

KENTUCKY KERNEL

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UK dining eliminates trans fat in its meals

By Erica Mitchell
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UK has joined the trans fat ban, eliminating it from food served at most campus dining facilities.

Starting last semester all campus dining locations managed by UK Dining Services began cooking without trans fat. Chic-Fil-A is the only restaurant operated by UK Dining Services that still uses food with trans fat.

"The dining service is moving forward in menu development," said Parker Edwards, administrative staff officer at UK Dining Services.

Even Starbucks, which has three locations on campus and one in the Kentucky Clinic, has announced it will remove trans fat from the only drink that contained it and from its seasonal baked goods.

Edwards said one of the first steps UK Dining Services took was changing the frying oil to trans fat-free oil. Chicken fingers and french fries, number one sellers at the Commons Market, are among menu items cooked with frying oil.

While many restaurants are concerned that customers may not like the trans fat-free foods, UK has not faced that problem.

Edwards hasn't heard any student complaints about the new, healthier food.

Trans fat is formed when liquid oils are made into solid fats in a process called hydrogenation. Although trans fats occur naturally in small amounts — mostly in meat and dairy products — its artificial trans fat that can be the most harmful.

Among those foods with artificial trans fats is partially hydrogenated vegetable oil, which can sometimes be found in cookies, crackers and other prepackaged shelf foods.

Trans fat, which is favored because of its long shelf life and frying capability, is also found in most fried foods.

Trans fat contributes to heart disease by raising bad cholesterol and lowering good cholesterol.

Jill Kindy, health education coordinator at University Health Services, said more young people are beginning to encounter high cholesterol and high blood pressure, which can be attributed to a long-term intake of excess fats combined with overall poor health habits.

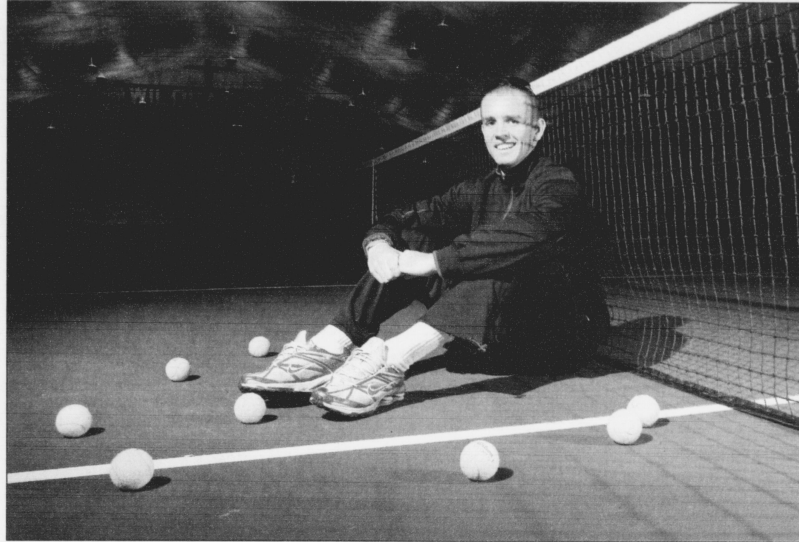
"Heart disease isn't just for the middle-aged anymore," she said.

Kindy also said the daily intake of saturated fats, another "bad" fat, should not exceed 20 grams and the ideal daily intake of trans fat is zero grams.

Although UK is on the track to healthier eating with trans fat-free foods, the reduction of this fat alone will not make up for eating poorly, Kindy said.

"Students need to remember that while having trans fat removed from their diet is a good first step toward healthy eating, (they) still need to eat well and exercise to prevent future health problems," Kindy said.

BOUNCING BACK



Junior men's tennis player Will Ward transferred to UK after losing his scholarship at Baylor University. Ward said he hopes to play professional tennis after college. ED MATTHEWS | STAFF

Tennis transfer will face off against his old team

By Kenny Colston
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In the only sport where love is part of the game, UK men's tennis player Will Ward received little from his former team, Baylor University.

But when No. 2 Baylor and the No. 31 Cats meet today, the feeling for Ward might be awkward.

"It'll be weird to face my old team, but I'll be professional about it," Ward said.

Baylor let Ward go at the end of last season when Baylor's coach gave away Ward's scholarship following his sophomore year.

Still, Ward said he isn't out for revenge against his old team.

"I'm still good friends with the guys at Baylor, and I'm going to treat it like any other

match," he said.

Head coach Dennis Emery said even though the match with Baylor will be an odd one for Ward, he won't be spiteful.

"The last time I talked to the coach at Baylor, he had nothing but positive things to say about Will," Emery said. "Will has no hard feelings."

Ward, a New Zealand native, was a top-20 player on the junior tennis circuit and one step away from becoming a professional.

But for him, the choice to go to college at Baylor was an easy one.

"Baylor was the No. 1-ranked team in college, and they offered me a scholarship, so why not?" Ward said.

It takes five to seven years for a junior player to transition into the pro circuit, something Ward said is different from other sports in the U.S., like baseball or basketball.

"I wanted to get a degree, but college tennis is a steppingstone (for the pros)," Ward said.

Ward's start at Baylor suffered setbacks when he was forced to sit out his freshman season.

"I had been out of high school too long according to the NCAA," he said.

In Ward's sophomore season, he led the team in dual match singles and doubles wins — including a win over UK — and helped the Bears to the NCAA semifinals, a feat that earned him team MVP honors.

After the season Ward e-mailed his coach to touch base.

"He wrote me back and said he was sorry, but my scholarship was given away," Ward said.

The team had given his scholarship up, assuming Ward would go into the professional circuit. But Ward hadn't decided to take the next

See **Tennis** on page 3

Heart Ball to raise money for childhood obesity

By Azra Drjevic
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Black ties and \$200 plates will come together tomorrow night to raise funds to help prevent childhood obesity.

UK HealthCare's Kentucky Children's Hospital is hosting the American Heart Association's Central Kentucky Heart Ball tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. at the Griffin Gate Marriott Resort on Newtown Pike.

The annual black-tie fundraiser, which raises money for heart research and disease prevention, is focusing this year's ball on child obesity and its links to premature death.

Excess weight is causing children to develop heart problems that are normally found in adults and can lead to conditions such as Type-2 diabetes, according to a news release.

"Diet problems in children can lead to heart disease and stroke," said Dr. Tim Bricker, chair of pediatrics at the children's hospital.

The AHA works to prevent these conditions by funding advocacy, education and research for heart disease and stroke. In the past years, the AHA has awarded \$5.4 million to the university and the UK College of Medicine to continue research, Bricker said.

"More Heart Association money goes for research in Kentucky than is

raised in Kentucky," Bricker said. "We're very successful in heart research."

The night's events include dinner, dancing, a silent auction and live auction. The Lexington Youth Ballet and the Dan Jackson Band will perform.

The theme for this year's ball is "Paint the Town Red...for a Healthier Generation."

"The Heart Association logo is red and being around Valentine's Day, it makes sense," said Kathy Lerza, executive director of Central Kentucky Heart Association.

Lerza said students are encouraged to volunteer to assist with registrations, escorting people to their seats and de-

livering items for auction. Currently, 40 volunteers have signed on to help with various tasks.

Integrated strategic communications senior Jessica Daniels is an intern for public relations at UK, and is helping with the ball.

"It doesn't matter what major you are," Daniels said. "It's a great opportunity to be part of something that's really going to help people."

Emily Long, a communications senior and an intern at the children's hospital, found out about the event from her supervisor and encouraged her roommates to volunteer as well.

"It's a great cause to volunteer

See **Heart Ball** on page 6



Juan LaFonta, a Louisiana state representative, speaks about the untold stories of Hurricane Katrina to students and faculty Thursday night at Memorial Coliseum. THOMAS SANDS | STAFF

La. Rep. discusses Katrina experience

By Katie Saltz
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Juan LaFonta saw snow fall for the first time last night as he spoke to UK students in Memorial Hall.

"I've lived my entire life in New Orleans," LaFonta said. "I've never seen the snow fall before."

LaFonta, a state representative for Louisiana, said the culture of the city is unlike any other in the United States.

"When people think of New Orleans they think of Mardi Gras and Bourbon Street," LaFonta said. "They never get into the real culture and community of the city."

LaFonta spoke about his experiences with Hurricane Katrina in his speech titled "New Orleans: The Tale of the Crescent

City." LaFonta told his story from the perspective of a politician and of a resident. LaFonta's personal account covered the immediate days after the storm.

"It was the closest thing to hell you would ever see in your life," LaFonta said.

He traveled from Atlanta to Baton Rouge, stopping at every exit to try to find gas and a road map. When he finally made it to New Orleans, LaFonta said he loaded down his Expedition with supplies from corporations like Wal-Mart and Coca-Cola.

"The corporations were overwhelmingly helpful," LaFonta said. "The effort was heartfelt, offering whatever we needed for the people."

LaFonta said that when he went to another Wal-Mart across the city to reload supplies the police were not letting any one in the building and blocking off entrances to the city.

"It was the closest thing to hell you would ever see in your life."

JUAN LAFONTA
Louisiana state representative, on the days after Hurricane Katrina

"The radios didn't work, so there was no communication," LaFonta said. "The policemen had guns and badges and could do whatever they wanted. A SWAT team was brought in to take care of the police, not the people."

LaFonta's speech was part of the Consensus Campus 101 series held by the Student Activities Board. Sade Jackson, an

See **New Orleans** on page 6

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Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black

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

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 7 - You're getting past the planning phase, and into the hard work part. Quickly assemble the team that will assist you.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 6 - The pressure is easing, and soon you can relax. Set up a cozy get-together with your favorite snuggler for tonight or tomorrow, or both.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 6 - The key to your success today is to study, study, study. Get the information to a person who needs

it, quickly.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 5 - The problem is not about shortages. You actually have plenty. You could go through it all in short order, though, if you get uninhibited.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 7 - You're becoming more effective, though the changes are hard to see. There'll be more money coming soon, and that's a nice indicator.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 6 - Hopefully, by now you have a new member of your team. This is a person who knows which questions to ask, and which buttons to push.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is an 8 - Focus on work. It's easier now - your adrenaline is pumping. You'll get more done in less time, and not a moment too soon.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 7 - Plan a get-together with friends for later today or tomorrow. All will not go smoothly, however. Hide all your breakables.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 6 - You may be tempted to run away from the whole big mess and start over. Instead, see what you can change about your attitude. A new perspective works wonders.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 7 - With all the money you've saved recently, you could get yourself a nice treat. That would wipe out your bonus, however. Take in a new movie instead.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 7 - Count the money regularly, even if it's tough. This is the one part of the job you can do that will make everything else work.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 6 - Don't quit in frustration; you're just about to get some help. You'll be getting more criticism, too, but that's a fair price to pay.

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Jessica and Justin: Getting hotter!

After making out at a Golden Globes afterparty, Hollywood's sexiest singles — Timberlake and Biel — take their hot-and-heavy romance to Sundance

THE DISH

"Let's go party," Justin Timberlake told the audience after his drama *Black Snake Moan* was met with a standing ovation at the movie's Sundance Film Festival premiere on January 24. But instead of lingering at the afterparty at Park City, Utah, club Celsius with the film's cast and crew, the actor-singer quickly headed to his \$1,950-a-night, four-bedroom condo at the Trail's End Lodge in nearby Deer Valley. Why would Hollywood's hottest singleton blow off his own party? The answer: Tinseltown's sexiest bachelorette, his new flame, Jessica Biel, had flown in that very night just to be with him. "He called her and asked her to come," says a source close to Biel, 24, who was spotted snowboarding with Timberlake, 26, the next day at the picturesque Park City Mountain Resort. "And she was like, 'What the hell? I'll go!' She is really spontaneous and fun."

No doubt her free spirit has kept the pop star — who even stayed an extra day in Utah just for Biel — under the actress' spell since their PDA session at a Golden Globes afterparty January 16. "What can you say? The girl is hot," a Timberlake friend says of the Stealth star and her hold on the singer, whose recent relationship with Scarlett Johansson — following his breakup from girlfriend of nearly four years Cameron Diaz — has since cooled down. "Jessica is the anti-Cameron," says another longtime pal of Biel. "She's very laid-back about things."

Indeed, her best friend and former 7th Heaven costar Beverly Mitchell tells Us, "She is such a mellow girl. She likes going to the beach and playing football." (That said, a source close to the Blade: Trinity heroine tells Us she did decide to skip her beloved weekly soccer game in L.A. to be with Timberlake in Utah.) And if a lasting romance develops with Timberlake, Mitchell will most likely approve: "He's an amazing guy."

Undercover Lovers

Before the Diaz breakup, the pair's paths crossed at L.A. club Social December 7. A month later, celebrity blogger Perez Hilton reported that Biel was spotted backstage at Timberlake's January 8 concert in San Diego. Things heated up at Prince's post-Golden Globes bash in Beverly Hills — so hot, in fact, that Diaz, 34, flew into a rage after watching the two grow increasingly touchy-feely. But the very public tantrum — which a fellow partier says began with the Holiday star yelling, "What is she, your f---ing girlfriend? Look at her!" — didn't quite have the effect Diaz desired, says a source. "After the fight, Justin and Jessica just went home together."

Since then, the couple have been making an effort to fly under the radar, even at the media- and-celebrity-saturated Sundance film fest. Though they rarely went out, a mutual pal who spent time with the lovebirds tells Us, "their relationship

looked like it was definitely working for them." And with rendezvous digs like Timberlake's private Deer

Valley condo — which comes complete with a spa and concierge service — who needs to go out? The pair stayed until January 26 and, says a source at the resort, "Justin and his group were fantastic guests." (Biel's rep, who won't comment on Timberlake, tells Us, "Jessica was in Sundance for a couple of days to see some movies.")

Biel wasn't totally snowed-in with Timberlake. It's true that, after the couple's snowboarding session, a solo Biel — wearing an off-the-shoulder shirt and with her hair in a ponytail — checked out the premiere of Lindsay Lohan's new flick *Chapter 27*, where a fellow filmmaker says Biel was repeatedly checking her cellphone during the movie's final minutes. (Lohan infamously screamed at her ex-assistant Lindsay Rattowsky in front of current employer Biel at the November 29 *Q* Men of the Year dinner.)

Why They Work

"Well, I love somebody who can make me laugh and be a goofball," Biel told *Cosmopolitan* in 2005 about what she finds attractive in a man. "I think it's incredibly sexy if a guy can look uncool and completely not care." So why is Timberlake the lucky guy? "She wants someone she can have fun with and who enjoys being active, and Justin would be perfect for that," says one Biel source.

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“We are obviously not the highest paid staff in the league, but we’re not also the worst.”

— Head football coach Rich Brooks, after signing a new contract giving him a \$1 million dollar annual salary.

VANDERBILT 63, UK 62

Cats can't hold on in final seconds

By Matthew George
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When her team is in the game, head coach Mickie DeMoss believes they can win.

And it appeared as if the UK women's basketball team was on its way to a win last night in Memorial Coliseum when junior guard Samantha Mahoney made the go-ahead layup with just 13 seconds left.

“We really believed (we could win tonight), it was not a false sense of hope,” DeMoss said.

But after a timeout, No. 15 Vanderbilt found senior guard Dee Davis, who drove to the basket and scored with 1.6 seconds left to give the Commodores a 63-62 win.

“I noticed they switched on their screens, and time was running down so I had to make a quick choice,” Davis said. “I knew they weren't going to foul so I just took it to the basket and prayed it went in.”

The Cats (14-9, 3-5 Southeastern Conference) had one last chance for a miracle with 1.9 seconds left, but the inbound pass was deflected as time ran out.

“I am very proud of the way we fought. We answered their runs, we had some big defensive plays and it is just a shame that someone had to lose that game.”

In the opening minutes of the game UK found no rhythm as the Commodores (19-4, 5-3 SEC) scored on their first four possessions to jump out to an early 9-0 lead. But senior Nastassia Alcius led the Cats back into the game, scoring

nine first-half points to cut Vanderbilt's lead to 31-30 at halftime.

A 6-0 run to start the second half gave the Cats their first lead of the game. Vanderbilt clamped down on defense, holding UK scoreless for the next five minutes. The Commodores rattled off a 20-6 run to go ahead 51-42, their biggest lead since the start of the game.

But the Cats had one more run in them. Junior forward Jennifer Humphrey scored a game-high 14 points to go along with Alcius's 14 points, putting the Cats in position to win the game.

With UK trailing 61-60, Mahoney dished to Franklin who made a layup to put the Cats ahead 62-61.

The Commodores called a timeout with 6.9 seconds to setup the play that would result in Davis's game-winning drive.

After the game, DeMoss applauded her team's effort and praised her two seniors.

“I am very proud of those two,” DeMoss said of Humphrey and Alcius. “They both made a lot of key plays.”

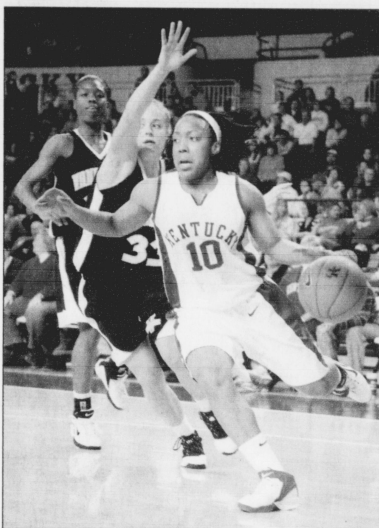
Christina Wirth scored 14 points to lead the Commodores. Carla Thomas pitched in with 11 points.

The Cats are now 0-4 against the nation's top-25 teams. Yesterday's loss was the team's sixth in its last eight games. Nine of UK's last eight games have been decided by 10 points or less.

“We just have to keep driving forward,” DeMoss said. “We know we did some great things tonight, and we are proud of the things that we did. We have six games left, and we just have to keep our expectations high.”

“We really believed (we could win tonight), it was not a false sense of hope.”

MICKIE DeMoss
head coach



Nastassia Alcius drives along the baseline during last night's game against Vanderbilt. Alcius had 14 points and three rebounds in the loss.



Mickie DeMoss reacts during the Cats 63-62 loss to No. 15 Vanderbilt last night in Memorial Coliseum.

JON BELLWOOD
STAFF

TENNIS

Continued from page 1

step in his career. Ward and Baylor could not come to agreement to keep Ward on campus.

“I had to fight Baylor in a lawsuit to release me, and I ended up winning the case,” Ward said.

UK was one of the few schools with a scholarship opening after Ward left Baylor.

UK jumped at the chance to for Ward to be on the team.

“(Ward) is talented, competitive and team-oriented in an individual sport and really has a chance at the next level,” Emery said.

Ward credits his decision to join the Cats to three factors: UK's coaches, the history of UK's program and the team's often strong standings in the Southeastern Conference.

“Coach Kaufman is the best coach in college tennis, and he's really helped my game,” Ward said.

Ward is looking forward to finishing his eligibility at UK and still has ambitions to join the senior circuit. He would like to play in a Davis Cup and return to his favorite tournament.

“My biggest goal is to return to Wimbledon — where I made the quarterfinals in juniors — and win,” Ward said.

Ward, who credits Lleyton Hewitt, John McEnroe and former coach Chris Lewis as his tennis role models, is ready to continue with the progress he's already made at UK.

Ward has not lost a match in singles or doubles this spring.

Sophomore Kyle Virgin, Ward's roommate, said that Baylor's loss would benefit the Cats this year.

“He and the other top players can push each other to get better, and Ward's intensity and vocal leadership is a huge asset,” Virgin said. “He can help us win the SEC, and I believe he could even make All-American in doubles.”

Emery said that Ward has a good chance to become the next notable pro to come out of UK.

But for now, Ward said he still has business to tend to.

“I have a lot to prove; my tennis is unfinished.”

UK Diving hopes to score high in SEC tournament

By Leila Kalegi
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For divers, a small splash usually translates to big scores.

The UK diving team, however, is looking to make a big splash as it hosts the Southeastern Conference Diving Championships today.

Head coach Michael Lyden — who just received SEC Coach of the Year honors for the second year in a row — said that he thinks this will be the “year of the Cat” and expects his squad to do well in today's meet.

“All the women should make finals and do very well,” Lyden said. “They're going to put a show on this weekend.”

Last Friday, both the men's and women's diving teams ended the regular season with their fourth straight win each.

Sophomore diver Justin Smith should be in the hunt for a medal, Lyden said.

“We're pretty confident we'll do well,” Smith said. “We've been training pretty hard all year, and I think we're ready for it.”

Lyden thinks Louisiana State University will provide the toughest competition for the Cats.

“LSU has a real good freshman that's extremely strong, maybe the strongest girl in our conference,” Ly-

den said. “She's very acrobatic.”

In practice, however, the team has been trying to focus more on its own dives in practice, rather than worrying about its opponents.

“You know a lot of divers on the other teams,” Smith said. “You know what's out there and how they're doing; it's always on the back of your mind, but you pretty much focus on yourself.”

To prepare for the meet, Lyden said he's adjusted practices to focus on the dives rather than conditioning and weight training.

The team has been doing fewer

dives, working more on quality than quantity, said senior diver Taryn Ignacio, SEC Female Diver of the Year for the past two seasons.

“We're cutting down on the number of dives, focusing on each dive, taking practice slower and making sure each dive counts,” Smith said.

The SEC Diving Championships is the precursor to the NCAA Championships next month.

Last season in the SEC Championships, UK performed well. Ignacio was platform champion and Joey Brown took third place in the one-meter, three-meter and platform events. Kari Retrum also placed in the top 10 in both the one-meter and three-meter events. On the men's

side, Dan Cuilla and Smith placed in the top 20 in the one-meter.

The Cats hope that last season's success won't put too much pressure on the team to perform well for the remainder of this season.

“You're always going to feel the pressure, especially if you've had a good previous year, but I try not to think about it,” Ignacio said. “I tell myself to relax, do as good as I can and you can never be disappointed in that. If you dive your best and you're still second, then at least you put your all into it.”

The competition will start today at 11 a.m. at the Lancaster Aquatic Center and last until Sunday. Admission is \$15 per day.



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KERNEL INTERVIEW

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of interviews with campus and local officials who have a direct impact on university affairs. These interviews will run every Friday during the semester.

Serve and protect: The future of UKPD

Maj. Joe Monroe is currently the acting chief of the UK Police Department and took the time on Wednesday to talk about the future of the department as far as what is being done and what is still needed.



Monroe

The department hasn't had long-term chief since 2003, but the department still has needs and still continues to grow, both in terms of number of officers, the size of their facility and their work within the campus and city community, Monroe said.

To keep the department from falling behind, Monroe has shouldered the responsibilities, even if his title says his leadership is only temporary.

"We're still without a chief, but I'm still running the police department as if I were the chief so we can keep moving forward, so we're not losing any time," Monroe said. "It's really put us back, not being able to have a chief."

One of Monroe top concerns is the size of the force and its ability to serve a growing campus population.

"One of the things that we want to do is continue increase the number of sworn officers we have," he said. "Right now our authorized strength is 48, which computes to one officer for every 350 students roughly, and that places us seventh among the benchmark institutions."

That number, he said, has to go up.

"What we're trying to do is add two or three positions every year to keep up with the growth of the presidents Top 20 plan," he said.

Monroe has also gone to fellow officers for ideas.

"I asked every officer and commanders to get with their officers and present me with what they felt like the goals and objectives should be for our department," he said.

Cutting costs while not losing officers is one thing he said must be done.

"We are going to concentrate over the next couple of years on trying to retain the officers so we don't lose them," he said. "We lost about nine officers last year. Each one of those officers, it costs us about \$60,000 to replace those officers when they leave, and that's uniforms, equipment and training. That's a substantial hit."

Also among the things being

expanded and improved is the station. The department itself will soon feature a newly renovated dispatch room and lobby, among other things.

"That'll be a modern facility where the dispatchers will be able to have everything right at their hands. It'll make it a lot easier to handle stuff very quickly, answer calls and get them out to the officers much quicker, as well as greet the public, and actually have a reception area," Monroe said. "That's probably the biggest benefit the public will see, instead of having to stand in the hallway or in the stairwell. It makes it a lot more presentable."

Just as important as improving the station and the equipment, Monroe said, is improving community ties and making sure that programs aimed at protecting the campus population are kept up.

"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. "It was doubled last year,

so we'll really put a heavy emphasis on 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."

There are some other ways to protect the campus population too, he said.

"We want to continue to decrease crime and improve the safety of the public on campus and there's many ways we do that," he said.

One of the ways is traffic enforcement. "We do that with the Pedestrian Awareness program," Monroe said. "That was a program that's been very successful and we'll continue with that. Every fall (we) try to educate everybody and in the spring when it gets a little warmer, when people are out crossing the roads more, we'll do it again. We'll keep doing it on a year-to-year basis to make sure that we keep those accidents down."

In the end, the goal is to serve and protect and to make sure the department is always able to do that.

"We want to be able to increase our partnerships out into the community," Monroe said. "We want to continue to build the department where it needs to go."

Weekly Poll Question

Do you support the restructuring plan that Student Government is currently considering, which would change the committee system and add up to 10 seats to the SG Senate?

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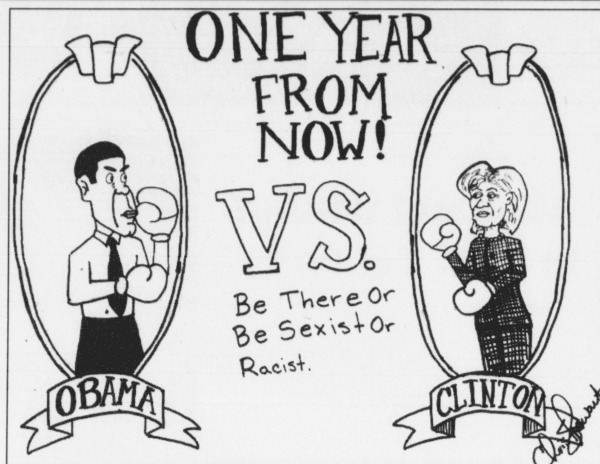
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Cartoonists Needed

The Kernel is looking for new cartoonists to draw for the Opinions page on a regular basis. Cartoonists of all interests will be considered, but The Kernel especially seeks those who have an interest in local issues.

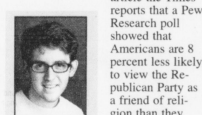
Contact Wes Blevins at opinions@kykernel.com



CHRIS STEWART, Kernel cartoonist

Dems can break GOP monopoly on religion by focusing on right issues

Recently, the New York Times ran an article with the headline "G.O.P. Slips as a Friend of Religion." In the article the Times reports that Americans are 8 percent less likely to view the Republican Party as a friend of religion than they were only a year ago.



ROBERT KAHNE
Kernel columnist

The Times article also reports that Catholics were especially deep among Catholics and white, evangelical Protestants (a drop of 14 percent). Only 47 percent of Americans now view the Republican Party as a friend of religion. This fact is baffling to some. After 2004, political pundits of all stripes explained George W. Bush's victory by linking him to religious "moral voters." How then, could less than half of the country now view his party as friendly to religion?

Let me try to explain what is going on. Our country is experiencing a spiritual revival. This revival has been taking place for quite some time; but unfortunately for America, conservatives realized it before liberals did. In the 1980s, conservatives realized religion was going to play a major role in American politics, and capitalized on it quickly. Conservatives started convincing religious people that conservative issues were the only issues they should base their vote on. They rolled out people like Jerry Falwell, Jimmy Swaggart and Pat Robertson, people who said that the Republicans were right on religion, and people who said that the Democrats only wanted to get rid of religion in schools, take "under

DEBATE



God" out of the pledge and above all else, wanted more abortion rights.

For a while, this strategy worked. It worked on me really well. When I was first politically socialized, I cared about one issue — abortion. As far as I was concerned, I could tell if a politician was religious by looking at his stance on that one issue. That seemed to me to be what all my other religious friends and mentors thought as well.

However, after a while, I did something novel — I went to the Bible. I read the scripture of my religion and discovered that there are maybe three or four verses that relate to abortion (if you use your imagination). However, there are more than a thousand verses that relate to poverty. There are hundreds of verses that speak about seeking peace, both among friends and internationally. I realized that God has priorities. Abortion isn't one of them.

Nowadays I can't stand the issue of abortion. I think it distracts Americans from much more important issues. I wish our country could focus on genocide in Africa, the dismantling of America's social service structure, the destruction of the environment or the careless loss of American lives in Iraq. Parsing words over what constitutes life and what doesn't is ridiculous in my eyes. This issue should be relegated to the third-tier of issues in

America. Religious people are realizing more and more that God has his priorities — the Pew poll proves that. However, it is unfortunate that my party isn't doing much about God's priorities either. In that same Pew poll, only 26 percent view Democrats as a friend to religion. As much as I wish our national party would address issues of concern that are important to religious people, I can't force them too. However, I can say that here at UK, the College Democrats will fight for the environment, work towards peace and try to end hunger across the world. These issues are biblical. The first chapter of the Bible talks about how great the Earth is and how God placed man on Earth to take care of His creation. As I already mentioned, there are thousands of verses on poverty, and hundreds about peace.

By addressing these issues, which are biblically relevant and important to the world today, I feel that Democrats can begin to count on the religious vote. Religious people as well as Democrats (I count myself in both groups) are hungry to see change made for good in this world. We are realizing that the Republican Party has failed to do that, and has gotten God's priorities all wrong.

America's religious people have had a strong history of winning social movements in America. We are a bunch that knows how to get things done. If my party can get it together and begin addressing the issues that religious people are hungry to be addressed and also which the majority of Democrats feel should be important, I really believe that the Democratic Party can make this country of ours a real force for serious, good change all across the world.

Robert Kahne is a political science and economics sophomore. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

GOP stance on affirmative action not racist, aims for colorblind society

I'm a racist. This deduction comes from Brenton Kenkel's Jan. 31 column, "GOP's new tactic is an old one: unbridled racial hatred."



MEGAN VAZMINA
Kernel columnist

You see, I'm part of the "flailing political movement" called conservatism and I am apparently trying to help with an "anti-black resurgence" and an "anti-Hispanic sentiment." Opinions cannot be labeled right or wrong because that goes against the principle of what an opinion is, but I can say that Kenkel was wrong to group together conservatives who happen to support anti-affirmative and anti-illegal immigration measures. And even worse was to label such actions as spreading racism across the nation.

I view affirmative action as reverse legal discrimination. There is no doubt that Caucasians have been labeled as racist for comments and actions taken against African-Americans; it singled a group of people based on the color of their skin.

Affirmative action does the exact same thing. There is no malicious intent but skin color is used to pick and chose who has what opportunities.

Jennifer Gratz was the executive director of the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative Coalition, the group that was behind the affirmative action initiative in Michigan. Note: The group was made up of Democrats, Republicans and Independents, not just conservatives.

Gratz said that that universities "should not be able to use race to engineer whatever student body they want," which is what affirmative action would entail. Using the checkmarks in the race box to decide who gets in and who doesn't.

Am I a racist because I'm trying to help make our society truly colorblind? Will there ever be a time when a person won't have to check their race on applications?

Now comes the "anti-immigration nonsense" that I'm a part of. Illegal immigration is a major issue in the country today; there are record numbers in the country. It's easy to assume that skin color has something to do with the uproar. Simple reason for that is that they are the overwhelming majority of illegal immigrants. The Mi-

gration Policy Institute reports that about 500,000 illegal immigrants are added to that population every year. You may be certain that if that many people were crossing over from Canada each year, I would have just as much anger and concern as I have now.

If I hear the argument that we were all immigrants at one point, I may just scream. When many people entered the United States, there were no laws and regulations specifically saying that it is wrong to enter a country without papers. My father's family immigrated to the United States not long ago; only in the late 1800's. But there are records that they went through Ellis Island and were documented. They didn't secretly crawl into the country and take someone else's Social Security number.

I won't argue about Bush's foreign policy, but I will say that these issues and their importance in the media have nothing to do with trying to mask Bush's decisions. When initiatives begin being added to ballots, know that it's because American's care about the country, not that they are racists.

Megan Vazmina is a political science and journalism junior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

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FRAME by FRAME

This week's box office hits and misses

By Ricky Simpson
rsimpson@kykernel.com

Children of Men Clive Owen, Julianne Moore and Michael Caine

Taking place in 2027, "Children of Men" is set in the not-too-distant future when the world is in complete chaos.

London has been transformed into a hopelessly depressing land. Terrorist attacks are frequent, and the government is attempting to "clean up" the city by exporting illegal immigrants in mass quantities. The world's population has been unable to reproduce for over 18 years.

This film revolves around the theme of rebirth, even though the world of 2027 is violent and unforgiving. The desires of mankind remain consistent as everyone from the rebellious immigrants to the intolerant natives wish for one thing: hope.

Life, metaphorically and physically, has been sucked out of the world. But with the birth of a single child, the world is reborn, and the torture of the past is quickly wiped away.

Much of "Children of Men" is filled with symbolism, which is one thing about cinema I do not really care for. Interestingly, "Children" proves that there is actually some power in symbolism.

Academy Award-nominated writer and director Alfonso Cuarón boldly shows his skills in this risky production. Besides symbolism, Cuarón touches on the political turmoil of the time. Through interesting camera angles and long running scenes, Cuarón succeeds in changing many current cinema trends.

"Children of Men" is definitely not for everyone. If you're used to Will Ferrell and Jack Black films not veiled in symbolism, this isn't for you.

The film does, however, have genuinely unique moments. "Children" has one of the most fascinating birth scenes and one of the most powerful climactic scenes of the year.

Now playing at Hamburg Pavilion.



Kristen Stewart stars in "The Messengers." Children in the movie see ghosts who are trying to communicate with humans.

Because I Said So Diane Keaton, Mandy Moore and Gabriel Macht

Daphne (Keaton) pushes her daughter (Moore) to find love before she grows too old, but Daphne soon stumbles into an unexpected romance of her own.

This is a romantic comedy proving that it is never too late to redefine yourself. As far as date movies go, this one might not be so bad.

Opens tonight at Cinemark-Movies 10, Hamburg Pavilion and Cinemark-Fayette Mall.

The Messengers with Dylan McDermott and Kristen Stewart

"The Messengers" is a classic, tired horror flick. Expect a creepy kid, jerky ghosts and a spooky house inhabited by a missing family.

What makes this film only slightly different than others is that the children are the only ones who can see the ghosts.

Opens tonight at Cinemark-Movies 10, Hamburg Pavilion and Cinemark-Fayette Mall.

Raising Flag Alan Arkin, Lauren Holly and Austin Pendleton

Oscar-nominated Alan

Arkin plays an extremely competitive handyman who spends a lifetime trying to one-up his neighbor (Pendleton).

Coming off a career performance in "Little Miss Sunshine," Arkin stays true to his grouchy old man routine, he should steal the show once again.

Opens tonight in select cities.

Upcoming DVDs

"Flags of Our Fathers"
Ryan Phillippe, Jesse Bradford
and Adam Beach

"Flags" is based on the story of the six men who planted the American flag at the battle of Iwo Jima in World War II.

Even though this is the American portrayal of the "Flags of our Fathers" and "Letters from Iwo Jima" series, don't expect American GIs to be glorified in this picture.
Available Feb. 6.

"Hollywoodland"
Adrien Brody, Diane Lane and Ben Affleck

If you enjoy a good mystery flick, this movie hits the spot. Based on one of the most infamous unsolved mysteries in Hollywood history, Louis Simo (Brody) investigates the true-life suicide of George Reeves (Affleck) with belief that the suicide was actually a murder.
Available Feb. 6.

HEART BALL

Continued from page 1

for." Long said, "A good time, for a good cause."

Tickets for the Heart Ball are \$200 per person and include the dinner, dancing and two drink tickets. A lot of companies sponsor the event and reserve seats based on how much they donate, Lerza said.

In its 17 years, the ball has raised more than \$1 million to fight heart disease and stroke. Last year the event raised over \$250,000.

The goal for the ball this year is to raise another \$300,000, Lerza said.

NEW ORLEANS

Continued from page 1

agricultural economics junior and director of multicultural affairs for the SAB, said she created this event because she didn't want students to forget about the hurricane and the effects it had on the people of Louisiana.

"You don't hear about it in the media anymore, and I thought the issue shouldn't be forgotten," Jackson said. "LaFonta gives such insight by being an elected official and a life-long resident. We

all should be inspired to do more."

LaFonta was a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. in college, and at the end of his presentation members of UK's Phi Beta Sigma chapter presented him with a key to the city of Lexington and LaFonta was given the honor of being named a Kentucky Colonel.

To this day, LaFonta said he has not shed a tear over the devastation of his home city.

"I won't cry now," LaFonta said. "I'll cry when New Orleans is rebuilt, and I can look back and say that we overcame."

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