

FRIDAY KENTUCKY KERNEL



***EAGLES**
Comedian Dave Chappelle curses at American society in new Comedy Central show | 3

March 14, 2003

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Trustees to hold emergency meeting

Money: Tuition and student fee increase might come during spring break, but trustees don't have agenda yet

By Rebecca Neal
STAFF WRITER

The Board of Trustees may vote on tuition and student fee increases at an emergency meeting Tuesday during spring break.

The meeting took some by surprise, but there is a legitimate reason for it, said the newest member of the board.

"I can see in some sense why it was called since the legislature just ended and the magnitude of the cuts has just been known," said Davy Jones, a faculty trustee.

Students might be upset by the timing of the meeting. "It seems a little underhanded to be holding a meeting about a topic that students really have an opinion about

at a time when everyone's going to be gone," said Lyle Ricketts, a telecommunications sophomore.

But administrators have already said that a significant tuition increase is needed to counter the recent budget cuts. UK has lost about \$20 million, or 2.5 percent of UK's total budget, Provost Mike Nietzel said at the University Senate meeting Monday.

Housing and dining fees might be raised at the meeting, which will be held at 1

p.m. Tuesday on the 18th floor of Patterson Office Tower.

Ben Crutcher, associate vice president for auxiliary services said the housing and dining increase will probably be five percent. The Finance Committee must approve the increase Tuesday before the board can vote on it.

The money raised from the increase will be put back into the university, Crutcher said. An increase would fund increased dorm safety Haggin Hall renovations and air con-

ditioner repairs. The dining increase may bring more food choices to campus, he said.

"We'll use it to bring in things like more Starbucks locations and branded concepts like Chick-fil-A, possibly another KFC location, or a Taco Bell," Crutcher said.

An official agenda has not been released yet by the President's Office, but trustees say they should receive information about the meeting Friday.

"Even trustees are calling

saying they don't know what they'll be voting on and how their constituents would feel about it," said Jeff Dembo, chairman of the University Senate.

By the numbers

Housing this semester: \$1,326
Proposed housing: \$1,392.30
Diner account this semester: \$699
Diner account proposal: \$733.9

"She's not afraid to get up and do a speech after she's run 15 miles. She's totally down to earth."

- JORDAN KATHMAN, SG PRESIDENT MARY KATHERINE THOMPSON'S SECOND COUSIN AND FRIEND

RUNNING THE SHOW



Setting the pace

New Student Government President Mary Katherine Thompson walks alongside UK President Lee Todd to his office to discuss the new SG administration.

BRITANY CLARK | KERNEL STAFF

By Paul Leighty
STAFF WRITER

She throws a mean fastball. She's a competitive long-distance runner. She's been on the UK Dean's List since 1999, and she's active in community service throughout Lexington.

Now this year's homecoming queen is Student Government president, and she's ready to make something of her brief term in the office.

She is Mary Katherine Thompson, a corporate communication and political science senior from Owensboro. She was sworn in as SG president Feb. 26, after Tim Robinson resigned.

Her friends and family say she's active — almost too active.

"The one thing she needs to do more

is chill out," said older brother Blake Thompson, an accounting senior at UK.

Thompson was elected vice president alongside Robinson and succeeded him by the rules of the SG constitution. Robinson resigned after dropping his classes and pleading guilty in court to interfering with voter registration.

"As far as student representation goes, Mary Katherine is the ideal president because she knows the most eclectic group of people," said Joe Ruschell, who replaced Thompson as vice president and was previously SG senate chairman.

"She doesn't always have to have her hair done or make-up on. She's not afraid to get up and do a speech after she's run 15 miles... She's totally down to earth," said biology senior Jordan Kathman,

who is Thompson's second cousin and friend.

With five brothers and a large extended family, Thompson said she places high value on her family. Two brothers are also UK students, and three younger brothers back home in Owensboro.

Andrew Thompson, a biology freshman and next-youngest in the family, said his sister has consistently been there to watch out for him.

"When I first came into high school, it was her senior year and I wasn't very outgoing and she introduced me to everybody," he said. "By the second or third week of school, I had all the seniors saying 'hi' to me."

See THOMPSON on 2

Student Center restaurant plans continue

Student Center director says plans are behind schedule for getting a restaurant brought to campus by next fall

By Jake McDonald
STAFF WRITER

Five casual dining restaurants with local connections are interested in leasing space in the Student Center, possibly in time for the fall semester, said a Student Center official.

Director John Herbst said UK sent out requests for information to prospective groups and received interest for opportunities to bid on space in the building from Rafferty's, Applebee's, Chili's, Max & Erma's and Reno's Roadhouse. The next step is constructing and distributing a request for proposal, he said.

"Groups that did not show interest will still have an opportunity to bid," he said. "This keeps it so any qualified operator has equal opportunity to bid on the project."

Herbst said work on the project thus far is behind schedule. The possibility of the restaurant being in place by the fall semester is dependent upon the request for proposal and lease contract agreement, he said.

"I'm not quite as far as I would like to be, so we need to move quickly but still make sure we do this right," he said.

SG President Mary Katherine Thompson served on the Dining Committee with Herbst and several others. She said the committee, designed to debate the logistics of luring a casual dining restaurant to campus, has met four or five times since October.

"I'm very hopeful it will happen," she said. "After football games, I think people will walk there. Students with breaks in between classes will go. It'll be a place for conversation. Starbucks is a perfect example. People prefer name brand things as opposed to generic just because it's stuff you know."

See DINING on 2

Weather predictions give sunny outlook

By Casey Chasteen
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Students looking to leave town for spring break to escape the cold and rain could be leaving behind a week of nice weather instead.

"The weather in Lexington will be like going to Florida but staying here," said Tom Priddy, director of Agriculture Weather Service. A warm spell will be coming through the Ohio Valley next week, giving us temperatures in the mid '60s, Priddy said.

However, during UK's spring break, students remaining in Lexington have a possibility of thunderstorms. It looks as if a bit of "unsettled weather" is headed this way through the middle of the week, said Priddy, but nothing people should worry about.

Wearing T-shirts one day and sweaters the next is not unusual for spring-like weather, Priddy said. Last year during UK's break, the weather was extremely wet. With seven out of seven days of precipitation, Lexington had a total of 3.8 inches alone in rainfall during the week. One day brought 2.85 inches, on March 19, 2002, said the National Weather Service.

Junior Alex Pentland, a history major, said he isn't so sure he believes that next week will be nice and sunny.

"It is hard to tell what will happen, but I remember last year it being much nicer outside than it is now, and it still rained all week."

With such unusual weather patterns as spring produces, students returning to UK after spring break should expect a threat for more severe weather just to be on the safe side, Priddy said.

"So the answer students are looking for is, don't pack your sweatshirts and jackets up yet," Priddy said. "Fifteen days out of spring break we are still seeing colder temperatures headed this way."

THOMPSON

Continued from page 1

New Student Government President Mary Katherine Thompson cleans and reorganizes her office. Thompson took office after former SG President Tim Robinson resigned following his indictment on charges of willfully not turning in voter registration cards.

BRITTANY CLARK | KERNEL STAFF



He said his sister was much the same when he started at UK.

Blake Thompson said it's always been difficult to live up to the standards that his sister has set — both on the baseball field and off.

"She does so well at most of the things she puts her hands on, it's hard being her brother, because parents expect the same out of everybody," he said.

He said he remembers once playing baseball with his sister and some of his friends, and his sister's pitching turned out to be too much of a challenge for the other players.

"A couple of them quit because they said she threw too hard," he said.

Mary Katherine Thompson, whose first role in SG was as at-large senator before becoming vice president, has worked in a variety of occupations.

She interned in the office of U.S. Sen. Jim Bunning last summer and was the College of Communication Ambassador in the 2001-02 school year. Last year she volunteered at Lansdowne Elementary, setting up a peer-mediation program and was a substitute teacher for Fayette County Schools.

As student leader at the Catholic Newman Center from 1999 to 2002, she headed a mission trip to Jamaica and was assistant Sunday School teacher. She has run in numerous marathons, including twice in the Chicago Marathon (26.2 miles), and

placed first in her division in the Kentucky Derby Festival Mini-Marathon (13.1 miles). "She called me after running the Chicago marathon and she was just crying because she was so excited and proud of herself," said Sarah Baltzley, a friend of Thompson's and agricultural biotechnology senior.

Despite the short time that Thompson will serve as president, she said she has issues before her that she wants to address. She has arranged for an online special election this week that will determine Robinson's replacement on the Board of Trustees.

She is also talking with the UK Athletics Department about installing an online student ticket lottery for home basketball games — although she said she doesn't know if she supports the proposal.

The lottery would replace the current system where students stand in line at Memorial Coliseum to get tickets. Thompson said she's indecisive about the proposal because an online lottery would make getting tickets too easy — the diehard fans would lose the advantage they get from their dedication.

Thompson doesn't have much time in SG — the next president will be inaugurated in late April or early May — but she is already implementing subtle signs of a new administration, or what she calls "a change in scenery."

"Basically there's no need for the size staff we had before under Robinson," Thompson said.

She said because of recent budget-crunching and the possibility of a \$10,000 deficit this year, SG isn't paying any of its executive staff.

"We don't have any money... that's just the position we've been thrown into," Thompson said.

The new chief of staff and comptroller, James "J" Riney, is already in place to succeed Justin Rasner, who said he resigned following a disagreement with Thompson the day after she took office.

Rasner declined to give details on the disagreement, but said he could not support Thompson enough to be an effective chief of staff.

However, Rasner said that as a student he supports the new president.

"It's been a joy working with Mary Katherine" since she and Robinson campaigned last spring, he said.

Thompson said she is making other changes, including having Tim Robinson's name scratched off the SG of office door in the Student Center, and all locks to the office have been changed.

Ruschell said changing the locks is "a simple fact of the change in administration." Thompson said she also wants to have the front counter in SG's office lowered to make it accessible to students with disabilities.

She said the changes are "nothing against the previous administration," but she wants to do things her own way.

A few tips to save cash when you're at the pump



THAI EMMERICH | KERNEL STAFF

By following some tips from the American Automobile Association, consumers can save money on their gas bills.

Before you roadtrip: Lose the excess luggage, get your car tuned up and try to carpool if possible

By Jenny Mackiewicz
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It is a struggle a majority of students share: the endless and exhausting wrestle with the wallet. But there are some practical and painless ways to save some of that money at the pump.

First of all, make sure you know your traveling dos and don'ts. If you are driving to your spring break destination, carpool as much as possible. If you do choose to carpool try to avoid driving large, gas-

guzzling vehicles like trucks, vans or SUVs. Drive the speed limit, no matter what kind of vehicle you're driving. This helps conserve gas. Don't pack your entire closet of belongings. The heavier your vehicle, the more gasoline you use. Use unleaded gas, unless your car specifically requires premium. Don't waste money trying to buy "better" gas when your car runs on the cheaper variety.

Along with, traveling tips, knowing your car and its condition is important when trying to save at the

station. When was the last time you had your tires checked? Be sure to fill them with air before leaving. Under-inflated tires, according to the AAA, are not only a safety hazard but can also cut fuel economy by as much as 2 percent per pound of pressure below the recommended level. Also, having your oil changed and checking your air filter before a trip can lower fuel consumption. If you have four-wheel drive, disengage it during highway travel and try to use cruise control as often as possible.

Lastly, practice fuel efficiency. DON'T spend all morning warming up your car — normally a few minutes will do the trick.

DO maintain a steady speed while driving, avoiding stop-and-go traffic and unpaved roads.

DON'T use your air conditioning unless needed. Not only does it dramatically reduce fuel economy, but how do you plan on blowing off the stench of midterms with the windows rolled up?

DO not drive if you don't have to. If you do have to, don't waste fuel? Don't use it.

DO have a great Spring Break and drive safely!

DINING

Continued from page 1

Students echoed Thompson's sentiment. Senior Katy Mauldin said the restaurant would benefit UK's campus.

"It'll be successful because everyone tires of cafeteria-style food," she said. "Alcohol sales alone would attract interest. It will be a welcome respite from sandwiches and chips."

The potential for alcohol

sales on campus is one obstacle the project faces. Herbst said the prospect of alcohol sales is "contingent upon what we hear back from operators" and state and university regulations.

"If it is not a violation of state law and university regulations, there may be an opportunity," he said.

A precedent for campus alcohol consumption would not necessarily have to be set. "It is permissible to serve and consume alcohol in UK's Faculty Club."

"Something of the utmost importance is the success of the restaurant,"

Thompson said. "I don't think it would be in their best interest to come without the alcohol, because so much of their revenue comes from it."

A meeting was scheduled for this week to discuss the proposal but was canceled. Herbst said he hopes to reschedule for today or next week.

"We want to make sure that what we enter into is what students want," he said. "We want to make sure the atmosphere is right."

"We want to make sure that what we enter into is what students want."

- JOHN HERBST, STUDENT CENTER DIRECTOR

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PHOTO FURNISHED

New sensations

Dave Chappelle on the set of his new Comedy Central series "The Chappelle Show," which airs at 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights. Chappelle's use of sketch comedy portrays all walks of life from street life to suburbia, with nothing in the middle left out or unscathed.

New Chappelle series leaves nothing spared

By Robbie Clark
ASSISTANT SCENE EDITOR

Dave Chappelle has created a bit of a stir with the critics regarding his Comedy Central show "The Chappelle Show."

At the beginning of each show, he informs the live audience that he has not been canceled yet.

Chappelle uses sketch comedy to broach many subjects in American society, from street life to suburbia, with nothing held sacred.

In the show's debut episode, Chappelle played a white supremacist, who didn't know he was actually black because he was blind.

"The thing about comedy," Chappelle said, "every walk of life in American life has got a comedian that presents them."

Chappelle said he is not the representative for the black culture in American

mass media because his show is not culturally geared to any target audience.

"I guess ultimately, I'd say that people my age are who I'm talking to first," he said. "I make references to certain rap songs or rap lyrics that people my age are just going to know."

"The Chappelle Show" first aired on Comedy Central in late January. This week the 29-year-old comedian from Washington, D.C., signed a contract with the cable station for another season of 12 episodes.

Aside from his current television series, Chappelle has appeared in movies such as *Half Baked* and *Robin Hood: Men In Tights*.

Chappelle considers the success of his show is maintained by the enjoyment that goes into each episode.

"I think the trick is if you have fun making it then people will usually have fun watching it," he said.

Compared to other channels, such as NBC or HBO, Chappelle said Comedy Central is the one that best caters to his artistic integrity.

"I wish (Comedy Central) didn't have to bleep this stuff sometimes, because I just find it to be a little intrusive when you have to do it," he said.

"But if my show was picked up by a major network—they'd try to have me in suspenders doing the Urkel dance."

As the head writer for his show, Chappelle realizes the importance of listening to the team of "good people" he has surrounded himself with when trying to develop

comedic characters.

"It isn't hard for me to have other people write the stuff for me. But in order for me to really sell a joke it always helps to get the joke," he said.

The joke, for Chappelle, must be true to the author and not be written for the sake of those who might hear it.

"I don't pander to the audience," he said. "I just think it's not the strongest angle to write for."

"I don't think you should necessarily try and tell people what they want to hear as much as you just tell them what you've got to say."

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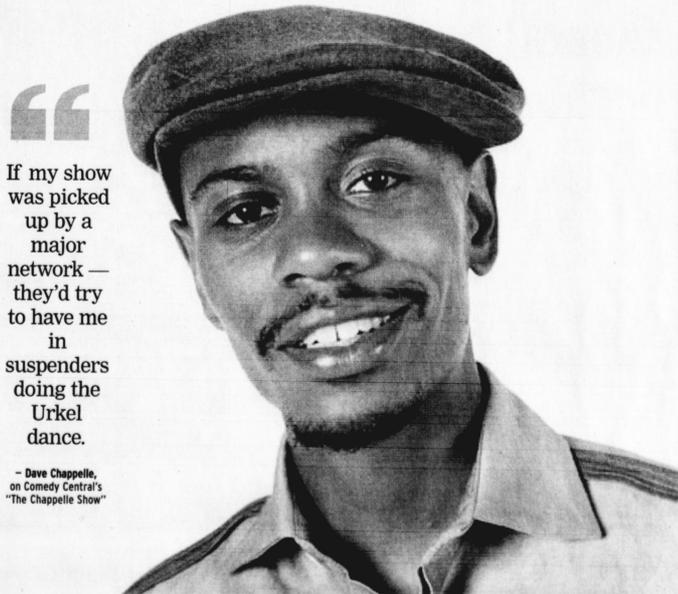
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CAMPUS CALENDAR

Week of March 10 - March 16

The Campus Calendar is produced by the Office of Student Activities. Registered Student Orgs. and UK Depts. can submit information for FREE online (24 HOURS PRIOR) to the KENTUCKY information is to appear at: <http://www.uky.edu/CampusCalendar>. Call 257-6367 for more information.

SPECIAL EVENTS *Preparing Aspiring Wildcats (PAW) Application Deadline, 4:00pm, Fairhouser, Free! *Phat Cat Car Show April 12 th , 2003. Currently accepting applications online at: www.phatcatcrusade.org *La Residence Francaise, 5-9pm, Keeneland Hall	14
SPORTS *Tan Kwon Do practice, 5:30-7:00pm, Alumni Gym Loft	
ARTS/MOVIES *Mariah Carrel, Piano Recital, Music includes works by Beethoven, Bartok, Chopin and Debussy, John Jacob Niles Gallery Series, Rm. Louise Latta Fine Arts Library	
SPORTS *Tan Kwon Do practice, 11:00am-12:30pm, Alumni Gym Loft	
INTRAMURALS/RECREATION *Self Defense Karate class, 3:00-5:00pm, Alumni Gym Loft, Free! No experience needed.	15
ARTS/MOVIES *German Film Studies, 7:00pm, WT Young Library Auditorium	
MEETINGS *International Student Bible Study, 6:30pm, Baptist Student Union	
*Alpha Kappa Psi Executive Board Meeting, 7:00pm, Student Center, Rm. 203	16
ACADEMIC *Math Tutoring (All 100 level courses), 6:00-10:00pm, Commons Rm. 307 *Math Tutoring (All 100 level courses), 6:00-9:00pm, Holmes Hall Lobby *Physics Tutoring (All 100 level courses & 211213), 6:00-10:00pm, Commons Rm. 307 *Chemistry Tutoring (All 100 level courses), 6:00-10:00pm, Commons Rm. 307 *Biology (All 100 level courses), 6:00-10:00pm, Commons Rm. 307	



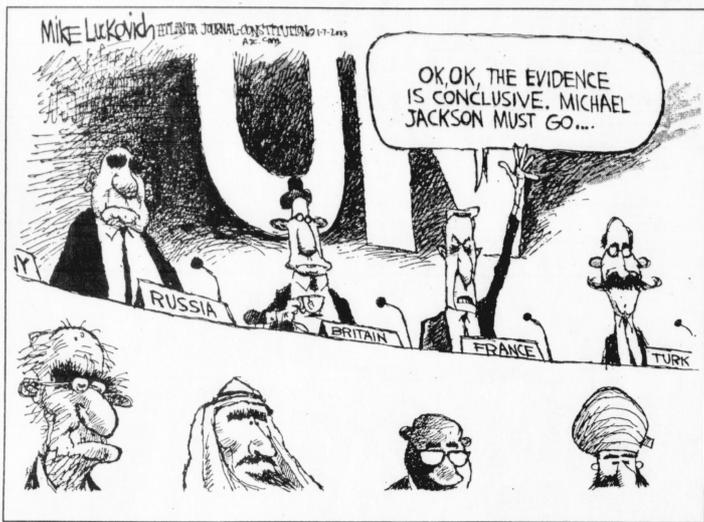
“If my show was picked up by a major network—they'd try to have me in suspenders doing the Urkel dance.”

— Dave Chappelle, on Comedy Central's "The Chappelle Show"

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Ghosts of March return to Kentucky

Life's been pretty interesting around Lexington lately. The University is scrambling to make up for state budget cuts and students are in an uproar over a potential class drop fee. Local citizens are debating regulations on public smoking and concerned about a potential war with Iraq.

You might say these are somewhat tumultuous times at UK and throughout the Bluegrass, but no matter how divided all Kentuckians may be on particular political issues, there's one constant in this state that unites almost all of us — the Kentucky Wildcats.

No matter how different our backgrounds or lifestyles may be, the vast majority of Kentuckians have at least their love of UK basketball in common, and that fanaticism is never more evident than in the month of March.

Unlike last year, there's no need for the Wildcat faithful to bank on team history and the name across the players' chests to pull the Cats together for a successful postseason run — this year's Cats have been invincible since Christmas.

A turn-around like the one we've been

blessed to witness over the past three months is all but unheard of in college athletics. From 6-3, to 26-3, from the fear of another 10 loss season to the giddy, burning hope of an eighth national championship.

This week Tubby Smith was honored as Southeastern Conference coach of the year by both the Associated Press and his fellow SEC coaches. The coaches also voted Keith Bogans SEC player of the year. Our team has begun racking up the individual honors, hopefully team honors will follow soon. The Cats enter SEC tournament play tonight, and students will begin their spring break dreaming of banners and brackets: beaches and bikinis can wait.

Every year we hear the complaint that Kentuckians are way too fanatic about basketball. These naysayers need to understand that Kentucky basketball instills a sense of community from border to border in our state.

People with nothing else in common have the tradition captured in the banners among the rafters of Rupp Arena to bring them together, and for that, we should all be grateful.

Rejuvenate the federal budget by reducing corporate welfare

The lack of fuel efficient vehicles on the market today has had the effect of making us more dependent on foreign oil, and as a result, more concerned about events that take place in the Middle East.

At a time when we find ourselves embroiled in yet another conflict in the Middle East, it would seem appropriate to discuss the reasons for the lack of fuel efficient automobiles and possible solutions. Many seem to think that our government can provide the solution by funding the costly research and development efforts associated with the creation of a new generation of fuel efficient automobiles.

Unfortunately, they couldn't be more wrong. In spite of the fact that the big three American auto makers receive financial assistance from the U.S. government to develop fuel efficient automobiles, as it stands today, the three most fuel efficient automobiles sold in the United States are all produced by Japanese manufacturers who receive no aid



Robert Brammer
 KERNEL COLUMNIST

from the U.S. government. The American auto industry has a long history of receiving assistance from the U.S. government to produce fuel efficient automobiles.

Unfortunately, they never produce the automobiles that the U.S. government funds; instead they are content to produce costly, exotic prototypes that are shown at auto shows, then moth-balled and never put into actual production.

In fact, the only American automotive company that ever invested a substantial amount of research in fuel efficiency and actually utilized that research in production was American Motors, and they never received a dime of government support for their efforts or an ounce of sympathy from the American public when they went under in 1987.

Since the American auto industry is so unresponsive to the need for efficient automobiles, you might wonder why we continue funding their lackluster, half-hearted efforts, with President Bush recently asking congress for \$1.2 billion in aid for the latest hydrogen fuel cell development effort.

To tell you the truth, I can't figure it out either. As it stands currently, the companies that receive the most taxpay-

er funding produce no hybrid automobiles, and do not have even one of their cars included in Carpoint's "top 10 fuel misers" list.

From all available evidence, it seems pretty clear that these auto manufacturers are taking the American tax payers for suckers, with the government doling out corporate welfare to support development efforts that will likely never materialize into a product the public can actually purchase.

It's time for us to tell these companies that they have cashed their last corporate welfare check. The success of the Japanese automakers in introducing fuel efficient automobiles has made it clear that if a company actually wants to produce fuel efficient autos, they can and will, and do not need government aid in order to do so.

It is obvious that these corporations have no real interest in actually producing fuel efficient automobiles, and there is no reason why they should continue receiving American tax dollars for their lackluster efforts.

Robert Brammer is a political science junior. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel.

READER RESPONSE

Dr. Todd should eliminate drop fee considerations

To the editor:

I write this letter to point out some of the grave and impending problems with the proposed drop fee that is soon to be before the Board of Trustees. We have all seen the dozens of advertisements promoting our school as "America's Next Great University" or "Top 20 by 2020". However, I find such treatment of students to be the absolute antithesis of our goals. At many Ivy League schools at the beginning of the semester, students are invited to attend classes that interest them and then, after seeing the course load and professor, they decide if they wish to sign up officially. I realize this system is impractical for a large university like UK, but maybe we could try to be somewhat accommodating like our benchmarks.

Secondly, I would like to take issue with Provost Mike Nietzel. In the March 12 Kernel, Nietzel explains that 8,300 students dropped classes in the fall 2002 semester. I ask that he be more precise. How many of these students dropped such high enrollment courses as Psychology 100, Biology 102, Political Science 101 and History 108? Even if 100 students drop from all the sections of such courses, this is only a minuscule fraction of the total students enrolled and does not warrant any cancellation of these classes.

I think a more appropriate number for Nietzel to explain would be the total number of sections of classes that had below one third or half enrollment, which would then seem to make them useless. If you look at all the drops for English 101 in the fall and consolidated the remaining students into fewer sections, you may save two or three sections. I am quite sure these were a severe burden on the university, financial or otherwise. Looking to save money? How about cutting some administrators who are doing the same thing that another administrator is already doing? Either way, it's nice to see that students are a convenient target.

Finally, I look to the man who, since his selection, has dubbed himself "The Students' President", Dr. Lee Todd. I sincerely believe Dr. Todd does care for the students of this university; however, given that we are going to face tuition increases, which are out of his control, I think this would be a time to show his commitment. I am quite happy that he has given me the privilege to walk through his yard, but I would rather see him step to the plate on this issue. If not, it looks like Top 30 by 3030 might be the new motto for UK.

J.T. KNADLER
 HISTORY AND ECONOMICS JUNIOR

Suggestions for avoiding proposed class drop fee

To the editor:

Regarding the story in the Kernel on March 12 on the proposed "drop fee," I would like to make a few suggestions. If the drop fee is not about the university's current financial state, then how about this — the university could adopt a two-tiered system, wherein (1) students are allowed to take no more than 21 credit hours in a semester, and (2) a 20 percent surcharge is imposed on credit hours more than 15 per semester.

This may go a long way to discourage "class shopping" while not burdening the innocent student who has to drop a class for whatever reason. The university might also look into placing a surcharge of some kind on students who re-take a class because they failed it the first time — as they, too, are being a drain on resources.

Of course, I offer this without any knowledge of how many students take over 15 hours a semester; it may be a lot, or hardly any at all. But it's an alternative.

I found the coverage of the "debate" about the drop fee informative. It seemed less like a debate and more like an informational session, with Provost Mike Nietzel suggesting the students "take it and like it."

PATRICK THOMPSON
 MPA STUDENT AT THE MARTIN SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY

Nietzel disrespected students

To the editor:

The first thought I had after the Kernel's article on the proposed drop fee was, "I hope that somehow there's an explanation for Provost Mike Nietzel's behavior." While I can understand the university's point of view, there's no excuse for an administrator telling students their opinions don't matter.

In case you missed it, it was reported that Nietzel responded to a student's concerns that the fee's purpose was to generate revenue for the university's emptying coffers. His reply could not have been more insensitive to the student body. "You don't have to buy it," he retorted.

Mr. Nietzel's comment, regardless of the context, was grossly inappropriate. Yes, the student body does have to buy it, quite literally. We willingly give this university thousands of dollars a year, and I don't think it's too much to ask that we occasionally be satisfied that our money is being taken for the purposes and intentions stated. This forum was supposed to be a way for the administration to explain their statistics and numbers to us and for students to suggest alternatives and express concerns. Instead, it was obviously intended merely to quiet the students' voices and get on with business.

Many of the upperclassmen here have already seen an administration that didn't care about the feelings or input of students, and we welcomed Dr. Todd's tenure and his promises of increased student involvement on campus. I certainly hope that my own trust and that of the rest of the student community has not been misplaced.

JONATHAN MILBY
 ENGLISH JUNIOR

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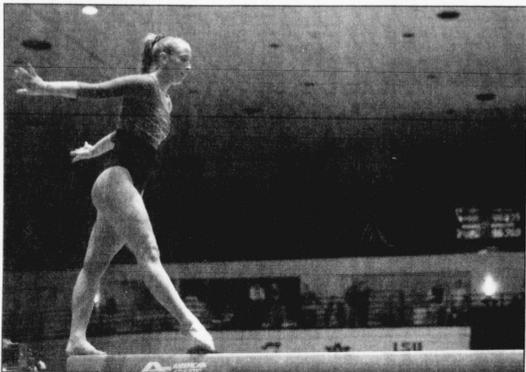
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GymKat Zaharias shares aunt's drive

GYMNAST'S BLOODLINES TRACE BACK TO FAMOUS OLYMPIAN, GOLFER



JOHN WAMPLER | KERNEL STAFF

Ready to run

Senior Melanie Zaharias prepares for a running dismount during a beam exercise this season. Zaharias, great-niece of world-class athlete Babe Didrickson Zaharias, specializes on the vault.

By Terra Ransdale
STAFF WRITER

"Before I was ever in my teens I knew exactly what I wanted to be when I grew up. My goal was to be the greatest athlete that ever lived."

Those words were once spoken by one of the greatest women athletes of all time, Babe Didrickson Zaharias. Born in 1911, Zaharias lived outside of her time, playing sports and excelling in basketball, baseball and track. Babe was an Olympic athlete as well as a professional golfer. She was the first woman ever to win the British Amateur Title in 1947 and turned professional that same year. Though Babe promised she would be playing golf until she was 90, she succumbed to cancer in 1956. But her drive and athletic ability would live on.

Now, more than half a century later, Melanie Zaharias is on the scene, keeping alive the Zaharias name at UK. Though Melanie does not swing a golf club, play hoops or run miles on the track, she still possesses that certain drive that her great aunt Babe Zaharias had.

Growing up in Denver, Colo., Melanie became involved with gymnastics at a local recreation center at age six. She was inspired by the infamous Mary Lou Retton, who influenced Melanie to take up the sport. At age nine Melanie decided to devote herself more to the sport and she joined a private gym.

Throughout her teenage years Melanie lived by the words of her famous aunt. She strived to be the greatest athlete she could be. In her senior year of high school, Melanie competed with her high school gymnastics team and won every meet, as well as the state title. It was obvious then that Melanie had the drive that could carry her as far as her aunt had gone.

During her successful year as a high school senior, Melanie was recruited heavily by one school in particular stuck out. UK gymnastics assistant coach Mo Muhammad liked what he saw in Melanie — and Melanie liked what she saw in UK.

"I enjoyed my recruiting trip," Melanie said. "Everyone seemed to enjoy each other and was glad to have me visit. I didn't want to stay at home, and I had never been to this part of the country."

After a visit with UK and head coach Leah Little, Melanie made her mind up. She came to UK four years ago as a hungry freshman, but never imagined how painful her UK career might be.

Plagued with injuries throughout her college career, Melanie has had to adjust to her normal routine and learn to prepare under pressure. Teammate Karla Adelt has known Melanie since seventh grade. Though Adelt was not recruited by UK, she decided to join the team as a walk on the same year as Melanie. Adelt has seen Melanie's gymnastics career in all stages. She witnessed Melanie's impressive senior year of high school as well as her injury-filled years at UK.

"She is one of those people who, no matter how little preparation she has, when it comes down to it, she is always going to get it done," Adelt said.

Melanie has not really experienced a pre-season in her four years as a GymKat.

She is one of those people who, no matter how little preparation she has, when it comes down to it, she is always going to get it done."

- KARLA ADELT, UK SENIOR

Injuries have always kept her on the back burner in December, leaving her only two weeks in January to prepare her routine before the official season started.

"I have a strong feeling that part of the reason why she wasn't the athlete that she wanted to be, or could be, is because of the injuries," Coach Muhammad said.

Babe Zaharias' drive and athletic ability are clear and present in Melanie. She has proven to herself and everyone around her that she has what it takes to compete at a Division I level and win. But what makes Melanie stand apart from her aunt Babe is her unique individuality.

After the first three weeks of competition, Melanie had won two consecutive first place vaults and one first place on floor, scoring a career high 9.925. But with all of that past, Melanie decided to be spontaneous and try a new look. She wanted something to make her stand out, as if her name and talent were not enough.

Following the GymKats' win against Brigham Young on Jan. 31, Melanie and some friends looked up a local piercing parlor and Melanie had her nose pierced. After the piercing, Melanie finished off her look by coloring her blonde hair red.

The change does not come as a surprise to teammates and coaches.

"Melanie has always been a little left of center," Little said. "That is what makes her Melanie."

Her individuality and athletic ability gives Melanie that certain Zaharias spark that once drove Babe to be the athlete she was.

"I expect to play golf until I am 90," Babe said, "even longer if anybody figures out a way to swing a club from a rocking chair."

Unfortunately, Babe died of cancer at the age of 45, and fans only briefly witnessed her astounding talent.

Melanie also hopes to continue her work within athletics as long as possible, though she makes no commitment to play until she is 90.

"There is not much for (gymnasts) after (college) gymnastics," Melanie said. "I want to stay working in athletics though, choreography or coaching. I don't know."

Babe and Melanie Zaharias competed in different eras and different sports, but the drive they possess that makes them champions links them as much as their bloodlines.



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