

October 23, 2008

UK lacks safety plan

90 percent of campus unprepared

By Jill Laster
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More than a year ago, 33 people died in a massacre at Virginia Tech. The same day, UK's director of emergency management said UK was looking into the best way to handle a lockdown or evacuation, but "there's just nothing solid in place."

Yesterday, after Western Kentucky University issued a lockdown following a 911 call reporting shots fired on campus, UK officials said the plan still is not complete.

Emergency Management Director Christy Giles said UK lacks a building emergency action plan for 90 percent of the buildings on campus. Such a plan would be used during an on-campus emergency such as a shoot-

ing, dangerous weather or other threats.

Anthony Beatty, assistant vice president for campus services, said the university will have a plan in place for all of campus by this time next year. He said he is confident the university can handle a threat on campus by police locking down buildings and using the UK Alert system.

UK Alert sends text messages, e-mails, voicemails and other electronic messages to those signed up whenever an emergency occurs on campus. The system will be the best way for people to receive notice and act appropriately, Beatty said.

However, he said, the system depends on the people in it, and UK needs help recruiting more users.

"It's only as functional and only

as good as getting as many people in the system as we can," he said.

UK Alert has about 11,600 people signed up for the system, about 5,300 of who are registered as students, Giles said. About 26,650 students are currently enrolled at UK.

The system has been used four times since it began accepting sign-ups in January — three times for weather and once when shots were fired at the Greg Page Apartments in February.

UK was unable to test the system before it was first used during a tornado warning at the beginning of February, which came just as her office was getting people to sign up, Giles said.

Other than those four incidents,

See UK Alert on page 5

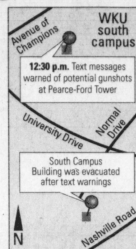
Western responds to shooting scare

By Kenny Colston
kcolston@kykernel.com

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — At 12:30 p.m. Central Standard Time, Western Kentucky University police sent a text message to students with a simple, but serious message: gunmen were reportedly on parts of the southern edge of campus and shots had been fired.

Four hours later, everything had changed. What was originally thought to be gunmen entering Pearce-Ford Tower, a residence hall, turned out to be a fight outside the

See WKU on page 5



PHI flight paramedics Robert Lasky, left, Jason Buck and Mark Saterly transport a patient across the helipad to UK Hospital.

Above the call of duty

UK Hospital flight crew looks past the dangers of helicopters to save the lives of their patients

Story by Katie Saltz | Photos by Britney McIntosh
ksaltz@kykernel.com | bmcintosh@kykernel.com

Above the hum of helicopter blades, two neonatal nurses from UK Hospital listen as a voice tells them about the status of a patient. A two-week-old baby lies in an emergency room in London, Ky., suffering from hypothermia and respiratory failure.

In just over 20 minutes, the nurses are there. As they treat the baby boy, they move quickly and calmly. It is almost impossible to notice by the nurses' reactions that the child codes and is technically dead. The neonatal nurses bring him back, and soon he is in the helicopter making his way to the pediatric intensive care unit at UK Hospital.

The call is just one part of the day for the flight paramedics and nurses at

UK. Working 24-hour shifts, they wait for the next call, which will send the team back to the helicopter, into the air and to the next victim that needs medical help faster than an ambulance can provide.

But working in medical flights is a job that raises questions about the risks of transporting patients by air. There have been 11 crashes involving medical helicopters this year, nine of which have been fatal, according to the National Transportation Safety Board. The most recent occurred on Oct. 16 in Illinois; all passengers on board, including a 1-year-old girl, were killed.



Jason Buck, a flight paramedic, secures a stroke patient during the flight to UK Hospital.

See Pilots on page 6

“You can't point to any one thing. We say the same things over and over and over again but (crashes) still happen.”

— Bill Grimley, PHI pilot for UK Hospital

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Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black

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

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — Get back to work. You've let a few important jobs wait long enough. Do them now, while you're in the mood.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — Put away provisions for the future so you'll have more time to relax. It's good to work hard when you can, so there'll be days when you can goof off.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 7 — You're entering a four-week phase when your emphasis will be on work, work and work. It will require every ounce of your energy, physical and mental.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 7 — Gather up as much as you can, while it's available. This refers to something you can always use and is easy to store.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — Turn some of that energy into folding green. There's plenty of work to be done.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 6 — It'll be easier for you to concentrate for the next several weeks. You won't fail for fanciful stories; you'll dig to get at the facts.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — An older friend is your best tutor for a delicate operation. Learn from a master how to bone a trout or fix a grandfather clock.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — Go ahead and confront authority; it looks like you'll win. Just after you stand up for your position, more money comes into your pocket.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — Use the experience you've just acquired, in a practical manner. This is an ongoing assignment. If you can figure out how to do it, you'll become fabulously wealthy.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — Slash away your surplus in a safe place, so you have provisions to get through the winter. This chore may take longer than anticipated, but at least you can get started.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — For the next several weeks, you'll face tough career decisions. You'll be able to advance if you pass challenging tests. Luckily, you're good at taking challenging tests. It's one of your specialties.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — The sun's going into Scorpio, in your solar Ninth House of travel. You may not get the whole next four weeks to travel the world, but get in as much as you can. Or start whatever else you want.

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your daily dose of entertainment, pop culture and fun

kernel POP



THE DISH

'I was out of control on drugs'

Alcohol. Cocaine. Ecstasy. Idol's Nikki McKibbin details her struggle with substance abuse and how she's recovering

Six years ago, on the first season of Fox's *American Idol*, Nikki McKibbin wowed 10 million viewers a week with her take on hits like Janis Joplin's "Piece of My Heart." And though the flame-haired rocker, now 30, raised eyebrows when her history as a stripper came to light, it didn't stop the single mom to son Tristen, now 10, from finishing third behind Justin Guarini and Kelly Clarkson or landing an RCA contract. But McKibbin was hiding a more shocking secret: the Arlington, Texas, native, who was abused as a child by a relative and molested by two different family acquaintances, had been an alcoholic since age 16. Following her return to Texas post-Idol and the breakup of her deal with RCA, the singer began a downward spiral of booze and cocaine use, culminating in her stay in a psychiatric ward following the 2007 death of her mother, Teresa, with whom McKibbin had been doing cocaine hours earlier. McKibbin is at last sober after being treated on the second season of VH1's *Celebrity Rehab* with Dr. Drew. McKibbin opens up to Us.

I think I must have been hardwired for addiction from the beginning. My mom and dad divorced when I was 13. My dad was a drug addict and alcoholic, but I never saw him use. He's been clean and sober for 18 years now. I don't know when my mom picked up her habit. I was 16

when I had my first drink at a party. My boyfriend brought a 32-ounce screwdriver, but I ended up drinking the whole damn thing. By the end of the night, I was sitting in the street singing a song from kindergarten. I don't remember a time when I didn't drink after that — except when I light, it didn't stop the single mom to son Tristen, now 10, from finishing third behind Justin Guarini and Kelly Clarkson or landing an RCA contract. But McKibbin was hiding a more shocking secret: the Arlington, Texas, native, who was abused as a child by a relative and molested by two different family acquaintances, had been an alcoholic since age 16. Following her return to Texas post-Idol and the breakup of her deal with RCA, the singer began a downward spiral of booze and cocaine use, culminating in her stay in a psychiatric ward following the 2007 death of her mother, Teresa, with whom McKibbin had been doing cocaine hours earlier. McKibbin is at last sober after being treated on the second season of VH1's *Celebrity Rehab* with Dr. Drew. McKibbin opens up to Us.

I don't know how I never got pulled over. One day my cousin looked at me and said, "You have to stop." I loved her and trusted what she was saying, so I never touched Ecstasy again. (The drinking continued.) I stopped stripping and started working for a karaoke company, which was just as bad because I was still in bars.

I heard about *American Idol* on a Friday (in 2002), auditioned on Saturday and made it to Hollywood. I was so ecstatic to be given the opportunity to live out my dreams. We were heavily chaperoned, but I would buy

vodka and sneak it into the refrigerator on the bottom floor. If I wasn't too exhausted, I would have one or two drinks.

I came out of *Idol* with a lack of self-confidence. I think I had my first solo in school when I was 5, and I got more as I got older. That's the biggest compliment in choir: I had never been told I wasn't good enough. Having to hear it for so many weeks from Simon Cowell killed me inside. I couldn't get the s — t he had said to me out of my head. It drove me deeper into depression. I wouldn't say that this was Simon's fault. It just added to the addict that I already was.

After *Idol*, I went back to Texas and the karaoke business. When I was 25, I was buying pot for somebody, and the dealer gave me a bag of cocaine. I wanted to try a little, so I went to my mom. She's my best friend — I don't keep anything from her. My mom always said, "If you want to try it, try it with me. Just don't make a habit out of it." I liked the way cocaine made my mind race so fast that I didn't have to think. It went out of control from there. I was doing it every day. In less than a year and a half, I went through \$250,000 — my residuals from *Idol* and the tour and my settlement with RCA.

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Campus Calendar Correction

Non-Traditional Student Organization Meeting is at 7:30 pm on October 23.
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CONGRATULATIONS!

The UK Student Development Council congratulates members **Jillian Meeks and Tim Joos** on being voted **2008 Homecoming Queen and King!**

THURSDAY,
October 23,
2008

PAGE 3

Whitney Waters
Features Editor
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“Think what a better world it would be if we all, the whole world, had cookies and milk about three o'clock every afternoon and then lay down on our blankets for a nap.”

— J. Robert Oppenheimer, founding father of the American school of theoretical physics



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PHOTO COURTESY OF INSOMNIA COOKIES

Insomnia Cookies offers various fresh baked cookies and brownies with different toppings seven days a week, from 7 p.m. until 2:30 a.m.

Insomnia Cookies bakes up sweet solution to late-night cravings

By Whitney Waters
wwaters@kykernel.com

During his college years at the University of Pennsylvania, Seth Berkowitz came up with a sweet idea.

People, for the most part, crave sugar, and Berkowitz baked up a way to provide people with their much-needed sugar fix.

Berkowitz started baking cookies and brownies in his dorm room and delivered them to friends and people around Penn's

campus. By the end of his sophomore year, he had developed the recipe and concept for Insomnia Cookies, a business that provides students with fresh baked cookies and brownies to satisfy their late-night sweet tooth.

"I don't think he slept very much," said Elise Piatkowski, the director of marketing for Insomnia Cookies.

Before receiving his Economics degree in 2003, Berkowitz had already opened his first Insomnia Cookies store in Philadelphia, and he has since opened 14 locations including

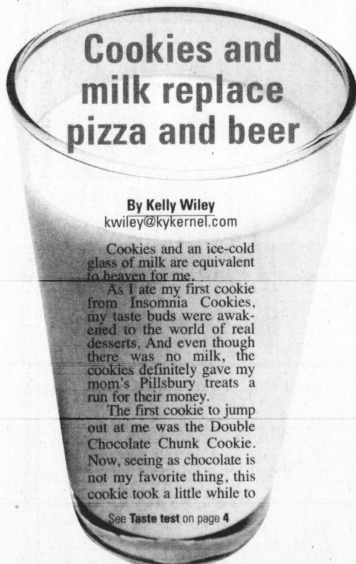
stores at Indiana University, The Ohio State University and Michigan State University.

Now, UK has its own Insomnia Cookies truck parked outside of Kennedy's Bookstore on South Limestone. Piatkowski said the company is leasing parking spaces from Kennedy's and plans to stay on campus for the rest of the school year. Piatkowski said the cookie truck was outside of the W.T. Young Library last week to help students with sugar cravings during midterms, and she said the truck will be outside of the library

again for finals week.

Piatkowski said UK was chosen as a location after representatives from the company visited the campus earlier this year. She said UK had the demographic and the vibe the company was searching for. "UK just had a great energy, and we just went with our gut instinct," Piatkowski said. Insomnia Cookies started baking on campus Oct. 9, and local manager Mike Bickers

See **Cookies** on page 4



Cookies and milk replace pizza and beer

By Kelly Wiley
kwiley@kykernel.com

Cookies and an ice-cold glass of milk are equivalent to heaven for me.

As I ate my first cookie from Insomnia Cookies, my taste buds were awakened to the world of real desserts. And even though there was no milk, the cookies definitely gave my mom's Pillsbury treats a run for their money.

The first cookie to jump out at me was the Double Chocolate Chunk Cookie. Now, seeing as chocolate is not my favorite thing, this cookie took a little while to

See **Taste test** on page 4

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCCLATCHY

AC/DC risks it all with 'Black Ice'



MATT MURRAY
Kernel
columnist

Over the past 35 years, the music scene has changed quite a bit, but AC/DC hasn't changed at all.

Every band reaches a point, as they grow old, in deciding whether to hang it up before they become a parody of themselves, or to risk it all and hope that they can release one more great album. In many ways "Black Ice" was the crossroads for AC/DC, and risking it could not have been a better choice.

Since their inception in 1973, the core of AC/DC has been built around basic four-chord, classic-rock riffs, while writing anthems about sex, fighting and rock 'n' roll itself. Their newest effort, "Black Ice," may as well have come out in the '70s because the band is doing what they do best once again.

Their grit, crunchy power chords and in-your-face solos have all returned in their first

LP in eight years. In fact, if you were to hear one of these songs on the radio, out of the context of the album, you may very well assume it's just a lesser known track from any of their past albums.

The only changes that do need to be addressed aren't exactly surprises. Brian Johnson's voice is beginning to show his age, as can be expected after

See **Murray** on page 4

ontap | For the week of Oct. 23 - Oct. 29

THURSDAY, Oct. 23
Ash Wednesday, The Moxie Groove
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$3.

Opeth w/ High on Fire, Baroness
8 p.m. Bogarts, Cincinnati, Ohio. Tickets cost \$18.50.

Red State Ramblers
10 p.m., Al's Bar. Tickets cost \$5.

FRIDAY, Oct. 24
Zach Deputy

8 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$6.
k.d. lang w/ Dustin O'Halloran
8 p.m., Primah Auditorium, Nashville, Tenn. Tickets cost \$33.50-\$66.50.

SATURDAY, Oct. 25
Sugarland w/ Kellie Pickler, Ashton Slaughter
7:30 p.m. Rupp Arena. Tickets cost \$35.5-\$48.50.

Nathan Morris, Marcus McFly
10:30 p.m. DeVassa Bar & Cafe. Tickets are free.

Sexual Disaster Quartet
9 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

Jennifer O'Connor, Karly Dawn Higgins
10 p.m. Al's Bar. Tickets cost \$5.

SUNDAY, Oct. 26
Luke Asher, Noisycrane
9 p.m., Al's Bar. Tickets are free.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 29
The Try Tones, Joint Venture
9 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$3.

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Band deserves a listen for lacking pop-punk prototype

I mentioned a few weeks ago that I am extremely excited about the release of Tom Gabel's "Heart Burns" EP on Nov. 28. In honor of his new record, I have decided to share my love for his band. Tom is the lead vocalist for Against Me!, an awesome punk rock band from Florida.



NICK WALTERS
Kernel columnist

Their punk sound is definitely not of the pop-punk persuasion, which many bands now use as a prototype. Their punk bands of the 1990s ala Black Flag or the Dead Kennedys with the lyrical prowess of a folk singer.

The band was started by Gabel in 1996 and consisted only of him singing and playing acoustic guitar. During that time, he would normally perform alone but occasionally played with a random

bassist and/or drummer. These early songs were much closer to the folk side of music than the punk. Songs from this period were recorded on a self-made demo simply titled "Against Me!," though it is more commonly known as "Tom's First Demo."

By 2002, Tom had solidified the band's lineup adding bassist Dustin Fridkin, drummer Warren Oakes, and guitarist James Bowman. Also that year the group released their first full-length studio album, "Reinventing Axel Rose." At this point, Against Me!'s sound was starting to shape into what we hear today. While there were still some appearances of their acoustic past, the album is filled heavily with electric guitars.

After the release of "Reinventing Axel Rose," Fridkin left the band and was replaced with bassist Andrew Seward. The band's lineup has not changed since. With their next two records, "As the Eternal Cowboy" in 2003 and "Search for a Former Clarity" in 2005, Against Me! found their rocking sound and have stuck with it since.

Though beginning with these albums some fans complained the band had become too polished and had lost their do-it-yourself ethics.

Last year the band released their major label debut, "New Wave," which received great critical review. The band chose to work with producer Butch Vig, who also produced Nirvana's "Nevermind." He was able to capture their sound in a way that can only be described as magical. When listening to the album, you may notice there is basically no low points; the songs are consistently good through the entire work.

If you dig punk rock but have never experienced Against Me!, you should probably give the band a listen because you will not be disappointed. Even if you're not a fan of punk, you should still check them out because their songs translate well to any one.

Essential Downloads: "Don't Lose Touch," "Thrash Unreal"
Nick Walters is an English senior.
E-mail: nwalters@kernel.com.

COOKIES

Continued from page 3

said students have rushed out to get their late-night sugar fix. He said students have responded so well because all the different kinds of cookies reminds them of when they were younger and had to tell the ice cream man what flavor of ice cream they wanted.

"They come up to the cookie truck and order all kinds of sweets just like they use to," Bickers said.

Students have a large variety of cookies and brownie toppings to choose from. The various cookies include: Sugar, Chocolate Chunk, Double Chocolate Chunk, Oatmeal Raisin, White Chocolate Macadamia, M&M, Peanut Butter and Snickerdoodle, all for \$1 each. The deluxe cookies are: Triple Chocolate Deluxe, Peanut Butter Chocolate Deluxe and S'mores Deluxe, all of which are \$2.25 per cookie, and 14-inch cookie cakes

are available for \$18.

The different brownie toppings include: Snickers, Walnut, Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, Peanut Butter Chip, Chocolate Mint, M&M and Cookie Dough. Brownies are \$1.25 each and 25 cents per topping. Students also can order water, soda or milk with each purchase.

Bickers said students should order the cookies not only because it satisfies a late night hunger, but also because it's different from the other options that are available.

"You can always get a pizza or sub," Bickers said, "But getting cookies is something special."

Insomnia Cookies's truck is open every day from 7 p.m. until 2:30 a.m., and deliveries are available from 8 p.m. until 2:30 a.m. within a three-mile radius of campus by calling (877) 63-COOKIE. For more information about Insomnia Cookies or deliveries, visit its Web Site at www.insomniacookies.com.



The Billboard 200 Top 10 albums of the week

1. **T.I.**, "Paper Trail"
2. **Metallica**, "Death Magnetic"
3. **Rise Against**, "Appeal to Reason"
4. **Jennifer Hudson**, "Jennifer Hudson"
5. **Oasis**, "Dig Out Your Soul"
6. **Bob Dylan**, "The Bootleg Series Vol. 8: Tell Tale Signs: Rare And Unreleased 1989-2006"
7. **Kid Rock**, "Rock N Roll Jesus"
8. **Ne-Yo**, "Year Of The Gentleman"
9. **Tim McGraw**, "Greatest Hits 3"
10. **James Taylor**, "Cover"

TASTE TEST

Continued from page 3

get use to. But any chocolate lover would be pleased with the chocolate batter and the quarter-sized chocolate chunks.

Now for number two, the Snickerdoodle. These cookies have always been at the top of my list since I was a kid. However, after tasting the Insomnia version, the store-bought cookies that use to please me are no longer an alternative.

The Peanut Butter Chocolate Deluxe was my third cookie, but, after the second bite, I never finished it. Peanut butter and chocolate together has never done much for me, and this one was no

different.

The last treat of my four-cookie taste-testing venture was not actually a cookie at all. Insomnia Cookies has a great cookie thing going for them, but the brownies are by far the best.

Brownie lovers can adorn their tasty chocolate treat with a wide array of toppings including M&Ms and mint. Being a huge fan of raw cookie dough, I ordered a brownie covered in cookie dough. Hands down, this was the best.

Overall, my Insomnia Cookies experience was far better than any oven-baked cookie you can buy or make. Fresh, warm cookies delivered to your doorstep can now replace any late-night cravings for beer and pizza.

MURRAY

Continued from page 3

singing his harsh style for the band for nearly three decades. That isn't to suggest his voice has gotten worse, but instead that it has simply changed. It is reminiscent of Creedence Clearwater Revival's John Fogerty, simply a deeper toned growl than in the past. But the change of voice is only occasional throughout the course of the album, and most likely it will go relatively unnoticed.

Blues has clearly become a more prevalent influence on guitarist Angus Young's writing. Perhaps it is to help mould more smoothly with Johnson's deepening voice. Whatever the cause, it certainly complements the album much more than it hinders it.

If you've liked any album AC/DC has released in the past, particularly in the Brian Johnson era, this is an album you certainly don't want to pass up. Don't fix what isn't broken. It's a motto AC/DC has shown they live by, time and time again. And AC/DC certainly is not broken.

Series continues with Buddhism

By Jill Laster
jlaster@kernel.com

An actress in "Steel Magnolias" and "Terms of Endearment" helped bring Richard Farkas to faith.

In the 1980s, Farkas began reading books by actress and author Shirley MacLaine, which discussed self-discovery and Buddhism. Intrigued in part by the books, Farkas began what has become 20 years of research on Tibetan Buddhism.

At 7 p.m. Thursday in the auditorium of the W.T. Young Library, Farkas will discuss Tibetan Buddhism as part of the Student Activities Board's "Faithbusters" series. Farkas, design and production manager of the University Press of Kentucky, said he hopes attendees will leave with a better understanding of the practice and not necessarily a change in faith.

"That's the nice thing - Buddhists aren't out to convert people," said Farkas, co-founder of the Tibetan Buddhist Community of Lexington. "We'll put it out there,

and if you want to investigate it further, that's great. If not, there's a lot of other traditions out there."

Buddhism is based on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama, who lived around 400 B.C. in India. Gautama, commonly known as Buddha, taught that by understanding the true nature of the world, humans could escape the pain of the world. Buddha praised meditation, ethics and ritual.

Tibetan Buddhism, centered in Tibet and surrounding regions, is based in the area's tradition and rituals in Buddhism.

About 0.7 percent of Americans, or about 2.1 million people, are Buddhists, according to a survey by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life released in February. Of those, two in three

American Buddhists describe his or her race as non-Asian, and three out of four are converts.

Farkas said he did not know how Buddhism has grown in Kentucky, but, from personal experience, he is seeing the practice's popularity increase.

Richard Farkas, co-founder of the Tibetan Buddhist Community in Lexington

prayer and chanting, but it's more personal," he said. "You're working within yourself. A large part of Buddhist practice, the way people approach it, is within the mind."

Calvin Harmin, co-president of UK's Buddhist Studies Club, said one of the reasons he was drawn to Buddhism when he first started meditating with his stepmother in his early teens was

focus on the "internal journey."

Harmin learned to meditate at the Shambhala Center, a Buddhist meditation center based on West Maxwell Street. Meditation is one of the key components of Buddhism, Harmin said, although the practice is more difficult than simply sitting down.

"You realize very quickly how lacking you are about trying to control your thoughts," he said.

Harmin said he plans on attending the lecture and hopes to hear more about a practice that interests him. "I never get tired of listening to the story of Siddhartha Gautama. Everybody kind of tells it differently," he said.

If you go

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Where: W.T. Young Auditorium
Admission: Free

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University Health Service

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UK ALERT

Continued from page 1

she said, the system has never been used for a campus-wide test. It has only been tested in small groups of fewer than 30 people.

UK has not tested the alert system between the last use during the spring semester and now because the system's response during the four incidents helped ensure it was doing what it was supposed to do and helped identify things that needed to be improved, Giles said.

Also, the university leaves most of the updates to the contracting firm responsible for maintaining UK Alert, she said.

In the second use of the spring semester, during the Greg Page incident, students experienced delays as long as five hours before receiving the message. Giles said some delay is possible, though no fault of the university.

"I can't control how fast it gets to anybody once I hit 'send,'" Giles said. "How fast it gets there through individual carriers is out of our hands."

During an emergency, such as someone entering campus with a gun, the police dispatcher would issue the UK Alert, said Maj. Joe Monroe, UK's interim police chief.

The system is used only for emergencies considered an imminent threat — for instance, UK did not issue an alert for a reported victim of sexual assault near Waller Avenue on Elizabeth Street who was abducted and taken to Jessamine County.

"If there was a shooter, there's an imminent threat because a student could cross (South) Limestone and be on campus in a matter of seconds," he said.

For non-emergencies, such as class cancellations due to bad weather, Emergency Management issues the alert after being informed by UK's administration.

UK will plan a date to test the alert system

soon, after Emergency Management coordinates a date with UK Police and UK Public Relations, Giles said. The university will also continue to use broadcast e-mails and fliers, as well as safety advisories and alerts on the Web site.

"We have to make sure everybody's aware of this test before we do it so they don't mistake it for a real situation," she said. "We don't want to freak them out."

Giles said Emergency Management is trying to publicize the system in every way possible. At the beginning of this school year, business cards for the program went in every mailbox of every dormitory room and in some bags in the UK Bookstore. Officials also advertise UK Alert at events such as K-Week.

"It's an opt-in system, and we want to encourage people to sign up," she said. "If we're aware of something going on, we're happy to attend."

As for the emergency building plans, Giles said her office is trying to coordinate plans with people across the university to work, although staff is limited to the office's two-person team.

"There are people on campus who do what they can to help, it's just there's a lot to always do," she said. "With this kind of work, it's not like you get something done and it's just done."

She also said it can be hard to orchestrate a plan among faculty, staff and students who have so much on their plates already.

"It's not a plan that can be written and put on a shelf," Giles said. "It's something that has to be written and they have to do it."

Western student James Heustis said he was glad to see his university's text message alert system used Wednesday. Although Western's alert system had glitches when it was first introduced about a year ago, he said, it provides a valuable service.

"Everyone doesn't get it at the exact same time, but at least some people get it so they can spread it around," he said.

WKU

Continued from page 1

building.

Two male students stood outside their dorm throwing a baseball. Another female student jogged through campus. No hint of the panic that locked down campus for two hours was evident. The only trace of such events was located outside the Mass Media Building, where multiple TV stations had parked their satellite trucks, waiting to go live for their newscast.

What started as the next possible campus shooting turned into a mixed reaction by students on Western's campus; some preferred the aggressive style that Western and Bowling Green Police took — carrying assault rifles and swarming campus, looking for the supposed gunman. Others thought things were taken too far, too fast.

"They were pointing guns at people and people were throwing their hands up," said Morgan Walsh, a social work freshman. "It was too much to an extent."

But when it comes to that type of emergency situation, Brandon Maze, a dietetics freshman, felt that the force applied would have been necessary if the incident had been as big as originally reported.

"I don't think you can fault them," Maze said. "Turns out it was just a fight. If needed to be broken up, but I'm not sure the M-16's were necessary."

With recent campus shootings fresh in many students' memories, most notably at Virginia Tech in April 2007, the reaction time of both police departments, as well as two text messages sent to students and a campus lock-down within an hour of the fight, kept many students feeling protected.

"I never really felt in danger," said Thomas Cameron, a political science sophomore. "Things happen, but I didn't think anything would happen to me."

Western's reaction wasn't without flaws. Steven Patrick, a broadcast freshman, said he never received any text messages, nor did several of his friends, despite all being signed up for the alert service.

Still, with disaster avoided, students felt like something as severe as a possible campus shooting was too big a situation for a town, and campus, as small as Bowling Green.

"This is Bowling Green, Kentucky," Cameron said. "I've been to Mexico and Wall Street in New York where police carried machine guns to keep order. I'm not sure all that was needed. It shows how serious they took it. Extreme. But you're better safe than sorry."

U.S. financial turmoil grips South America

By Jack Chang
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — While the United States wrestled with financial meltdown this fall, Latin American leaders often boasted that their economies were models of stability in an otherwise tumultuous global landscape.

Such confidence gave way, however, to panic this week, as the effects of the U.S. credit crunch and an international downturn wreak havoc on Latin America's formerly booming economies.

On Wednesday, Brazilian officials stoked investor fears by allowing the country's two biggest state banks, Banco do Brasil and Caixa Economica Federal, to buy stakes in private financial firms. Many of the country's largest banks have seen their stock prices plummet, while smaller banks have been strangled by the global credit freeze.

Just a day earlier, Argentina's government shocked the financial world by announcing it planned to nationalize the country's private pension system, which holds about \$30 billion in assets, a move that conjured memories of the country's 2001 economic collapse. Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner said the nationalization was designed to protect people's pensions from market fluctuations. Most economists, however, read the

action as a desperate bid to stave off government loan default in the face of diminishing tax revenues.

The governments of Chile, Peru and other countries in the region are also launching emergency initiatives designed to prop up banks and businesses. On top of that, financial uncertainty has stalled everything from planned deep-water oil drilling off the coast of southeastern Brazil to new iron ore mining projects in Peru.

The White House is trying to halt the slide by scheduling a Nov. 15 summit of the so-called Group of 20 countries in the Washington area. The invited countries include Argentina, Brazil, China, Mexico and the European Union.

Yet many economists fear the global picture will get worse before it gets better and said Latin American economies face a grim 2009. Such fears grew on Wednesday as the Dow Jones industrials fell by another 514 points.

"There's no question Latin America is facing a recession," said Peter Hakim, president of the Washington-based think tank the Inter-American Dialogue. "These countries will just have to weather a sharp slowdown and recession with some countries such as Argentina and Venezuela facing something even more serious."

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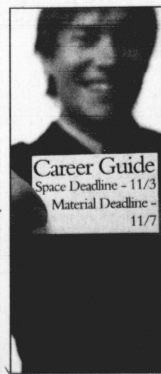
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If we don't survive, then the patient won't either. If we're not getting to the ground ourselves, then we're not doing the patient any good."

— Bill Grimley, PHI pilot for UK Hospital



Jason Buck, a flight paramedic for PHI, is in the hangar of the helicopter waiting for a call. A good portion of Buck's 24-hour shift involves being ready and waiting for a radio call.



Flight nurse Robert Lasky, left, and flight paramedic Jason Buck prepare to land in an old baseball field in North Middletown, Ky., where they received a scene call to pick up a patient. A scene call is when a crew is called directly to the scene of an emergency instead of transporting a patient from another hospital.



Jason Buck, a flight paramedic, holds the hand of a patient having a stroke to ensure her falling hand as a safety precaution to make sure she does not knock open the door of the helicopter.

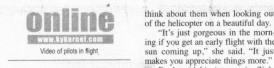
PILOTS

Continued from page 1

Jason Buck, a flight paramedic for Petroleum Helicopters Incorporated, the company UK uses for medical flights, said he thinks about the dangers of flying every day, but safety is all about risk management. "There are risks involved but we manage the risks," Buck said. "Night flights are most dangerous so we have night vision goggles. A single-engine failure can be catastrophic, that's why we have two-engine aircrafts."

Of the 22 helicopters in the state, six belong to PHI, and each of those aircrafts have twin engines. Bill Grimley, or "Safety Bill" as he is known around the hangar, has been a pilot since 1973. As an EMS pilot at UK Hospital, Grimley said over the years he has learned safety is about how many "what ifs" you can cover. "There are some 'what ifs' that can't be covered by equipment, however. This past summer in Arizona, two EMS helicopters crashed into each other as they were trying to land at the same airport, killing six passengers. Grimley said the helicopters were flying in clear weather, and even good weather can be a factor in a crash."

Mark Sawley, right, who works in transport with the PHI crew, helps move a patient having a stroke into UK Hospital.



Jason Buck, left, a flight paramedic and PHI crewmembers wheel a stroke patient down the hallway to the emergency room at UK Hospital.

think about them when looking out of the helicopter on a beautiful day. "It just goes on in the morning if you get an early flight with the sun coming up," she said. "It just makes you appreciate things more." Buck said his interest in flight came at an early age when his father, who was in the military, would take him to watch military aircrafts fly. When he was about 14 or 15 years old he had the dream of being a firefighter. He heard that once he became a paramedic, it was a ticket to becoming a firefighter almost wherever he wanted to go. After listening to his EMS instructor, who was a flight paramedic, Buck decided to combine his interests and try flight EMS. "After listening to him I was hooked," Buck said. "I did a ride along and knew what I wanted to do."

Buck and Nalle said treating a patient in the confines of the back of a helicopter can be challenging. Having everything within arm's reach is a benefit, but it is really something you just get used to doing. "It's not always the easiest. It's going to be an inconvenience and a discomfort but it can be done," he said. "You just learn your way."

The close quarters of the aircraft might make some people uncomfortable. Nalle said, because many times the flight crew has to maneuver around or over each other to treat the patient. "You kind of have to lose your modesty and just do what you need to," she said. "Some flights are emergency calls that often involve trauma patients, and those are the times when flight paramedics and nurses are really needed. Buck said, "Scene flights are intense," he said. "That first hour is the golden hour. That's when we are going to make a difference."

The flight crew does not enjoy some flights, Nalle said, but there is something about exciting about getting the opportunity to help a trauma patient. "It's not because we are cruel or anything, but we just want to practice our skills," she said. "It's more than a job."

Very few PHI pilots are civilian pilots, Buck said. Most come out of the military, like Grimley, who is in the U.S. Army. However, Ellis Blinsky, a PHI pilot at UK, started flying by doing agriculture work like crop training.

"I was a kid on a farm in North Dakota, airplanes would fly over, and I was down there in that steel tractor seat and it was hot and the dust was blowing down my neck," Blinsky said. "I would look up and see him flying. I knew he was sitting down, no heavy lifting and it was cool up there and I thought, by God, I believe that's for me."

Since he began flying in 1964, Blinsky said he has logged about 15,000 or more flying hours. The minimum to be a PHI pilot is 2,000 hours, he said. In his career, Blinsky said there have been three different times he has had to land where he didn't plan to. One of those occasions was about three years ago while working with UK Hospital. "I had one engine fail on takeoff and ended up parking on the side of a hill," he said. Blinsky said the patient on the flight was taken in by ambulance and a crane was able to get the helicopter off the hill. In situations like that, Blinsky said he doesn't panic, which is a vital part of PHI training. "Doesn't do you any good (to panic), does it? You will do in an emergency as you've been trained."

Blinsky said, "It's not what I do, it's who I am," he said. "Should there be a catastrophic event, each one of us knows our role," Buck said. "Even with all the equipment and experience, helicopter crashes are always a possibility. Grimley said, even EMS flights are susceptible to Murphy's Law of "if something can happen, it will." But the fear of crashing could not keep Buck from his job as a flight paramedic. "It's not what I do, it's who I am," he said.

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Jason Buck, right, a flight paramedic, moves a patient from a stretcher into an ambulance in North Middletown, Ky., onto a gurney fitted for the helicopter to transport her to UK Hospital.



Jason Buck, right, a flight paramedic, moves a patient from a stretcher into an ambulance in North Middletown, Ky., onto a gurney fitted for the helicopter to transport her to UK Hospital.

Flight team's safety record flies high above the competition

By Reshaila Ennis and Katie Sahr, news@kentucky.com

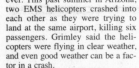
Air medical helicopters play an important role in transporting patients quickly across the state but recent accidents have raised some safety concerns. About 3,000 to 4,000 patients are transported to UK Hospital each year by helicopter, according to James Alcorn, supervisor of UK Emergency Transport and Communications. But in the past year, there have been 11 air medical helicopter accidents nationally, the most recent on Oct. 16 in Illinois. The only air medical helicopter accident to involve UK Hospital was in 1999, Alcorn said. The crash killed four on board but no patients were involved. Petroleum Helicopters Incorporated, which is contracted by UK for its helicopter ambulance services, has taken several steps to ensure safety and has one of the safest records in air medical, said Mike Poynter, regional program director for PHI. The company's helicopters are night-vision capable and have twin engines in case of emergency. "We are the only program that flies twin engine in the state," said Jason Buck, a PHI flight paramedic at UK Hospital. "It makes it safer in the sense that if you have engine failure, you still have options... with a twin engine we can still fly a little while, make it to an airport or someplace safe. When you're flying over the mountains in Eastern Kentucky, it makes a pretty big difference."

All PHI pilots are Instrument Flight Rules rated, Poynter said. This means pilots can fly using instruments alone when they can't fly visually — as is the case in bad weather. "You don't get brand new pilots in these jobs," Grimley said. The flight crew uses the Enhanced Operational Control Matrix to assess the conditions surrounding a flight, Buck said. The matrix, which he said was created by a retired UK EMS pilot, is based on a point system in which the total number of points determines how dangerous a flight could be. Before every flight, the crew consults the matrix to tally points. Buck said the crew adds points for factors that could detract from the safety of a flight, like weather, and subtract

from Eastern Kentucky is about three to four hours, Alcorn said, and that's when helicopters become vitally important for transporting trauma patients quickly. "I think they play a vital role in EMS to-day," Alcorn said. A PHI helicopter from Morehead, Ky., leaves UK Hospital after dropping off a patient.

Doesn't do you any good (to panic), does it? You will do in an emergency as you've been trained."

— Ellis Blinsky, PHI pilot for UK Hospital



Jason Buck, left, a flight paramedic and PHI crewmembers wheel a stroke patient down the hallway to the emergency room at UK Hospital.

online www.kentucky.com

View of pilot in flight

to distract ourselves." Preparation and training is key, but Grimley said there are some things that cannot be predicted when it comes to safety. "You can't point at any one thing," he said. "We say the same things over and over and over again but sometimes it still happens."

The flight crew consults a point-system chart before each flight. Depending on weather, pilot experience and the equipment available, the crew will vote on whether or not to take the flight. "We believe in the four to go, one to say no. All four of us have to agree to fly," he said. "A pilot can say, 'Yeah, we can take it for weather, but if one single person is uncomfortable, we don't go.'"

That initial decision on whether to even take the flight is an important one, Grimley said. The crew can't treat the patient if they aren't able to reach them safely. "If we don't survive, then the patient won't either. If we're not getting to the ground ourselves, then we're not doing the patient any good."

Although the possibility of a crash is something crewmembers are aware of, Terry Nalle, a flight nurse, said the 1999 crash had a lasting effect on the rest of the PHI team at UK. "After the Jackson crash, a few had a hard time getting back in the air," she said. "Some gave it up."

One person who had a particularly difficult time coping with the crash was a flight nurse who was originally supposed to be on that flight, Buck said. "The nurse killed on board wasn't supposed to be there. She traded with another lady, at the other lady's request," he said. "She had a real hard time after that, and rightfully so."

Another Lexington tragedy that raised safety concerns was the crash of Comair Flight 5191 at Blue Grass Airport in 2006. The plane crashed after taking off from the wrong runway, killing all passengers and crew. Grimley said some people claim the pilots on that flight were violating "sterile cockpit," an FAA rule that states pilots must refrain from all nonessential activity during critical flight times, like takeoff and landing. In the EMS helicopter, all passengers are supposed to be seated for the first few minutes of the flight.

"Takeoff and landing, we want full attention because that's more eyes looking out for more problems," Grimley said. "We don't want

Students shop for less at local thrift stores

By Brooke McCloud
news@kykernel.com

Desperate times call for desperate measures, and different threads as well. With the instability of the current economy, some students are saving money by shifting from full-priced garments to thrift store finds.

"With gas being so high, I have to worry about not spending money on CDs and clothes the way I used to," said Anna Thomas, a social work junior. "Last week at a business meeting I wore a Gap blazer I found at a thrift store for four dollars."

Because she can save so much money buying secondhand clothes, Thomas said the quality does not matter as much when shopping at thrift stores.

"I won't buy something that doesn't fit, but I'm not too concerned with quality when I'm paying one dollar for a T-shirt," she said.

Shopping at a secondhand store does not mean students have to sacrifice being fashionable, said Scott Geisinger, corporate director of Plato's Closet, a used clothing store in Lexington. Geisinger said Plato's Closet sets itself apart from other retailers with its buy-and-sell system, specializing in trendy clothing for teenagers and young adults.

"More than ever, young people are coming in with inventory to exchange for either clothes or cash," Geisinger said.

Just two miles from campus, the Lexington Plato's Closet is the best performing store in the chain across the country, Geisinger said. There are currently 233 stores in operation and there will be 11 more by the end of the year.

"Our business was great before the economy went south, but now it's even better," he said.

Daniel "Pop" Shorr is owner of POP's Resale and Consignment, a local thrift store located in Lexington.

Since the store's opening in 1996, Shorr said POP's has had an increase in both sales and student customers within the last year. Student customers now make up an estimated 60 percent of the clientele, he said.

"The increase is due to a combination of things. I think part of it is recent advertising, word of mouth, and also that the cost to go to college is getting higher and higher," Shorr said.

With the gift-buying season approaching, Scarlet Wesley, a merchandising, apparel and textiles assistant professor, said more people are turning away from retail and toward thrift buying to save money.

"All retailing is suffering and (experts) are saying there are predictions for a tough holiday season," Wesley said.

While the "broke college student" is a standard cultural image, Wesley said it is not just young people shopping at thrift stores now.

"Because of all the problems in the economy, people we would consider wealthy are becoming more frugal and shopping at thrift stores, so you know college students are having to," she said.

SG votes to raise minimum GPA standard for senators

By Kelli Long
klong@kykernel.com

Student Government senators took an initial vote to amend their constitution at the full Senate meeting Wednesday night.

The biggest change in the constitution would raise the minimum grade point average required to be a senator from 2.0 to 2.5. The other amendments make no real changes to SG, but were merely grammatical, said Sen. Kara Osborne, Internal Affairs Committee chair.

"Because of the changes made within SG last year, small updates were needed," Osborne said. "And we wanted to raise the minimum GPA because SG needs to be held to a higher standard, and we wanted to raise the bar."

One proposed amendment that failed

would require the person chosen to be comptroller, a position that monitors SG finances, to be a finance or accounting major or minor.

"There are many students at UK in these majors, and why shouldn't we give these people an opportunity?" Osborne said.

After two friendly amendments were proposed and voted down, the amendment was then separated from the other proposed changes and also voted down.

"We shouldn't limit this position to students in just one college," Sen. Sierra Enlow said. "Other majors, like Ag. Economics, require many of the same classes. These people would be just as well, or better prepared for this position."

The other amendments passed this week but must be voted on again at the

next Senate meeting in two weeks before they can be approved. The changes would go into effect next academic year.

SG also approved \$1,750 in funding for Fight Night, a fundraising event held by Sigma Chi and Alpha Delta Pi. This is the second year for the event that raises money for the Huntsman Cancer Institute and the Ronald McDonald House charities.

This brings the total of money allocated from the Appropriations and Revenue Committee to around \$27,000, which is a good amount to be at for the middle of the semester, said A&R Chairman Adam French.

"Our conservative approach has kept us under our budget," French said. "We are excited that we are going to be able to help fund people until May."

New course schedule goes paperless

By Travis Walker
news@kykernel.com

In an effort to go paperless, the course bulletin for the Spring 2008 semester will only be available online.

"Several factors were involved in why we wanted to move paperless including being environmentally friendly, and publishing accurate and current information at all times," UK Associate Registrar Bruce Manley said in an e-mail Tuesday.

Manley said the printed schedule books were very inaccurate because changes are made to class, schedule and instructor information all the time.

"It was so inaccurate that we referred to it as the 'Book of Lies' in my office," he said. The biggest draw toward

going digital with the schedule book is the ability to amend it when the information changes, Manley said.

With the online schedule book, he said officials can update the online course catalogue within 30-45 minutes of changes taking place.

Some students, however, are not so keen on the idea of online schedule books.

Todd Day, an exercise science sophomore, said he was concerned that he would not have a book to carry around and have available wherever and whenever he needed it.

"You're not always going

to be at a computer all day," he said.

While a physical copy will not be provided to every student, there will be a Portable Document Format version of the schedule book available for people to print if they want it.

"For many it will be like seeing a long lost friend, I'm sure. But be aware that as soon as you print the PDF out, it will be out of date. I can guarantee it," said Manley said.

Not all students reacted negatively to the news. Robin England, a linguistics freshman, said while it is nice to have something in hand to

look at, she is glad paper will be saved.

"The good things outweigh the bad," she said.

Finance senior Keith Baldwin said while the online system might take some getting used to because he is a senior and accustomed to the books, he thinks it is a good decision.

"It's wasteful to print off all these books," Baldwin said.

While the sustainability of saving paper is definitely a draw for the online schedule books, Manley said the amount of money saved will be beneficial to the school as a whole.

"Between not printing schedule books and undergraduate bulletins, we will save the university \$80,000 per year," Manley said.

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

UK Alert: Campus isn't ready for emergency

■ KERNEL EDITORIAL

On the afternoon of the shootings at Virginia Tech in April 2007, Christy Giles, a UK emergency management coordinator, said UK didn't have a collective emergency management plan.

"We're addressing some of these things," Giles said on April 16, 2007. "There's just nothing solid in place." Eighteen months later, 90 percent of the buildings on UK's campus still have no emergency plan, which plots out how to deal with shootings, storms and other threats to students and employees, Giles said.

W.T. Young Library, some agriculture buildings and the College of Health Sciences have plans in place. But White Hall Classroom Building, residence halls and Patterson Office Tower — some of the most heavily occupied buildings on campus — have no organized plan.

So what if it happened here? What if a gunman breached campus, entered our classroom buildings and opened fire? Would we be ready?

UK officials aren't instilling much confidence.

Giles couldn't say for sure, but said Wednesday she "believes systems that are handled by UK Police are in place for these situations."

In January, UK launched a campus warning system called UK Alert to notify students, faculty and parents who signed up for the program of any campus emergencies. The program launched months after originally slated and has encountered problems from the beginning.

First, the Web site wouldn't sign up people for the program. "We'll work through the glitches as quickly as we can," Giles said in a Jan. 15 Kernel article.

But during its pilot notification, 7,000 members of the campus community were sent a text message about an approaching tornado; more than a third never received the message and others received it hours after the storm had passed, according to a Feb. 6 Kernel article.

A few days after the tornado alert failed, students woke up between midnight and 4 a.m. to text messages informing them of a shooting at Greg Page Apartments. The shooting had occurred hours earlier, around 7 p.m.

UK Alert has been used just four times since January, each time experiencing technical setbacks — hardly encouraging confidence in its reliability. But worse, Anthony Beatty, UK's assistant vice president for campus services who oversees the Office of Emergency Management, says this alert system is the backbone of the campus' emergency preparedness.

"We're going to depend on the notification system," Beatty said Wednesday.

Beatty is depending on a plan that hasn't yet proved it is dependable or even capable of getting a text message out to campus.

After 33 were slain at Virginia Tech, UK officials said they realized the importance of having a plan.

"We are in the process now of reviewing those (individual department emergency plans) and working to integrate them into the larger campus-wide emergency plan," said former UK spokesman Jay Blanton on April 16, 2007.

UK must still be reviewing, because a year and a half later, there still isn't much of a plan. In fact, there doesn't seem to be much of a plan to create a plan.

The Office of Emergency Management consists of two employees. That is not enough staff to put together a comprehensive emergency plan for a campus that consists of almost 29,000 students, faculty and staff. At the very least, the office needs more resources and help.

Giles is by no means solely to blame. Neither is Beatty, who is relatively new to campus. In fact, given that this issue has gone so many years without a solution, hasn't it finally reached President Lee Todd's pay grade?

Other universities seem to be taking it more seriously.

On Wednesday, students at Western Kentucky University received a text message from their campus alert program notifying them of possible shots fired on campus. The text message, sent just after 12:30 p.m. Central time, came less than 40 minutes after Bowling Green Police got the 911 call. Within two and a half hours, campus had been secured by police, taken off a mandated lockdown and was returning to a normal, all-clear state, said Howard Bailey, vice president of Student Affairs at Western.

The shots turned out to be a false alarm, but students were informed of a possible situation, the campus was locked down and police dealt with the situation without putting students in danger. Would that happen — that quickly — on UK's campus?

At the University of Louisville, officials left landline phones in residence halls for the sole purpose of notifying students during emergencies. UK removed phones this semester from all but resident advisers' rooms

despite criticism that dorms would be less safe.)

Virginia Tech has understandably provided a model: electronic message boards in classrooms, outdoor sirens, an oil-tested "VT Alert" system and an emergency voicemail warning to all campus phones, to name a few programs.

But at UK, officials have failed to accomplish even one of the most minimal steps toward emergency safety: getting more people signed up for UK Alert. Giles said 11,608 people are signed up for the program, of those, 5,355 are students. If Beatty is relying on this text message system (which works sometimes) to inform campus, more people need to be on that phone tree. That will require advertising, marketing and other efforts. Students should not be expected to find out about the program and know how to sign up on their own.

Giles said there is no set date when a campus-wide emergency plan will be in place. Beatty said they'll have one "soon." But "no set date" isn't today and "soon" isn't tomorrow, so the campus community should do what it can and sign up for the alert system while it waits for UK to come up with this plan. And UK officials should make this a priority — now.

Will it take another campus shooting or a scare like Western experienced on Wednesday to really focus on the safety of 29,000 students and employees? Will it take a tragedy on our doorstep?

To ensure that it doesn't, President Todd, please consider this to be your UK Alert from the student body. We'll continue to send it in case it doesn't get through. "Please do more before it's too late."

Will it take another campus shooting or a scare like Western experienced on Wednesday to really focus on safety of 29,000 UK students and employees?"

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Combination of experience, youth key to team's success

Finally, basketball season is upon us. Year two of the Billy Gillispie experiment begins on Monday, Nov. 3, as the Cats begin their season with an exhibition game against Missouri-St. Louis, and trust me, I already have my ticket.

After the Cats failed to make the Sweet 16 for the third straight year, fans were forced to endure yet another long, hot, baseball-filled summer. Finally, it is basketball season, folks, and hopes have never been higher.

Despite losing beloved seniors Rameel Bradley and Joe Crawford, I expect this season to go much smoother than the last did. This is not blind faith either, let me explain: the mere fact that the Cats made the NCAA tournament last year is somewhat of a miracle. The team was completely reliant on three players to carry the team, and after Patrick Patterson went down, our tournament hopes looked to be dead in the water. Yet somehow, Bradley and Crawford managed to put the team on their backs and carry them into the tournament. Despite the heroic effort by the two senior leaders, everything that could have gone wrong did last year.

It's time to turn over a new leaf, expect this team to be completely different from last year's team. There is a new cast of (healthy) players, and even new uniforms. No longer will the Cats be reliant on two players to carry the scoring load. With Patterson holding down the fort inside, a healthy Jodie Meeks, and a group of exciting, young wing players at Billy Gillispie's disposal, I fully expect this team to make a deep run into the NCAA tournament this year.

Alex Bloch
Journalism freshman

Coverage of SAFECATS brought about increase in use

I was ecstatic to discover the SAFECATS article on the front page of the Kernel. Always an advocate of personal safety, the publicity for the escort service was a very happy occasion. Anxiously, I began the wait to see if the service would become more popular and be used by more students.

I waited ... but the wait did not last long! The escort service began to increase numbers within the first week! Being available is a wonderful feeling, but being needed and utilized gives one a better sense of purpose.

I just wanted to thank the students who run SAFECATS, the Kernel for letting the campus know about them and the students who use the service. Together, we can make campus more safe and help student organizations be known.

Jessica Essing
Secondary English education junior

Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Brad Bowling. Please limit letters to 350 words or fewer. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com



BRIAN GOODLEY, Kernel cartoonist

Citizen Ky.: Debate on KET or else

The big bailout has turned me into a one-issue voter. No, I'm not talking about Wall Street. I'm outraged at the candidates who bailed out of KET's debates.

If candidates won't debate on KET, then I say let's throw the buns out. But wait, who's left? When many of the congressional incumbents declined to debate, they scratched their opponents,

too, right? These are the times that try men's souls, and the only thing we have to fear is fear itself, so what would Thomas Paine or Franklin Roosevelt think about politicians skirting the public arena at a time of crisis? Shame on you for making them roll over in their graves.

Maybe, just maybe, it's not too late. Take a deep breath, call Bill Goodman at KET and register your vote for the First Amendment. Just say something like, "Bill, at a time when change is in the air, I've changed my mind and decided to take you up on

your kind offer. Please let me know, at your earliest convenience, when I can come to KET's studios and mop the floor with my opponent."

If you dread being labeled a flip-flopper, I offer you a second opportunity: meaningful public deliberation. Come join us at UK for a Citizen Kentucky roundtable discussion on the future of America. If we videotape the forum, perhaps KET will show it so the people of the Commonwealth can hear your best ideas.

We'll produce the program as a conversation starter. After all, we the people need to come together to work with you on solutions, especially if we want public policy to work.

This deliberative approach has been the heart of the Citizen Kentucky Project, designed to engage young people in civic life, since we began producing KET programs: "Beyond O.J.: A Public Journalism Forum on Domestic Violence" (1995); "More Than Free Speech" on the state of the First Amendment in Kentucky at the turn of the century (1999); "Citizen Kentucky: Democracy and the Media" (2002); and "Citizen Kentucky/Citizen China: Hope for a New Century" (2008).

The key is the difference between debate and deliberation. Debates, based on conflict, produce a winner and a

loser. Journalism, also based on conflict, is a kissing cousin, especially when reporters use opinion polls after the debates to inject steroids into their horse-race political coverage.

Deliberation offers three or more options to discuss, not two candidates head to head. The focal point, such as the future of America, reframes the discussion so candidates can talk to the people. Candidates check their personal-attack Tasers at the door and publicly weigh pros and cons, trade-offs and consequences of different courses of action.

Imagine all our congressional incumbents in the same room listening to people talk about how they are being personally affected by, let's say, the economy. Then the elected officials explain what they have proposed or will support in Congress. Now imagine all their opponents engaged in the conversation, and somewhere in between the public gets added to public policy.

As the scientist says at a time of crisis in the movies, "Sounds crazy, but it just might work." Stay tuned. Come Nov. 4, whatever you do, please vote for the First Amendment.

Buck Ryan is director of the Citizen Kentucky Project of UK's Scripps Howard First Amendment Center. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

SPORTS

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Freshman ready to make impact

By Alex Risen
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Freshmen are brought into athletic programs with potential and the hopes of developing into quality players as their careers move forward. For UK women's soccer freshman Kiondra McGee, the future may be now, if she can play consistently.

McGee has shown flashes of the consistent play desired by UK head coach Warren Lipka, however he says McGee needs to work on her fitness in order to be a dominant player.

"She's got great speed and natural physical gifts," Lipka said. "She can attack and make great plays with that speed, but right now she can't keep that intensity up. She needs to work on her fitness in order to be an impact player."

The Cats need McGee to become more consistent in her play. UK is searching for a big-time playmaker and leader, something Lipka saw in McGee

at the club and high school level. McGee, a two-time all-state player at Ursuline Academy in Cincinnati, has shown the speed and strength to beat opposing defenders to deep balls.

Sophomore forward Guileana Lopez said McGee still has to adjust to the speed of the college level. Once she does she'll be a large part of UK's offense.

"Kiondra has potential," Lopez said. "She can definitely play up front and if she works on her conditioning, she can definitely help the attack of the offense."

There is a chance however that Lipka could put McGee at defensive back in the spring. She has seen time in the backfield while playing for her club team, the Classics Hammer FC. McGee said she doesn't have a preference of playing up front or in the back as long as it helps the team win games.

If she does move to the back, McGee says she needs to be prepared for a more physical game, something she doesn't see as much this year playing forward, which she credits her speed to.

"She's got great speed and natural physical gifts. She'll be an impact player in the future."

WARREN LIPKA
UK women's soccer head coach

"Back is probably more physical because you have to defend your goal and keep your opponent from scoring," McGee said. "On offense, I think it is more important to get around the defender instead of trying to go through them which I think my speed helps me do."
Lipka said he is waiting for McGee to bust out of her shell — it's just a matter of when and where it will happen.
"She'll be an impact player in the future," Lipka said. "I know she can play at this level. I just don't know where yet."

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Turtle Man ready to break out of shell

By Kenny Colston
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He's 5-foot-7. A quick look can convince a person that there's nothing that connects his shoulders to his head, especially when decked out in shoulder pads and a helmet. He's not a superhero to UK football yet, but that doesn't mean he doesn't have a superhero-like name. "We call him 'Turtle Man,'" junior running back Alfonso Smith said. "It's because of how low he runs. And he doesn't have a neck. In pads, it looks like he's hiding in a shell. He looks like a turtle."

UK head coach Rich Brooks described him as a "howling ball" of a running back during spring practice. With Smith providing hare-like speed, the Cats look to grind the ball down the field.

Turtle Man, a.k.a. Moncell Allen.

Allen, a sophomore running back, has been through it all since committing to UK

in 2005. A New Orleans native, Allen's family was displaced to Charlotte, N.C., after Hurricane Katrina. In 2006, Allen attended Fork Union Military Academy before finally making it to UK last season.

After landing in Lexington, Allen was an afterthought to most fans, who saw Rafael Little, Tony Dixon and Smith as a full backfield for UK. Then Derrick Locke emerged as another option in the backfield, pushing Allen down on the depth chart.

But Allen still made the most of his attempts, playing in all 13 games as a freshman in various roles. Heading into this season, Allen was again pushed to fourth on the depth chart behind Locke, Dixon and Smith, but when Locke went down with an injury during Saturday's game against Arkansas, Allen was given a chance to shine.

He didn't disappoint, rushing for a team-high 46 yards on seven carries.

"I always said whenever I get my chance I would show

I could run the ball — run it with explosion," Allen said.

Explosive running is oddly one of the ways Allen got his nickname. Allen said that as a freshman at Holy Cross High School in New Orleans, he was standing on the sidelines with a group of teammates, including UK senior Dicky Lyons Jr., after rushing for five touchdowns in the game. Since most of the starters were pulled, they started to have a little fun on the sideline. A teammate pushed Allen's head into his shoulder pads, making Allen look like a turtle hiding in its shell.

With that one little joke, a personality was born. So was a running style, one that defenders, even UK's, hate to go up against.

"It's my wide body and my height," Allen said. "Most defenders in the SEC are taller, so it's harder to get a handle on me."

Given the season-ending knee injury to Locke and the nagging injuries that have haunted Dixon for much of the season, Brooks said Allen and Smith would handle a good portion of the rushing duties when UK heads to Gainesville, Fla., this Saturday.

"It doesn't matter how we do it as long as I can contribute," Smith said. "Whatever I have to do for our team to win."

In addition to the losses on offense, Brooks said there's a chance that defensive starters Micah Johnson, David Jones, Braxton Kelley and Marcus McClinton could miss the Florida game. Brooks ruled out senior defensive tackle Myron Pryor for the game.

That could cause problems for UK's defense, especially with Florida's trademark trick plays using Percy Harvin as a running back and the Tim Tebow jump-pass.

"We have to cover the tight end so when he jumps he's not open," Brooks said. "Ole Miss defended the tight end and then tackled Tebow in the backfield."

In a normal battle, most people wouldn't hedge their bets on the back of a turtle. But with UK running out of options, the Cats are looking to ride a Turtle Man into The Swamp.

"I think Arkansas was a momentum booster," Smith said. "We need that going into Florida. They're a very fast team."



PHOTO BY ED MATTHEWS | STAFF
Sophomore running back Moncell Allen sheds a tackle during UK's 20-14 victory over Middle Tennessee State on Sept. 13.

Brett Favre angered over reports that he tried to help Lions

By Erik Boland
Newsday

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — A thoroughly aggravated and sometimes angry Brett Favre strongly denied major elements of a Sunday report that the Jets' quarterback shared information with the Lions in advance of their Sept. 14 game against the Packers.

But Favre didn't deny the overriding fact in the report.

Favre said Wednesday he did have a phone conversation with then-Lions president Matt Millen, a close friend, in advance of the game, a 48-25 Packers' victory. But Favre disputed the extent to which he discussed the Packers' offense with Millen, or any coaches who might have been listening in.

"Matt and I are friends," Favre said. "He was inviting me to come to his place (in Bethlehem, Pa.) to hunt. He lives about an hour from here. But I'm sure his intentions were to fish me for fair information, just ask me how we attacked them last year. We attacked them pretty good. Didn't give him any game plan. I haven't been in that offense in over a year."

Fox Sports' Jay Glazer on Sunday reported that Favre, whose very public and bitter divorce from the Packers helped bring him to the Jets this summer, spent more than an hour on the phone with Millen.

"Several sources have told Fox Sports that Favre earlier this year phoned the Detroit Lions before their battle versus Favre's old team, the Green Bay Packers, and gave them a rundown of the nuances of what Green Bay does on offense," Glazer wrote Sunday on FOXSports.com. "According to the sources, Favre actually spent over an hour on the phone with Lions coaches, who were connected with Favre by then-team president Matt Millen."

Favre stressed Wednesday that "Matt Millen called me," and also took issue with the categorization of the length of the conversation — "15, 20, 25 minutes" — and what it entailed.

"I mean, I don't have a playbook from

Green Bay," Favre said. "I didn't send a playbook. I didn't call him and say, 'Look, if you do this, you're going to win the game.' I didn't do that."

Favre reiterated he spoke only to Millen, though he admitted there might have been Lions coaches in the room with Millen.

"If someone was in there, I couldn't tell you," Favre said.

Glazer has stood by his story and did so again on Wednesday, mentioning, among other things, that Lions coach Rod Marinelli has refused to deny any aspect of the story.

"I stand by my story 1000 percent," Glazer told Newsday. "Rod was asked three times about the report and all three times he said 'no comment.'"

And Jets coach Eric Mangini wasn't bothered by the story.

"I don't think sharing information is anything uncommon," Mangini said. "From my experiences, the benefit is pretty marginal."

Favre spoke while wearing a green Jets sweatshirt and blue and gold New York Titans cap, but almost all of his 18-minute news conference dealt with the shade of green he wore for the majority of his career. Favre said, divorce aside, he has not been trying to undermine the Packers.

"I want nothing but great things for those guys," Favre said. "I've said this the last several years, that that was the most talented team I ever played on. Good luck beating 'em."

Sunday's report wasn't the first incident involving Favre and a phone. Last week it was reported that Favre called Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo to counsel him about the possibility of playing with a broken pinkie. But Favre said it was Romo who called him.

"Let me clarify this: I did not call the Lions, nor did I call Tony Romo," said Favre, who once played half a season with a broken thumb. "I don't know what else to tell everyone. I'm not calling people."

Or, Favre wanted to make clear, doing anything that is taking away from his current job.

UK wins without leading scorer

By Laura Pepper
lpepper@kymerit.com

With two of its biggest offensive threats missing from Wednesday night's game against the University of Central Florida, the UK men's soccer team relied on different players to win 2-1.

Missing from action was UK's leading scorer, senior forward Michael Strong, and freshman forward Taylor White. Strong has scored seven goals already this season, while White has contributed two goals and two assists. Strong was nursing an injured hamstring and White suffered from a bruised kneecap.

"It's always difficult when you lose two of the best attacking players," senior midfielder Chad Hagerty said. "It was a great opportunity to step up by guys like C.J. Tappel, Tim Crone and Marco dos Santos. Everybody was stepping up and contributing to the game."

Tim Crone, UK's second-leading scorer, gave UK a 2-1 advantage in the 77th minute with his fifth goal of the year. Off of a Hagerty assist, Crone drove the ball home on a ball dropped into oncoming traffic by UCF (6-8-0, 3-3-0 Conference USA) goalkeeper Sean Johnson.

In the 70th minute, UK (8-4-2, 4-1-0 C. USA) tied the game at 1-1 with sophomore midfielder C.J. Tappel's first goal of the sea-

son. Breaking through the defense, Tappel kicked a low shot straight through to the goal, taking the assist from Masumi Turnbull, who took an initial assist from Marcos Santos.

"Breaking through I had a lot of chances, and one finally went in for me," Tappel said.

UK head coach Ian Collins said he was proud that his team continued to battle against Central Florida, especially after falling behind early.

"I thought that Central Florida played hard. They're a difficult team to play against. The last thing we wanted to do would be to give them the first goal, and we gave it to them... We keep playing, we keep grinding away... the players really didn't get nervous, they stuck to the task and got it going," Ian Collins said. "Crone, Hagerty, Tappel, dos Santos, those were two high level goals... they didn't panic and kept it going."

Tappel said he knew the game would be important due to the standings in C-USA. The Cats and Central Florida were both tied for second place in C-USA and a win would help boost UK's resumé for the NCAA Tournament.

"Coming into the game, we knew that if we won we would be in second place by ourselves, and that we needed to get a role to get to the NCAA's," Tappel said.

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