



**Sweeney Todd  
brings blood,  
gore to  
Lexington  
Opera House**

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# KENTUCKY KERNEL

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2008

WWW.KYKERNEL.COM

## Council vote could change downtown scene

By Kristin Sherrard  
ksherrard@kykernel.com

Lexington may have found its solution for local entertainment.

The Lexington Distillery District project will convert 300,000 sq. ft. of distillery structures into commercial space, according to the project's Web site. The buildings would become a range of entertainment venues including retail businesses, signature restaurants, nightclubs, art studios and the world's first bourbon boutique hotel, said developer Barry McNeese.

"It will be the first time there has ever been a hotel in a bourbon facility property," McNeese said. "We are trying to do something authentic and something that is an important part of our history, even though everyone has forgotten about it."

Urban County Council members will hold the first reading of two ordinances that would generate funding for two Lexington development projects, the Distillery District and the Phoenix Park/Courthouse District, at a 7 p.m. meeting Thursday.

The ordinance would approve tax increment financing, or TIF, for both projects.

According to Harold Tate, the president and executive director of the Lexington Downtown Development Authority, in order to calculate a TIF, the amount of taxes coming into an area of development is assessed before the structure is complete. They will be recalculated again upon completion, and the difference between the two numbers makes up the TIF.

There are two types of TIFs: Signature TIFs and blighted area TIFs, said 4th District Councilman Julian Beard. Phoenix Park is a Signature TIF, meaning the project must cost more than \$200 million to construct; the Distillery

District is a blighted area TIF, meaning it costs less than \$200 million.

TIFs are used to help raise money for public improvements, including sidewalks, parks, plazas and public parking garages, Tate said.

"It's not a new tax," he said. "It is an existing tax that will be used to pay off any public improvements in the TIF district."

If the ordinances pass the council, the decision will go to the state government, which will make the final approval and also make its commitment to the projects. No new state taxes are associated with TIFs.

"Instead of the (state tax) money going to Frankfort, the money stays here in Lexington to do the improvements for that district itself," Tate said.

At Tuesday's work session meeting, the Phoenix Park ordinance, which includes the CentrePointe project, was approved by a vote of 9-6 and the Distillery District was unanimously approved.

Second District Councilman Tom Blues voted against the Phoenix Park project because he does not support CentrePointe.

"I have not supported (CentrePointe) in the past and do not intend to support it," Blues said. "The difference between the two TIFs is immense."

Blues also said the council still has little knowledge about the financing for CentrePointe.

"Without that kind of knowledge and without that kind of collaboration with the developers, with the government, I don't feel it is a project that we should be involved in with a taxing increment financing package," Blues said.

However, Beard, who voted in favor of putting Phoenix Park on the docket, disagreed.

"We are at no risk and really it's none of our business" how the projects are financed, Beard said. It is the investors' choice whether or not that is disclosed, he said.

Beard said this is only a step in the process. "We are not bound at this step, just interested in further pursuing it," he said.

Beard said the downtown plans would be an asset to UK students.

See Development on page 6

### Council meeting

Funding for the Distillery District and the Phoenix Park/Courthouse District development will be voted on at the Urban County Council meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday. Meetings are open to the public.

By Carolyn Gooten  
cgooten@kykernel.com

Katha Pollitt isn't afraid of controversy.

The author of commentary on divisive issues such as gender roles and politics for The Nation magazine will speak Thursday at 4 p.m. in the Student Center Grand Ballroom. Pollitt will read excerpts of her book of personal essays, "Learning to Drive and Other Life Stories," and will discuss the 2008

election. This will be Pollitt's first visit to UK, and she said she loves going to schools and reading her work, reaching out to students and sharing ideas with people.

"I hope students have something new to think about that they haven't considered already," Pollitt said.

One of Pollitt's enduring interests has been gender politics and the way it affects the lives of men and women, which fits well with the goals of UK's Gender and Women's

Studies program, said Susan Bordo, acting director of the organization.

"Gender and Women's Studies is dedicated to making these kinds of issues mainstream dimensions of every course of study," Bordo said.

Bordo said Pollitt is one of the most interesting people in political writing, which will make her visit leave even more of an impact.

"Katha Pollitt is one of the most engaging, astute writers on the scene today, who isn't afraid to

tackle controversial topics, especially about women, men, politics and

contemporary culture," Bordo said.

Bordo said she believes students will enjoy Pollitt's presentation and take away new ideas.

"I hope that students will see that it's possible to communicate important ideas in a vibrant, personal, engaging way, without jargon or pomposity," she said. "I'm hoping that Katha will invigorate them to discuss controversial ideas with each other and to bring what they care about to their academic work."

### If you go

**What:** Katha Pollitt, commentator for The Nation  
**When:** Thursday at 4 p.m.  
**Where:** Student Center Grand Ballroom  
**Admission:** Free

## Author: Abu Ghraib resembles past

By Geoffrey Griggs  
ggriggs@kykernel.com

The events that occurred at the Abu Ghraib prison brought up issues similar to those of the feminist and civil rights movements, said Donald Pease, and reflect events in classic works.

Pease, an English professor and director of the liberal studies program at Dartmouth College, spoke to about 50 students, faculty and interested community members Wednesday in his lecture, "Antigone's Kin: From Abu Ghraib to Barack Obama."

During the lecture, Pease presented points from a condensed chapter in his upcoming book titled, "Unacknowledged

Legislators: State Fantasies from the Persian Gulf War to Barack Obama."

"Hearing Dr. Pease was fascinating in the way that he identified traumatizing American events in history that are woven into the fantasy of the American homeland," said Carly Jackson, a political science junior.

The lecture focused on Pease's interpretation of how events during the Bush administration interrupted the president's "fantasy" — or vision for the country — and led to the election of Barack Obama. Pease cited the events at Abu Ghraib prison, Cindy Sheehan's refusal to mourn the death of her son and Hurricane Katrina as examples.

Pease's discussion of Obama caught Jackson's attention. "What was most interesting to me is his look on President-elect Obama," Jackson said. "Obama is going into the Bush administration homeland fantasy and is rewriting it as a homeless homeland America."

He also presented listeners with a packet of pictures to further explain his topic with visual evidence to support his points.

"I was particularly interested with Abu Ghraib photos' connection with feminist and civil rights era themes and how the pundits themselves probably didn't even realize it," said Andrew Pillow, a political science and journalism sophomore.

## SG recommends diversity as USP requirement

By Kelli Long  
klong@kykernel.com

Student Government senators voted Wednesday to support an act that suggests the incorporation of the topic of diversity into the University Studies Program.

The act to support diversity was written by Sen. Mark Rouse, following a letter to the editor written by Tommy Juonso, a second year law student, which ran in the Kernel after the incident involving an Obama effigy on campus. It suggested a mandatory class be added into the USP requirements on the topic of diversity.

The original resolution was introduced at the SG meeting two weeks ago. It was tabled, though, so senators could have time to read over it. When it came back up at the Wednesday night meeting,

Rouse shortened the resolution to say that SG urged UK to consider and incorporate diversity into the USP requirements.

"I read Tommy's editorial and contacted him," Rouse said. "He said that he had a proposal and I wanted to let his voice be heard."

Senators voted to give \$1,250 in funding to the Sophomore Leadership Retreat, an overnight retreat for second-year Greeks who are up-and-coming leaders in their fraternities and sororities, and on campus. The event passed through the Appropriations and Revenue Committee at their meeting last Wednesday.

A DancoBlue representative was at the meeting to speak about the event and continue the efforts of SG to familiarize senators with a variety of groups and organizations on UK's campus.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ALLIE BARZA | STAFF  
PHOTOS BELOW BY DICK YARMY | STAFF

Business management sophomore Nate Dubie, left, international studies freshman Korey Gaines, international studies sophomore Brennan Parker, and dietetics sophomore Ben Skaggs are members of the UK ROTC.

## An oath to their country

By Dick Yarmy  
news@kykernel.com



"Who is in charge won't make much difference to me. We're here to serve."

— David Boehmker, ROTC member



"I think there will be a shift in focus from Iraq to Afghanistan ... but in any case, there's still a job to be done."

— Larry Edmiester, ROTC member



"Besides, you don't judge your leadership ... it's not about them ... it's about getting the job done."

— Chris Peterson, ROTC member

After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks David Boehmker was inspired to join the Army.

Now the administration that has been leading the country since the attacks is on its way out of office and Republican President George W. Bush will pass the torch to Democratic President-elect Barack Obama in a few months. But Boehmker, a political science senior, said no matter which president serves and what war goes on, his civic duty does not change.

"Who is in charge won't make much difference to me," Boehmker, a member of ROTC at UK, said. "We're here to serve."

As the administrations change hands, priorities are revisited. Where Bush opposed beginning a pullout from Iraq, Obama has announced plans to bring withdrawing from the war soon.

But the seating of a new administration, one that is openly critical of the former administration's conduct during the War on Terror, will not in any way impact the careers of men and women serving in the military, said Lt. Colonel Chris Holly, a professor of military science at UK and a soldier for the past 22 years.

"We take an oath to serve the country — so we salute the people that elect our commander in chief, then we get busy and do our job," Holly said. "The administration's political affiliation makes little difference."

Holly said the presidents he has served under were influenced more by the perceived threat to the nation than by their party's political philosophy.

Military funding is often an essential platform presidents run on, Holly said. During his career, Holly said he has seen both parties

See ROTC on page 6

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## CRASH! A PARTY not your car

### Horoscopes

**By Linda C. Black**  
To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

- Aries (March 21-April 19)** — Today is an 8 — The work you're doing now is attracting positive attention. The bigwigs are impressed, and this could mean more work for you. Make sure you put in for a raise or a promotion, too.
- Taurus (April 20-May 20)** — Today is a 9 — Familiarity breeds contentment in this situation. Do something that worked really well before. It will work again.
- Gemini (May 21-June 21)** — Today is a 6 — You haven't had much time to relax at home with family lately. There are a couple of issues to resolve. Don't worry, the most important thing you can offer is your full attention.
- Cancer (June 22-July 22)** — Today is a 7 — You're in a

- somehow difficult phase. You're learning through trial and error. Get a good coach, but there will still be times when you'll just have to begin over. Don't give up.
- Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** — Today is an 8 — Make hay while the sun shines. Whether it does or not, it looks like you can rake in a lot of cash if you really hustle now. Take lunch later in the week.
- Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** — Today is a 6 — Make extra time for family now, even if it means rearranging your schedule somewhat. They have things to talk to you about, and you need their input.
- Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** — Today is a 6 — Make time to work on your plans before you leap into action. You can do a few things first to bring in more money. You'll need it.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** — Today is a 7 — There are a few things you've been wanting to say and haven't, which was smart. If you're sure your pals won't rat on you, you could speak freely now, or not. It's

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## kernel POP

# I think I'm a pretty cool dad'

Barack Obama talks about parent-teacher meetings, ballet recitals and Harry Potter

**the DISH**

On Nov. 4, 2008, Barack Obama became the soon-to-be most powerful man in the world. Overnight his calendar was crammed with high-priority meetings with George W. Bush, policy advisers ... and his daughters' teachers? Yes. Less than 72 hours after his historic victory, President-elect Obama, 47, and wife Michelle, 44, arrived for a parent-teacher conference at the University of Chicago Lab School, where daughters Malia, 10, and Sasha, 7, are students. "Barack and I haven't missed (one conference) throughout this whole process," the future first lady told *Us* earlier this year.

Then, on Nov. 10, hours before jetting to Washington, D.C., to sit down with Bush in the White House, Obama made sure to drop his daughters off at school with a kiss. "The Obamas are true to their word when they say they're going to balance work and family," says Michelle's ex-colleague Paul Schmitz. "They're going to try to be as normal as they can."

Talk about a new domestic agenda. From the launch of his campaign nearly two years ago, Obama not only talked but walked the life of a modern-day working father who still managed to stay involved. From his nightly calls to his daughters from the road to his beaming smile as he talked about Sasha's "great report card" last winter, he and his charismatic clan put a human face on the cold and often vicious political process. "There's something

more approachable about a first family that has young children," presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin tells *Us*. "It adds another dimension to the presidency, of the warmth and feeling toward the people in it."

Obama's combination of JFK stature and Just Like *Us* accessibility has also meant an almost unprecedented national fascination with the new first family. And the once-modest family from Chicago is greeting the attention with both anxiety and awe. For now, they simply are planning their relocation for Dad's job (inauguration is Jan. 20). As Michelle recently told *Newsweek*: "Once the pieces start coming together ... that's when the excitement can begin."

Actually, it's begun already for families across America, explains Goodwin: "We're aware that we're going to balance work and family," says Michelle's ex-colleague Paul Schmitz. "They're going to try to be as normal as they can."

### Meet the First Daughters

**What's she like?**  
Michelle calls Malia, 10, "focused." Obama says she's more reserved than her sister: "She doesn't like to have a lot of fuss around her."  
And Sasha, "She's a ham!" Obama says of Natasha (her full name), 7. At the DNC in August, she playfully stole the microphone from her mom.

Malia plays soccer (Dad rooted for her at an October game) and recently began taking drama classes. Like Sasha, she also plays piano. Sasha takes dance (tap) and gymnastics, and plays the baby grand piano in the Obamas' \$1.65 million Chicago home (which they'll keep).

### Where will they go to school?

The race isn't over yet! Washington, D.C., schools are vying to enroll fifth-grader Malia and second-grader Sasha. For the private schools, two of which Michelle reportedly toured Nov. 10, adding first kids to the student body means a big boost in status and buzz. The top contenders (all pre-K or K-12):

**Sidwell Friends:** First daughters Chelsea Clinton and Tricia and Julia Nixon are alumni of this Quaker-run school.

**Maret:** With just 600 kids, this private school has built its reputation on its intimate size. Plus, Washingtonian magazine editor Garrett Graff says: "A number of Obama aides have children or have had children" go here.

**Georgetown Day School:** D.C.'s first racially integrated school, this is also "philosophically" closest to the girls' current progressive education, says Graff.

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**THE CATS DEN**



## Demon barber cuts into Lexington

By Kelly Wiley  
kwiley@kykernel.com

The plot: revenge, blood, a razor and a death trap in the form of a barber chair. Less than a year ago "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" made its way to theaters with large amounts of blood, body parts and gore.

There have been many versions of "Sweeney Todd" made for TV, film and theater, but this weekend the touring cast of "Sweeney Todd" will bring the newly reworked version back to the stage when they make their stop at the Lexington Opera House.

"Anytime you can see a live performance on stage it's a completely different experience," said Luanne Franklin, program director for the Lexington Opera House. "It almost begs you to come and see the difference so you can get another creative take on the story."

The story of Sweeney Todd, known as Benjamin Barker before his dark side is revealed, revolves around revenge. After Judge Turpin ships Todd away on a false charge, he goes after Todd's wife, Lucy, and daughter, Johanna. Long story short, Todd returns illegally to plot his revenge after Turpin adopts Johanna.

"You can't really expect the movie because it's so minimalistic," said Matt Cusack who plays Jonas Fogg in the musical version of "Sweeney Todd." "In the movie there is blood pouring everywhere and the bodies come crunching down to the floor board."

Cusack said the story line hasn't changed, but the way in which it is presented has been tweaked. John Doyle, director of original direction and design, reworked the play, with only a few major changes.

Doyle first performed the play at a small theater in England, Cusack said. Having to make budget cuts, Doyle decided to use less blood than seen in the original version; however, Cusack said there are still a few buckets of blood used in the show.

One of the biggest changes made was taking the 30-piece orchestra making up the original Broadway production and reducing it to a 10-member ensemble of actors and musicians.

"Everyone has to be very talented to pull this off," Cusack said.

"It's more personal and you get to know the story a little better."

Each cast member plays an instrument, Cusack said. This is one of many elements that you cannot get from the movie, he said.

"It's just a cool thing to go to a show and see all the musicians on stage singing and acting," Cusack said.

Besides the play itself, Franklin said there is another great aspect to the show. With the economy in its downward position, and college students having tight budgets,

she said any student who comes 90 minutes before each performance, with a student ID, will receive 50 percent off ticket prices; otherwise, tickets range from \$50 to \$75.

"I would do anything Tim (Burton) wanted me to. You know, have sex with an aardvark ... I would do it."

— Johnny Depp

### Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street

Where: Lexington Opera House  
When: Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 and 7 p.m.

## Series to focus on Bahá'í Faith

By Kelly Wiley  
kwiley@kykernel.com

Beauty queens are not the only ones hoping for world peace.

Members of the Bahá'í Faith believe that world peace is achievable, but it is not something that is going to come to humanity. World peace is something that society must work toward.

"We believe right now that the social teaching is that humanity needs to learn how to live together peacefully around the world," said Carl Lee, a UK mathematics professor and believer of the Bahá'í Faith.

Lee will speak on Bahá'í Thursday as part of the Student Activities Board Faithbusters series.

One principle of the faith states there is

only one god, one creator living high above the human plain. They also believe their god gives guidance to humanity by occasionally raising up a manifestation of a great prophet.

The Bahá'í Faith has specific goals, which believers feel are important at certain times.

"We believe right now the social teaching is that humanity needs to learn how to live together peacefully around the world," Lee said.

Lee said living in a global, diverse society, there are various aspects in culture and different beliefs in doing things.

"We should celebrate it (diversity), but the creativity of the human experience provides information and lessons that we can learn from each other."

Lee along with Rochelle Arms and Michael Razeq will be at the W. T. Young Library Auditorium at 7 p.m.

## ontap

For the week of  
Nov. 20 – Nov. 26

### THURSDAY

Rob Dread A.K.A. KMA  
8 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

Miss Tess and the Bon Ton Parade  
10 p.m., Al's Bar. Tickets cost \$3.

FRIDAY, Nov. 21  
Very Emergency, Mother Father  
8 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

Zac Brown Band  
8 p.m., Headliners Music Hall, Louisville, Ky. Tickets cost \$10.

Ingrid Michaelson  
8 p.m., Madison Theater, Covington, Ky. Tickets cost \$15.

SATURDAY, Nov. 22  
The Villebillies  
8 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$6.

Dozens of Dollars, Lou 'n' Pap.  
9 p.m., Al's Bar. Tickets cost \$5.

SUNDAY, Nov. 23  
Bleu Edmondson  
8 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$6.

The Swells Brass Band  
9 p.m., Al's Bar. Free.

Iron and Wine  
7:30 p.m., Ryman Auditorium, Nashville. Tickets cost \$32.

TUESDAY, Nov. 25  
The Vicious Guns, In Endevours  
8 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 26  
Infected, The Loaded Nuns  
8 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

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# OPINIONS

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## ■ KERNEL EDITORIAL

### Incident shed light on UK's parking woes

Following Sunday's match against No. 22 Florida, women's volleyball coach Craig Skinner offered to pay the parking citations for all of the attendees ticketed. Skinner said the most important thing was that the fans supported the team and that he would gladly have paid for each \$25 ticket for the 178 citations, which would have totaled more than \$4,500. Luckily, UK Parking and Transportation swooped in to save the day, voiding all of the tickets and giving us a happy ending — after all, nobody was ticketed. Skinner didn't have to pay out of pocket and UK beat Florida. Attendance for the match was three times higher than normal and UK beat one of its rivals, which may not have happened without all of that crowd support.

But with students paying \$232 a year to park in the R1 lot, it hardly seems fair to simply open up the lot for public use, especially when it is marked as closed for event parking. The fact is, students have jobs, go home and spend time away from the dorms on weekends. The lots may be empty when games and other events start, but after a few hours, especially on Sundays, students may get off work, come home or get back from Wal-Mart. What student wants to come home to find a parking lot full with visitors who do not have permits, regardless of the event?

Parking is a major issue all over campus and this is just another incident that highlights the problems. Fans should not be expected to trek to get to games, but there also cannot be infringement upon the student parking. Part of the problem, according to Don Thornton, the director of UK Parking and Transportation Services, was that there was not a parking control officer on site on Sunday.

While it would have helped to have a parking control officer to monitor and direct traffic from the volleyball game and the UK Band Spectacular at the Singletary Center, it still does not solve the problem that there is a lack of event parking on weekends, without even addressing the daily struggles of parking at UK.

This time, Parking and Transportation was able to sweep 178 complaining people under the rug, satisfy the volleyball team and its coach and pretend like nothing ever happened. But each day on campus, students receive tickets because of parking struggles and people visiting campus only have the option of parking at expensive meters or on neighborhood streets. Why isn't Parking and Transportation able to swoop down and erase all of their problems, too?

This incident will serve as notice to fans that student parking is not exempt on the weekend. Maybe this will inspire Parking and Transportation to look at alternative solutions to accommodate the needs of the UK and Lexington communities when large events happen. A shuttle or two to the lots that are open during the games could help, on top of ensuring that the necessary official is in place to direct traffic.

## ■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Kentucky felons have lost voting rights for a reason

I'm appalled that Joe Gallenstein advocates permitting felons to vote. These are drunk drivers, murderers, rapists and child abusers who have already demonstrated their lack of responsibility and disregard for the laws of civilized society. Why should these criminals be allowed to help choose the people who will make the laws they willfully disobeyed? When they committed their crime, they threw away their right to vote, and they do not deserve our pity.

Matthew Sparks  
computer engineering sophomore

The following comment was posted online to the Kernel article, "Government must protect minority rights, not limit them"

### Obama's stance on abortion has changed in the past

You do realize that what a person says and does are two entirely different things? While Sen. Barack Obama has expressed his desire for a ban on late-term abortion, he did indeed vote against giving rights to fetuses who survived abortions while he was a member of the Illinois Senate. Like every other politician before him, he is most likely making promises to get elected. Now, I understand that there is a heated debate regarding when the definition of life begins, but there is no question that an infant who is no longer physically bound to the mother is in fact a living being. This is much more than religious doctrine; this is a civil rights matter. If doctors can be ordered to refuse care to "abortions gone wrong," then how soon will it be until they are able to refuse care to homosexuals, liberals, conservatives, poor, rich, Muslims, Jews, Christians, blacks, whites, children, geriatrics and every other group in between?

Character is not determined by the promises made, but more along the lines of the promises kept. I hope that his does stay true to his word but, regarding this issue, how are we to trust a man who has voted this way in the past? With regard to his past, how can a man with a mandate that care not be given to the innocent and needy and still call himself a Christian? The blood is on his hands!

James Clements

## Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Brad Bowling. Be sure to include your full name, class, major and phone number (for confirmation).

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com



NATE BEELER, The Washington Examiner

### Bible's teachings outdated, hypocritical

I am writing this in response to Joseph Green's column in Tuesday's Kernel. In his article, he asserts that President Barack Obama's morals do not align with Christian morals. While I allow thoughtful Christians to debate this assertion, I, in turn, am thankful that Obama's morals do not come from the Bible. The moral code to which Green ascribes, as laid down in the Bible, is nothing more than inhumane. It is outdated and self-contradictory. Biblical law is as out of touch with humanity as Green is with morality.

It is clear that Green's stance on homosexuality is rooted in his belief that being homosexual is morally wrong and against God's will. This sentiment is indeed affirmed in the literary bloodbath that is the Old Testament, and I suggest everyone read it, as it will shed light in a way that my words are unable to on the discriminating, malicious and vindictive nature of the egomaniacal God of the Bible — a menacing moralist to say the least.

How can we get a clear sense of morality from a God who contradicts Himself at every turn? The famous commandment, "Thou shall not kill," is repeatedly transgressed in the countless number of instances where God tells us it is perfectly acceptable to kill others. As a self-proclaimed "Bible-believing" Christian, Green, do you object to the concept of slavery? The God of the Bible is nice enough to suggest rules for beating slaves, while still approving of the practice (Exodus 21:20-21).

If we derive moral value from ancient literary texts such as the Bible, many things appear odd and out of place, and

rightly so, for indeed they are. The same could be said if we still clung to the texts that suggest that the Earth is flat. These texts are written by man, and man inevitably evolves over time, as do their scientific ideas and moral values. Just as the geocentric model of the universe perfectly represents a primitive scientific outlook, biblical morality is amoral for a more primitive mankind. In these desperate times, as humanity teeters on the brink of nuclear war and people strive to find hope and happiness in the everyday struggle of life, it is disadvantageous to adhere to such exclusive, discriminatory ideologies that ultimately serve to divide us. Mankind no longer has a need for such a supernatural law-giver.

Christian morals, according to Green, teach that it is acceptable to discriminate against others: women, homosexuals, people of other faiths and people without faith. Obama, even though a self-professed Christian himself, realizes that this is not a Christian nation, that religion should play no role in our politics and that our morals are not derived from an ancient book. It is not up to the God in the sky to determine the best way to live. It is up to the people on the surface to figure out the best way to survive as a species. The sentiments of equality and justice for all laid down by our Founding Fathers have led us on the correct path so far; let us pray that religious convictions never get in the way. Do not make the mistake of conflating morality with religious teaching.

In the words of John Adams, "We should begin by setting conscience free. When all men of all religions... shall enjoy equal liberty, property and an equal chance for honors and power... we may expect that improvements will be made in the human character and the state of society."

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### Mass media is not always ideal, but that doesn't make it a conspiracy

A group of students rioted through their newspapers, arguing over how Jodie Meeks played against North Carolina and whether or not the editorial cartoon made any sense.

"Newspapers are part of a giant conspiracy," one guy said to the rest. "The articles just get worse every day. They all talk about the same thing; they all make the same mistakes. The reporters must be stupid or else one person controls everything."

The group laughed and nodded their heads, tossing their papers into the empty chairs around the Student Center, and continued eating their cheesburgers.

"The news sucks," he added and then, just as easily as he had ripped apart the new content of Tuesday, he was back to telling his friends about his wild weekend.

The news sucks. Everything is a conspiracy. All of it is part of a useless lie.

But what they don't think about is how much they rely on the news; they don't consider how much they are affected every day.

Sitting on the couches in the living rooms of their apartments in Lexington a few weeks ago, they could turn on the television and watch a school collapsing in Haiti.

"The death toll in the collapse of a ramshackle school on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital, rose above 90 on Saturday after rescue workers uncovered a room full of dead people, many of them children," the newscaster told them.

And it was devastating to watch. They were not there, but they could see it.

Port-au-Prince, Haiti is 1,527 miles away from Lexington, Ky. — in this age of information technology, it takes only a few seconds for Google Maps to measure that distance — but there the collapsing school is in front of them on the television screen. The newscasters are similar on the next few stations: Fox News tells me about the rising death toll, as does my local Fox broadcast affiliate and the news reports on NBC, ABC, CNN, CBS, WGN and MSNBC aren't much different.

Is it because Rupert Murdoch is hanging out with the heads of Disney and Viacom, smoking cigars and pulling on the puppet strings of the anchorment? Or is it because the death toll in Haiti rose above 90 on Saturday after rescue workers uncovered a room full of dead people? Is it possible

that journalists are just being good journalists?

It's easy to assume it is the first. One guy owns a lot of newspapers and television stations and has a lot of money and power and suddenly he controls what Americans are watching and what they think about it. No longer is news the news; it is a conspiracy among networks to guide the herding sheep audiences of society into believing one thing while keeping the real truth a secret.

It is easy to assume this because the ideal media system would be one that serves the public interest in a way to inform and aid a participating citizenry in the democratic process. In an ideal system, the media would be a group of non-profit organizations that accept no financial backing from private companies, from the government or from advertising.

But that seemingly ideal system doesn't exist because that type of public broadcasting — lacking both money and ownership — would struggle and die without financial backing from investors and advertisers and without guidance of editors and owners. With that type of media, we couldn't sit on couches in Lexington, Ky., and watch children shuffling through the rubble in Haiti where their school building stood only days before.

It isn't likely that the local news stations in Lexington would send reporters and camera crews to Port-au-Prince, Haiti because it is 1,527 miles away. It isn't likely and it isn't practical. Instead, newscasters of affiliate stations and news partnerships like the Associated Press travel to these places and report the news back to the populations all over the U.S. These types of affiliations and station partnerships are not a conspiracy, but a way to keep the American people informed in the quickest and most efficient way.

So there are affiliated networks, stations owned by media giants and a transfer of knowledge that allows anyone to watch the news unfold in Haiti, no matter where they sit somewhat-comfortably on couches in their homes. The news isn't biased. Rupert Murdoch doesn't call each and every newspaper and news station that he owns daily to tell them what to report. Those news centers are at the mercy of publishers, producers, editors, operating managers and writers who generate, report and follow up on stories as they happen in the world around them.

Journalists are still journalists, whether their paycheck comes from a non-profit news company or Murdoch's News Corp. Journalists are still journalists whether they get a paycheck at all.

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# Cats closing recruiting gap

By Kenny Colston  
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Never mind the fact that it is Phillip Fulmer Day next Saturday in Neyland Stadium, or that UK's game against Tennessee is a de facto homecoming for Alcoa, Tenn., natives Randall Cobb and Kyrus Lanxter. Don't pay attention to the fact that the Cats haven't beaten Tennessee in 23 years.

Cobb said none of that matters. "This game is not going to be decided on Phil Fulmer leaving," Cobb said. "It's not going to depend on my emotions about going home. It depends on what's going on in practice the next two weeks."

The bad blood and history between the Volunteers and UK is well documented on the field, but battles are now also happening off the field in the recruiting arena.

Both Cobb, a freshman quarterback, and Lanxter, a sophomore wide receiver, hail from Alcoa, a small town just 13 miles south of Knoxville, Tenn. The town is practically in the Volunteers' backyard, so much so that Lanxter's family still has season tickets to Tennessee football and basketball games. Despite being in his third year in Lexington — Lanxter redshirted his first year — the wide receiver still admits to bleeding a little orange ... when it comes to basketball.

"I grew up a Tennessee fan," Lanxter said. "I guess you can still say I'm a Tennessee basketball fan. But I can't stand their football team."

But the fact that Lanxter landed in Lexington after he was offered a scholarship to Tennessee is a small sign of the dynamic changing in the border-state rivalry. In years past, Fulmer could knock down any in-state recruit to wear orange. But recently, UK head coach Rich Brooks has poached Lanxter, Cobb, junior defensive end Jeremy Jamon, freshman quarterback DeAunte Mason and sophomore defensive tackle Ricky Lumpkin from the Big Orange state.



PHOTO BY KRISTIN SHERBAND / STAFF  
Freshman quarterback Randall Cobb celebrates after a touchdown in UK's 42-38 loss to Georgia on Nov. 8. Cobb, from Alcoa, Tenn., is one of several Tennesseans currently on the Cats' roster.

"Both Randall and I could have gone to Tennessee," Lanxter said. "We didn't feel like it was a program we wanted to go to."

As UK plays catch-up in recruiting, the gap is starting to close on the field. It took Tennessee four overtimes to knock off the Cats last year. In 2006, a late delay of game penalty helped the Volunteers hold onto a slim five-point victory. Those close outcomes and UK's recruiting success are leading many to leave Tennessee behind, without looking back.

"I have nothing to prove to Tennessee," Cobb said. "I'm here. I'm a Wildcat."

The Nov. 29 matchup will be Cobb's first time on the field in his home state since high school. The close proximity

to many players' hometowns provides a chance for many of the players' families to see them play in person.

"It's an emotional game for me," Cobb said. "It's great to be playing in front of my family and going back home."

After last season's East Division championship, the Volunteers have suffered a fall from grace, and are now tied for last in the conference. On top of that, Fulmer's resignation has added to Tennessee's woes. But that resignation could also make things tougher for UK to finally beat the Volunteers.

"We'll both have lots of energy," Lanxter said. "If you remember last year, Michigan beat Florida because it was Lloyd Carr's last game. Even if they are overmatched, Tennessee is going to want to win."

## Local Hospitals Participate in the Great American Smokeout



Beginning November 20, 2008, many health care providers in our community went completely tobacco-free on their campuses as part of the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout campaign.

Hospitals and health care providers are models for promoting healthy lifestyles in our community, and our mission is to care for our community in a healthy environment for our patients, visitors and staff. Hospitals and other providers are offering support as we adopt this new healthy environment policy and will assist anyone interested in quitting tobacco use. Many resources are available in our community.

Kentucky's Tobacco Quit Line 1-800-Quit-Now

For more information on the Tobacco-Free Health Care Collaborative, visit <http://www.kyha.com/TobaccoFree/Main.htm> or contact a health provider directly.



### Tobacco-Free Collaborative participating health care facilities:

- Bluegrass Community Hospital
- Bourbon Community Hospital
- Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital
- Carle Baptist Hospital
- Flagg Memorial Hospital
- Georgetown Community Hospital
- Highlands Regional Medical Center
- St. Claire Regional Medical Center
- Saint Joseph - Berea
- Saint Joseph East
- Saint Joseph Hospital
- Saint Joseph - Jessamine
- Saint Joseph - London
- Saint Joseph - Martin
- Saint Joseph - Mount Sterling
- Three Rivers Medical Center
- UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital
- UK Good Samaritan Hospital
- Kentucky Children's Hospital
- UK Hill Health Institute
- UK Markey Cancer Center
- Kentucky Clinics
- UK Polk-Dutton Clinic
- UK College of Medicine
- UK College of Nursing
- UK College of Dentistry
- UK College of Pharmacy
- UK College of Health Sciences
- UK College of Public Health

## ROTC

Continued from page 1

favor and oppose military spending with no clear way to establish if a party is pro- or anti-military.

Instead, Holly said he ignores political rhetoric and continues to work toward creating strong recruits for the ROTC.

"Our training is geared toward developing self-confidence and communications skills," Holly said. "The cadets learn to know themselves, their capabilities and how to be part of a team."

Junior Chris Peterson, a member of ROTC, said while he found

the election interesting and exciting, he has little concern over an administration change.

"I'll still have a job — I don't expect Barack Obama to make drastic military cuts like President Clinton did," Peterson said. "Besides, you don't judge your leadership ... it's not about them ... it's about getting the job done."

Senior Larry Edmister, an ROTC member, said he feels a new commander in chief could change where he might be deployed when commissioned, but some things will stay the same.

"I think there will be a shift in focus from Iraq to Afghanistan," he said. "... but in any case, there's still a job to be done."

## DEVELOPMENT

Continued from page 1

"(CentrePointe) will expand downtown activity, which in turn should be a plus for UK students because there will be more to do downtown," Beard said. "It will increase the vibrancy of downtown, either project."

While the Distillery District was unanimously approved for the docket, McNeese said it is essential the project pass the council vote on Dec. 4.

"We have a number of parties interested in the concept and wanting to fund it, but the essential piece is taking care of the infrastructure of the environment and where it has been neglected," McNeese said. "We want to create the compelling reason for people to want to be downtown."

ADVERTISE IN OUR **WELCOME BACK** ISSUE

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Section B Space Deadline - 12/15  
Material Deadline - 12/16

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Main Hospital Building  
Rm H-133

Monday donors can register to win 2 tickets to Kentucky-Tennessee game and an overnight stay at the Crowne Plaza in Knoxville on Sat. Nov. 28  
Tuesday donors can register to win a Cat Fanatic Package  
Visit [www.kybloodcenter.org](http://www.kybloodcenter.org)  
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