

# KENTUCKY KERNEL

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## Trustees name first ever woman chair

UK grad Mira Ball hesitant to accept nomination at first, swears to do 'very best'

By Jill Laster  
jlaster@kykernel.com

Board of Trustees member Mira Ball was selected in a surprise decision yesterday as the first woman in university history to head UK's top governing body.

The board chose Ball over fellow members Stephen Branscum and Myra Tobin, who were also nominated for

board chair.

Faculty trustee Ernie Yanarella told Ball and the board that yesterday's decision marked an important victory in pushing through the glass ceiling that keeps women from holding positions at UK's highest level.

"I just heard the glass breaking," Yanarella said. "Congratulations."

Branscum, who was recommended by the board's nominating committee

Sept. 4, withdrew his name from consideration yesterday. He recommended that Ball, a home-building company executive, lead the board.

"I think the decision was bigger than me," Branscum said after yesterday's meeting. "I was honored to step aside."

"I, throughout the nomination process, supported Ms. Ball," he said.

After outgoing chairman James Hardymon announced he would not seek another term as board chair, Branscum and other

trustees approached Ball and asked if she would be willing to head the board, faculty trustee Jeff Dembo said.

"I think Mira Ball is an example of what kind of a role model this university needs," Branscum said.

Ball won in an 11-6 vote against the only other nominee, Tobin. Trustees Penny Brown and JoEtta Wicklisse abstained from voting and member Erwin Roberts was absent.

Wicklisse said she abstained because of her friendship with both Ball and Tobin.



Ball

In a 12-7 decision, the board elected Branscum as vice chair over Tobin. Trustee Pam May was re-elected unanimously as board secretary.

Gov. Ernie Fletcher issued a statement yesterday praising the board's choice and called it "yet another gain in diversity in the commonwealth over the past year."

"(Ball) and Steve Branscum — who has also been an ardent supporter of the university for many years — will lead an outstanding team and will help lead UK in the coming years," Fletcher

See BOT on page 3



Brad Obergfell, an economics sophomore, stands guard yesterday at the Sept. 11 memorial in the field in front of the Main Building.

PHOTOS BY ELLIOTT HESS / STAFF

## Sunday alcohol debate pours on

City council hears much opposition to extending sale hours

By Katie Saltz  
ksaltz@kykernel.com

People poured out of church vans and into the Lexington Government Center yesterday to speak out against the proposed ordinance that would allow alcohol sales on Sundays.

The Urban County Council held a work session that ended with a public hearing for community members to voice their opinions about the proposed alcohol ordinance change, which would expand the current law to allow package and by-the-drink sales of alcohol within certain times on Sundays.

Those who spoke against the law heavily outnumbered the people who spoke in favor of it in over two hours of public discussion.

The crowd heard the opinions of local business owners, students, citizens of surrounding cities and preachers from the area. Many students from Commonwealth Baptist College attended to speak out against the ordinance.

Nicole Anderson, a sophomore at the college, said her argument was very simple.

"The Bible says it is wrong," Anderson said. "Sunday is God's day and we should respect it."

Sean Taylor, an undeclared sophomore at UK, said he felt that the church community did not fully represent the Fayette County community.

"Here they obviously organized to make it appear overwhelming," Taylor said. "I feel like the churches are trying to get everyone to live by their moral code."

There is more than religious opposition to the ordinance, said Nick Blades, a computer science junior. Blades said it is more about the reputation of UK.

"Do you want people to think of a college town as a learning center or as a crazy drunken party?" Blades said. "I don't want my classmates coming into class Monday morning drunk. They don't need help being any dumber than they already are, frankly."

Taylor said that despite the large number of people in opposition, he still wanted to make his point in favor.

"What brought me here was trying to stand up for the majority of people in Fayette County and the right to be a responsible drinker," Taylor said.

The small number of those in favor of the ordinance was proof that the idea of alcohol on Sundays is wrong, said Michelle Powers, a junior at Commonwealth Baptist College.

"If there were more people who wanted it, they would have shown up," Powers said. "If you want something bad enough you'll fight for it, and that's what we're doing."

Fifth District Councilman David Stevens sponsored the ordinance, saying in the past that the change is needed for businesses to stay competitive with areas like Louisville and Northern Kentucky. He thought people were confused in their arguments yesterday.

See Ordinance on page 3

Hunter Williams, an Islamic studies sophomore, stands guard as a part of the Pershing Rifles yesterday in the field in front of the Main Building.



## A September salute

Nearly 4,000 flags covered the field in front of the Main Building yesterday as ROTC members stood guard and read the names of the U.S. soldiers who have died in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Pershing Rifles, a military organization of ROTC cadets, organized the event and placed flags as a memorial for victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. The cadets read from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and finished with a 21-gun salute.

## UK faculty joins festival encouraging fresh thinking

By Colleen McCoy  
ncolleen@kykernel.com

Most people would not see what a fashion designer from New Zealand, a California neuroscientist and UK faculty members have in common.

The answer can be found at the fifth Idea Festival, a three-day event beginning Sept. 13 in Louisville that encourages dialogue from professionals in a variety of disciplines.

Well-known innovators such as Steve Wozniak, the co-founder of Apple, Karen Walker, a New Zealand-based fashion designer and Homaro Cantu, a chef and leader in molecular gastronomy, will be among those highlighted at the festival.

More familiar to students are UK

faculty members and Idea Festival presenters Lisa Broome-Price, Tom Marksbury and John Stempel. Phil Kraemer, the associate provost for undergraduate education, has provided coordinating support for the festival.

"I heard about the Idea Festival last year," Stempel said. "As a college professor, I think it is important to stimulate thinking on these ideas."

Originally held in Lexington, the Idea Festival was founded in 2000 by the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation (KSTC). In 2006, the festival relocated to Louisville to accommodate the growing number of participants.

UK has been an important source of support since the event began, said Kris Kimel, president of KSTC.

The event, held in the Kentucky Convention Center hosts about 75 different organizations, including KSTC and UK.

The festival began out of the need for an affordable international forum in Kentucky to provide discussions, presentations, music, performances and films in all areas of life and work.

"I feel like in today's world, it is really all about innovation," Kimel said. "Ideas change the world, and the only competitive edge is the ability to out-innovate the competition."

Even with a network of previous presenters, finding the innovators for the festival is a constant, year-round search for those involved, Kimel said. "We always have our radar up, looking for interesting people," Kimel

said. "We're just always on the lookout."

Broome-Price, a student affairs officer, said she was "entirely hooked by the concept."

A large goal of the event is to share information from seemingly opposite fields, Kimel said.

"Whether you are a dancer, chef, scientist or fashion designer, you learn something from the intersection of others' fields," Kimel said. "The point is to get out of the box and use different people's knowledge to do what you do better."

Ticket prices range from free to \$75 depending on the presentation. More information is available at the festival Web site (www.ideafestival.com).

ESPN College Gameday analyst Kirk Herbstreit has an eye on UK-Louisville game See Sports page 4

Need more than just noise? Columnist John Crowell lists the best show of musicianship See Features page 8

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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 6 — Relax and let somebody else take over for a while. You've done your part, it's time to let the others contribute.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** Today is a 6 — If you do mess up, don't broadcast the news all over town. Figure out how to clean it up and learn from the experience.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21)** Today is a 7 — Your luck is getting better, and so is your attitude. Everything looks doable. If it doesn't yet, it will soon. Chin up.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22)** Today is a 6 — Hopefully, you haven't just bonked your nose by running into a brick wall. This could be literally or figuratively — it's hard to tell from here. Take care.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** Today is a 6 — You like to be with the "in crowd," preferably out in front. Think you can take them a new direction? Teach them it's wise not to throw money around.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Today is a 7 — No need to tell the others how much you have, or how much you spend. Some things are best kept in confidence. Then go get a fabulous deal.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** Today is a 7 — You're good at solving puzzles, and you can do it again. Do more and more research and you will find the right answer.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** Today is a 7 — You have all the clues you need to solve the mystery. You don't think you do, but you do. Spend

more time thinking about it.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** Today is a 6 — You're very popular now. Your friends rely on you to brighten up their lives. Little do they know that you also depend upon them. Let how much you care show through.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Today is a 7 — After you get past a few minor and major difficulties, new options will open up for you. Others are watching you handle the tough jobs. You're in line for a nice promotion.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** Today is a 7 — An outing with friends tunes you up and restores your positive attitude. They make you laugh and they also help you solve one of your problems.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** Today is a 7 — Count up your assets before you take off on your shopping trip. It's quite possible you can afford better than what you thought.

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## JASON WAHLER ENGAGED — HOW LOVE SAVED ME

Sober for 139 days, The Hills' Jason Wahler surprises his girlfriend with a diamond ring — and ex Lauren Conrad isn't too thrilled

By Gabe Guarente

For months, Jason Wahler and his girlfriend of seven months, USC sophomore Katja Decker-Sadowski, had been talking marriage — but no proposal. Finally, on August 24, as the star of MTV's *The Hills* was in the driveway of his sweet-heart's downtown L.A. apartment (he was moving in), their song came on his car radio: "I Guess That's Why They Call It the Blues," by Elton John. "When I heard it, I was like, 'Get down here!'" Wahler tells us. "I pretended she had to help me with some boxes, and then I opened the door so she could hear the song." On bended knee, Wahler, 20, took out a box — he'd only picked up the ring a day earlier: "I said, 'I love you, you've helped me with all my troubles, and I want to spend the rest of my life with you.'" Adds Decker-Sadowski, 19, "We were both teary-eyed, we were so happy."

### Checked Past

Years of joy have been a rarity for Wahler lately. Ever since he and fellow Laguna Beach

alum Lauren Conrad, 21, split in 2006, the reality TV star has been a trouble magnet, with four arrests (including two for assault and one for underage drinking) and court-ordered rehab at Chapman House in Orange, California. Then there was April's "sex tape" scandal (Conrad and Wahler say the tape doesn't exist; he blames Spencer Pratt and Heidi Montag for starting the rumor). Through it all, though, he and Decker-Sadowski (they met at L.A. club Area in early February) remained solid. "I've never felt this way before, so why would I want to let that go?" explains Decker-Sadowski, who says things turned serious before Wahler left for rehab in May. "She was always there for me, no matter what," he says.

### Making It Work

Now sober, Wahler says she's The One. "Your boyfriend goes to rehab for two months, and you see him once a week — it's a big thing," he says. "Once I realized I couldn't party anymore, she said, 'I don't care.'" Adds his fiancée, "He makes me laugh and is mature in how he handles things. That's what I love."

As for wedding plans, Decker-Sadowski tells us she wants a big ceremony in the couple's native California and perhaps a Tahitian honeymoon. But they won't say "I do" until two years from now, when the communications major gradu-

ates. (Wahler is currently on MTV's *Celebrity Rap Superstar*.) "The engagement was just to show I'm serious," Wahler says. "I've never felt this way before."

### Brody & Spencer: Split!

Breaking up is hard to do, even for BFFs. Ex-pals Spencer Pratt and Brody Jenner, who met in the seventh grade, proved the adage true on the September 3 episode of *The Hills*. "You are rolling around with my enemy. I got nothing to say to you," Pratt ranted to Jenner about his staying in touch with Conrad. Still bitter, Pratt tells us, "Brody doesn't know what loyalty is." Responds Jenner, "It is unfortunate we aren't friends, but I will always consider him family."

### Lauren's Reaction

When Wahler and his fiancée announced their engagement at an August 25 housewarming for their L.A. pad, one reveler wasn't too psyched: his ex Conrad, whom he dated on and off for a year. Despite her congratulations, "it seemed like she wasn't happy for me," Wahler tells us, adding that LC showed up unannounced with Audrina Patridge and the Hills camera. "I wanted her to go... There was a weird tension." For her part, Conrad tells us, "I am really happy for Jason and wish them all the happiness." © COPYRIGHT 2007 US WEEKLY

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## ORDINANCE

Continued from page 1

"I think a lot of people don't properly understand the ordinance," Stevens said. "A lot of people recounted the evils of alcohol, and we're not advocating that. We already have sales on Sunday, we're just modifying the hours."

The new ordinance would allow all restaurants, bars, liquor stores and grocery stores to sell alcohol by the drink as well as in package sales during specified hours. Distilled spirits and wine by the drink and beer by the package or drink would be allowed

from 11 a.m. Sunday to 2:30 a.m. Monday.

Packages of spirits or wine would be available from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Currently, restaurants that seat at least 100 customers and make more than half their revenue from food sales can currently sell alcohol by the drink on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Stevens said that despite the comments of the opposition, he still stood behind the ordinance.

"I can't speak for the other council members, but they didn't change my mind," he said. The next vote for final approval on the ordinance could come as early as tomorrow.



**BRITNEY MCINTOSH** | STAFF  
Gwen Preston, right, and Shawn Turner clap after a speech against Sunday alcohol sales at the Lexington Government Center yesterday.

## UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY CRIME REPORT

UK Police reports from  
Sept 5 to Sept 10

- Sept. 5** Theft reported from King Library at 9:24 a.m.
- Sept. 5** Theft reported from UK Hospital at 10:43 a.m.
- Sept. 5** Theft of cell phone reported from the Chemistry-Physics Building at 4:42 p.m.
- Sept. 5** Theft reported from Cooper Drive at 6:19 p.m.
- Sept. 5** Arrest for injury accident at the corner of Virginia Avenue and South Broadway at 7:38 p.m.
- Sept. 5** Theft of bike reported from Kirwan IV at 9:40 p.m.
- Sept. 6** Arrest for alcohol intoxication at UK Hospital at 12:16 a.m.
- Sept. 6** Theft of purse reported from UK Hospital at 6:36 a.m.
- Sept. 6** Theft of bike reported from Seaton Center at 3:37 p.m.
- Sept. 6** Theft of bike reported from the College of Dentistry at 5:06 p.m.
- Sept. 6** Theft of silver 2004 Mercedes from K Lot at 5:24 p.m.
- Sept. 6** Theft of bike reported from BCTC at 5:38 p.m.
- Sept. 6** Theft reported to UK Police Department at 9:56 p.m.
- Sept. 7** Drug and marijuana use reported from Kirwan Tower at 12:31 a.m.
- Sept. 7** Arrest for alcohol intoxication at the corner of South Upper Street and Cedar Street at 2:20 a.m.
- Sept. 7** Theft of bike reported to UK Police Department at 1:16 p.m.
- Sept. 7** Theft reported from the Fine Arts Building at 1:55 p.m.
- Sept. 7** Alcohol intoxication reported from Avenue of Champions at 7:59 p.m.
- Sept. 8** Alcohol intoxication reported from the four pkg at 12:52 a.m.
- Sept. 8** Arrest for alcohol intoxication at the corner of Columbia Avenue and Woodland Avenue at 1:33 a.m.
- Sept. 8** Arrest for alcohol intoxication at the corner of Woodland Avenue and Rose Street at 2:34 a.m.
- Sept. 8** Alcohol intoxication reported from Baldwin Residence Hall at 4:21 a.m.
- Sept. 8** Robbery reported from College View Avenue at 9:46 a.m.
- Sept. 8** Arrest for DUI on Sports Center Drive at 4:38 p.m.
- Sept. 8** DUI reported from McDonald's on South Limestone Street at 4:41 p.m.
- Sept. 8** Arrest for alcohol intoxication on College Way at 6:45 p.m.
- Sept. 8** Arrest for alcohol intoxication at Memorial Coliseum at 8:11 p.m.
- Sept. 9** Theft of computer reported from Kirwan Tower at 1:38 a.m.
- Sept. 9** Theft reported from UK Hospital at 5:16 a.m.
- Sept. 9** Burglary reported from Patterson Office Tower at 1:36 p.m.
- Sept. 9** Theft of a 1995 Plymouth van reported from the VA Medical Center at 9:23 p.m.
- Sept. 10** Alcohol intoxication reported from Hugeliet Drive and University Drive at 12:15 a.m.
- Sept. 10** Alcohol intoxication reported from the Rose Street and Euclid Avenue at 2:28 a.m.
- Sept. 10** Alcohol intoxication reported from Euclid Avenue and Linden Walk at 3:38 a.m.
- Sept. 10** Theft of car radio reported from Memorial Coliseum at 10:17 a.m.
- Sept. 10** Theft of purse reported from Commonwealth Stadium at 11:56 a.m.
- Sept. 10** Theft of computer reported from Greg Page Apartments at 6:20 p.m.

Compiled from reports at  
UK Police Department.  
Compiled by staff writer  
Alice Heymond.  
E-mail: aheymond@kykernel.com.

## BOT

Continued from page 1

said.

Ball, a 1956 UK graduate and a former Fayette County schoolteacher, was also the first woman to serve as chair for the Greater Lexington Chamber of Commerce.

Being chosen to lead the "boy's club" that existed in the Chamber of Commerce in 1991 was possibly the most surprising event in her life, Ball said.

Initially, she hesitated to seek nomination as chair to UK's board. In yesterday's meeting, Dembo, who last week expressed outrage over no woman being nominated for chair, said he asked Tobin if she would accept a nomination for the chair after he thought Ball would not run.

Ball said she did not know she would be nominated for board chair even 24 hours before the Board convened. After talking with her husband and other trustees yesterday about the possibility, Ball decided to accept the nomination.

"I've had a lot of people talk to me, and I had some very persuasive people talk to me," Ball said.

Many of the trustees did not know about Branscum's

decision to nominate Ball until the short time between the board luncheon and the full meeting.

"I don't think we (knew) until about two minutes after our luncheon," Yanarella said. "The rumor was rife right afterward."

After the board filled the three vacant positions, Ball addressed the trustees for the first time as chairwoman.

"Just because at first I was a little reticent at this, I just wanted to let you all know I will do the very best that I can," Ball said.

With that, the Board of Trustees began its regular business.

The board approved establishing the Center for the Study of Violence Against Children. The center, in the College of Social Work, will involve research and education programs that work to prevent child abuse.

A Center for Clinical and Translational Science to convert science to clinical practice will also be established at UK.

The board also approved \$3 million for renovations to the Thomas Hunt Morgan Biological Sciences Building. Renovations will include upgrading the fume hoods and teaching and research labs. The new funding will also include eight new faculty hires.

## Correction

In the article "Trustees split leading into vote for new chair" in Tuesday's Kernel, the educational background of Board of Trustees member Stephen Branscum was incorrectly stated. Branscum attended Western Kentucky University but did not graduate.

To report an error, call the Kentucky Kernel at 257-1915 or e-mail editor@kykernel.com.

## Warming may hurt whales' recovery

By Juliet Elgerin  
The Washington Post

As many as 118,000 gray whales roamed the Pacific before humans decimated the population through hunting, and human-induced climate change may now be depriving those that remain of the food they need, according to a study released Monday.

Today there are only about 22,000 Pacific gray whales, including about 100 in the western Pacific. By examining the genetic variability of the current population, scientists at Stanford University and the University of Washington at Seattle calculated that there would be 76,000 and

118,000 gray whales in the Pacific before commercial whaling in the 1800s shrank their numbers.

Federal officials took eastern Pacific gray whales off the endangered species list in the mid-1990s, but a rise in sea temperatures appears to have limited the whales' available food.

Stephen Palumbi, a professor of marine sciences at Stanford and a co-author of the study, said the research suggests that given the right conditions, the number of gray whales could increase in the years to come. But a warmer Bering Sea could impede this recovery, he said.



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## Analyst says rivalry game off the national radar

By Eric Lindsey  
elindsey@kykernel.com

Although Saturday's UK-Louisville matchup is one of the most anticipated games in recent state history, the rivalry still has a ways to go before it receives national attention, according to ESPN college football analyst Kirk Herbstreit.

"Nationally it's off the radar," Herbstreit said. "If we went to Florida or California or Texas and asked people what do you think of Louisville-Kentucky, they would say it's a great basketball rivalry."

Herbstreit, an analyst on ESPN College Gameday and commentator for ESPN and ABC, said Kentucky has to win more than "once every five years" for the game to matter outside the state.

"The only way this ever becomes a national rivalry outside of college basketball is for both teams to be ranked in the top 25 consistently," Herbstreit said. "Once there's a lot on the line for both teams, then it becomes a rivalry."

Since the renewal of the rivalry in 1994, the first year of the Governor's Cup, UK has only had three winning seasons. The Cats are also just 4-9 against the Cardinals since the rebirth of the rivalry.

But despite UK's woes against Louisville, Herbstreit has reason to believe the Cats are on their way up in the national rankings after their surprising 8-5 record last year.

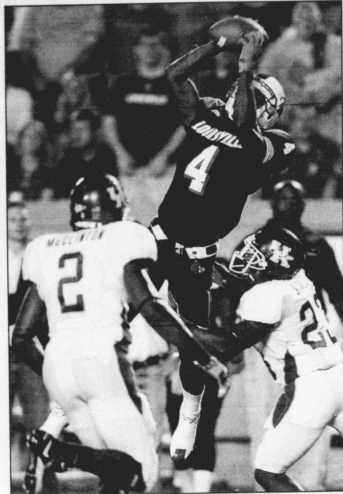
"The majority of their skill is back," Herbstreit said. "They're coming off a bowl experience in the Music City Bowl where they beat a good Clemson team, so I think the opportunity is there. Now it's just about going out and winning games."

If the Cats take care of business on Saturday and beat the Cardinals for the first time since 2002, expect the Cats to break into the national polls, Herbstreit said.

"I really don't think it's as far-fetched to think that Kentucky is a win or two away, or even a few weeks away from sneaking into the top-25," he said.

UK picked up their climb this week in the polls, receiving nine votes in the USA Today poll after defeating Kent State on Saturday 56-20.

With the Cats moving up in the rankings and the Cardinals reeling after giving up 42 points last Thursday in a win over Middle Tennessee State, it's not



Keith Smiley | Staff  
Louisville wide receiver Patrick Carter catches a pass between cornerback Shomari Moore and free safety Marcus McClinton on Sept. 3, 2006, at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium.

out of the question for the Cats to put off an upset on Saturday, Herbstreit said.

"If you take advantage of playing Louisville at home and put it all together, it's just a great game," he said. "I remember two years ago, early in the year, Louisville and Kentucky went down to the wire. Louisville was expected to blow out of the question for the Cats to put off an upset on Saturday, Herbstreit said.



Herbstreit

Kentucky out, but (UK) took advantage of the emotion of being at home. That's what they'll have to do again."

In that game, a 31-24 Louisville tackle Myron Pryor was making just his second career start, a huge contrast from the experienced, All-Southeastern Conference quarterback the Cats have now.

"I think it'll be looked at as not only a battle of two teams with a lot of tradition and great rivalry, but a battle of two first-round draft choices," Herbstreit said. "I think (Louisville quarterback) Brian Brohm could be the No. 1 pick in the draft or right up there. I think Andre Woodson, with the year that he had (last year), he is already per-

ceived by many NFL scouts as a first-round draft choice.

"To have two quarterbacks competing against each other in a rivalry game, that could both be drafted in the first round — what a great opportunity for Kentucky."

### Injury update

Head coach Rich Brooks announced yesterday that defensive tackle Ricky Lumpkin is out for Saturday's game against U of L after injuring his hip against Kent State, adding that he could miss a "significant amount of time."

Ventrell Jenkins will likely start alongside Corey Peters at the defensive tackle positions on Saturday if Pryor is unable to start.

## Overrated games upstage Saturday's contest

When they learned the news, the Louisville and Kentucky fans across the Commonwealth cringed the same way they did when they watched Miss South Carolina crash and burn in this year's Miss Teen USA pageant.



JONATHAN SMITH  
kernel columnist

The news: the battle for the Governor's Cup was going to be played in front of a live, national television audience on ... ESPN Classic.

ESPN Classic?!?! Why ESPN Classic? The game, as we all know by now, was pushed back to the third week of the season this year. That meant it was competing with other heavyweight battles like Notre Dame-Michigan and Florida-Tennessee.

No major television network wanted the UK-U of L game in favor of those other contests. ESPN Classic was virtually the last option.

But how good do those matchups look now? Notre Dame and Michigan appeared to be a pretty sexy matchup before the season started. Now it's about as sexy as Britney Spears was at Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards.

The two schools have won a combined 20 national championships. So far this year they've combined to win a staggering zero games.

Maybe that game should be on ESPN Classic. Or ESPN the Ocho.

No. 5 Florida and No. 22 Tennessee is always the game to watch during the third week of the season. Except when the Volunteers fall flat in the first week of the season, and when Florida head coach Urban Meyer is on the opposite sideline to Tennessee coach Phil Fulmer.

Maybe that game should be played on ESPN

Classic. Or how about FSN (Fulmer Slips Notoriously).

The best matchup according to the Associated Press rankings is No. 1 Southern California's showdown with No. 14 Nebraska. It's so appealing, in fact, that the ESPN College Gameday crew will shoot live from Lincoln, Neb.

And why shouldn't they? They'll probably be at three or more of the Trojans' games, and USC will most likely beat the Cornhuskers by four touchdowns.

Maybe that game should be on ESPN Classic. Or TVG (Trojan Victory Guaranteed).

Aside from those meetings, a few other games of national interest will be played on Saturday.

No. 16 Arkansas at Alabama. As long as Alabama coach Nick Saban hasn't left for Michigan.

No. 10 Ohio State against Washington. As long as Washington coach Tyrone Willingham hasn't been hired back at Notre Dame.

No. 21 Boston College versus No. 15 Georgia Tech. Quick, name one player on either team.

The point is UK and U of L have both held up their ends by getting a 2-0 start, albeit, against far inferior competition, and both offenses have put up outrageous numbers so far. The game could also feature the top two quarterbacks taken in next spring's NFL Draft.

And apart from the Florida-Tennessee game, it's the best — and only intra-state — rivalry game of the day.

If all falls into place, the UK-U of L game could wind up being the best game of the weekend. Who would have said that in July?

So perhaps this game does belong on ESPN Classic after all. Just not on Saturday.

Maybe in a few years.

Jonathan Smith is a journalism senior. E-mail: jsmith@kykernel.com.

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# No major conference affiliation not a concern for Collins

James Pennington  
sports@kykarmal.com

This year, the Southeastern Conference is celebrating its 75th anniversary. Most of UK's varsity athletic programs are affiliated with the SEC and enjoy the prestige and name recognition that comes along with one of the NCAA's premier conferences.

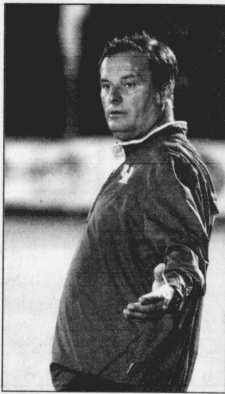
One team that doesn't get that recognition is the UK men's soccer team. Since their inaugural season in 1991, the UK men's soccer team has played in several other conferences that some might consider "mid-majors" in other sports. But despite the lack of credit for their conference, currently Conference USA, head coach Ian Collins is very satisfied with quality of competition in the league.

"We're very grateful to the Conference USA for giving us a great place to play," Collins said. "We hope to continually perform near the top of what is one of the top three or four soccer conferences in the nation."

The SEC does not sponsor men's soccer because only two of its members, UK and South Carolina, have varsity men's soccer programs. The Gamecocks also play in Conference USA.

The journey from the Cats' charter season has been a long one. The Cats played their first season in 1991 as a Division I independent. In 1995, they began playing as an associate member of the Mid-American Conference.

However, Collins and UK Athletic Director Mitch Barnhart sat down a few years ago and began discussing moving from the MAC to a new conference.



BRITNEY MCINTOSH | STAFF  
Men's soccer head coach Ian Collins reacts to a call on the sideline during the UK-Louisville game on Sept. 6, 2007.

"The MAC was starting to become a bit unstable," Collins said. "Some of the members of the conference had soccer programs that were in question and the conference was in danger of losing its automatic bid to

the NCAA Tournament."

When UK was invited to join Conference USA as an associate member for men's soccer beginning with the 2005 season, the Cats decided that the timing was right for a change, a move Collins has never regretted.

Although the team doesn't gain the widespread popularity that a conference like the SEC promotes, Collins is more focused with developing his team, not the conference.

"Sure, it'd be nice if schools like Florida or Tennessee had soccer programs but I don't really think about that," Collins said. "The state of Kentucky has some very strong soccer programs at the high school level. We try to concentrate on what the state of the sport is, not what it isn't."

Even though the SEC is regarded as one of the strongest sports conference in the NCAA, the level of competition is hardly forfeited for the Cats' soccer team just it plays in Conference USA.

"Our schedule is among the toughest in the country," senior forward Aaron Swanson said. "Teams like Southern Methodist University and Tulsa are elite programs and we know we can play at that level."

In this week's National Soccer Coaches Association of America rankings, Conference USA has two teams in the top 25: No. 3 Southern Methodist University and No. 23 Tulsa.

Collins thrives on the tough play of the conference.

"We haven't been here long but we know that the move to Conference USA was a great move for the school," Collins said. "We are very happy to be playing in such a strong conference."

# Transfer adds championship experience

## Bartek joins the volleyball team after a season at Nebraska

By Kenny Colston  
kcolston@kykarmal.com

For most sophomores, fitting in is for freshman year. But for UK volleyball player Brooke Bartek, the process came a year late.

Bartek, an outside hitter on the volleyball team, transferred from Nebraska after just one season in Lincoln, Neb. The sophomore was an integral part of the Cornhuskers' national championship run last year but decided to transfer for the opportunity to start at another school.

"The opportunity to play (was a factor)," Bartek said. "I wanted to be out on the court."

Bartek is getting that opportunity this year as a starter for the Cats. The sophomore is averaging 2.39 kills a game and has five service aces on the year. More importantly, she brings national championship experience to a program on the rise.

"(Bartek) knows what it takes to win at the highest level," head coach Craig Skinner said. "She's been there before. She has gotten better from day one and we expect her to continue to do that."

Skinner, a former assistant coach at Nebraska, knew of Bartek's talent early on. The third-year head coach recruited Bartek while he was at Nebraska. When he heard she was looking to transfer, he sought permission to talk to his former recruit.

"I felt I was a perfect fit in this program," Bartek said. "It was an easy choice."

The easy choice has paid dividends for the Cats so far in 2007, said sophomore setter Sarah Rumely. The Cats are off to a 9-2 start and posted a six-game winning streak earlier in the year, UK's longest streak since 2004.

"(Bartek) is definitely that integral person that can help us be all that we can be," Rumely said. "I feel that I can give her the ball in any type of situation."

Because the Cats are already loaded with leadership and talent, Bartek is trying to do the little things to get UK to the next level.

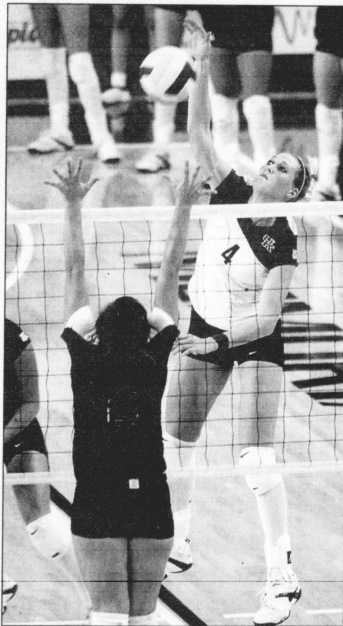
"I try to get the team fired up," Bartek said. "And those other little things that need to be done."

Bartek's biggest job may be helping UK's other outside hitters, freshmen Sarah Mendoza, Ann Armes and Annmarie Behr.

"We all have a close relationship," Bartek said. "But I do have the experience and that helps them."

While Skinner said putting national title expectations on Bartek are "unrealistic," Bartek still has the drive to get her second title.

"It's always the goal (to win the national championship)," Bartek said. "But right now, we're looking at the SEC Championship."



ED MATTHEWS | STAFF  
Outside hitter Brooke Bartek spikes the ball against Eastern Kentucky on Sept. 4, 2007, at Memorial Coliseum.

## SPORTS BRIEF

### Gillispie names former Illinois assistant to coaching staff

STAFF REPORT

Men's basketball head coach Billy Gillispie announced the hiring of Tracy Webster as the third and final assistant coach on the men's basketball team yesterday.

"I'm extremely happy that we were able to hire Tracy Webster," Gillispie said. "I've known him and observed him

for a long time. He gets along with everyone. The players he has recruited over the year speak highly of him because he develops relationships."

Webster comes to UK after a three-year stint as an assistant coach at Illinois and sat on the bench during the 2005 national championship game when the Fighting Illini finished as the runner-up. Prior to Illinois, Web-

ster served as an assistant at Purdue from 2003-04 and as an assistant at Ball State from 2001-03.

During his tenure at Ball State, the Harvey, Ill., native helped the Cardinals to their first outright Mid-American Conference West Division Championship while advancing to the Elite Eight of the National Invitational Tournament in

2002. As a player, Webster was a three-time captain at Wisconsin from 1992-94. He earned All-Big Ten honors in each of his three years.

"He was a good player," Gillispie said, "and as an assistant he's been on the bench during the NCAA championship game, which is the goal we are all working toward."

### Freshman Mallett to replace injured Henne vs. Irish

By Mark Snyder  
Detroit Free Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Michigan made it official Monday: Freshman Ryan Mallett will start at quarterback against Notre Dame on Saturday, and he could have the job a few weeks longer than that.

Coach Lloyd Carr had called starter Chad Henne doubtful for Notre Dame after the Wolverines' 39-7 loss to Oregon, and when the official depth chart was released Monday, it listed Mallett as No. 1

and redshirt freshman David Cone as his backup.

Henne limped off the field at the end of the first half against Oregon and did not return as Michigan dropped to 0-2.

Asked during his weekly news conference Monday to update his team's quarterback status, Carr simply responded: "Ryan Mallett."

People with knowledge of Henne's left knee injury expect him to be out at least 2-3 weeks.

Carr would not set a timetable for

Henne's return, saying only "I do" when asked if he thought Henne would return this season.

"We'll see how he does this week," Carr said. "I talked with him (Sunday). He's in good spirits. He's disappointed, but he'll come back quicker than most."

Henne struggled in losses to Appalachian State and Oregon, hitting 31 of 60 passes for two touchdowns and two interceptions. But he did tie John Navarre for the school record for most career passing touchdowns, with 72.

5

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

## ■ KERNEL EDITORIALS

### Women's safety should focus efforts on proactive answers

Despite UK's attempts over the last several years to curtail violence against women on campus, the situation is just as dangerous as it has been.

A recent survey reported in the Kernel on Sept. 5 showed the percentage of women who feel safe on UK's campus has nearly doubled since 2004. But the percentage of women who have experienced some sort of violence directed toward them has stagnated at 34.1 percent, down just 2.4 percentage points from 2004. And the Kernel reported that the drop was not statistically significant enough to say that fewer women are being victimized at UK, said Carol Jordan, the director of the UK Center for Research on Violence Against Women, which conducted both studies.

Fewer women are worried about the possibility of violence directed toward them and therefore, they are less likely to be on guard against potential dangers.

On a positive note, UK should be pleased that nearly four times the number of women are reporting rape crimes as compared to three years ago, according to the report. Yet, according to the survey, only 9.1 percent of all rapes are reported, a figure that is far from ideal.

All improvements in the number of women reporting rape crimes can be attributed to the proactive, educational policies of institutions such as the Center for Research on Violence Against Women at UK.

In the past, UK has remained purely reactive in the struggle to end

violence against women, neglecting areas of education and preventative reform. Education of the general population is the only way to show women how to protect themselves from potentially dangerous situations. It is also the only means of eradicating the social acceptability of behaving violently towards women.

Students can appreciate improved lighting on campus as well as additional patrols by UK police as part of initiatives to increase safety. However, women must be made aware of the fact that the majority of violence against women is committed by someone whom the victim knows, the Kernel reported in the Sept. 5 article.

While the increase in the number of women feeling safe can be linked to the decrease of highly publicized assaults by unknown perpetrators, it is important for UK and its students to remember that violence against women continues to remain largely unreported and is often committed off-campus.

Just like UK, students should take a proactive, rather than reactive, stance on violence directed toward women.

Yes, walking in groups and avoiding certain areas late at night can help. However, increasing educational programming on the subject, interrupting potentially violent situations, reporting incidents of violence against women and creating an environment where it is unacceptable to treat women violently are just a few of the much larger steps toward making safety for women a reality rather than an illusion.

### UK students willing to bleed to beat Cards

UK students' fervor in the ongoing blood drive is admirable. The Kernel reported on Sept. 5 that, as of last week, UK was leading with more than 2 to 1 ratio in the annual Battle of the Bluegrass blood drive against the University of Louisville.

In the week leading up to the Governor's Cup, the annual football game between UK and U of L, we are happy to see that UK students carry the rivalry beyond sporting events.

Donating blood has a much deeper impact than merely showing school spirit. Hospitals constantly demand blood to save patients' lives, and that demand is never ending. Each time a donor gives blood, there is a good chance that he or she is saving someone's life.

In Kentucky, 37 percent of the population is eligible to donate

blood. In reality, 5 percent actually do.

These statistics explain the shortage of life saving blood supply in the state. That shortage can be further relieved by UK students.

UK students already make up a large percentage of the donor population in Lexington. At the Kentucky Blood Center, college students provide about 25 percent of all blood donations, the Kernel reported.

While UK is already beating U of L by a large margin in the blood drive, students must realize that the need for blood does not end with the competition tomorrow.

Blood drive or not, we encourage eligible students to continue donating blood. Being a blood donor is more than supporting UK — it's supporting each other.

## ■ LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Keep September 11 and Iraq war separate

Sept. 11, 2001 was a tragic day in which over 3,000 civilians, including firefighters and police, had their lives involuntarily and horrifically taken away while beginning a normal workday.

To use this awful day to promote awareness of a highly contested invasion of a foreign country is appalling. Iraq did not do this to us, people. Most of the free world knows that we were wrong to invade Iraq (remember the anti-war protest consisting of millions in cities around the world?), and attempting to link the tragedy to the war is a shameful act of misleading the students of this campus.

I wholeheartedly agree that those in the armed forces who have sacrificed themselves overseas deserve to be recognized, heralded and celebrated, and not just on one day, but everyday of our lives. Someone should be out on the front lawn reading that list of names everyday as we make our way to class, so we all never forget.

But there are 364 other days in

which to accomplish that goal. Today was the day for the innocents. Today was the civilian day, the day where there was no war, no enemy, no brothers in Iraq, no sisters on the front-line, no fathers or mothers on their 3rd straight year of fighting, without believing why.

I grew up in New Jersey, and traveled to New York City in December of 2001 to see ground zero. The intensity, the destruction, the makeshift memorials and the outpourings of emotion were un-imaginable. My hometown of Basking Ridge, N.J. saw eleven mothers and fathers not come home from that fateful day and countless others missing.

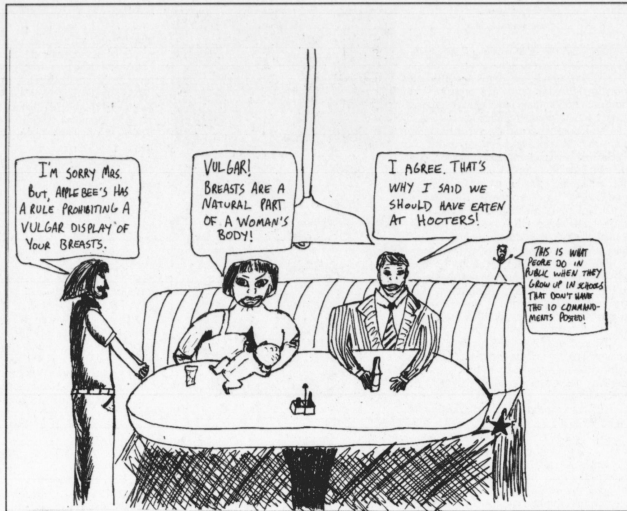
Do you know anyone that never came home? Can you say you have seen the pit of the towers still smoking? I am a patriotic American who believes in justice and truth and who knows this war contains neither. To interject a wrongful war into a day of loving memory is a tragedy of its own.

Michael Robinson  
Geography senior

### Cartoonists Needed

The Kernel is looking for a cartoonist to draw pieces for the Opinions page on a regular basis. Those who have an interest in campus and local issues will be given special attention, although cartoonists of all interests will be considered.

E-mail [opinions@kykernel.com](mailto:opinions@kykernel.com)



BRAD FLETCHER, Kernel cartoonist

## Strive to find middle ground for environmental politics

It was only a few weeks ago that American box offices were plagued by another overly dramatic "mockumentary" on global warming.

"The 11th Hour," which came out Aug. 17, is actor Leonardo DiCaprio's impersonation of former vice president Al Gore as he narrates a film about current environmental dangers and the impending apocalypse they might cause.

It's a shame DiCaprio had to put such a huge blemish on his otherwise prestigious career. (Careful readers will have picked up on the sarcasm as they recount the year "Titanic" was in theaters.)

Environmentalism is a tricky issue in United States politics. The simple fact is that regardless of their political affiliation, the big shots in Washington, Hollywood and wherever else they might be don't actually care about the planet.

On the left, you have those claiming to be the supporters of and all environmentally friendly movements. This claim is primarily to appeal to their base of supporters who really do have a genuine desire to save the planet.

Unfortunately, it's led by people

like Gore, who spends his time polluting the earth on his private jet and heating his Tennessee mansion with an obscene amount of energy.

Then on the right, there are those who take some sort of sadistic pride in not caring about the environment. It's not that they want to destroy it — they just go out of their way to pretend like it doesn't exist. You could compare the Republican's view on environmental problems with the Democrat's stance on terrorism: If we pretend it's not there, it might just go away.

The problem here is that keeping our earth clean is a win-win situation, but no one can seem to figure that out. If the Democrats really believed in environmentalism like they claim, they wouldn't have wasted the entire first half of the year without any significant environmental initiatives. Talking about the environment doesn't fix it.

Republicans, though, don't seem to understand that promoting an environmentally conscious community doesn't have any negative effects. Encouraging environmentally smart decisions doesn't mean jumping on the global warming bandwagon, and it shouldn't be an embarrassing stance for conservatives to take.

So is there a solution to this battle of the wills?

The first step would be to eliminate all government subsidies to oil companies. Let Americans pay the real prices for a tank of gas and

we'll see how fast innovation and the free market creates an affordable alternative fuel.

The less control oil companies have on our everyday lives, the more freely the politicians in Washington can discuss environmental issues reasonably. Whether it be federally funded recycling programs, or reforestation, it's much easier to discuss these issues without being divided over oil and its effect on global warming.

Furthermore, environmentalists need to quit being so abrasive. In the same manner we are turned off by the preachers outside the Student Center who tell us we're all going to Hell, no one likes being given an eco-guilt trip.

The pretentious attitude that looms around most tree-huggers seems ready to pounce at the opportunity to throw their world view in our faces only causes tension — which is something we need to eliminate to effectively cooperate.

Living sustainable lives is something that every American can do with a little bit of effort. Having been guilty of not doing so in the past, allow me to put my foot forward first in an effort to live a more environmentally conscious lifestyle.

This isn't an issue that should divide liberals and conservatives. It should unite us.

Brett Nolan is a philosophy sophomore. Email at [opinions@kykernel.com](mailto:opinions@kykernel.com).

## A penny for your thoughts: U.S. monetary policy is deeply flawed

I hear extremely little discussion concerning monetary policy in the violent storm that is American civic culture. A blatant disinterest among voters and political figures disturbs me because I feel we choose to ignore the issue of monetary policy — and of revamping our monetary system — at our own peril.

I must say, as a believer in the merits of capitalism, that our current understanding of the system is fundamentally flawed. In capitalism, the individual works for sustenance and what remains becomes his or her capital.

Capital refers, of course, to one's savings. And yet, our monetary system is designed around the principle that we must constantly spend our money because consumers, we have been taught, are the driving force of the economy.

Indeed, the current monetary system actually discourages the individual from saving money because of the constant depreciation of the value of the dollar.

No one saves to buy a home anymore as he or she would in a

true free market economy. Saving seems like such a long and hard road, and why should one traverse it when interest rates are amazingly low — and completely artificial.

No one has any real credit anymore. We have redefined the very word "credit" from its traditional capitalistic meaning. Credit doesn't come from our savings any longer, but rather, from the Federal Reserve System. The central bank of the United States, the Federal Reserve, in its own words, "influences the availability and cost of money and credit."

When the media speculates on what action the feds will take when the economy begins to slump, the question becomes one of how many billions of dollars the central bank will print and circulate in order to fix interest rates for a temporary period of time. Congress set up the central bank that controls all the money in our country, and yet, no financial committees in Congress have any knowledge of the fed's deliberations according to USA Today.

The Federal Reserve Bank is accountable to no one as it manipulates the market. The dynamic organism that is the free market economy consistently awakens and adjusts itself against the favor of the fed's manipulation — and when the market gets angry, instead of recognizing the problem, we turn to the

federal government again to further fix prices and print more money, perpetuating the problem down the road until a complete collapse occurs.

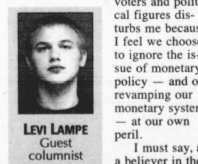
The Federal Reserve System is unspeakably fraudulent. The amount of credit only increases by diluting the value of the dollar for the few of us who attempt to save our money. Ironically, the system robs us of money as it prints more to finance a bureaucratic welfare system and an ever-expanding military industrial complex.

The dollar today is a fiat currency, a debased currency. It's not hard money by any means. Its value comes from the Federal Reserve rather than from the marketplace and therefore, cannot truly be measured.

If the dollar were based on an asset like gold, as it used to be (and as the Constitution requires it to be), it wouldn't be possible for any governmental organization to "reproduce" money for fraudulent quick fixes to the economy.

Monetary policy is extremely important, and yet, we've nurtured a system that defies basic economic common sense and the Constitution. One simply can't be a responsible voter and be ignorant of an issue as important as monetary policy.

Levi Lampe is a chemistry and biology junior. E-mail at [opinions@kykernel.com](mailto:opinions@kykernel.com).



LEVI LAMPE  
Guest columnist



# FEATURES

Emily Coovert  
Features Editor  
Phone: 257-1915  
ecoovert@kykernel.com

## Classic musicianship provides relief from mainstream tunes

Whatever happened to guitar solos? For that matter, whatever happened to musicians taking pride in learning how to play their instruments?



**JOHN CROWELL**  
Kernel  
columnist

It is true that the punk movement and other forms of experimental rock have made their own statements about the nature of music outside the bounds of technical prowess. There have been important statements made about tone, song structure and composition. By the same token, I never really find myself driving around listening to cool tracks by classical guitarist Andres Segovia just because of his technical chops. However, after jamming for a while on a nonstop diet of Calvin Johnson, Man Man and noise rock, don't you just crave listening to an artist who can really just play an instrument?

I know I do. I've compiled, after much deliberation and time randomly scrolling through my iPod, a list of songs that display admirable musicianship and are also, you know, good.

**Led Zeppelin** — "Moby Dick" — *Led Zeppelin II*

The whole band really shines on this track, although I guess this was Robert Plant's opportunity during a live show to grab a beer and kick back, as there are no vocals. The guitar and bass sound amazing on the opening and closing sections, and the tune is definitely catchy as can be. What really amazes, though, is the two and a half minute-long drum solo in the middle of the song. Even more admirable than John Bonham's constant amazing drumming is the fact that he did much of it with his hands, because he preferred the sound and control he was able to gain this way. Think about it: bare hands on a two and a half minute-solo on a full-sized drum kit. Have Brian Eno hit a crash symbol bare-handed and then get back to me about how musically gifted he is. Just saying.

**Jimi Hendrix** — "Voodoo Child (Slight Return)" — *Electric Ladyland*

It's a shame NASA doesn't allow astronauts to take acid a few minutes before taking off into space because we will never know for sure how much it feels like "Voodoo Child (Slight Return)" sounds. I'm pretty sure it's quite similar. Some people might regard this as an overrated classic rock song, but I would suggest simply listening to the entire thing on headphones in one sitting. Guitar parts zoom in from the left and right speakers dramatically, the rhythm inexplicably yet flawlessly slows down and speeds up and verses blossom from instruments sounding like they were submerged in water even as they attack your ears. Hendrix was a master not just of guitar technique, but in the areas of guitar effects and record production as well. This is the quintessen-

tial song that proves it.

**Liars** — "Mr Your on Fire Mr" — *They Threw Us in a Trench and Stuck a Monument on Top*

This track from Liars' first album is a good example of an indie-rock band that actually has its musicianship down pat. Most of the song's instrumentation consists of a fuzzed-out bass line and spastic drums, combined with occasional bursts of guitar squeals and feedback. Both the bassist and drummer propel the song forward with admirably complex and catchy parts, re-defining the term "rhythm section." It is the bass and drums that drive the song. Liars obviously weren't the first or last band to have such a dynamic. "Mr Your on Fire Mr" is just the coolest song to demonstrate it so far.

**Jerry Lee Lewis** — "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On" — *25 All-Time Greatest Sun Recordings*

Why don't people play guitar rock anymore? It seems like the instrument is currently regulated to classical, jazz or "serious, emotional" rock. Jerry Lee Lewis proved the piano could be an instrument of rock destruction. The way he played piano was absolutely ridiculous and as inventive as any lead guitarist. What's more, Lewis' stage presence was some of the wildest in history, giving some later punk bands a run for their money. Other artists, such as Little Richard, had a similar aesthetic. However, I'll have to give Jerry Lee Lewis preference because of the fact that he continues to go strong today, as is evident by 2006's excellent *Last Man Standing*.

**Lynyrd Skynyrd** — "Free Bird" — *Pronounced Leh-Nerd Skin-Nerd*

Drunken forty-year-olds scream this song's name out at concerts for a reason: "Free Bird" is awesome. Once again, having it forced upon the ears of listeners over the last 30 years has left some forgetting how truly great this song is. Occasional homage paid by bands such as Built to Spill hopefully has inspired some to remember. The guitar mastery on this 15-minute-long epic is staggering. I tried to learn the solo myself once and seeing the whole thing transcribed on paper in front of me made me want to cry. What's even more amazing is the two original lead guitarists of Lynyrd Skynyrd played the song live, in unison, note for note. Before you write this song off as an antiquated parody of itself, just sit and listen to it in its entirety. Its power is hard to deny.

I'm not saying that experimental music has no purpose in the rock world. I personally enjoy it a great deal and think that some of the most important and entertaining music in the last few decades has been of the "experimental" or "progressive" variety. Still, there really isn't anything that replaces blasting a song on your stereo that is played by musicians who have learned their instruments and know how to make amazing, passionate music with them.

John Crowell is a journalism senior. E-mail at features@kykernel.com.

## 50 Cent's boast may buy early retirement

By Todd Martens  
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — It looks like 50 Cent might be retiring at the ripe old age of 32.

The Queens, N.Y., rapper announced a few weeks ago that if his new album, "Curtis," did not outsell Kanye West's new collection, "Graduation," during their first week in stores that he would call it quits as a solo recording artist.

Well, both albums hit the shelves Tuesday, and the early results suggest 50's sales aren't as big and bold as his words.

"Let's put it this way, if 50 is true to his word, we won't have any more 50 Cent albums," Carl Mello, a director of buying at the East Coast music retail chain Newbury Comics said Tuesday. Mello noted that "Graduation" was outselling

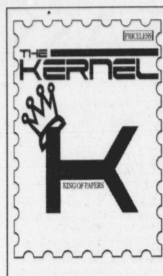
"Curtis" by about 200 hundred units at the 27-store chain, which has its headquarters in Brighton, Mass. It was still early in the afternoon at Amoeba Records in Hollywood, but music buyer Kristen Frederick had a similar assessment. "For every 50 Cent CD we sell," she said, "we sell two Kanyes."

That can't be pleasant news for 50 Cent, who touched off a tempest when he threw down his gauntlet last month with the hip-hop Web site SOHH.com: "They would like to see Kanye West give me a problem because I've worked myself into a space where I've become the favorite. Everybody roots for the underdog when he goes against the favorite. ... Let's raise the stakes. If Kanye West sells more records than 50 Cent on September 11, I'll no longer write

music. I'll write music and work with my other artists, but I won't put out any more solo albums."

50 Cent has been locked in plenty of blood feuds with other artists through the years, but even he has been candid that in taunting West he was merely stirring the pot at retail; in an interview with a Los Angeles radio station, he chuckled when asked if there was any bitterness behind his words. He answered that "you don't pull a gun" on someone just because they pick the same day to release their CD.

The stunt certainly caught the attention of the media and landed 50 Cent and West on the cover of the latest issue of Rolling Stone, which has them posed like glowering heavyweights at a boxing press conference.



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