

KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 36 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Administrator receives civil rights award

By Blake M. Tyra
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William Turner, the associate provost for multicultural affairs, was awarded the Martin Luther King Jr. Citizenship Award Wednesday afternoon.

In its fifth year, the award is given to a Kentuckian who "has exemplified Dr. King's principles of racial equality and nonviolent social change," according to the Kentucky State Commerce Cabinet's Website. Members of a 13-person committee appointed by the governor chose the winner.

The ceremony, held in Frankfort, featured Gov. Ernie Fletcher as the opening speaker. His wife, Glenna Fletcher, presented the award to Turner.

"Some people work as carpenters, some people work as surgeons, but my work has always been about human rights and equality," Turner said.

Turner served on UK's faculty from 1979 to 1983. At Kentucky State University, Turner served as the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 1983 to 1984 and as interim president from 2003 to 2004. He has also worked at Fisk, Howard and Winston-Salem Universities. Turner has been an associate provost since 2004.

His essays have been regularly printed in local and national publications.

UK spokesman Jay Blanton said Turner performs two functions in his pursuit for civil rights. In addition to his associate provost position, he is vice president for university

See **Turner** on page 3

Forum on tuition increase to be held today

A public forum will be held to discuss next year's proposed nine-percent tuition increase — along with mandatory housing and dining fees — today at noon in the Worsham Theater.

Administrators will be present to explain the proposed increase for the 2007-2008 school year, the first time in four years UK has proposed a tuition increase under 10 percent.

Under the proposal, tuition for entering freshmen in fall 2007 would be \$3,548, a \$293 increase from fall 2006 tuition of \$3,255.

The proposal comes after the Executive Committee of the Council on Post Secondary Education voted to cap UK's increase to nine percent.

The proposal will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval on Jan. 23.

COMPILED FROM UK PRESS RELEASES

Partner benefits recommended for UK

By Sean Rose
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UK is closer to implementing domestic partner benefits for employees after a unanimous recommendation from a committee this past week-end.

The plan would make benefits reserved for married employees available to same-sex and opposite-sex unmarried couples.

The committee was formed by UK President Lee Todd after employees expressed interest in domestic partner benefits in the Work-Life Survey results released in September.

The new benefits would affect 204 opposite-

sex couples and 68 same-sex couples, according to the committee's report. The average estimated annual cost for the benefits would be about \$633,000. Of that, about \$253,000 would be paid from UK's undesignated general funds, one-third of which comes from tuition, according to the report.

Committee chairwoman Susan Carvalho, an associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, said the eight-person committee's job was to examine the feasibility of domestic partner benefits rather than weighing morals behind the issue.

"Once we looked at the numbers we were pleased that instituting domestic partner benefits was feasible in budgetary terms," Carvalho said.

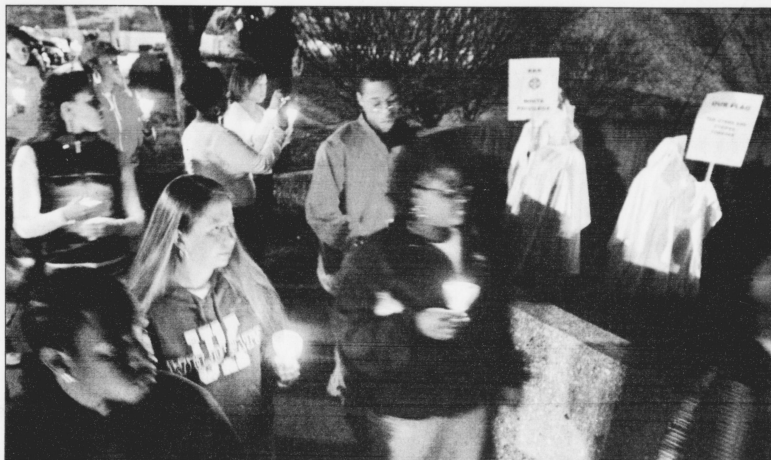
Carvalho also said the committee supported the benefits from an equity standpoint as well.

"The university's policy on non-discrimination cites both marital status and sexual orientation as categories where discrimination should not occur, and this proposal supports that," Carvalho said.

The report also argues that the benefits will aid in recruitment and retention of faculty. The recommendation will go on to the Board of Trustees' Human Resources Committee. The benefits could be implemented as early as July 1 if approved.

While UK employees expressed interest for domestic partner benefits, state leaders are divided. See **Benefits** on page 3

Remembering the Dream



Participants in the Martin Luther King Jr. vigil walk past a group portraying a scene with Ku Klux Klan members standing in front of black protesters. The participants walked by several different scenes from the Civil Rights movement on Sunday night before attending a program in the Worsham Theater.

First on-campus MLK event in years challenges students to enact change

Jill Laster
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Students gathered late Sunday night outside the Student Center to honor the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. with a candlelight vigil and a midnight program celebrating King's life and work.

Over 300 students, staff and members of the community carried candles as they viewed reenactments of important scenes from the Civil Rights movement, including the protests surrounding Brown v. Board of Education, the Greensboro Four sit-in and American athletes raising the Black Power salute at the 1968 Olympic Games.

Following the vigil was a program at midnight in Worsham Theater, which included a reading of King's "I Have a Dream"

speech, music by the UK gospel choir Black Voices and speeches by UK students and staff.

The vigil is the first on-campus event celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day in several years, said Veleashia Smith, director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Center.

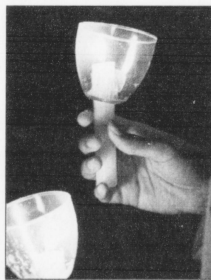
Student Government President Jonah Brown said he wanted to bring an event to commemorate King to campus after noticing low student turnout at events downtown on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

"We don't want this to just be a day off," Brown said.

Speakers, including Brown, talked about the life and legacy of King, challenging the audience to act to bring change to UK.

"Bias, bigotry and racism still

See **Vigil** on page 3



Danielle Edwards, a UK graduate, holds a candle in memory of Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday during the MLK vigil outside the Student Center.

Thousands take to the streets in the rain for annual downtown march

By Jill Laster
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Although it was raining Monday morning, thousands gathered in downtown Lexington for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom March and Commemorative Program.

About 34 religious and community organizations, including UK, Fayette County Public Schools and the Community Action Council, signed up for the Freedom March, which began at the Lexington Center and traveled five blocks through downtown.

"We had a most engaged audience, a march that through inclement weather was most inspi-

See **March** on page 3

UK players, coaches endure tough times to reach bowl win

By Jonathan Smith
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There has been a rumor for the last 70 years that the University of Kentucky is a basketball school.

Don't think about the seven national basketball championships. Forget about the 13 Final Fours and omit the 43 Southeastern Conference championships.

Rich Brooks has. "All you have to do is look up in the stands today, and you can see that Kentucky is a football school," Brooks said after the Music City Bowl. "That is a fallacy that I knew when I took this job because without a lot of success, there's still a whole lot of fans that come into Commonwealth Stadium. They're just hungry for success in football just like our basketball program has had success."

Of course Brooks, the head football coach, understands and recognizes the success and tradition of the basketball program.

But he also knows that he is in charge of a burgeoning football program, one that took an about-face this season that culminated with a 28-20 win over Clemson in the Music City Bowl.

The win, UK's first bowl victory in over 20 years, was a major step for Brooks and the program.

Just four years ago, this didn't seem possible. The NCAA punished UK because of recruiting violations. The Cats had scholarships taken away. They were banned from the postseason.

In short, UK was reeling. And in the immediate future, it wasn't going to get much better.

Guy Morriss was hired to repair and revitalize the untidy UK football

program. He was a holdover from the Hal Mumme era, and seemed to be the future of UK football.

In 2001, he guided UK to two wins, and lost three SEC games by four points or less.

In 2002, the Cats won seven games, including victories over Arkansas and Louisville, and lost one of the most unforgettable games in the program's history to Louisiana State.

Morriss appeared to have rescued the program from life support. But his stint as savior would not continue any longer at UK.

He left for another job. He was headed to Baylor to take over as head coach.

His departure meant the UK football program would have its third head coach in four years.

"For us seniors, it was tough when Guy Morriss left," departing senior

Michael Aitchison said. "I'm not going to sit here and lie to you and tell you a story, it was tough for us because that was the guy that brought us here and you don't know what to expect when a new coach comes in. And for some of us it was a tough transition. I just told Coach Brooks thank you for staying the course."

Staying the course at first was difficult for Brooks and the team.

In his first three seasons, not much went right for the Cats. They won a combined nine games, and failed to beat an SEC team other than Mississippi State and Vanderbilt.

Brooks, for the perceived lack of progression, was publicly scrutinized by the media and the fans.

"A lot of people were dogging him out in the media and on the message boards and all that kind of stuff," Aitchison said. "He told us he was here for

the long run and I told him I respect him for that."

Before this season began, there was hope the team could get to six wins and reach a bowl game, in large part because of a fortuitous schedule. But after week one, some of that preseason hype was gone.

UK lost to Louisville 59-28 in the season opener in a game that was over at halftime; U of L scored the game's first 31 points.

After winning three of their next five games, the Cats hit another speed bump when they lost to LSU 49-0. At that point the Cats were 3-4 and their postseason hopes were fading.

"We had a long way to go after the LSU game," said quarterback Andre Woodson. "Our offense really got it going. Our defense stepped up and start-

See **Bowl** on page 6

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Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black

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

Aries (March 21 - April 19) Today is a 6 — One of your best talents is your ability to think outside the box. You want to venture outside of it too. Only go with the boss's permission.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Today is an 8 — The business dealings you're doing now don't show immediate rewards. Luckily, you're one of the best at deferring gratification. You'll get more for your money.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) Today is a 6 — A person you've entrusted with an important assignment produces results brilliantly. Don't be jealous; take credit for choosing the

right player for that position.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Today is a 9 — Other obligations must be set aside temporarily. Focus on the job that requires your immediate attention.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Today is an 8 — A lucky break helps you achieve something you've been after for ages. This ought to be fun, besides being very interesting.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Today is a 7 — Be paying close attention. You're in for a surprise. Don't make any assumptions, especially where family's concerned.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Today is a 6 — Keep snooping around and you're going to find out what's really true and what's spin. Keep an open mind and continue to be skeptical.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Today is a 9 — You'll want to upgrade your living conditions, so start making plans. Don't shop yet; make lists and gather data.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Today is an 8 — Another blinding revelation is about to occur. Don't worry — it'll be fun, if you're not driving at the time. Stay in your ivory tower or some other safe place.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Today is an 8 — You've done a lot of thinking, and you're getting more assertive. A theory you've been working on is starting to take form in your imagination. It's a good money-making scheme.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Today is a 6 — For the next few weeks, you'll get to run several reality checks. You have to prove the seemingly impossible can happen. Luckily, you're good at this.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Today is a 7 — Don't worry about making money, that will happen naturally. Continue to gain respect and you improve your bargaining power.

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THE DISH

American Idol

The scoop. For the sixth time, a slew of warblers vie for a Simon Cowell compliment — and, natch, the coveted singing title. But first: three weeks of open calls in such cities as Birmingham, Alabama, L.A. and Minneapolis, with guest judges Jewel and Olivia Newton-John. “Our best audition show ever is in Seattle,” executive producer Cecile Frot-Coutaz tells Us. “The singers are incredibly entertaining.” And for the semifinal round in mid-February, rumor has it that the contestants will be grouped to perform songs from acts like the Bee Gees, the Beach Boys and the Supremes — then be critiqued and voted off as an ensemble. (Frot-Coutaz wouldn't confirm.)

In the wings. Which music superstars will collaborate with the finalists? “There will be unconventional partnerships,” promises Frot-Coutaz, who adds, “This is a show that has that ‘holy cow’ factor.”

Survivor: Fiji

The scoop. “Britney Spears and Jessica Simpson haven't discovered this area of Fiji yet,” host Jeff Probst jokes to Us. No kidding. For Season 14, 19 castaways make do on the remote island of Labasa, where, as usual, heat and poisonous reptiles are in abundance. But this time, one vicious tribe gets to live in a tricked-out shelter ... with a kitchen!

SECRETS OF TV'S WINTER FAVORITES

Simon's insults! Tribal war! Lost, at last! Here are seven reasons to huddle close to your TV this season

Quitting time. The night before production started, one contestant dropped out, leading to some adjustments in how the tribes were divided. “It put us in a weird situation, because we didn't anticipate the problem,” says Probst. He also didn't expect a December coup in Fiji's capital — but the game was unaffected.

The Amazing Race: All-Stars

The scoop. The standout teams from 10 seasons go ‘round the world once more for \$1 million. CBS is mum on who's returning, but reports suggest that Survivor vets Rob and Amber Mariano, as well as recent beauty queens Dustin and Kandice, made the cut. “The teams didn't necessarily have to win the first time,” exec producer Bertram Van Munster tells Us. “But we asked: Do they have a great sense of humor? Are they inventive out on the road?”

Tough love. Don't expect any detours to easy street. “We made it very strenuous,” says Van Munster, who promises fresh locations and challenges. “This is not a repeat of stuff we've done.”

Extras

The scoop. After years of thankless jobs, actor Andy Millman (Ricky Gervais) gets a break when he stars in a popular — but inane — sitcom. “He

sells out and regrets it,” Gervais tells Us.

Back From Winter Break

Prison Break. Michael (Wentworth Miller) and Lincoln (Dominic Purcell) seek the man Lincoln was convicted of killing, while Mahone (William Fichtner) recovers from a gunshot. And yes, Michael and Sara (Sarah Wayne Callies) will reconnect. (Fox, January 22, 8 p.m.)

Heroes. Peter (Milo Ventimiglia) emerges from his coma and finds a mentor (Christopher Eccleston). Plus, Hiro (Masi Oka) is kidnapped by his tyrant of a dad (George Takei). (NBC, January 22, 9 p.m.)

Lost. Where to start? Jack (Matthew Fox) is in command over the Others. Kate (Evangeline Lilly) and Sawyer (Josh Holloway) escape. What happened to Desmond (Henry Ian Cusick) post-hatch explosion is unclear. And it's all new until May! (ABC, February 7, 10 p.m.)

—Mara Reinstein

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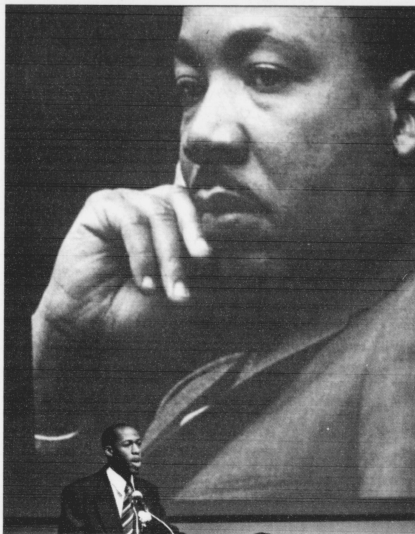
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MARCH

Continued from page 1

national," said Terry Allen, a member of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Planning Committee and associate vice president of Institutional Equity at UK. Allen estimated that 2,500 people participated in this year's march, the 15th downtown, and that 2,000 attended the program in

Heritage Hall. Theologian and author Renita Weems was the keynote speaker in the commemorative program. Weems discussed King's life and work, comparing it to the world today. She urged the audience, and the United States, to assess its direction in the civil rights movement. "This is the only national holiday that forces our nation to look in a mirror," Weems said. "We are not here to commemorate a 'nice man.' We are here to commemorate a great prophet."



Mahjabeen Rafuiddin, director of Student Diversity Engagement, reads Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech at the beginning of a program in the Worsham Theater Sunday night. BRAD LUTTRELL STAFF

VIGIL

Continued from page 1

exist in our society," said Mahjabeen Rafuiddin, director of Student Diversity Engagement, in a speech to the crowded auditorium. "Be an activist. Fight against it. Try to eradicate it."

The program's three keynote speakers each focused on a different part of King's work, discussing education, community and activism. Psychology junior Jesline Chandrakumar, one of the keynote speakers, urged student organizations on campus to become more diverse. "It is necessary to step out of our comfort zone," Chandrakumar said. "We, the student body, have the power to change this campus and achieve King's dream."

UK Provost Kumble Subbaswamy also spoke at the midnight program. "This university will have failed and failed tragically if its students do not also develop an ability to think deeply about Dr. King's question 'Where do we go from here?'" Subbaswamy said.

Smith said that although there was a change of location due to rain, she was enthusiastic about Sunday's turnout.

"I thought tonight went very, very well," Smith said. "I'm tired, but I'm pleased."

TURNER

Continued from page 1

engagement, where he works to create partnerships between UK and surrounding community organizations.

"He has a long list of achievements when it comes to civil rights," Blanton said.

After receiving his award, Turner said that now he will only work harder for civil rights.

"It just meant a lot in terms of recognition," he said. "It means I must intensify my commitment, intensify my dedication. And I will try to live more humbly and not be distracted by the resistance to the kinds of things that must still be done, that need to be done 40 years after Dr. King's death."

BENEFITS

Continued from page 1

ed on the issue.

"I'm very pleased with the recommendation they've come up with," said state Rep. Kathy Stein, D-Lexington. "I think it promotes basic fairness; it makes UK a better place to work."

Rep. Stan Lee, R-Lexington, has been one of the larger critics of the proposal in state legislature. Lee said that he was disappointed with the recommendation but not surprised, saying there were many proponents of the benefits on the committee and that "it was hardly a committee looking into this objectively."

"The conclusion was foregone," Lee said. "They were going to reach the recommendation no matter what." Lee said UK should focus on benefits for part-time workers instead of creating new beneficiaries and also said the plan "absolutely undermines marriage."

"If you continue to take away every advantage to being married, the logical result is fewer

people will be married," Lee said.

Lee pre-filed a bill for this year's legislative session that would make it illegal for public universities and colleges to provide domestic partner benefits. The University of Louisville is currently the only public university to offer benefits, which started Jan. 1. Two private colleges, Berea and Centre, also offer domestic partner benefits.

Lee is confident his bill will have support. "If I can get it onto the floor, it'll pass with 80 plus votes (in the House) and overwhelmingly in the Senate," Lee said.

Stein did not share Lee's outlook. "I think the chances are pretty slim," Stein said.

Others viewed UK's examination of domestic partner benefits as a purely political move.

Martin Cothran, policy analyst for the Family Foundation of Kentucky, said the benefit proposal disregarded the marriage amendment of the 2004 general election where Kentucky voters overwhelmingly defined marriage as a partnership between a man and a woman.

"This plan goes in direct conflict of that," Cothran said. "We think UK is thumbing its nose at the voting public."

Plan for 'bike-able' campus gets funding

By Blair Thomas
btomas@kykernel.com

Lexington received \$80,000 from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet in December to help fund the University of Kentucky Bike Plan.

The plan assesses how "bike-able" campus is and what improvements should be made to help contribute to the reduction of pollution and congestion in Lexington. Wildcat Wheels Coordinator Shane Tedder said.

"This money has been given to UK to improve the bike routes in and around campus as well as produce signs that encourage drivers to share the road with bikers and to educate students on responsible cycling," Tedder said.

Administrators allocated \$17,000 to

Wildcat Wheels, a campus organization that provides bike services to students and faculty.

"Wildcat Wheels has really taken off," Tedder said. "The demand has really outpaced the number of bikes we have been able to put on the roads. We're looking to nearly double the number of bikes we provide."

Wildcat Wheels will use the money to buy new bikes and open a campus bike shop.

"This bike shop is something we've been working toward," Tedder said. "It will give students a place to work on their bikes, get help from trained bike mechanics and even receive training themselves in bike maintenance and repair."

The rest of the money will be used for signs, lane striping, bike path markings and

safety education.

Euclid Avenue, Rose Street, Huguelet Drive and University Avenue are all considered to be "re-striping priority areas," Tedder said.

"We plan to re-stripe and connect these priority areas in order to form a network of bike paths to ensure bikers have a safe route to campus," Tedder said.

The money was awarded to UK as a part of the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program that is intended to improve the air quality and traffic flow of several Kentucky counties.

"This effort will go a long way toward making this campus more bike-friendly," Tedder said. "It will get us started promoting biking as an alternative way to commute but it is definitely an effort that UK has to stay on top of."

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Monday 15 th	Tuesday 16 th	Wednesday 17 th	Thursday 18 th	Friday 19 th	Saturday 20 th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> College Democrats Meeting, 7:30 PM, 211 Student Center Swing Dance Lessons, 8PM, Tates Creek Recreation Ctr Ballroom Solar Car Team Meeting, 7:00PM, DVT Engineering Building FUEL, 6:30PM, 508 Columbia Avenue (UKWF) Yates Elementary School Tutoring, 4:00PM, Yates Elementary School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bingo in the Cats Den, 7:00PM, Student Center Cats Den UK Students for Life Meeting, 8:00PM, 115 Student Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University Christian Fellowship, 8:00 PM, 230 Student Center Comedy Caravan with James Johann, 8:00PM, Student Center Cats Den 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clerks (SC Film Series), 10:00PM, Center Theater (Student Center) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Fidelity (SC Film Series), 10:00PM, Center Theater (Student Center) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Stage with CKYO - A Night at the Movies, 6:00PM, Downtown Arts Center Saturday Morning Clinic Project Health, 9:00AM
					<p>Sunday 21st</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK Ultimate Frisbee Organization, 10:00PM, Intramural Fields

OPINIONS

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This MLK Day, we must not forget King's true legacy

Many students might be wondering why on earth the UK administration gave the student body an extended weekend after a month-long Winter Break and half a week of classes that, in many cases, consisted of hour-long syllabus reviews and awkward moments of going around the classroom to state your name and major.

But students should remember that their extended weekend wasn't to have more nights to party or catch up on sleep. Yesterday's extra day off should always be remembered as the national holiday it is — one in which we take the time to honor Martin Luther King Jr. and his commitment to promoting this nation's ideal of freedom.

Even today, our society must constantly remember the sacrifices that have been made in the fight for freedom. King was one of the few people in American society to have fought so passionately for an issue concerning freedom that many people, in his day, were against. His courage to promote equality would later cost him his life. But even in death, his words would ring on and continue to drive this nation to be more accepting, more peaceful and more compassionate to the different cultures

KERNEL EDITORIAL

that make up the world we live in. "We see the effect of his work everyday, like walking into a classroom full of people of all races," Jeremiah Mwangi, a music senior and former president of Alpha Phi Alpha, the first intercollegiate black fraternity, said in last Friday's edition of the Kernel. "Being able to work here and go to school here (together) was part of his dream."

Some UK students and employees, including Mwangi, helped ensure that campus celebrated the true meaning of the holiday by organizing and executing UK's first-ever MLK Day candlelight vigil. The day really is nothing but a "day off" if there's no official celebration of its subject, and the vigil's organizers deserve to be commemorated for making sure that was no longer the case.

King's dream of equality continues to resonate in our society today. For that reason, students must remember why this past three-day weekend was so important.

Practice facility will benefit all of UK's athletic teams

When the UK Athletics Department unveiled its \$30 million basketball practice facility on Jan. 11, UK students and fans got their first view of a facility full of wooden lockers, state-of-the-art video rooms and two practice courts. The facility is extravagant, high-tech and much-needed.

The UK basketball teams have finally moved out of Memorial Coliseum, which was built in 1950. They now have a 100,000-square-foot practice facility, located directly behind the old gym. Not only was there not enough room in Memorial, but also the gym was significantly outdated. The new facility has men's and women's sides with equal gym, locker and office space.

With the basketball teams moving out of Memorial Coliseum, there will be more room and gym time for other teams — such as volleyball and gymnastics — that use Memorial for practices and games.

The new facility features video rooms to watch game films, new men's and women's locker rooms, and new coaches' offices. The fa-

KERNEL EDITORIAL

cility will catch UK up with other Southeastern Conference schools that also have new practice gyms, according to a UK Athletics Department press release.

Having a new practice facility should help bring in more recruits. A new facility on campus with so many amenities is sure to lure in prospective students and coaches alike.

While it would be great to see UK spend \$30 million on a new classroom building or on revamping dining services, UK Athletics is self-sustaining and funded separately from the university. The money used to build the new facility came from donations and private funds, according to the press release.

The UK basketball programs were long overdue for a new place to practice. All of UK's gym-based teams now have more room and availability to practice. Even though \$30 million is a huge amount of money, it was well spent.



GRAHAM SMITH, Kernel cartoonist

Don't take a day off for MLK — go out and change the world

When I was younger, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday just seemed like a day off school where you could relax around the house and do nothing.



BYRAN KENNEDY
Kernel columnist

It wasn't until I was older that some people can do in a lifetime, and it's even more amazing when a man can do countless great things in almost half of his expected lifetime.

For one man to set so many milestones and precedents in the area of civil rights in his short lifetime is truly amazing. Had it not been for King's leadership, I would not be sitting here in my dorm room writing this column, and I would never have met all of the wonderful people that I know through campus organizations and who are of a different color than I am.

The nonviolent protests King led and inspired — boycotts, sit-ins and marches — led to me being able to be on this campus. If I were placed on this campus 60 or 70 years ago, I wouldn't be able to take another step, solely because of the color of my skin. But because of men like King and Lyman T. Johnson, I am able to get an education and be involved in the many different organizations on this campus. Even though there are many things still not exactly fair towards blacks in this world, things are much better than they used to be, and men like King are who we have to thank for that.

Even though MLK Day seems to be directed toward blacks, all of us as a nation should celebrate this man's wonderful work, which also went a long way in helping many other cultures in America. By becoming more aware of other cultures, you not only learn more but also help rid your mind of ignorant thoughts that too many people are unable to let go of.

I was shocked to see Richards as a messenger for racism, but his message — the thoughts that he displayed and talked about boisterously — did not surprise me at all. It's sad that racism still exists in this world, but I believe some things will just never change.

Although men like Richards who have made racist comments cause our nation to take a step backward in the fight to end racism, we can create different instances in which racial equality is shown. As King said: "And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead."

One good step would be for media outlets to refocus their attention. When a man like Richards has a racist outburst, it's shown anywhere and everywhere. But you would never know about men like Tim Weiss — a white man who talks about how we need to fix racism — because their speeches are never blasted all over the news and YouTube.

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these

truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'" King said. The day when all people are treated as equals will be a great day; sadly, I have a feeling I might not be around for it. But great steps like those King made will ensure that such a day is not too far away.

It starts with us — students of this university and members of the next generation. We need to start to instill non-racist views into everyone we come in contact with and even into our eventual children. This will never happen if we set idly by and allow racism to continue. Racism might not be as obvious as it used to be — you don't walk out of your dorm and see burning crosses — but around the nation people of color are still being denied jobs and privileges in certain places because of the color of their skin. It is our job to stop this, so get up and start making a difference.

My mom always used to tell me that MLK Day was a day on, not off. This means that it shouldn't be a day when you just sit around and do nothing, especially if you're African-American. In the end I believe this quotation by King explains it best: "Discrimination is a hellhound that gnaws at Negroes in every waking moment of their lives to remind them that the lie of their inferiority is accepted as truth in the society dominating them." As a student body and campus, we can throw away this thought of inferiority of different races so that the healing process can begin and a new world of fairness and egalitarianism can start with our generation.

Bryan Kennedy is a journalism freshman. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

This year's political challenges demand leadership and cooperation

During the tumultuous years of World War II, Winston Churchill tried a new political strategy to maximize England's chances of succeeding against the Germans. He chose the best and most brilliant minds in the country to be his political advisors — regardless of their political affiliation.



TARA BONISTALL
Kernel columnist

Eventually, Churchill lost the position of prime minister to a political enemy who served as an advisor during the war. But Churchill's actions provide an important message for our present political situation: Sometimes there's more to life than politics.

Churchill's actions nearly 60 years ago, when he declared that "this is not a time for politics," seem especially relevant as the new Congress begins. Leaders of both the Democratic and Republican parties have pledged that they will work together to better our country, which sounds like a wonderful idea. But doesn't it also sound like a promise we've heard a few times before — one that's never actually been fulfilled?

From international conflict to devastating internal social problems, we are arguably facing more issues today than ever before. It is clear that this Congress has a long road ahead — and also that cooperation may no longer be an option.

The votes of many constituents for the 2008 presidential election lie in what the next two years of political action will bring. If the Democrats can achieve a higher minimum wage, voters who are affected by the raise or who simply wish to see social change in our country could swing greatly toward the left. Iraq policy and key moral issues like abortion and same-sex marriage will, as always, be critical as well.

It seems that both parties will do their best to push through their own political agendas, but at a moderate pace. Neither party can afford to be labeled extreme, and both will be forced to turn their moderate pace into moderate positions. At the same time, both political parties are recognizing that as a time to take action.

For voters, this could prove to be one of two situations: an active Congress pushing through legislation that has been at a halt for years, or a group of individuals maintaining the illusion of cooperation while continuing a legacy of getting nothing done.

As an idealist who still believes in the genuine good hidden within

everyone (even politicians), I am desperately trying to believe that this will be the year that changes are made. We will remember 2007 as the year that the minimum wage was increased for the first time in many years. This will be the year that women's access to reproductive health will no longer be threatened by "trigger laws," which some states have passed to ban abortion in the event that Roe v. Wade is overturned. And perhaps best of all, this will be the year that a solution is found for the war in Iraq. Troops will come home, and Iraq will be "saved" — not through guns and violence, but rather with humanitarian aid.

Of course, in my old age I am beginning to realize that idealism, although necessary for survival, doesn't always translate into politics. It's much more likely that 2007 will be the year that we see many more of the deadliest months so far in Iraq, and the minimum-wage hike will be dwarfed by tax cuts.

But this, of all times, is not a time for politics. Rather, it is a time for action and change. It is a time for our elected officials to renew our idealistic faith in the political system and live up to the cooperation they have pledged. If we wait for the next election, we will certainly be too late.

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E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

Cartoonists Needed

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

Contact Wes Blevins at opinions@kykernel.com

BOWL

Continued from page 1

ing making big plays in big games."

Woodson was one of the main reasons for the turnaround. The junior threw for 31 touchdowns and only seven interceptions. As a reward, he was named to the all-SEC second team.

But few would have predicted Woodson to have the season that he did. In fact, some might have written him off.

Woodson struggled in his sophomore season, tossing just six touchdowns, and was demoted to second-string for the Blue-White spring game.

In the summer, however, Woodson went to work, and in the fall he was eventually named the starter.

At least one of his teammates never doubted his ability to have the breakout season that he did.

"I know he could," said wide receiver and favorite target of Woodson's, Keenan Burton. "I've seen the drive and dedication in his eyes. I knew that he wanted it more than anybody, and I understood that I needed to be right there with him to help him and push him and make sure he doesn't

slack and slip off."

With Woodson and Burton leading the way — the two connected for 12 touchdowns — the Cats went on a tear, winning four of their last five games, including their first victory over Georgia since 1996, to earn a bid to the Music City Bowl.

And with the win over Clemson to finish the season, the Cats won eight games, and set the tone for what could be a next-step season in 2007.

For the seniors, like Aitchison, the win is vindication for his first four years at UK. Through the coaching changes and the scandal, to the two, three and four win seasons, nothing has come easy for the current group of Cats.

But the players that did stick around have been rewarded, and if the last few games are an indication of the future, they might continue to resurrect the program, and turn a basketball school into a football school.

"Winning is contagious, and we learned how to win here in the last six games starting with Mississippi state," Aitchison said. "These guys right here, these freshmen have come into a good deal and the guys that have been apart of this rebuilding process over the years, they know how to win now."

The match has been struck. These guys have to light the fire."



Junior quarterback Andre Woodson celebrates during the 2006 Music City Bowl in Nashville, Tenn. Woodson was named all-SEC second team for the season.

Freshmen not strong enough to knock off Bulldogs

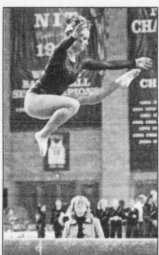
By J. D. Williams
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The No. 22 UK gymnastics team kicked off the 2007 season as it hosted its 23rd annual Excite Night on Friday in front of a record crowd of 6,875 in Memorial Coliseum.

Unfortunately for the record number of UK fans in the audience, the Cats didn't get the upset they wanted.

The Cats fell to top ranked Georgia 195-975-193.575 in a match that saw UK use 12 freshmen in its 24-person rotation.

Sophomore Heather Hite jumps during her balance beam routine Friday night at the Excite Night competition in Memorial Coliseum against the University of Georgia.
ELLIOTT HESS STAFF



Despite the season-opening loss, UK coach Mo Mitchell took some positives from the Cats' debut.

"I'm pleased with the team," Mitchell said. "We didn't get our goal of going 24-for-24 with no falls, but it's the first meet of the season against the number one team."

The meet gave Mitchell the chance to unleash his talented group of freshmen that will be instrumental parts of the upcoming season, including Emilie Rymer, Hilary Ferguson and Emily Green. Ferguson and Green competed in three of the four events.

The pressure was on Ferguson, who was the first gymnast to compete in Excite Night.

"I was excited (to see her)," said Haywood Ferguson, Hilary's father, who attended the match. "I showed a lot of confidence from her coach by putting her out at front and setting the pace."

Haywood had to like what he saw as Hilary nailed the vault with a score of 9.60.

"I wasn't nervous," Ferguson said of her opening performance as a Wildcat. "I was more excited."

Along with UK's talented freshmen, Mitchell is anticipating a strong year from seniors Rachel Riley and Krystle Cook, who he said are the most accomplished returnees.

"Riley is a heck of an athlete, and

when she gets out there and shows what she can do, she will take this program where it needs to go," Mitchell said.

UK also has sophomore Natalie Rubenstein, who suffered a dislocated elbow while warming up on the un-even parallel bars at the Southeastern Conference Championship meet in Birmingham, Ala., last season, where the Cats finished seventh.

Rubenstein was back in competition Friday with a 38.325 in the all-around.

"I'm looking forward to SEC and proving we're not seventh in the conference," Rubenstein said. "We've got a talented team and we're ready to show it off."

On the floor is where the Cats look to dominate in meets this year. UK earned a 48.325 on the event against Georgia and is looking to improve as the season goes on.

"We want the floor to be ours," Mitchell said. "We want to own floor."

Friday, UK saved its best performance for last. In the final rotation of the night, Cook took the floor and dominated. Her score of 9.85 tied her with Rubenstein for the team high in an individual event and locked her in for the third highest total in the meet.

"It was exhilarating," Cook said. "It was a good way to end the meet. Knowing it ended on a good note speeds us into the next meet."

Brown moves up, Burton and Brohm stay in

By Chris Miles
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UK defensive backs coach Steve Brown has been promoted as the new defensive coordinator of UK's football team, head coach Rich Brooks announced Monday.

Brown will replace former defensive coordinator Mike Archer, who resigned last week to accept a job at another school.

"Steve is very well qualified to be a defensive coordinator and is probably overdue, much like Joker Phillips was (when named offensive coordinator at UK)," Brooks said in a statement.

"Steve has great experience in the NFL with the St. Louis Rams, including his time on our staff, and with (former Rams head coach) Dick Vermeil."

Brown has been with UK for four years, coming from an assistant coaching position with the NFL's St. Louis Rams to join



Brown

Brooks' staff in 2003. Brown had been a coach in the NFL from 1995 to 2000 and had worked under Brooks when he was the Rams' head coach in the 1995-96 season. He is a graduate of Oregon University where he played under Brooks from 1979-1982.

Brown will coordinate a UK defense that played 16 freshmen and sophomores, the most in the Southeastern Conference. UK's defense seemed sluggish early in the season but picked up toward the end with a 17-12 loss at Tennessee and a 28-20 win over Clemson in the Music City Bowl.

"I'm very excited about the opportunity," Brown said. "I'm looking forward to working with the returning players and building upon the success we had in the last couple of games."

Burton, Brohm returning

Junior wide receiver Keenan Burton announced Friday that he will stay for his senior season at UK, foregoing this year's

NFL draft.

This season, Burton caught 77 passes for 1,036 yards and 12 touchdowns. He tied for the SEC lead in touchdown receptions. The decision was made after UK tailback Rafael Little also decided to return for his senior season. The two helped the Cats to an 8-5 record and their first bowl game win in 22 years.

Louisville quarterback Brian Brohm also announced on Monday that he will stay with the Cards for his senior season, despite star running back Michael Bush's decision to enter the 2007 NFL draft and head coach Bobby Petrino accepting the job as the NFL's Atlanta Falcons' head coach. Brohm threw for 3,049 yards and 16 touchdowns and helped lead No. 6 Louisville to a win against Wake Forest in the Orange Bowl.

UK and U of L will meet Sept. 15 at Commonwealth Stadium.



Burton

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