds that school officials do have the right to prohibit what it determines as "vulgar and lewd expression."

Again, in the case of Hazelwood vs. Kuhlmeier (1988) the Supreme Court sided with the school when they suspended several students for printing two articles in the school's newspaper about teen pregnancy and divorce. The Supreme Court determined that while schools should respect their students' right to free speech, it didn't have to "promote" controversial speech in such school sponsored forums as a school publication.

The controversy around the Morse vs. Fredrick case focuses on two fuzzy areas: Whether or not the discussion of drugs in school is punishable and whether or not school officials have the right to punish students for an offense committed off of school property. I would hope the answer to both of these is a clear and resounding "No."

First let me start by stressing that in order for education to be truly effective, students have to be able to express their opinions and show off their creativity in an environment that is receptive, open minded and ideally, has a sense of humor. This is one of the biggest reasons students learn more in college than they do in high school. Students should be pushed to express themselves, not punished for it. Do we really want to bludgeon to death the next generation's ability to think freely? I would hope not.

Now then, drugs are always an iffy subject; and if someone is caught with illegal substances, proper steps should be taken.

However, punishing someone for talking about drugs is excessive. If the Supreme Court decides that censoring something as harmless as one student's attempt to grab some camera time with a banner making an outlandish statement "promotes drug use" and therefore "violates drug policy," what's to say a school principal couldn't censor a debate team from arguing about legalization of marijuana?

If a student wore a shirt with a pot leaf on it would they incur the wrath of their teacher? Or what if a student was caught talking about his or her favorite

episode of "That 70's Show," where the characters frequently (albeit not explicitly) smoke marijuana? Could that be interpreted as "promoting drug use" and therefore, "violating drug policy?" This case opens a veritable can of worms and will be a monumental precedent not only for discussion of drugs in school, but for discussion of drugs in general.

On a similar note, and in my view a humorous one, several Christian groups have filed briefs supporting Fredrick and his "Bong hits 4 Jesus" banner, though not for the reasons we would all like to see — actually instituting bong hits for Jesus as church policy, even though admittedly it would probably be better at getting many college students out of bed on Sunday mornings than the crazy Bible guy down by the Student Center. Instead, they're hedging their bets with Fredrick, reasoning that if the court further bans offensive speech they could feasibly extend that prohibiting discussions of religion that administrators disagree with.

Now I believe devoutly that religion shouldn't be in school. But these groups have a legitimate fear that if schools are allowed to censor discussion of drugs on the grounds it violates drug policy, they could also censor discussion of religion on the grounds it violates separation of church and state. And while religion shouldn't be promoted in school, that doesn't mean it shouldn't be able to be discussed in school. And that is an important distinction to make.

The second important part of this debate stems from the fact that the "offense" didn't actually take place on school property; rather, across the street from school property during an event that the school helped to sponsor. The school claims that since they sponsored the event, the banner reflected them, and this is foolish. No one in their right mind would think, "Some kids at that school in Alaska held up a banner saying something about drugs, therefore schools in Alaska are against the war on drugs." It sounds silly parsed out like that, but that is the principal and school board's position. What some students say doesn't reflect on the school, it reflects on the students, you don't look in a mirror and see someone else after all.

We must remember to look on things with an open mind a sense of humor. Students do have First Amendment rights, and even though they may express themselves immaturity at times, that doesn't mean we should deny them the right to.

Wesley Yontis is a journalism freshman. E-mail opinions@kjournal.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Harper only candidate to show appreciation for campaign staffers' hard work

Recently, the UK College Republicans hosted a Lincoln Day Dinner for all the Central Kentucky College Republican chapters. While I was impressed to see so many candidates in attendance, one thing surprised me.

While Ernie Fletcher came in more than half-way through and left immediately afterward and Anne Northup didn't bother to show up at all, Billy Harper was there before the dinner started, made an effort to shake every hand he could and stayed long after to meet more students. He was also listed as one of those who made a donation to offset the expenses of the event.

College Republicans often play the role of laborer on campaigns. From stuffing envelopes to doing literature drops, we do the hard and time-consuming work that others don't want to do.

When we finally had an event where we weren't working the door, taking coats or parking cars, I was disappointed to see that Harper was the only gubernatorial candidate who was willing to come and spend the time to meet with the people who work so hard to get Republicans elected.

We appreciate Mr. Harper taking time out of his campaign schedule to come address the crowd and show his appreciation for the work we do.

David Butcher
political science and psychology freshman

Note to Readers

Unsigned editorials reflect the views of the Kernel Editorial Board. They are written independently of the Kernel's news coverage. Columns, letters and cartoons reflect the views of their authors.

SPORTS

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Coaches: SEC is one tough league

By Jonathan Smith
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With all but one team in the conference posting a winning record, Georgia head coach Dennis Felton isn't sure why so many think the SEC is having a down year.

"The fact is that we have no poor teams in the league," he said. "I think it would be wrong and tragic to underestimate our conference, and to penalize our conference for our strength top to bottom."

Felton's Bulldogs and seven other teams in the conference will need strong performances this weekend — and in most cases, a title — if they have any hopes of hearing their name on Selection Sunday.

"Factually, the SEC is the strongest league in the country," Felton said. "With that in mind, you would think our league would be at the high end of teams invited (to the NCAA tournament) instead of the low end."

If the NCAA Tournament started today, there would likely be four SEC teams that were assured of getting in — Florida, Tennessee, UK and Vanderbilt — no matter what happens this weekend.

All four of those teams play in the conference's Eastern Division.

The six Western Division teams have struggled so much this season that not one has a winning conference record. Ole Miss and Mississippi State topped the West Division with 8-8 records.

"The way to get into the tournament is to win games," said Mississippi State head coach Rick Stansbury, whose team is, at best, on the fringes of an NCAA invitation.

"There are a lot of teams on the board and someone has to separate themselves this weekend. We have to win some more games to get in," he said.

Mediocre results in the West could be one reason why the SEC has such a weak reputation this year.

Tennessee head coach Bruce Pearl thinks that couldn't be any further from the truth.

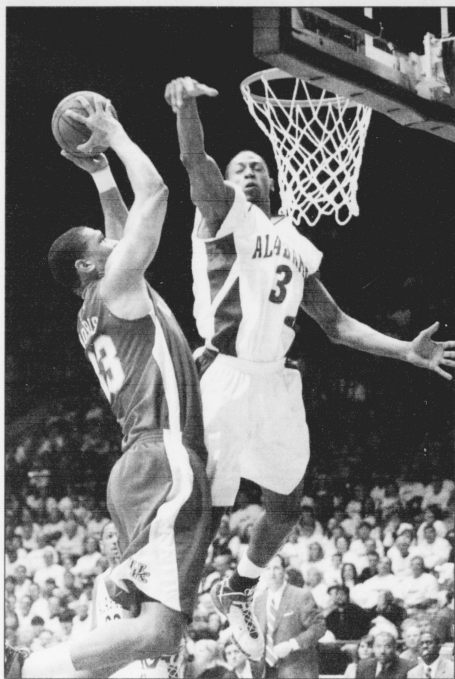
"They are all good enough to advance," Pearl said. "There is not a team in the West that couldn't beat a team in the NCAA field of 65."

With all the talk about how the SEC has struggled this season, it's easy to forget how good of an NCAA Tournament the conference had a year ago.

The league sent six teams to the tournament, and they went a combined 13-5. Two teams went to the Final Four, Louisiana State and Florida, the latter winning the National Championship.

Currently, the SEC holds the No. 2 RPI ranking, according to realtimepi.com, and out of the 12 teams, only three are ranked outside of the RPI top 70.

And its those RPI rankings that still give some SEC teams hope.



ED MATTHEWS | STAFF

Junior center Randolph Morris avoids a block from Alabama guard Justin Tubbs in the Cats' 72-61 loss at Tuscaloosa, Ala., on Feb. 17. No team from the SEC west is a guarantee to make the NCAA tournament, prompting many SEC coaches to wonder why.

Alabama — a team that earlier in the season was ranked in the top 10 in both the AP and coaches' poll — has an RPI of 43, with wins over Oklahoma and Iowa. Arkansas has an RPI of 49, because of wins over Southern Illinois and West Virginia.

Early wins like that gives those teams a chance, no matter how they finished.

"All of us will be judged on the entire season," Gottfried said. "The league record is going to be very critical but it's not the only thing. That's the thing that a lot of people fall into late in the season. They think the league record is the only thing that the committee will factor."

"Each team will be judged from November, whether their league record is 8-8

or 7-9. I think all those things factor in."

SEC teams usually use the conference tournament to help compete for NCAA seeding, not invitations. But strategies may be different this year, with over half the league in need of wins just to get on the tournament bubble.

To Felton and the other 11 SEC coaches, however, that math just isn't right.

"This conversation about four or five teams going (to the NCAA Tournament) from the SEC is utterly ridiculous," Felton said. "I don't see how you have the strongest league in the country. I don't see how in the world that could decrease the number of teams in the national tournament."

UK POST SEASON TICKET INFORMATION



SEC Tournament — UK student tickets for the Southeastern Conference Tournament will be sold at ticket windows at the Georgia Dome to the left of Gate D beginning one hour before each game, regardless of the team. Student tickets are \$10.00 for all games.

UK NCAA Tournament — Ticket distribution for the first and second round of the NCAA tournament will be on Monday, March 12 at 5 p.m. at the Memorial Coliseum ticket offices. There will be no student ticket prices. If UK advances, regional tickets will be available a week later at the same time and place. Similarly, Final Four tickets for UK only will be available a week before the event at Memorial at a yet to be determined time.

Rupp Arena 1st and 2nd round — Rupp Arena will host first and second round games (March 15 and 17) of the 2007 NCAA men's basketball tournament. Numerous upper level seats remain and can be ordered through Ticket Master. They can be bought as a package for \$150.00.

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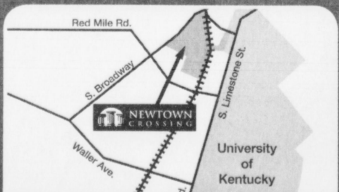
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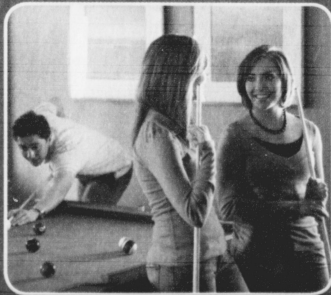
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