

KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 37 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

UK will pursue full funding for Top 20

By Jill Lester
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After the governor's call for budget cuts across the state, UK will still ask for full funding of its Top 20 Business Plan.

"That's part of the legislative process," said UK spokesman Jay Blanton. "You don't offer a trade until you have to make one."

UK will have to plead its case to the legislature in the coming months for funding during the 2008-10 biennium. This year the university will ask the legislature for:

n A 6 percent increase in funding, about a \$20 million increase, for each of the next two years.

n \$130 million in state bonds for a second science research building, to be

part of the new medical center. n \$75 million in state bonds for a new Gatton College of Business and Economics Complex, to be located on Euclid Avenue between North Campus and Memorial Coliseum.

n \$20 million for a new Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center.

In his annual State of the Commonwealth Address on Monday night, Gov. Steve Beshear spoke on his call for Kentucky's state agencies and public universities to undergo funding cuts across the board.

"It is my duty and my responsibility to inform you that we have some tough times ahead," Beshear said in his address. "The revenue outlook is grim."

Beshear called for a 3 percent cut in the budgets of state institutions and

public universities for the fiscal year ending in June. He also advised the same organizations to prepare for a 12 percent budget reduction for the next fiscal year, about a \$50 million loss for UK all together.

However, the governor's budget recommendation on Jan. 29 will be just part of the process, Blanton said.

"The legislature has got to approve the budget too," Blanton said. "We plan on presenting to both the governor and the legislature."

Two of the projects UK will request funding for, the construction of the science research building and the Gatton College of Business and Economics Complex, are scheduled to be completed in 2012.

Without full bonding from the legislature this spring, it would be "im-

possible" to start construction, said Bob Wiseman, vice president for facilities management.

If UK doesn't get the \$205 million in bonds it needs for the two projects, the university will have to look at "any and all options" for funding, Wiseman said.

The new business and research building would accommodate the increase in faculty and staff mandated by the Top 20 Business Plan. The plan calls for adding 300 faculty members, for a total of 2,500, and for adding 7,000 students to total at 34,000 by 2020.

"If we don't get the money for the Top 20 Business Plan, it makes it more challenging, but we're going in with a lot of support in the legislature," Blanton said.

Final diversity candidate visits today

By Jill Lester
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The final candidate for UK's newly created top diversity position will answer questions and discuss his thoughts on the job during an open forum today.



Jenda

Overturn Jenda, associate provost for diversity and multicultural affairs at Auburn University, is one of two candidates for the vice president for institutional diversity position. As part of a two-day tour of campus, he will participate in the forum from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in room 209 of the Main Building.

"He offers the unique quality of not only having significant expertise on diversity and distinguished scholarly success in mathematics, he is an alum of UK and carries with him a robust interest in giving back to this institution," said search committee chairwoman Carol Jordan.

If selected, Jenda would advise the president and the provost on how UK's policy decisions will affect the university's diversity goals, according to the position advertisement released at the beginning of the search in fall 2006.

He would also be responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating UK's diversity strategies.

UK initially planned to have a

See Jenda on page 5

ULTIMATE EDUCATION



ELLIOTT HESS | STAFF

Psychology sophomore Brad True prepares to deflect a frisbee during his ultimate frisbee class yesterday in the Seaton Center.

Academics seek funds to finish black encyclopedia

By Leticia Janes
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Poet Frank X. Walker is one of many supporters trying to raise funding for the Kentucky African-American Encyclopedia to recognize African-Americans' significant role in the state. Yesterday, Walker addressed UK on the encyclopedia's importance.

"I want UK to understand this important project of preserving and documenting African-American history and beyond," said Walker, a writer in residence at Northern Kentucky University.

Walker joined other writers, professors, campus leaders and encyclopedia contributors and editors at yes-

terday's commencement ceremony at the M.L. King Library to help raise money for the project.

More than 200 people attended the commencement that served to elevate interest to promote preservation, collection and teaching, said Gerald Smith, one of the encyclopedia's general editors.

"This project is worth investing in not only for now, but it will be something to look back at," said Smith, an associate professor of African-American studies at UK. "But by no means is this a one man show, it is a collaborative project and I'm honored to have many scholars working on the project."

Chris Chance is one of many student researchers working on the ency-

clopedia and he encouraged students to contribute.

"I feel it is important to be working on such an innovative project," said Chance, an agricultural biotechnology sophomore. "I do anything from researching articles, mailing things, and doing what needs to be done around campus."

UK President Lee Todd attended the commencement and encouraged individuals, institutions and companies to provide additional funding and support for the project.

"It is at times like this when people have to have funding to help with academic careers or have a passion for the state of Kentucky, a pride for the commonwealth," Todd said. "That is how Kentucky moves forward, doing

things people don't expect us to do."

Encyclopedias on black history and culture exist, but there is not one focusing on a specific state. The Kentucky African-American Encyclopedia, which is scheduled for publication in 2011, is believed to be the first in the nation, Smith said.

The project began in 2006 and currently has three general editors, 12 topical editors, 16 members of the editorial advisory board and undergraduate and graduate student researchers.

There is still research to be done and funds to be raised before the encyclopedia's completion, Smith said. The project is still in need of

See Encyclopedia on page 5

SG Senate expansion faces opposition

By Katie Saltz
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One SG committee voted not to recommend expanding the Senate while another had no opinion on the proposal last night.

The amendment to add five at-large senators will be voted on by the full Senate Wednesday.

Senate President Tyler Montell proposed the amendment and said it would be an effort to represent more of the student body.

"These senators are supposed to represent the university at large," Montell said. "The university is growing, so why not the Senate too? If I give five more people a chance to make a difference."

Internal Affairs Chairman Tom Rauf voted against recommending the amendment and said adding more senators could complicate procedures.

"My fear is that it's going to make it more difficult to get to know people in the Senate," Rauf said.

The amendment would not just add senators, Montell said, but the opportunity for more opinions to be voiced.

See SG on page 5

System designed to lower student drop outs to launch near midterm

By Jill Lester
jlaster@kykernel.com

UK has begun setting up a new system designed to boost retention rates by improving how faculty and staff communicate about advising students.

A new online system the university plans to launch this semester will update students' advisers as soon as they become a risk of dropping out.

"When we see that students are at risk, instead of finding out about it later and screaming about the numbers, we can become more personal and much more appropriate," said Randolph Hollingsworth, assistant provost for in-

tegrated academic services.

The system will work to improve UK's Early Alert System, which is used to notify advisers if students are in danger of dropping out of school. Currently, to submit an early alert, instructors must fill out an online form. The form is then delivered to the student's adviser, who requests a meeting with the student.

Since its launch last semester, Hollingsworth said the Early Alert System was used to file 3,000 referrals, which she hopes increases with more coordination.

The new program will be compatible with myUK and will require no

training for employees when it is launched around the middle of the semester, Hollingsworth said.

UK currently has about 27,000 students. Last year, the university had a 59 percent six-year undergraduate graduation rate.

To raise the number of students who stay at UK, the president and provost announced a "War on Student Attrition" in June, a \$35 million effort. Hollingsworth said she believes the new software will aid the effort by keeping students from dropping out.

"Our information shows that if we get a student right when they need it, it helps with the attrition rates," she said.

UK bought a four-year contract with Hobsons Student Retention Solutions for the system, costing about \$28,650 per year including maintenance and with an installation fee of about \$24,000, according to the company.

Although UK recently learned of a \$10 million state budget cut for the fiscal year ending in June, the proposal for the attrition program was approved in December and will go through as planned, Hollingsworth said.

The new program will make communication more efficient, said Sara Snyder, marketing communications director with Hobsons Student Retention

Solutions.

"Before, retention efforts were pretty scattered," Snyder said. "If a student might try to register with the bursar's office, admissions might not know that."

Hobsons is "just now forming," Snyder said, and UK is one of the first large, state schools the company has had as a client. The student retention program that UK purchased is modeled after the program used at smaller schools, but Snyder said her company does not anticipate many problems.

"It's not that UK is going in with an untested solution," Snyder said. "You're just one of the bigger schools."

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Wreck your room...Not your car

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 — It's your friends who are critical now, perhaps out of jealousy. Take their ribbing with good humor. They can't stop you now. Your real friends are proud as punch.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Today is an 8 — You can accomplish just about anything, if you begin it now. If you can't actually go yet, like on a world cruise, at least begin your planning. Choose a destination.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) Today is a 6 — Your savings account gets fatter as you improve your shopping skills. Frugality is a game you don't have to do it, and some day you won't.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Today is an 8 — One good deed leads to another. That's how you advance. You do favors for people you care about; they do favors for you. Let them know what you need.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Today is a 5 — Lately you've had to do a lot of the work yourself, to have the job done right. That won't be much of an option in the coming phase. Find people whom you can give jobs to, who will do them perfectly.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Today is a 10 — Your partner's imagination seems to be out of control. You want to stick closer to reality. Is that absolutely necessary? Let yourself go. Reality's hard to define, anyway.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Today is a 6 — What else does your family want, to make life comfortable? Stock up now, while the sales are on. You won't have to shop again for months.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Today is a 9 — You're teaching and learning simultaneously, to and from the same person. The exchange makes

your head spin. Don't push; relax and let it happen.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Today is a 5 — The routine may seem unbearable, at times, but you can bear it. Hard work makes you stronger. It also provides the coin, in this case, to buy yourself a nice vacation.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Today is a 10 — You're very lucky now. Ask for favors. Make promises and commitments, especially with loved ones and children. You'll end up looking very good.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Today is a 5 — It may seem like it takes longer to get just about anything done. Don't argue with what is, adapt. Things will go much more smoothly once you stop worrying.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Today is an 8 — Practice and listen and pay attention to what other people are doing. Copy the most successful ones and you'll naturally become one of them.

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CAN BRITNEY BE SAVED?

Inside the night of terror as Spears holds her son hostage — and flees from the help she so badly needs

By Kevin O'Leary

"Are you Britney Spears?" asked the woman behind the cosmetics counter at Saks Fifth Avenue in Palm Desert, California. It was 11:30 a.m. on January 6, and the singer, who, just a day earlier, had checked herself out of an L.A. hospital following a breakdown during which she held her own child hostage, was buying lipstick. "No, but I wish I was," Britney answered in a singsong voice, holding hands with Adnan Ghalib, the married paparazzo turned love interest, 35, with whom she had fled the city.

Yes, just as 'Britney finally seemed close to getting the help she needed, she bolted, running away from her new rock bottom: the night of January 3. It was on that evening that the Britney saga became both surreal and Shakespearean. With police, fire and paramedic crews on the ground and news helicopters above, the pop star — on nearly the ninth anniversary of the release of her 14.6 million-selling "... Baby One More Time" — was seen laughing maniacally as she was brought out of her home on a stretcher with her legs restrained.

At long last, Britney's apparent mental illness — speculated to be anything from bipolar disorder to postpartum depression — was laid out for the world to see. "She needs to be on suicide watch," aunt Chanda McGovern tells Us. And Alli Sims, Britney's relative and best friend, tells Us, "She is a beauti-

ful, wonderful girl, and it's so hard for me to watch the situation," adding, "I just hope, sooner rather than later, we can look back on it and go, 'Wow, did that really happen or was that a bad dream?'"

In Need of Help

Britney's mental health has long been a concern. "Really, she can flip a switch at any time and go crazy," says a source who has worked with Britney for years. Kalie Machado, her assistant prior to the head-shaving incident, has told Us her ex-boy is plagued by "crazy thoughts" and "needs mental help." In November, Britney's court-appointed monitor, Lisa Hacker, evaluated Britney's parenting, saying the mood at home ranged "from chaotic to almost somber." (For more on her mental health issues, see box, page 52.)

Moving Forward

Britney faces an uphill battle if she wants to see her kids again. The afternoon following admittance to Cedars-Sinai, she was stripped of all visitation rights by commissioner Scott Gordon, who gave sole physical custody to Federline. The next hearing: January 14.

Hope is not lost, says private family law judge Alexandra Leichter, who tells Us, "Even axe murderers get to see their children." The court is generally reluctant to cut off all contact between a child and parent, she

adds. Time with her children might be exactly what she needs, McGovern tells Us. "Part of me thinks a lot of what Britney's doing, she's doing because she's so distraught that she doesn't have her kids. She's crying out. I'm truly, truly concerned. I don't think things can get any worse now than us losing her completely."

What's wrong with Britney?

She's no stranger to substance abuse, but multiple Britney sources tell Us that her unstable behavior likely stems from a possible mental disorder.

Bipolar disorder Britney often has extreme highs (known as manic episodes), such as when she shaved her head, followed by intense lows. Her marathon partying is also a sign. "You can go all night without sleeping," says psychiatrist Pauline Wallin.

Borderline personality This is characterized by instability in moods, self-image and relationships. "She is showing borderline features," says specialist Dr. Drew Pinsky, such as her revolving door of staffers.

Anxiety attacks Britney may be suffering from unexpected episodes of intense fear. In fact, Sam Lutfi said she missed a December deposition because of a panic episode. "You're worried all the time," says Wallin.

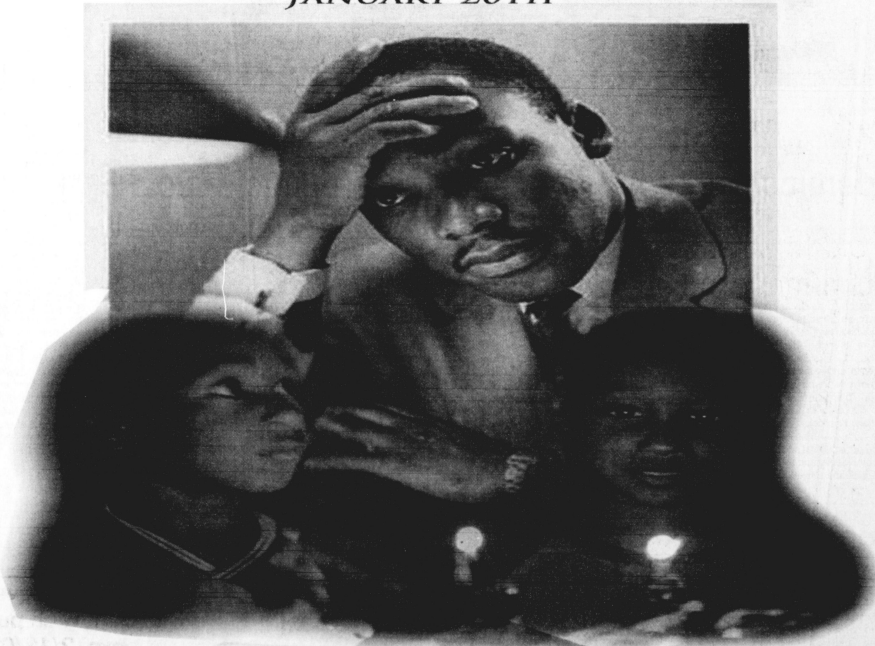
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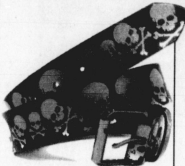
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kernel POP

“Frankly, most celebrities are annoying ... and I suppose I am the most annoying ... Whatever.”

— Rosie O'Donnell, reacting to being voted Most Annoying Celebrity by Parade magazine readers

Rock stars, pirates, designers have led skull's rise in fashion



By Melissa Cassutt
The Gazette (Colorado Springs, Colo.)

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Alas, poor Yorick.

Had Hamlet only known how popular skulls would become, he might not have tossed aside the court jester's skull so quickly.

Not just for Halloween anymore, skulls are being stamped on everything from panties to baby onesies, and though it's something of an old trend on both fashion-forward coasts, skulls have only recently become widespread.

You can find them in chain stores such as Underground Station, a shoe and accessory shop that has increased its skull stock in the past year. Besides slip-on canvas skull shoes, the stores sell a variety of skull socks, wallet chains, belts, hats and T-shirts.

Store manager Ryan Pabalan, at The Citadel in Colorado Springs, Colo., attributed the popularity of skulls to a desire to look like a rock star.

But in certain counter-culture circles (which embraced skulls years ago), the mainstreaming of the skull trend is a bit insulting, says Paula Loukakakis, who, along with husband Athan, owns the Colorado Springs clothing store State of Mind.

"They've been around for 12 years. It's nothing new, it's just popular now in the main culture," she says.

Blame couture designer Alexander Mc-Queen, whose 2003 skull scarf became popular with Hollywood fashionists.

Or Gwen Stefani, for giving skulls a rock star appeal.

Or even Disney's "Pirates of the Caribbean" trilogy, which led to a retail fury of pirate-style fashion.



Skull print is found on scarves, shoes, panties, baby clothes and countless other items as it gets more mainstream.

Regardless of the reason, mainstream fashion has indeed embraced the skull, with even the big-box stores — Target and Wal-Mart — stocking up. And shops that have carried

skulls all along have seen more skull products come to market. Because of that, State of Mind started stocking more skull fashions about a year ago, says Athan Loukakakis.

For the most part, skulls are sported by younger generations — teenagers to early 30s — but Loukakakis says he's occasionally

See Skulls on page 4

WHAT'S ON YOUR IPOD?

We randomly asked a few students on campus what they were listening to on their iPods in between classes.

- Red Hot Chili Peppers — "Snow"**
Blake Summerville, marketing sophomore
- Led Zeppelin — "Tangerine"**
Kristin Tudor, health communications sophomore
- John Mayer — "Not Myself"**
Patrick Burk, linguistics sophomore
- ESPN: Pardon the Interruption podcast**
Patrick Gilkey, psychology junior
- Lil' Wayne — "You Ain't Know"**
Natasha Perry, psychology junior

ontap | For the week of JAN. 17 — JAN. 23

- TONIGHT**
Vertigo USA: A Tribute to U2
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$6.
- FRIDAY, Jan. 18**
The Yellow Belts w/ The Vibrolas and Arsenic on the Rocks
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.
- WINTER ROCK OUT**
11 p.m., Phoenix Hill Tavern, Louisville. Tickets cost \$11.
- Lagniappe**
10 p.m., The Southgate House, Newport. Tickets are free.
- SATURDAY, Jan. 19**
The Scourge of the Sea w/ Murder Mystery and Some Other Meanness
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.
- SUNDAY, Jan. 20**
Martin Saxton
8 p.m., Headliners, Louisville. Tickets cost \$21.
- TUESDAY, Jan. 22**
All Time Low
8 p.m., Uncle Pleasants, Louisville. Tickets cost \$11.
- WEDNESDAY, Jan. 23**
Young Guns of Comedy
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$3.
- Dan Mecher w/ Rusty Morris and Max Fender**
9 p.m., The Southgate House, Newport. Tickets are free.

COMPILED BY FEATURES EDITOR EMILY COOVERT

MAKE YOUR WEEKEND PLANS

- Gearing up**
Hot rods and monster trucks will be ripping it up at Rupp Arena this weekend. The Winternationals will be held at 8 p.m. Friday and 7 p.m. Saturday. Spectators can also watch the Southeast's first indoor rock climbing competition. Tickets cost \$18 to \$22 and can be purchased at Rupp Arena's Web site (www.rupparena.com). For more information, call 233-3535.
- Jamming with Buddies**
Sit back and enjoy the melodies of the Three Girls and their Buddy tour. Emmiyou Harris, Patty Griffin, Shawn Colvin and Buddy Miller will be performing at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the Singletary Center for the Arts. Admission is \$60 for the general public, \$50 for senior citizens and UK faculty and staff, and \$40 for students. For more information, visit the Singletary Center's Web site (www.uky.edu/SCFA).
- Dazzle with Dribbling**
Still amazing crowds after 82 years, the Harlem Globetrotters are coming to Lexington. They will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday in Rupp Arena. Tickets range from \$20 to \$91 and can be purchased online through the Ticketmaster Web site (www.ticketmaster.com). For more information, call 233-3535.

The old family slideshow gets a modern update

By Jay Clarke
McClatchy Newspapers

MIAMI — You've gone on a great trip, taken tons of digital photos. Now, how to share them with family and friends?

For growing numbers of travelers, the answer is an online photo album.

Making one "is very easy," said Elaine Hoffman, a psychotherapist who shuttles between an office in Miami and a home in Washington. "I love what these sites are capable of doing, the ability to be creative, to edit, to crop, to use different formats. It's very exciting."

Dozens — maybe hundreds — of

Web sites now offer albums that can be shared online or printed and bound into a traditional book.

Kodak Gallery (www.kodakgallery.com), one of the biggest companies, has 60 million members and "billions" of photos under management, according to the company's Liz Scanlon. Snapfish (www.snapfish.com) says it has 40 million users. Shutterfly (www.shutterfly.com) claims 1.5 billion photos, and even SmugMug (www.smugmug.com), which admits to being smaller than the big companies, boasts 205 million photos.

Online albums have even gone to

See Slideshows on page 4

7		3	8	
Putting logic skills to the test				
Students have a chance to put down their Rubik's Cubes and come test their logical skills with the latest puzzle craze to sweep the nation.				
The logic game Sudoku has become so popular that a free tournament is being offered to students and faculty tonight from 8 to 10 in the Cats Den, located in the Student Center.				
Sudoku, a short form of the Japanese words meaning "only single numbers allowed," became popular in the United States after taking hold in Britain around 2004. Now newspapers across the country, including the Kernel, publish Sudoku puzzles.				
According to an e-mail from the Cats Den, the puzzles at the tournament consist of easy, challenging and difficult levels, and participants will be judged on time and accuracy.				
Student winners will receive gift certificates for various restaurants.				
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SKULLS

Continued from page 3

sold skull apparel to customers in their 60s.

"It's hard to define who's going to buy it," he says. "Some people buy it to go to a party to look tough. And some people buy it to wear all the time."

So what, exactly, is it about skulls?

"The appeal is the badass image — the bad boy," Loukakis says.

Ryan Olgren, a 16-year-old Mitchell High School student, in Colorado Springs, agreed. Though he owns only one skull T-shirt, he says it does evoke a certain je ne sais quoi — mostly because skulls represent pirates.

"People like pirates because they're rebellious," he says.

The design that accompanies the skull — pirates, hearts or a death-metal scene — also determines how edgy the message is, says 17-year-old Damon Lowe.

"There's the skulls that are for girls that are like cute — the eyes are hearts and stuff," Lowe says. "Then there's the skulls for guys that are all rugged."



Which is what made Mc-Queen's scarf edgy: Plastering a human head on high-end fashion was cutting edge, says Simon Ungless, director of graduate fashion at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.

But now that skulls are mainstream — they are in Colorado Springs, after all — some couture lines have since shied away from them.

Still, there's evidence that high-end skull style is alive and well. British artist Damien Hirst recently sold a human skull cast in 8,601 diamonds for \$100 million. Also available: a Thes Femur ring sold for about \$18,800, and a sterling silver King Baby Studio skull bracelet sold for \$725 at Neiman Marcus.

Or, save yourself a few bones and buy a pair of \$4.99 skull shoelaces from Hot Topic.

SLIDESHOWS

Continued from page 3

sea. Earlier this year, according to Photoworks (www.photoworks.com), Carnival became the first cruise line to offer photo-album creations on board.

"It's grown exponentially," said Jessy Hanley, director of photo services for Myphotoalbum (www.myphotoalbum.com). "Each year we've grown by 50 percent."

Miamian Mark Hunsberger learned about them from a traveler last year in Switzerland.

"Now I have 4,000 photos on my Web site," said Hunsberger, who chose Myphotoalbum as his service. "I have 242 cousins and I sent links to the Web site to all of them." If he has just a few photos to share with family and friends, he said, he e-mails them instead.

How it works
Even for point-and-shooters, the process is easy. The photographer creates an account (often free) with one of many online photo services, uploads his photos as directed, then selects the best for an online album, complete with captions and decoration. Then he can give family and friends access to his Web site or account and they can view the photos on line.

For those who want something tangible, print-and-bound options run \$19.99-\$29.99 for a standard size linen-covered book of 20 pages with as many as a dozen or more photos per page. Leather-bound books and larger sizes cost more. Extra pages and different sizes also are offered, with varying prices; shipping costs are extra.

As strike strangles TV season, industry frets over its future

By Glenn Garvin
McClatchy Newspapers

Like mutilated corpses on "CSI" or "Law & Order," the victims of a television writers strike are starting to pile up: Last week's People's Choice Awards, Sunday night's Golden Globes ceremony. The rest of this TV season, and very soon, Hollywood insiders say, next season as well.

Although the increasingly bitter strike is in its third month, a stockpile of completed shows kept it largely invisible to TV viewers until the replacement of Sunday's glitzy Golden Globes ceremony with a dry, celebrity-free press conference. (Things aren't looking so hot for the Globes' big brother, the Oscars ceremony, either.)

But the backlog of finished programs is about to run dry. And industry players say the refusal of writers to produce scripts has made it impossible not only to resume this TV sea-

son, but to plan the next one.

The strike, they say, has quietly strangled the pilot season, when network executives order sample episodes of proposed new shows for next fall. Even if the work stoppage were to be resolved tomorrow — and nobody expects that — the TV networks would have trouble stitching together a fall season.

"I don't think it's going to end anytime soon," says one network official. "I don't know what the worst-case scenario is, but none of it's good."

The strike has inflicted hundreds of millions of dollars in damage, thrown thousands of stage hands, technicians, teamsters and production personnel out of work, and sent economic ripples through every segment of Hollywood, hurting everyone from caterers to agents.

Because the backlog of original programs kept networks schedules relatively normal through December — and

Nielsen ratings typically dip during the Christmas season anyway — there is no evidence yet of a massive desertion by the TV audience. But there are signs that viewers are restless.

The Internet video site YouTube's audience has jumped 18 percent in the past two months. Crackle.com, a Web site that offers short scripted shows, more than doubled its hits in November and December.

"If the television viewing experience is altered negatively by the strike, it makes sense that people are going to try another platform," says Josh Felser, the former Fox executive who founded Crackle. Adds Jim Louderback, chief executive officer at Revision3.com, another video-sharing website with a billowing audience: "Once they've seen us, will those people spend as much time watching TV? Not if we do our jobs right — they'll find some of our shows addictive."

ABC's fading news show "Nightline," competing only against reruns of late-night talk shows, scored its best ratings in years and finished ahead of David Letterman's "Late Show" in one key demographic group in the quarterly Nielsens. Letterman promptly reached a side deal with the union that allowed him to go back to work with his writers ("I know what you're thinking," Letterman cracked during his first monologue. "You're thinking: This crap is written?"), and Jay Leno and others returned to the air with makeshift shows.

Ratings also have surged for new reality shows, which are not affected by the strike because they are produced without scripts. NBC, battered all season in the Nielsens, racked up big numbers three times in a week this month with the debuts of "American Gladiator," "The Biggest Loser 5" and "The Celebrity Apprentice."

Fox's slumping 'American Idol' tries to get back in tune

By Mark Washburn
McClatchy Newspapers

"American Idol," television's ratings juggernaut, returns this week, on a slightly sour note.

For the first time, there are signs the nation's infatuation with the annual distraction may be cooling.

Ratings dipped last season. Record sales from the most recent crop of finalists have been disappointing. Last year's concert tour failed to sell out in some cities. And two former winners, Ruben Studdard and Taylor Hicks, have lost their recording contracts.

Taken together, the indicators may signal that the show's heady growth days may be fading. But as a franchise, "American Idol" remains rock-solid.

Even in the off-year of 2007, it was by far television's No. 1 prime-time series. And even though it weakened in the all-important 18-34 age range of viewers that advertisers are willing to pay a premium to reach, it still posted young demographics that were a Madison Avenue dream.

Simon Cowell, the acerbic judge who became one of TV's best-known figures through the show, says it faltered last year because it just wasn't as good.

"It just wasn't one of our better seasons and you get that on all these types of competition shows," he said in a telephone conference call with reporters. "You get great years and not so great years."

Last season's crop of finalists — typified by the weak-throated but well-Mohawked Sanjaya Malakar — were widely considered to be deficient in appeal compared with the breakout personalities of other years like Hicks, Kellie Pickler, Kelly Clarkson and Clay Aiken.

This season, Cowell says, he and fellow judges Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson have been drawing more heavily on the kinds of quirky, upstart unknowns making waves on YouTube with their videos.

"It is younger. I think the talent is more current. They're more interesting as people. So I go into this season a lot more optimistic than I went in last year."

"I mean, Paula and Randy went on record last year saying 'The bar has been raised' and all that nonsense and 'This is going to be one of the best years.' I didn't go along with that. I didn't believe it, but I will go on record this year in saying it is one of the strongest lineups we've had."

Keeping the show fresh is a priority for Fox. Ratings fell by about 2 million viewers a week 28 million last season.

This year, says executive producer Ken Warwick, there will be changes. Contestants will be allowed to play instruments and the



Fox's "American Idol" returned for its seventh season in a two-night, four-hour season premiere Tuesday. Pictured from left are judges Randy Jackson, Paula Abdul and Simon Cowell.

number of guest mentors will be cut. One week will be devoted again to the charity shows for "Idol Gives Back," which raised \$75 million last year to fight poverty.

One factor that plays to "Idol's" advantage is the ongoing Hollywood writers' strike, which is drastically reducing the number of scripted dramas and comedies with fresh episodes.

Cowell admits that in the crush of contestants, some good ones probably get overlooked. But listening to 100 hopefuls a day is a grueling test for the judges.

"It is torture," he says.

Simon Says

Five questions for "American Idol" judge Simon Cowell:

Q. Does it surprise you that Ruben Studdard and Taylor Hicks, two past winners, have been dropped from their recording contracts?

A. Based on their record sales, I'm not surprised. Chris Daughtry, who only came fourth, does amazing business last year. And then somebody like Ruben who we thought was one of our better competitors doesn't do as well as you want. It is the record business. It's unpredictable.

Q. There's been criticism of the judges for being cruel to auditioning singers. Are you guys just telling it like it is?

A. There are times when you watch the show back and hate yourself for what you said at the time and that's partly because you don't know the person's back story before they walk in the room. For all I know, their dog had died an hour ago and they're singing this in memory of the dog and I or anyone

else is rude and when you see the whole story unfold it's horrible. I think at the end of the day, every person who comes on the show, they have seen "American Idol" before. I think they know what they're in store for if they're not a very good singer. Often we'll go in to meet them beforehand and say to them, "Look, if anybody's bothered by criticism, I wouldn't bother coming into the auditions," and they still come in. So they kind of know what to expect. I hope that most of what we say is meant as either constructive criticism or just being honest saying to people, "Don't give up your day job."

Q. Does good talent slip through the cracks during auditions?

A. I'm sure it does happen. You have to make a snapshot decision. It's not science. It's based on instincts and emotion. I think most importantly you're trying to second-guess what you think the public is going to like.

Q. Are people afraid of you because of your blunt persona?

A. They're very nice to mean people like me. I hope over the years that people realize I know what I'm talking about, and secondly, that it's actually more cruel to lie to someone or give them false expectations rather than tell them the truth.

Q. Was the hurricane hurt by Sanjaya staying in so long?

A. I don't think it did any harm at all because he didn't win. There was a point halfway through when it did occur to me after some absolutely horrific performances and the public kept him in that we actually might have a problem. Now I look back and I laugh because he was harmless. He had a run. He had some fun. He was actually a very nice kid.

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JENDA

Continued from page 1

vice president for institutional diversity in place by July 1, 2007, but the original final five candidates either were not selected or elected.

After a second round, the search committee selected Jenda and Judy "J.J." Jackson, dean of the college at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., as the final two candidates. Jackson visited campus last

week.

UK has no definite time frame for when the position will be filled, UK spokesman Jay Blanton said last week, as is the case for most high-level positions.

"The success of Dr. Jackson's visit last week reinforced why she was selected," Jordan said. "I am confident that Dr. Jenda's visit this week will do the same."

As with last week's open forum, students, staff and faculty may ask Jenda questions today. After the forum ends, comments

and recommendations can be submitted to Provost Kumble Subbaswamy through a form available on the provost's Web site (www.uky.edu/Provost/VFID.htm) before he makes the final decision on who will be offered the job.

"One of the most important moments in the search process has now arrived," Jordan said, "the moment when the UK community shares its views with President (Lee) Todd and Provost Subbaswamy. No one can afford to be silent."

SG

Continued from page 1

"I think it's a good problem to have, to have too many voices," he said.

The Internal Affairs committee passed the amendment forward to the Senate without an opinion, and the Academic and Student Affairs committee voted not to recommend the expansion.

"It's hard enough to get 40 senators involved," said Jackie Colgate, Academic and Student Affairs chair. "We deal with this every year, so why add five more people?"

Another amendment discussed by the committees concerned modifying the Elections Act of 2007. The amendment, which was recommended to the Senate by Internal Affairs, would put candidates' platforms on the same Web site as the vot-

ing link. This would allow students to view a profile of the candidates before actually voting. The Academic and Student Affairs committee also approved the legislation.

Many senators had concerns about allowing online voting for the SG elections because they said it would be easy for candidates to manipulate the system.

Some of the Internal Affairs members had researched other universities' voting systems and said schools including Louisiana State University and Vanderbilt University had great success with online voting.

Sen. Jon Brown said online voting would be easier for students, but there are potential problems.

"I think it will overwhelmingly increase voter turnout, but it's really about how the process is conducted," Brown said.

Internal Affairs tabled a bill concerning polling locations and

recommended a bill concerning the confirmations of the Election Board of Supervisors.

The Academic and Student Affairs committee voted to recommend a resolution concerning a guest ticket policy for regular season football games on to the Senate. The resolution requests that the commissioner of the Southeastern Conference create a policy that reserves a minimum of 500 guest student tickets in the lower section of all SEC games.

Five student organizations received funding from the Appropriations and Revenue committee last night. The committee also approved four Senate special projects that will be voted on by the full Senate next week. Sen. Mary Bosserman was elected as the new vice-chair for the committee following Sen. Kevin Parrott's promotion after former A&R chairman Jesse Parrish resigned on Tuesday.

ENCYCLOPEDIA

Continued from page 1

\$737,000 for supplies, staff support, indexing and research assistance. Volunteer writers for the print and electronic editions are needed as well.

Those interested in contributing can get more information at the encyclopedia's Web site (www.uky.edu/KAEE). Donations can be mailed to the Kentucky African-American Encyclopedia Project c/o The Thomas Clark Foundation, The University Press of Kentucky, 663 S. Limestone St., Lexington, KY 10508-4008.

NEWS BRIEF

Film screening to stress awareness of cyclone

The Late Night Film series, in conjunction with the Muslim Student Association, African Student Association and Student Diversity Engagement, will be showing "The Namesake," a film about an Indian immigrant in America tomorrow night.

The screening is an attempt to raise awareness about Cyclone Sidr, which devastated Bangladesh in November 2007, killing over

3,100 and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless. Bangladeshi students at UK will speak and a fundraiser with the Muslim Student Association, African Student Association and Student Diversity Engagement will follow in March, during Cultural Diversity Month.

The movie will start at 10 p.m. in the Center Theater in the Student Center. Tickets are free.

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Republican Presidential candidate Mitt Romney addresses the crowd gathered at Sun City Hilton Head in greater Bluffton, South Carolina, Wednesday morning.

Recession fears may provide new argument for Romney

By David Lightman
McClatchy Newspapers

ROMULUS, Mich. — As Americans grow increasingly anxious about whether the economy is sinking into recession, Mitt Romney may find that just being himself is the best way to campaign for the Republican presidential nomination.

The former Massachusetts governor has spent months, and millions, trying to convince voters that he's the true heir to Ronald Reagan and a devout social conservative. For that he's drawn scorn from critics who remember his moderate views a few years ago on matters such as abortion and gay rights.

Romney scored his first big Republican primary victory Tuesday in Michigan largely by emphasizing his background as a successful business executive who knows how to foster innovation, change and prosperity. That may be his best, and most authentic, sales pitch.

"He had tried for months to be Jerry Falwell, when he should have been running as Lee Iacocca," said Dennis Gold-

ford, a professor of politics at Iowa's Drake University. Falwell was the founder of the Moral Majority; Iacocca is an auto industry legend who helped develop the Ford Mustang and rescued the sinking Chrysler Corp. in the 1980s.

In the weeks ahead, the presidential campaign will move into states with potentially big economic problems at a time when financial well-being has vaulted to the top of voters' concerns.

Romney's background includes creating Bain Capital, a successful venture-capital investment firm, and rescuing the scandal-racked 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, where he erased a \$379 million operating deficit.

At Bain, Romney notes, his success stories include the Staples office supply chain, which his firm helped get started in 1986. It also aided Domino's Pizza, Brookstone and Sports Authority. Today, Bain itself has about 2,000 employees worldwide and Romney is worth several hundred million dollars.

His history, though, also could subject him to new scruti-

ny. Massachusetts AFL-CIO legislative director Tim Sullivan brands Romney a "vulture capitalist" who invested in firms that cut jobs and closed plants. Romney argues that his ability to help companies created jobs.

His tenure as Massachusetts governor from 2003 until last January left behind a lot of unimpressed people, including former Republican Gov. Jane Swift.

"Mitt Romney has a reputation of saying anything to win. A comparison of his record versus his rhetoric on the economy shows why," said Swift, who was pushed aside in 2002 so that Romney could run and now backs Arizona Sen. John McCain's White House bid.

When Romney took office, he inherited a \$3.2 billion budget deficit. He eliminated it while avoiding any broad-based tax increase. He closed corporate tax loopholes, which brought in an estimated \$400 million annually, and increased fees for a number of services, which produced \$250 million to \$500 million.

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■ KERNEL EDITORIAL

Governor's speech did little to address colleges' concerns

We had hoped Gov. Steve Beshear would offer a reasonable explanation for the funding cuts UK and other institutions may soon suffer in his State of the Commonwealth Address on Monday. We ended up tremendously disappointed.

In November 2007, Beshear expressed his excitement about UK's Top 20 Business Plan and said he would push for its full funding.

But last week, Beshear cut state universities' budgets by 3 percent for the rest of this fiscal year and warned them to prepare for reductions as high as 12 percent for next year, the Kernel reported Jan. 9.

"We can wring more efficiency out of state government and I intend to do just that. It's common sense, but it will require some painful sacrifices," Beshear said in his address.

We agree that many governmental agencies can withstand some budget cuts and remain fully functional. However, cutting academic and research programs — consequences that would inevitably follow from double-digit funding cuts — does not "wring out more efficiency" from institutions of higher learning. That's common sense.

In his address, Beshear calls for "re-engineering Kentucky's economy

from within," saying that it would bring additional investments in education. That is just empty rhetoric. How could Kentucky modernize its economy by cutting funding for education?

The budget cut UK suffers will set back the progress the university has made toward achieving the Top 20 Business Plan. Becoming a top-20 public research university by 2020 is not merely an internal goal of UK's — it was mandated by the General Assembly in House Bill 1 of 1997.

The university cannot achieve that goal without proper funding from state government. And with significant budget cuts, it will be extremely difficult for UK to function normally.

To face the current budgetary shortfall, Beshear said there are two options: raise taxes or cut spending. He then ruled out the possibility of raising taxes and promised that it will remain his last resort for as long as he is in office.

But Beshear should leave all policy options on the table before imposing sizable cuts on higher education. If targeted tax increases could help raise revenues for universities without hurting the state economy, they at least deserve the governor's consideration.

Beshear calls for 're-engineering Kentucky's economy from within,' but how could the state modernize by cutting funds for higher education?

Don't loosen gun rules on national park grounds

The following editorial appeared in the Miami Herald on Monday:

Welcome to the American national park system where the camper in the next space over may be packing heat. What a peaceful thought as you try to snooze under the stars.

Yet, there's a letter circulating in the U.S. Senate that has attracted 47 signatories aimed at easing federal regulations on the carrying of firearms in national parks.

Written by Idaho Republican Mike Crapo, the letter is directed to Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne and seems reasonable on its face. It would require the park system to recognize state firearms laws in national parks. This would make department policy consistent because state firearms laws apply on other Interior lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service.

The proposal doesn't turn the national parks into a Wild West of gun-toting hunters, but it isn't necessary. Currently, the park system permits the presence of guns for authorized hunting and target shooting and allows park-goers to carry guns in car trunks or other areas of vehicles that aren't readily accessible. But holders of state gun permits aren't permitted to openly carry accessible weapons.

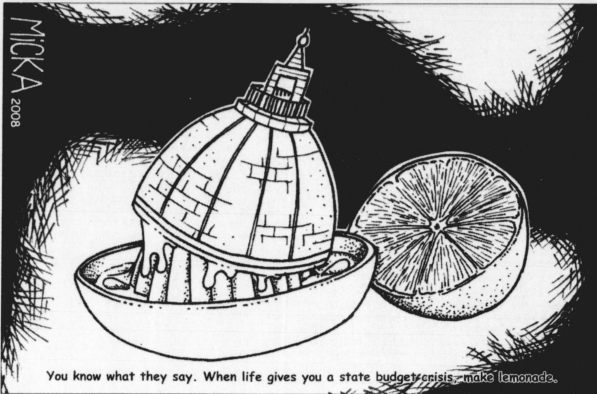
First off, these are national parks with visitors from states throughout the nation with a variety of weapons

laws. The interests of consistency should lie with all visitors at all national parks. It should be little more than a minor annoyance for, say, residents of states bordering Yellowstone to stow their rifles when driving through the park.

Second, there simply is no good reason to have a weapon handy while visiting a park. The numbers of attacks by wild animals on park visitors complying with park rules and the dictates of common sense do not justify the danger to others of, say, city folk firing at strange noises in the night, which may be someone else at the campsite or a bear more interested in potato chips that weren't properly stowed than in human morsels in the tent.

Third, national parks aren't hotbeds of crime, but they do suffer from an overtaxed ranger service that doesn't need more law-enforcement responsibilities. Throw in the accessibility of guns — and the perception that it's OK to have guns in the parks — with the mindlessness some display when on vacation, and the mix isn't pretty. Nor should rangers be faced with yet more complications for controlling illegal hunting and poaching in parks.

The current regulations have been in effect for more than two decades. Changing them doesn't solve a pressing problem in the parks; rather it serves only to make a political statement at the expense of the safety of people and the wildlife they come to see.



Patrick Micka, Kernel cartoonist

Don't slip through the cracks — find your niche on campus

Welcome back! If you're reading this article, it most likely means one of two things: One, you made it through another semester here at UK and you're coming back for more; and two, you have already found your boring class and the one you have chosen to read the Kernel in.



BRYAN KENNEDY
Kernel columnist

The second semester of the year can mean a lot of things, especially depending on what year you are. For freshmen, you have found out that college is not so easy but are pretty close to figuring out how to handle everything.

If you're a sophomore, like me, you are almost in the middle of your college career, hoping that something new and exciting will hopefully present itself and trying not to fall into a sophomore slump.

Juniors are likely thinking that their time is winding down and that these classes can't pass fast enough.

And for seniors, the lucky ones, you are starting to realize that, in about three to four months, you will be entering the real world.

I don't have much to tell the other classes, but freshmen, here are some pointers to help you out.

I was truly ecstatic during this time last year. Not only had I gotten through my first semester of college, but I also had a 3.0 GPA and was going to be able to keep my scholarship. And if it wasn't for good old Math 109, I might have been a lot happier.

My first piece of advice to freshmen is to keep on going and strive for the best grades you can get. That might sound a little corny, but it's the truth. I ended last spring semester with a 2.5 GPA, just missing the Dean's List. Looking back, I know that I could have easily done better, but for some reason I became content with my grades. I stress to you to not become content with low grades or stop working hard for even better grades.

My second advice is to get involved on campus. If you still haven't found your niche on campus, I urge you to start looking. While the routine of going to class and going home may seem good for now, getting involved can open new doors that you never thought were possible.

It was at the end of fall semester during my freshman year that I found the Student Activities Board, which I am still involved in. SAB and the Kernel are among the things that I now cherish.

After getting involved in different organizations, I have met people I never dreamed of meeting. I have met people from different cities, states and countries; I have met professional ath-

letes and even shook the hand of the mayor of Louisville. But if I had just

While the routine of going to class and going home may seem good for now, getting involved can open new doors that you never thought were possible.

sat around the dorm all day, I would have never accomplished any of the things I have done now.

I'm sure that you have heard this before you came to UK: College is the best time of your life, and you should make the best of it. I've heard that many times now, but it's the truth. The next three or so years are going to be years that you hopefully will never forget, and it's your job to make sure of that.

I don't mean to pull a Dr. Phil on you or be an inspirational speaker like Tony Robbins, but I encourage you to make the best of your time to come. After your graduation, your time in college is up. Make sure you don't regret anything.

Bryan Kennedy is a journalist sophomore. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

Say goodbye to media sensations over politicians' teary moments

Could the events of the New Hampshire primary go down in history as the last time a female candidate's "emotional moment" was deemed automatic front-page news? Isn't it about time?



SUE HUTCHISON
Syndicated columnist

Consider what a tedious trip it's been from the 1988 campaign when Rep. Pat Schroeder cried as she announced her withdrawal from the presidential race to this month when Sen. Hillary Clinton's eyes welled and her voice wavered as she explained why she was fighting to recapture her spot as the front-runner for the Democratic nomination.

Schroeder's was the sob heard 'round the nation, complete with pundits and even a few feminists screaming about what would happen if a weepin' woman's finger was on the nuclear button.

"I was the Queen of Tears," Schroeder told me this month, laughing derisively at the memory. "Four years after that I kept a 'crying file' of all the politicians who choked up in public, from Margaret Thatcher to Ronald Reagan to George Bush ... the list goes on. It was hardly unique."

Fast-forward to Clinton's moment of fatigue on the eve of the New Hampshire primary when, in an uncharacteristic show of emotion, she

answered a female voter's question, haltingly, "I have so many opportunities from this country, I just don't want to see us fall backwards. This is very personal for me — it's not just political, it's not just public."

She might as well have bled from the eyes and spoken in tongues, given the media coverage that followed, complete with bloviating pundits and bloggers casting her as a weak sister or, more often, a calculating faker. (Never mind that Mitt Romney had gotten misty a few weeks earlier, and it didn't make headlines.)

But this was different from the Schroeder episode. Hillary's watery eyes were widely seen as a touch of "humanity" lacking from her public persona. She seemed to click on exactly the right combination of June Cleaver and public policy robot.

Or, as San Francisco-based political strategist Mary Hughes put it, "Voters got glimpses of authenticity that offset that aura of hyper-competence."

Rita Henley Jensen, founder of the online news service Women's eNews, said her readers were "distracted" by the sensational press coverage of Clinton's moment of emotion. Cristina Uribe, a San Francisco-based board member of Emily's List, the grass-roots fundraising organization for female political candidates, said she sensed a backlash from women voters against what they perceived as unfair ridicule of Clinton by the media.

Of course, there were other reasons for Clinton's win in New Hampshire. Jensen attributed much of it to

the large number of "graying women" in the state, who are Clinton's base.

The outcry over the hysterical coverage of Clinton's non-hysterical minute of emotion may put the brakes on such a knee-jerk media reaction in the future.

Hughes said it had to do with Clinton's stronger campaign presence in New Hampshire than in Iowa and the number of undecided voters who shifted to Clinton at the last minute: "Her campaign was ready for luck."

Still, the outcry over the hysterical coverage of Clinton's non-hysterical minute of emotion may put the brakes on such a knee-jerk media reaction in the future.

"She survived it," — maybe even thrived on it — "and the people who look the most foolish are those who made a big deal criticizing it," Schroeder told me.

This might mark the beginning of the end of female candidates so often being dismissed as what Schroeder calls "too something, too soft, too harsh, too fluffy, too austere."

That would be progress worth getting checked up about.

Sue Hutchison is a columnist for the San Jose Mercury News. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Linsen Li. Please limit letters to 350 words or fewer. Be sure to include your full name, class, major and phone number (for confirmation).

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15 "Nessus doma," for one
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18 Lascivious look
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20 Enliven
22 Bread that was seeded
23 "Long Day's Journey Night"
26 Supply-and-demand subj.
27 Accord, e.g.
28 Shutting out, as suggestions
31 Foundation
34 Attack
37 Part of BPOE
38 "Foolish Games" singer
39 Author Austen
40 Floral necktie
41 Prestone competitor
42 "Cosmos" co-creator
43 Offer formally
45 Flaring to go
47 Elaborate party
48 Work with a skin
49 Eddy Arnold won his first Entertainer of the Yr. award
52 Light source since ancient times
55 Soap suds
57 Seethe
58 Spy novelist who wrote "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang"
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63 As well
64 Scream in a strip
65 Moth-eaten
66 Uncultured, in a white order

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8 Affirmative votes
9 Accelerator
10 Resumption-of-the-auto-race signal
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15 Reynolds' Wrap maker
17 Fast food staple
21 Refreshing rapper?
24 Stun gun
25 Common pay period
27 Certain sib
29 Singer Turner
30 Hot spot
31 Hit with a haymaker
32 Sheltered, nautical?
33 Nude model

35 Houston athlete since 2002
52 Theater award
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59 HBO's "Inside the _____" and "hidden theme in this puzzle's four longest answers)
60 "For shame!"

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UK seeks second shocker in three years against Vols

By Kenny Colston
kcolston@kykernel.com

Almost two years ago, UK Hoops sent shockwaves through women's college basketball when it upset then-No. 1 Tennessee 66-63 at Rupp Arena.

The Cats, at the time, were on their way to one of the most successful seasons in recent history, and topping the most storied team in the nation propelled them to a 22-win season and UK's first NCAA Tournament berth in seven years.

Fast-forward to 2008. The Lady Volunteers are the No. 2 team in the nation coming to UK tonight and, as always, are one of the favorites to cut down the nets at the end of the season.

The Cats on the other hand have taken a turn south since the upset at Rupp. Two years after its landmark victory, UK is struggling midway through the season. The Cats are just 8-8 under first-year head coach Matthew Mitchell and have just one quality win to date.

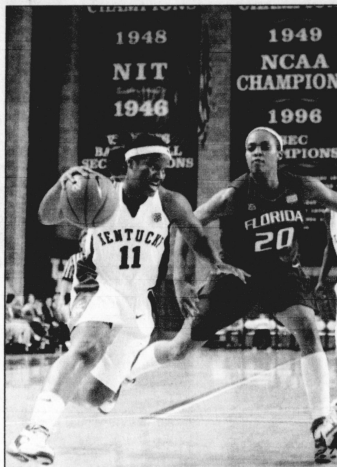
But even though the stakes and venue have changed — UK will battle the Lady Vols in Memorial Coliseum — a win tonight could turn the Cats' season around, a big reason why Tennessee head coach Pat Summitt warned her team not to take UK lightly.

"When we head that way, we'll definitely remember what happened the last time we played at Kentucky," Summitt said in a teleconference. "That was obviously a night that I felt like Kentucky played terrific. They obviously found a way to win."

And while Summitt said her team has not focused on what remains as arguably the biggest win in UK Hoops history, it will be a topic of discussion as her team prepares to play the Cats tonight.

"We haven't talked about it, because we've been taking it one game at a time," Summitt said. "But now as we prepare to play (tonight), there's no doubt in my mind it's something they will talk about and we will talk about."

But according to the Cats, that game was so two years ago. "I don't know that the win two years ago factors into this game," Mitchell said.



Senior guard Samantha Mahoney drives by Florida's Depree Bowden as the Cats beat the Gators 60-58 on Jan. 10.

The few UK players remaining from that historic win said they are not playing the same team they faced two years ago.

"It helps in the back of our minds that we beat them," junior forward Eleia Roddy said. "But it's a different team."

When UK and Tennessee step on the floor tomorrow night, it will be uncharted territory for the border-state rivalry as both the Cats and the Lady Vols are 2-0 in the conference. Opening conference play undefeated has given the Cats some newfound confidence after a 6-8 start to the year.

"Our team feels better about themselves than they did a week ago," Mitchell said.

But UK's biggest problem is going to be slowing down All-American junior forward Candace Parker, who leads the Southeastern Conference in scoring at 20.9 points a game. Parker also ranks in the top-10 in rebounds with eight per game.

"She may be the best women's player — pro or college," Mitchell said. "Defenders have to have a short memory because if you start to hang your head against her she'll take advantage of it."

Parker is also the reigning John Wooden Player of the Year. "She's a great player," senior guard Samantha Mahoney said. "You just have to try and contain her."

Injuries are not helping UK's chances. Starters junior guard Carly Ormerod and senior center Sarah Elliott are doubtful for tonight's game. Both Ormerod and Elliott were key players in UK's last defeat of Tennessee.

That means UK will continue to rely on freshman forward Victoria Dunlap, a Nashville native and the reigning SEC Freshman of the Week, in the low post. In two conference games, Dunlap has averaged 11 points and 8 rebounds.

Tournaments help Cats gear up for start of regular season

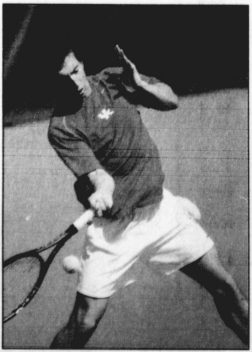
By Laura Pepper
lpepper@kykernel.com

With a little over one week remaining before the regular season and a little over two weeks until its first home match, the UK men's tennis team is preparing rigorously to better its 13-15 performance in 2007.

During the fall season, team members competed solely in tournament play. Fall tournaments allow players to improve their personal game without worrying about regular season rules, such as team scores.

Besides practices, team members had the opportunity to condition for the regular season in nine tournaments that began in September. The tournament record does not count toward UK's regular season record.

"In the tournaments, we try to get the players exposed to the pressures of match play. It is a



Junior Bruno Agnostinelli returns a volley in UK's 6-1 loss to Tennessee last season. The UK men's tennis team will begin its regular season Jan. 27.

lot different than in practice," head coach Dennis Emery said. "It helps them to prepare for the dual match season. They can see how fit they are."

Because of the tournament schedule this season, the senior players participated in the fall tournaments but are not competing in the January tournaments. Instead, players who were injured earlier in the season are being given the opportunity to play this month.

"Most times, we try to get all players into the tournaments," Emery said.

Junior Shane Collins was the only UK player that participated in the Notre Dame Invitational, which took place over the weekend. The tournament gave him his first playing time since he underwent surgery to remove a bone from his hand, which sidelined him for over three months.

"Coming back last weekend, I got my mind back into playing matches," Collins said. "Last weekend was just to get back in the swing of things. This weekend, I am going to expect a lot more out of my game."

Collins went 1-2 in the tournament, which included players from No. 12 Notre Dame and No. 3 Ohio State.

"He did pretty good coming out of the box in his first match play since July," Emery said. "It was a pretty competitive field."

Collins, freshman Alberto Gonzalez and freshman Will Beck are scheduled to play in the Ohio State Invitational, which is held Friday through Sunday.

While these players compete in the January tournaments, the rest of team continues to practice six days a week.

"We do quite a bit during practice; it's pretty intense," Emery said. "They work on getting more athletic and improving their individual skills."

Senior Will Ward, who participated in three of the fall tournaments, is coming off of two wrist surgeries on his right hand. He is using the practice time to focus on recovering for the regular season.

"I don't know if I'm going to be 100 percent for the first couple of matches," Ward said. "We have two double-headers against strong teams that are going to be tough, good matches against Indiana and Virginia, who is ranked No. 1 preseason. I am trying to get 100 percent healthy."

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