

# KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 36 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

## UK's new Green plan to take off this summer

By Jill Laster  
jlaster@kykernel.com

UK's campus will become a little greener beginning next month.

In May, UK President Lee Todd will appoint a permanent Sustainability Committee, said Bob Wiseman, UK's vice president of facilities management, during Tuesday's Board of Trustees meeting. A sustainability coordinator will be chosen this summer.

The new positions are a result of recommendations by the Sustainability Task Force, which also recommended this spring that UK adopt a Statement of Sustainability Policy. The policy would list goals for the 2007-08 school year, including:

■ Increasing student campus events to raise environmental awareness.

■ Performing energy and utility audits in 10 campus buildings.

■ Creating internship opportunities related to sustainability.

■ Increasing campus purchases of locally-grown food.

"I think the university has been very active in sustainability issues since the '90s, but I think this year we put new attention to this," said Wiseman, who is also a member of the university's Sustainability Task Force.

The recent increase in UK's focus on sustainability is due in large part to greater student awareness, Wiseman said.

"I think student excitement and faculty interest are motivating this," Wiseman said. "I think that interest will only increase."

Green Thumb co-coordinator Niles Barnes agreed.

"I think the students really put a lot of heat on the administration saying, 'We've got to do something about this,' and it turned out good," Barnes said.

"Now I feel like we have the ear of the administration," he said.

Green Thumb, UK's largest environmental club, is one of the groups that has been advocating for more sustainability efforts by UK. Barnes said he was pleased by UK's new initiatives.

"I think it's long overdue," said Barnes, a political science senior. "Especially in our goal of top-20 status, this is one thing UK is really behind on."

Green Thumb sent Todd a letter Tuesday asking him to sign the President's Climate Commitment. The commitment is an agreement signed by university presidents to work toward environmental goals like completing an emissions inventory and taking immediate steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The presidents of 193 universities have signed the pledge so far, according to the President's Climate Commitment Web site.

"This is something we'd really like to see President Todd sign onto," Barnes said. "It's just a commitment the president makes to the university, and it brings resources to the university."

While the current sustainability initiatives will help UK become more eco-friendly, students and the university will have to do more to preserve the environment, he said.

"It really is a challenge our generation is going to have to deal with," Barnes said. "We all want our children to grow up in a world with clean air and clean water."

## A FUTURE OF CO-ED COHABITATION?



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ED MATTHEWS | STAFF

## While other colleges have begun allowing co-ed roommates in dorms, UK hasn't been faced with the issue — yet

By Emily Hunkler  
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Co-ed dorms are nothing new on college campuses, but co-ed roommates are an emerging trend in university housing.

Several colleges across the country have implemented a gender-neutral housing option for dorms, including the University of Pennsylvania, University of California Riverside, University of Southern Maine and Harvard College. Dartmouth will offer gender-neutral housing starting in the fall.

But UK doesn't seem to be joining the list anytime soon.

University Housing Director Brenda Stampler said UK has not looked into the possibility because students haven't expressed a need or desire for such housing.

"If it was presented to Residence Life, Student Affairs or housing, it would be addressed to see how we move in that direction or how we

would all together manage this issue," Stampler said.

But some students are calling for gender-neutral housing at UK, despite the lack of vocal support.

"We definitely need something like this on UK's campus," said Susan Matsubara, student director of UK OUTsource, a sexuality resource center.

Gender-neutral housing would benefit transgender students on campus who may not be comfortable living in traditional dorm situations, she said.

But many students might not feel comfortable asking for this type of housing, Matsubara said, which could be a reason for the lack of discussion on the issue.

"The climate on campus doesn't allow for transgender students to go to faculty because they cannot be sure if those members of faculty will be their allies," said Matsubara, a gender

See Co-ed on page 5

## Workshop to teach about good investing

By Faith Hufford  
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Faculty and staff interested in learning about financial investing can attend a workshop on the topic today at noon.

"Investing for Retirement: Asset Allocation and Diversification," the final of four brown-bag workshops, will be in Room 209 of the Main Building.

Early last year, almost half of UK faculty and staff participated in the first university-wide survey of work-life issues, known as UK at Work.

"From the survey we learned that faculty felt there are not many places on campus for them to learn about their retirement options," said Linda Rakes, administrative support associate for the President's Commission on Women.

The commission is sponsoring the workshop in collaboration with Laura Koppes, the director of Work-Life at UK.

The workshop should help faculty and staff plan for their retirement, giving them further direction and instruction for their retirement years to come, Rakes said.

Suzanne Badenhop, a UK extension specialist for finance management, is the featured speaker.

"She is an expert in her field," Rakes said.

Badenhop, a graduate of Ohio State University who received her doctorate from Cornell University, is offering program support in estate, retirement, investments and credit.

She has been a professor at UK for 23 years, working with adults off campus in non-credit education program at the Fayette County Extension Office.

At today's workshop, Badenhop aims to teach about asset allocation, or how money is spread out and invested. She will also address different investment categories, such as the stock market and bonds.

"It's not good to have all of your money in one place," Badenhop said.

Investing in markets like the stock market and the international market involves risks, Badenhop said. The higher the comfort level of risk, the more aggressive the investment.

Account rollover after retirement is another topic the workshop will address, she said.

When retirees do not plan on investing, they can roll over their accounts into IRAs or another retirement program, she said.

Badenhop hopes for a large turnout at the workshop.

"It is important to be investment literate, to know where your money is going and how to use it," Badenhop said.

## Phelps sworn in as new SG president

By Blair Thomas  
blthomas@kykernel.com

Nick Phelps promised to be faithful and true to UK, to support the U.S., Kentucky and Student Government constitutions and swore he had never engaged in a dual with deadly weapons as he was sworn in as the 2007-08 SG President last night.

"This is an interesting oath of office," said SG Supreme Court Chief Justice Corey Fannin of the oath, which is based on the same one used for state officials, as he swore in Phelps, Vice President Brittany Langdon and the 35 senators.

Phelps held his first full Senate meeting as Student Government president at Blazer Dining Hall to elect executive of-

ficers, assign senators to committees and to approve a summer operating budget.

"We wanted to meet before the beginning of the summer so the new senators would get the chance to see how meetings will be run and because it is important that we get started early on the things we want to accomplish," Phelps said.

Every senator was present to unanimously approve the \$15,000 summer budget to cover the salaries of Tyler Montell, the elected Senate president, and Chris Crumrine, who was appointed as chief of staff by Phelps, as well as the cost of a golf cart for use by SG and the SafeCats program.

"I've allotted \$2,400 for the salaries of chief of staff and Senate president,

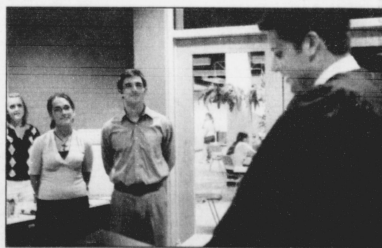
who will be working on projects through the summer," Phelps said. "What they are working on can be found on the Student Government Web site all summer."

Montell and Crumrine will work 20 hours a week for \$8 an hour, Phelps said. The Senate president and chief of staff were paid \$10 an hour last summer under President Jonah Brown.

Phelps allotted \$10,200 to purchase a golf cart, make necessary upgrades to meet university vehicle regulations and to pay for insurance and training for those people who will operate it.

"This is a golf cart that Student Government will own and will use to help expand the SafeCats program, among

See Phelps on page 5



New SG President Nick Phelps, center, and Vice President Brittany Langdon are sworn in by law student and Chief Justice Corey Fannin yesterday evening at the Student Government meeting at the Blazer dining room.

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## THE RECORD

### THE DISH

#### Engaged

Two and a Half Men's Jon Cryer, 42, will wed TV journalist Lisa Joyner, 40, in Mexico in June.

#### Baby News!

Boston Legal's Julie Bowen, 38, and her husband, real estate investor Scott Phillips, welcomed their first child, Oliver, April 10 in L.A. . . . Hairstylist Jonathan Antin, 39, of Bravo's Blow Out, and his wife, Sessie, 32, are expecting their second child.

#### Kiss Off

Angry crowds in India burned effigies of Richard Gere, 57, April 16 after he repeatedly kissed a Bollywood actress on the cheek at an AIDS-awareness event in New Delhi. Kissing in public is technically illegal in the country. His rep had no comment.

#### Split

Heather Locklear, 45, and her husband of 11 years, Richie Sambora, 47, finalized their divorce April 11. They will share custody of their daughter, Ava, 9.

#### Clarified

A rep for Jennifer Lopez, 37, debunked an OK! magazine story that claims the singer has split with her husband of nearly three years, Marc Anthony, 38. It is "a disgusting story full of lies," her rep tells us. "We're consulting lawyers. . . . The couple also are seeking a six-figure settlement from the National Enquirer for claiming that

they were "caught up in a heroin scandal." A rep for the tabloid had no comment. . . . Anthony has agreed to pay \$2.5 million in back taxes and penalties after failing to file returns for five years.

#### Name Change

Tallulah Willis, 13, daughter of Bruce Willis, 52, and Demi Moore, 44, is legally changing her name to Lula because she never liked the moniker her parents gave her. Bruce told David Letterman, 60, on April 12.

#### Destroyed

The longtime Hendersonville, Tennessee, home of the late Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash burned down April 10. Former Bee Gee Barry Gibb, 60, who bought the house in 2006, said he plans to build a new home near the old one.

#### New Digs

Orlando Bloom, 30, bought a three-bedroom home in the Hollywood Hills for \$2.5 million.

#### Farewell

Slaughterhouse Five author Kurt Vonnegut died April 11 after suffering head trauma from a recent fall at his New York City home. He was 84. . . . Hawaiian singing legend Don Ho, 76, died of heart failure in Honolulu April 14.

#### Game Off

Tennis pro Steffi Graf, 37, got three stitches in her lip after her husband, Andre Agassi, 36, accidentally struck her with a

tennis racket at an April 15 fundraiser in Houston.

#### Update

Prison Break's Lane Garrison, 26, plans to plead guilty to vehicular manslaughter in connection to a 2006 car crash that killed a teen, his attorney announced April 11. The hearing is set for May 21. Garrison faces more than six years behind bars. . . . The Los Angeles City Attorney's Office declared that James Blunt, 33, will not be charged with hit-and-run for allegedly driving over a photographer's foot at a pre-Oscar party in February.

#### Kumbaya!

Kimberly Locke, 29, and Bucky Covington, 29, are among the American Idol alumni who will teach singing classes at Idol Camp starting on July 7 in Northfield, Massachusetts.

#### Rosie's Done Bush-Bashing

Rosie O'Donnell is ready to make nice with President Bush. The View star, 45, has vowed on her blog to "talk about other things," rather than attack the commander in chief. Is she cracking under pressure? On Stoppies.com, more than 75,000 people agreed to boycott the show over her political views and disgraced ex-Huay majority leader Tom DeLay called for her suspension. But Mediaweek's Marc Berman tells us ratings aren't a concern: "The more controversy, the better."

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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 9 — You're lucky now, and you're also not playing the game all by yourself. Others who are linked to your success provide immense support.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** Today is a 7 — You don't have to discuss your decisions with a person you know won't agree. Wait a little while and talk it over with one who will.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21)** Today is a 7 — Concentration, self-discipline and practice will be required. Follow the instructions of a person who has your best interests at heart.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22)** Today is a 7 — After the business is over, settle down for some quiet time. Get ready to take on new challenges, after you're rested up.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** Today is an 8 — Make your move early or wait until Monday. Conditions are rapidly changing. Resist the urge to shop or gamble until then, and leave credit cards at home.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Today is a 6 — Your work of art should be just about finished by now. When being creative, it can be counter-productive to obsess about perfection. Take a break, and then look again later.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** Today is a 6 — You're not getting much creative work done, but you could be learning a lot. Don't try to swim against the tide. Go with the flow.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** Today is a 7 — You ought to have more time to relax in the next few days. Take advantage of the opportunity whenever it comes up: you've earned

some quality time off.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** Today is an 8 — You're providing what's required and you're almost making it look easy. Don't complain about how this working is ruining your fun. That would be counter-productive.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Today is a 7 — Figure out where you want to go on your next romantic vacation. Planning the trip with somebody you love is practically half the fun, maybe more. No lost luggage.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** Today is a 6 — Should you buy more household items, or go out carousing with friends? Well, how many household items do you already have?

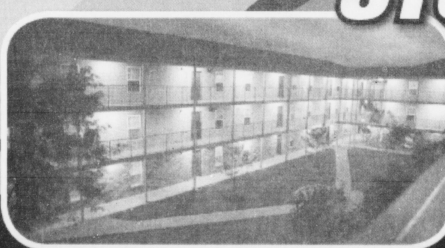
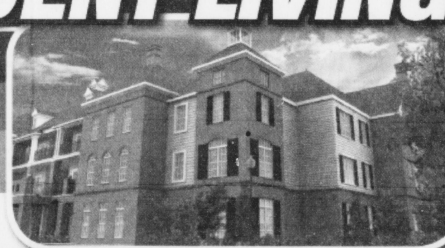
**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** Today is a 7 — Don't try to do everything yourself. Be training an assistant. You'll be amazed at how much the two of you can accomplish, together. Get a good organizer.

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THURS-  
DAY,  
April 26,  
2007

PAGE 3

# kernel POP

## DANCE FESTIVAL

The Friday Evening Contra Dancing of Lexington will be hosting the Hands Four Spring Dance Festival at the Russell Acton Folk Center this weekend in Berea. The event kicks off on Friday at 8 p.m. and lasts until 11:30 p.m. Registration begins at 7 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person.

On Saturday from 10 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. dance workshops will be available during the day and contra dancing in the evening. Workshops are \$5 each or \$18 for the entire day. Sunday's events begin at 10:30 a.m. with brunch and open dancing followed by contra dancing. Events run until 2:30 p.m. Weekend package prices range from \$38 to \$48. The caller for the weekend will be Jim Morrison and music will be provided by Clearbranch. For more information call 1-800-598-5263.

# AMOS LEE INSPIRED BY LIFE'S DIVERSITIES

## Former teacher brings love of music to UK

By Meghan Cain  
mcain@kernel.com

Amos Lee fell in love 10 years ago, but his affection was not for a person — it was for his music.

"It was just like falling in love with a girl," Lee said. "You want to be around it all the time. It keeps you coming, like a well. You can't get away."

Lee will be sharing his love with UK tonight at 8 in the Student Center Grand Ballroom as part of Wildcat Wild Nights.

Lee, a Philadelphia native, started his career as an English literature major at USC and as an elementary school teacher back in Philadelphia.

While in college, Lee was introduced to the acoustic guitar and songwriting, but it wasn't until he began teaching that he realized he could not suppress his desire to pursue a musical career any longer.

His first CD, which was self-released, circulated around Philadelphia and soon became a favorite of Norah Jones. In 2004, she asked him to be her opening act for her European tour.

After the tour, he released his debut album, "Amos Lee," in 2005. Recognition immediately followed when Lee was named one of Rolling Stone's "Top 10 Artists to Watch."

But Lee isn't interested in seeking fame, he said. He would rather lay out his feelings for his audience and hope they enjoy it.

"I don't see any point in pursuing fame for fame," Lee said. "It is not fulfilling. It is perfect if you work at a craft, and people recognize it for that. That's a good thing."

Lee describes his craft as "different styles (of) this and that." His music is a jazzy, soulful mix of drums and guitar.

"It is just music that comes from different places in my life," he said.

Similarly, he hopes the lyrics in his music don't speak just one message, he said. He strives to capture what he is feeling at different moments.

"I am still learning about life, and I want to express that," Lee said.

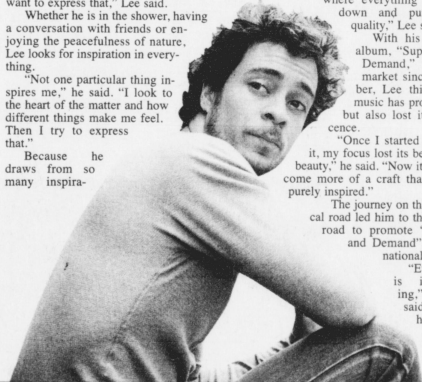
Whether he is in the shower, having a conversation with friends or enjoying the peacefulness of nature, Lee looks for inspiration in everything.

"Not one particular thing inspires me," he said. "I look to the heart of the matter and how different things make me feel. Then I try to express that."

Because he draws from so many inspira-



Philadelphia native Amos Lee said he is not continuing his music career for the sake of fame. He hopes his to hard work will get people to recognize that aspect of him. Lee will be sharing his musical craft with UK students tonight in a free concert sponsored by Wildcat Wild Nights.



tions, Lee has difficulty deciding which lyrics and music to pursue and which ones to let go, he said.

"I have to keep it at a place where everything I write down and pursue is quality," Lee said.

With his second album, "Supply and Demand," on the market since October, Lee thinks his music has progressed but also lost its innocence.

"Once I started making it, my focus lost its beginning beauty," he said. "Now it has become more of a craft than being purely inspired."

The journey on this musical road led him to the actual road to promote "Supply and Demand" with a national tour.

"Everyday is interesting," Lee said. "We haven't had

any crazy times like throwing stuff out the window and such, but everyday has its weird moments. You really have to go out on the road on your own to understand."

With every stop, Lee and his band prepare for their performance by planning out the set list and mentally psyching themselves up for the performance.

"Our preparing is playing a lot," Lee said. "We don't do any chanting or mystical things. The best energy is on the stage."

Lee always gets a little nervous before performances but is thankful he has songs he loves to play.

"Most of the time, it is great to be out on stage," he said. "It feels the best when the crowd is in it with you, but sometimes I just don't connect."

Although Lee cannot guarantee connection with his audience, he always knows he can connect with the outdoors. He loves being around the ocean and nature because of their stark differences from the atmosphere of being a performer, Lee said.

Lee spends a lot of time indoors and on buses so, when he can get away from it all, he does.

"It balances you out a little," he said. "All nature consists of the same ideas and the same things. It is the place I came from."

## DISCOGRAPHY

### Amos Lee

(2005)

First studio released CD. Songs from this album have appeared on House, Grey's Anatomy and Conviction. Produced by Lee Alexander. Blue Notes Record Label.



### Supply and Demand

(2005)

Sophomore studio CD. The album peaked at #76 on the Billboard Top 200. Produced by Barrie Maguire. Blue Notes Record Label.



# Bridging musical barriers the key to Mat Kearney's music

By John J. Moser  
MCCLEATHY-TRIBUNE

Singer Mat Kearney crosses a lot of barriers with his music, but he prefers to be known for bridging them, not breaking them.

For example, his debut disc "Nothing Left to Lose," which hit No. 2 on Billboard's Heat-seekers chart last year, is mostly mellow singer-songwriter material. But in some songs, words spill forth in rap cadence. But Kearney calls it "spoken word," and says it's actually a bridge between history and hip-hop.

"I mean, rap — to use that word seems like it brings up a connotation of something like Eminem or something, which is totally

not what I do," he says during a phone interview from a stop on the tour where he is opening for John Mayer.

"I was an English major in college, so I really liked spoken word and poetry; it was what I did before I wrote music. I was (also) listening to old-school hip-hop music ... guys that had something to say. And so I was bridging the gap of, like, Faulkner and Flannery O'Connor and A Tribe Called Quest."

Although Kearney, 28, is a Christian who started out by licensing his first record to Christian label Inpop before signing with Columbia/Award, he feels more comfortable on a secular label, thank you.

"I never wanted to be on an exclusively Christian label," he

says. "I think a Christian can take example from Jesus, who hung out with prostitutes and people like that. So I think I'm where I'm supposed to be and where God's put me is in the midst of people that struggle with real problems and are trying to figure out why they're here and what they want in life. ..."

"It's silly to throw things out or label things. You know, is U2 a Christian band, or was Johnny Cash a Christian country singer? I don't know, but they're pretty open about their faith."

Kearney's amalgamation apparently has worked. His disc's title track was a bona fide hit, and several other songs have been on television shows "Grey's Anatomy," "One Tree Hill," "Friday Night Lights" and others.

**Reason #6: Thirsty Thursdays & \$1 Beer!**

Thursday, April 26 vs. West Virginia, 7:05pm  
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Saturday, April 28 vs. West Virginia, 7:05pm  
**ADI FIREWORKS!**  
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**WEEKEND PLANS**

**1. Bungalows at the Library**  
Bungalows of the Bluegrass is a photographic exhibition available for viewing at the Central Library Theater in downtown Lexington. On Sunday, the publisher for the American Bungalows magazine, John Brinkman, will give a lecture at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 859-231-5559.

**2. Animal Communication**  
An animal communicator workshop will take place Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1026 Manchester St. The event is hosted by For the Love of Dogs Bakery, and registration is required. For more information call 859-233-3641.

**3. An Odd Combination**  
Starting tomorrow and continuing through May 13 at the Downtown Art Center, the Actors' Guild of Lexington will present "Anton in Show Business," a comical look at contemporary American theater that combines a self-centered television actress with a jaded New Yorker and an enthusiastic ingénue. This odd combination, played by an all-female cast, comes together for a production of Anton Chekov's "Three Sisters," but there's a catch: the show is staged in a smiling town in Texas. "Anton in Show Business" starts at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and at 2 p.m. on Sundays. For more information call 859-225-0370.

**ONTAP**

For the week of  
**APRIL 26 - MAY 2**

**TONIGHT**  
Griffin House w/ Wes Meek  
8 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

**FRIDAY, April 27**  
Vandaveer w/ Neva Geoffrey and Petticoat Petticoat  
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

At Daggers Drawn w/ The Burning Season, Hamstring the Horses and Burn the Chairist  
7 p.m., The Mad Hatter. Tickets cost \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.

Scott Miller and the Commonwealth w/ Amy Corneia and Berni Sulyak  
8:30 p.m., The Southgate House. Tickets cost \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door.

Plain White Ts  
7 p.m., Bogarts. Tickets cost \$14.50.

The Parlour Boys w/ IEI, Hotpicks and Very Emergency  
7 p.m., Red Mile. Tickets cost \$5.

**SATURDAY, April 28**  
Will Hoge w/ Gringo Star, Matt Mays & El Torpedo and Deadstring Brothers  
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$10.

The Flight Station  
8 p.m., The Mad Hatter. Tickets cost \$5.

G. Love & Special Sauce  
9 p.m., Bogarts. Tickets cost \$20.

**SUNDAY, April 29**  
It Dies Today w/ The Human Abstract, Endwell and Sick City  
7 p.m., The Mad Hatter. Tickets cost \$10.

**MONDAY, April 30**  
As Cities Burn w/ Cool Hand Luke and Olympia  
7 p.m., The Mad Hatter. Tickets cost \$10.

**TUESDAY, May 1**  
Tubing w/ Foxy Shazam! and Black Tie Afair  
7 p.m., The Mad Hatter. Tickets cost \$8.

**WEDNESDAY, May 2**  
The Glee Club w/ Art of Covenant, Divine Carama and Frequency  
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$3.

The Greencards  
8 p.m., The Southgate House. Tickets cost \$12.

Keller Williams  
9 p.m., Bogarts. Tickets cost \$20.



Rancher Jon Taggart and his wife, Wendy, have found a niche with high end, direct-to-consumer, grass-fed beef in Grandview, Texas.

PHOTOS BY TOM PENNINGTON FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/MCT

**The grass-fed is greener**

By Chris Vaughn  
McClatchy Newspapers

**GRANDVIEW, Texas** — Inside the only bocherie in town is a meat case full of chuck roasts, flank steaks, New York strips. But what they're really selling in the rustic Burgundy Bocherie is a story.

It's an old story, actually, one about a Texas ranching family that raises cattle on rolling, green hills of native grasses, never uses pesticides, hormones or grain, and sells their meat to people they know on a first-name basis.

Jon and Wendy Taggart tell it best. "It's not new," Wendy Taggart said. "It's the way ranching was done years ago."

A few years back, they climbed out on an agricultural limb, gambling that people would pay extra for organic, 100-percent grass-fed beef bought directly from their store in Grandview, about 35 miles south of Fort Worth.

They struck at a time when many Americans were growing more interested in all-natural products and more concerned with problems in mass-produced meat.

That interest keeps growing, and not just in the expected places such as New England and California. The Dallas-Fort Worth area is considered the second-strongest market in Texas for environmentally friendly foods.

But there's one problem. "There is more demand than supply," said Brad Stufflebeam, president of the Texas Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association. "Texas is decades behind this movement."

The grass-fed beef movement — which means the cows are not fattened up in feedlots with grain or corn — is in its infancy. The American Grassfed Association is only 4 years old, and few people have particularly reliable statistics about it.

But in a state as cattle-rich as Texas, there are fewer than 20 grass-fed producers that can be found on the Internet, most of them selling whole or half carcasses, not individual cuts. Nationwide, it is estimated that less than 1 percent of the beef supply comes from grass-fed cows, an even smaller amount from organic grass-fed operations like the Taggarts.

"It's a niche, niche market," said Angela Jackson, president of the Organic Grassfed Beef Coalition in South Dakota. "It's been growing 50 percent a year the last three years, but the number of producers coming on is not as fast as the growth in demand. We don't ever see being able to catch up."

Bucking the 50-year agricultural tradition of always growing bigger to survive, the Taggarts elected to go smaller by creating Burgundy Pasture Beef.

And far from just surviving, they are



The market for grass-fed beef — meaning the cows aren't fattened up in feedlots with grain or corn — is growing, and the demand has already outstripped the supply.

prospering. They are left to wonder why more ranchers aren't telling the same story they are.

"Our business increased 70 percent from 2005 to 2006, and that was the smallest increase we've ever had," Wendy Taggart said. "I think there's a lot bigger market out there."

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association in Denver expects to see continued growth among grass-fed producers, particularly since grain prices are so high.

But Joe Schuele, a spokesman for the group, said it is unlikely to ever dethrone grain-fed cattle as the predominant source of beef.

"We're all in favor of cattle producers identifying and capitalizing on that kind of market opportunity," Schuele said. "It's a marvelous opportunity for a select number of producers, but it's not likely to be an opportunity for a huge number. It's unlikely to create any major shifts in cattle production in the foreseeable future."

Just four miles away is the Taggart ranch, a 1,370-acre spread of wheat fields turned native grass pasture.

Pure Angus calves come to the Taggart ranch at about 12 months from operations that use only grass. They stay there for another 12 to 15 months, eating only grass. Jon Taggart decides which is ready for slaughter, based on how fatty they look.

They go to slaughter near Hillsboro, Texas. The carcasses come to the bocherie — or butcher shop — for 21 days of aging.

They're processed and packaged from employees on site. Then the meat is sold. This is what people mean when they say "local food."

Organic is no longer the buzzword for the food savvy. That market kept up double-digit growth over the past few years, to the point that large agriculture companies are now in the

business of organics.

To local food supporters, industrial agriculture is bad, organic or not. "Local food is the ultimate in accountability," Stufflebeam said, because it puts farmers and ranchers directly in touch with customers. "Local food is a more secure food system. When people understand the value of food, where it comes from and the people who grew it, it makes the banquet on our tables much more rewarding and nutritious."

To illustrate how much local has overtaken organic as the rallying point, neither the Taggarts nor Stufflebeam have ever requested organic certification from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"I hope our customers put more faith in what I say than the USDA," Jon Taggart said.

The Taggarts' grass-fed program started nine years ago because of money. Specifically, not enough of it ending up in their bank account through a conventional stocker calf operation.

"We were struggling," Jon Taggart said. "The cattle business is a tough business. We had to come up with some way to increase our income."

So, in their words, they left the "commodity-driven rat race" in which beef prices go up and down based on the packer or grocer market.

Instead, they converted their ranch and their herd to all-grass and all-natural, a process that took several years. In September 2004, they opened their store, perhaps their biggest leap of faith, because it was too difficult to run the business out of their homes.

Because they sell directly to the customer, they can set their own prices, which have never come down.

Bone-in rib-eye is \$12.99 a pound. A tenderloin is \$26.99 a pound. Flank steak is \$7.99 a pound, and short ribs are \$4.29 a pound, all of which goes to the Taggarts. "It's a better way to raise a family," Jon Taggart said. "We can budget our household now."

Running a grass-fed ranch is easier in some respects.

Jon Taggart doesn't have to plow, fertilize or buy antibiotics. Every few days, he moves the cows to a different pasture and makes sure the grasses are doing well, and the cows take care of themselves.

But the rest of it is a huge departure from what ranchers normally do — processing the meat, marketing, running a Web site and dealing with customers.

"We are service-oriented," Wendy Taggart said. "Our customers want to talk to who is raising their food because that's important to them."

**ALCOHOL RESEARCH STUDIES AT UK**

- UK's Alcohol Research Center in the Department of Psychology is conducting a number of studies involving the effects of alcohol on behavior.
- Participants should be between 21-35 years of age for alcohol studies.
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**CO-ED**

Continued from Page 1

and women studies and political science senior.

"There are certainly transgender students on campus," she said. "However, it is common for transgender people to feel that the environment is hostile and therefore not be visible on campus."

Making such students comfortable was the initial motivation behind gender-neutral housing at other schools.

"It came to our attention that we were not meeting the needs of all our students," said Jason Arey, assistant director of Residence Life at the University of Southern Maine. "We began to address the question of, 'Where do we put transgender students, those who do not identify as male or female?'"

At UC Riverside, Residence Life Director Jeanette Braden said it was simply an issue of supply and demand.

"We had a group of students approach us for a LGBT (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender) hall, and while we were working on that, we developed the gender-neutral hall," Braden said.

The dorms at UC Riverside and the University of Southern Maine were initially developed to accommodate transgender students, but the halls are now open to anyone who is interested.

"We found that with these halls we will be serving a greater population of students beyond transgender," Arey said. "Brothers and sisters who want to live together, couples or simply friends can all live in these halls."

For these colleges, the reasoning behind a student's choice to live in the gender-

neutral housing is not of concern.

"It is just another housing option and not really any of our business why you want to live there," Braden said.

Some limitations do apply when requesting to live in gender-neutral halls. At the University of Southern Maine, assignments to the gender-neutral halls are not done at random as with most other dormitories.

"It's just another housing option and not really any of our business why you want to live there."

However, some might argue there are fewer roommate conflicts in co-ed rooms, Arey said.

So far, neither UC Riverside nor the University of Southern Maine has experienced any substantial negative feedback beyond a telephone call.

Not all universities with gender-neutral housing have opened the option to all students.

"Harvard has always made provisions for those with gender-identity issues," said Robert Mitchell, director of communications for the faculty of Arts and Sciences with Harvard College.

At Harvard, transgender students are allowed to live in a single-occupancy room as part of a suite with other students they are comfortable living with.

Harvard's gender-neutral housing is not aimed at accom-

modating couples or opposite sex friends, although co-ed housing does exist on the Harvard campus.

Creating a similar real world feel is another reason some colleges have adopted gender-neutral halls.

"These halls provide a real life experience for people," Arey said. "If you get an apartment and sign a lease, you can do it with whoever you want; we are just providing what society is offering."

Stamper said that is another reason gender-neutral housing has not been an issue at UK. Students are allowed to live in off-campus housing and may do as they please in those surroundings.

Other students' opinions were neutral on the issue.

"This doesn't bother me," said Erin Welsh, a biology sophomore.

"If it's completely optional, I don't think it would negatively affect the living or studying conditions of those who choose to live there."

Matsubara also thought gender-neutral halls would be an asset to UK's campus and prospective students.

"It would be beneficial to the university because it would show UK's commitment to diversity," Matsubara said.

Although it has not been widely discussed by UK's housing board, the university does wish to stay current and meet the needs of the students, Stamper said.

"If things need to get done, we'll be at the table ready to address them," Stamper said.

**CHAIRMEN**

"There is so much that we start doing over the summer," Montell said. "It is important that we have a dedicated staff who is willing to start working on projects now."

The Senate unanimously passed its first resolution to send condolences and prayers to the families and friends of those killed at Virginia Tech last week.

The goal for the full Senate meetings next semester is to bring \$2 to the students, Phelps said.

"Having our first meeting at Blazer Dining Hall gave students eating here a chance to see a meeting going on," Phelps said. "We're taping tonight's meeting and future meetings for Channel 50 so students can find out what we're talking about. We want students to know what Student Government is working on, and we want them to know what we are doing for them."

**PHELPS**

Continued from Page 1

other things," Phelps said.

The interim summer Senate usually approves the summer budget, but Phelps said he wanted all of the senators to have a chance to see the early budget.

Also last night, the Senate elected Shawn Denney as Senate coordinator and Blake Burnett as Committee on Committees member-at-large.

Lauren Anchor, William Downey, Jesse Parish and Alex Garcia were elected to serve as the summer Senate. Senators Blair Lord and Meredith Storm were chosen to serve on the University Senate, and Senators Justin Stewart and Brittany Pennington were elected as the Lobbyist Corps

**THE KENTUCKY KERNEL IS LOOKING FOR AN ONLINE EDITOR**

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**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT -**  
**STUDENT INSURANCE INFORMATION**

University Health Service, in conjunction with The Graduate School, Office of International Affairs, student representation, and other UK departments recently concluded the Request for Proposal process to select a NEW student health insurance vendor. The **Chickering Group**, an **Aetna Company**, was awarded a contract to begin in Fall 2007. With more than 25 years in the student insurance marketplace, **The Chickering Group** offers a sound reputation and record of service.

UK's contract with the current carrier will end on August 25th, 2007. **Chickering** is well-versed in the changeover process and the University expects this to be a straightforward one. The University Health Service will work closely with the Graduate School and Office of International Affairs to ensure a smooth transition for both new enrollees and students currently enrolled in the 06-07 student insurance plan. Mechanisms will be in place to handle existing and new claims, member information, and students participating in a continuation plan.

With 2007-2008 premiums lower than 2006-2007, the new student health insurance plan begins August 28th and will include significant enhancements:

- 100% coverage of negotiated charge for both inpatient and outpatient services at UK Hospital and UK Clinic
- Deductible waived for services at UK Hospital, Kentucky Clinic, and University Health Service
- Vision Benefits included at no extra cost
- New prescription card with co-pay at time of purchase at the Kentucky Clinic Pharmacy
- Prescription benefit increased from \$800 to \$1,000 at the Kentucky Clinic Pharmacy
- Outpatient Miscellaneous Benefit increased from \$1,000 to \$2,500 per illness or injury per year
- Home Health Care Benefit added
- Addition of Women's Health Benefit
- Addition of Immunization Benefit for Students
- Expanded benefits for educational exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens

Specifics about these and other plan changes, frequently asked questions regarding the transition, and enrollment details will be available online after July 1, 2007 at [www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/UHS](http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/UHS) or [www.chickering.com](http://www.chickering.com).

**Note:** Students who have pre-registered for fall classes will be mailed a 2007-2008 Student Insurance Plan pamphlet by **Chickering** in July.

More information about **The Chickering Group** can be found at [www.chickering.com](http://www.chickering.com).

**UK** UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
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# SPORTS

Jonathan Smith  
Sports Editor  
Phone: 257-1915  
E-mail: jsmith@kykernel.com

## Cats split doubleheader with Hoosiers

By Kenny Colston  
kcolston@kykernel.com

The UK softball team entered yesterday's doubleheader against Indiana in the middle of a seven-game losing streak. It didn't look like that would change for the Cats when they dropped the first game 5-4, and trailed 3-0 after the first three innings in the second game.

But a three-run fifth inning put the Cats ahead and two innings of scoreless relief gave the Cats a 5-4 win and snapped their eight game losing streak.

"It was a really good win," catcher Alli Eckman said. "We really needed to come and get a win, especially after dropping the first game."

Indiana (21-28) started the scoring early in the second game jumping out to a 2-0 lead in the second inning off Janetta Deaven's two-run home run. The Hoosiers continued where they left off in the third, when Sarah Padove doubled up the middle to score a run and give them an early 3-0 advantage.

But UK's offense wouldn't stay silent for long when Brooke Marnitz launched a two-run home run, her 21st of the season, and brought the Cats to 3-2. After Indiana added a run in the fourth, the Cats (20-25) stormed back in the fifth when Molly Johnson hit an RBI single and Eckman knocked two runners in with a double. The Cats got some help from Indiana starter Christy Wahl's as she walked three batters and threw three wild pitches.

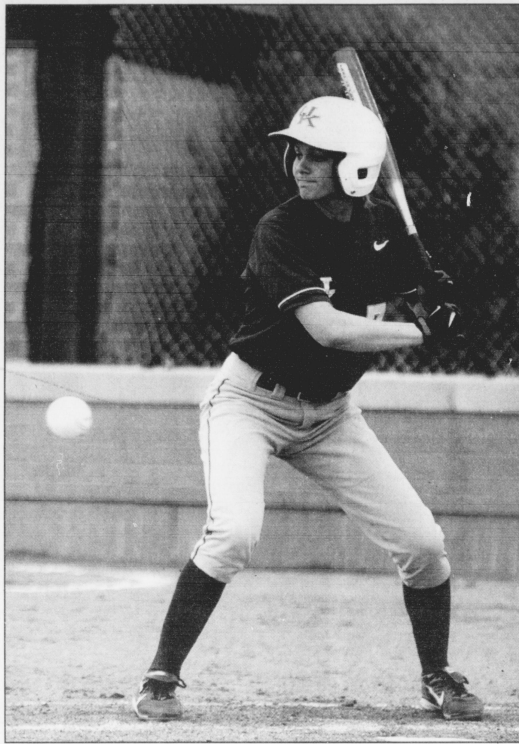
"We had some good at-bats in this game," Eckman said. "These aren't Alabama-type pitchers, but it's still good seeing what they throw."

Jennifer Young (7-7) held the Hoosiers scoreless in the sixth and seventh innings to close the door on Indiana.

"We finished this game which we hadn't done so far," head coach Eileen Schmidt said. "Plus Jennifer came in and did her job closing down."

In the first game, UK got the offense started early when lead-off batter Audrey Meyer doubled to center field RBI singles by Marnitz and Ashley Fertic helped the Cats jump out to a quick 2-0 lead.

Indiana scored one run in the top of the fifth, but did the real damage in the sixth, when Rachel Terry smashed a two-run



ELLIOTT HESS | STAFF

UK catcher Alli Eckman hits yesterday against Indiana at the UK Softball Complex. Eckman had one hit and two RBI in the second game of a doubleheader, which the Cats won 5-4. UK dropped the first game of the doubleheader by the same score.

home run off UK starter Amber Matousek to put the Hoosiers ahead 3-2.

But the Cats clawed back in the bottom of the sixth when Fertic hit her fifth home run of the season, a two-run shot that put UK back in the lead 4-3.

Sloppy defense doomed the Cats the next inning as Indiana

loaded the bases on two errors and a fielder's choice that was dropped at second base. After UK got two outs, Indiana's Tory Yamaguchi's single scored two runs for IU to regain the lead 5-4. UK left two stranded in the bottom of the seventh to seal the loss.

"We didn't do what we

should have in the first game," Fertic said. "In the second game, we did it."

The Cats will try to end an 11-game Southeastern Conference losing streak when they take on Alabama in a three-game series this weekend in Tusculoosa.

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Classifieds continued from page 13

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# Cats avenge earlier loss to Cardinals

## UK splits season series after earning nine runs on 13 hits in win

By Eric Lindsey  
elindsay@kykernel.com

After managing just six hits two weeks ago in a loss to Louisville, the UK baseball team busted out the bats last night to defeat the Cardinals.

The Cats (28-12-1) ripped 13 hits, getting many of them in key situations, to top the Cardinals 9-5 last night in front of a season-high 2,930 fans at Cliff Hagan Stadium. The win split the season series with the Cardinals (28-12) and avenged an 8-1 loss on April 11 to the Cards.

"It's kind of bittersweet because you want to take both from them," senior catcher Sean Coughlin said. "The in-state rivalry is always there. We had a good talk before the game and we came out fired up and we took it to them this time."

Several Cats hitters had big days at the plate. Junior Sawyer Carroll went 3-for-4 with two RBIs and Coughlin chipped in with a 2-for-4 performance, adding three RBIs to extend his Southeastern Conference leading RBI total to 58.

Coughlin's RBI total is three ahead of Ryan Strieby's total through 41 games last year when he set the school record with 77 RBIs.

"We've been swinging it pretty well here lately," Carroll said. "If you take out Sunday at Florida, we've swung it really well here in the past couple weeks. We just got to defend better and pitch better."

The Cats got their offense going early, plating four runs in the first two innings. Carroll provided the lone run in the first inning with an RBI-single, extending his team-best hitting streak to eight games.

An inning later, the Cats added three runs on three hits, a sacrifice fly, a sacrifice bunt and a hit-by-pitch.

Senior designated hitter Mike Brown started the inning off with a single to left field to plate junior shortstop Ryan Wilkes from third base.

After Carroll lined his second RBI-single in as many innings, Coughlin capped the inning off with a sacrifice fly to right field to bring in the final run of the inning and extend the lead to 4-0.

Starting pitcher Duran Ferguson then



ED MATTHEWS | STAFF

UK junior outfielder Antone DeJesus gets hit by a pitch in the bottom half of the second inning yesterday against Louisville at Cliff Hagan Stadium. DeJesus scored a run in the Cats' 9-5 win over the Cardinals.

ran into trouble in the third and fourth innings, allowing three runs in the third inning and a run in the fourth. A two-run home run in the third inning and a solo shot in the fourth inning knotted the score at 4-4.

The tie would be short-lived though. Coughlin's RBI-single highlighted a three-run fourth inning that put the Cats on top 7-4.

The Cards cut the deficit to 7-5 in the top of the fifth inning but the Cats answered with two of their own on a solo shot by Brown and an RBI-double by Coughlin

to extend the lead to the final outcome.

Five UK pitchers combined to give up five runs on six hits. Freshman pitcher James Paxton (1-0) earned the win for his first career victory, hurling two scoreless innings in relief. Cards pitcher Skylar Meade (6-2) suffered the loss two weeks after picking up the victory in the first contest.

"Hopefully this win will get something going," Carroll said. "Hopefully this will string a few wins together and we'll get into the postseason where anything can happen"

# Cats' bats must stay hot down stretch

While one team tried to use home runs to stay in the game last night at Cliff Hagan Stadium, the other dinked, dunked, singled and doubled its way to victory. The surprising thing was that it was



CHRIS DELOTELL  
Kernel columnist

John Cohen's UK team forsaking the longball and beating Louisville by spraying the ball around the field.

It was just another sign that these aren't your 2006 Cats.

While last season's Southeastern Conference champs used their propensity for going deep to plate runs, this year's team — without Major League draftees Ryan Strieby (20 homers last season) and John Shelby (18) and still missing injured outfielder Collin Cowgill (16) — doesn't have the same pop. But perhaps the Cats — who've struggled to a disappointing 7-10-1 mark in conference play —

have begun to snap out of a conference season-long struggle to score runs. Last night marked the fourth time in five games that UK has reached double digits in the hits column.

"It's not a club with power," Cohen said of his team. "It's a club that can get the barrel of the bat on the baseball and hit it to the gaps."

That's exactly what the Cats did last night in riding 13 hits to a 9-5 win over their in-state rivals, and avoiding the first season sweep by the Cards since 1992.

"We swung the bats better," Cohen said. "Overall, we needed this."

No doubt about that. The Cats, who have won only one SEC series all year, badly need to get in league play if they are to qual-

ify for the SEC and NCAA Tournaments.

"We need to get it going on the weekends," Cohen said. "And this is the kind of night that can help you do that."

In front of 2,930 fans — the biggest crowd at Hagan Stadium this season — UK tacked runs on the board in four of the first five innings and got stellar performances from four members of its bullpen to shut the door on Louisville. But this Wednesday win will mean nothing if UK can't follow it up with some Friday, Saturday and Sunday success.

"Momentum is a key for us," senior catcher Sean Coughlin said. "Going into the weekend, our guys have some confidence."

That'll be important, considering the magnitude of this weekend's home series with Georgia.

"This is a huge weekend for us," Cohen said. "If we can win two games this weekend or get on a roll and win more than that, it can change everything."

If everything includes the Cats' postseason hopes, Cohen's

right. Georgia is in last place and UK absolutely must win the series, and would do well to sweep the Bulldogs. Doing so would propel the Cats back into the division race and greatly improve their NCAA Tournament chances.

If UK is to put together a late season rally, however, it will need to keep hitting like it did last night.

"Our hits have always been there," Coughlin said. "Some key hits were there for us today that we haven't had nearly enough of this year."

The Cats need to make those key hits stick around, or they risk not winning nearly enough this year.

Chris DeLotell is an education junior. E-mail: cdelotell@kykernel.com

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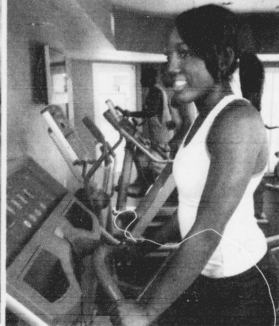
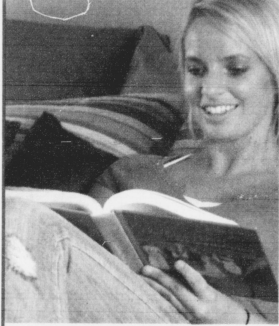
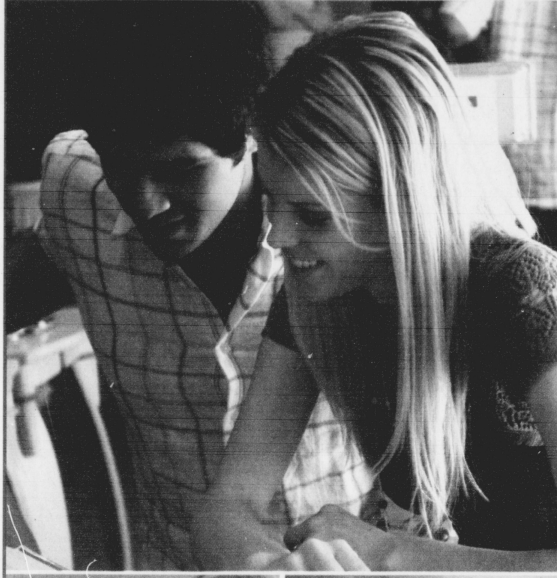
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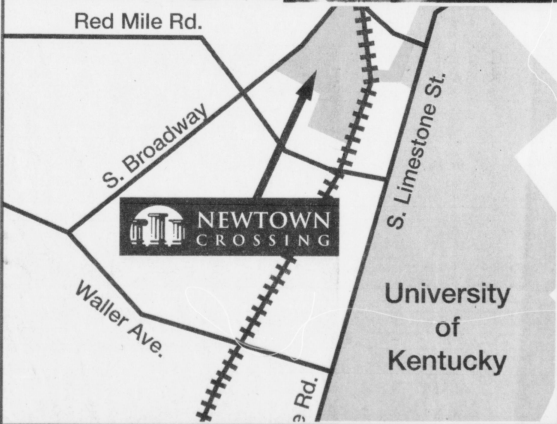
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## FLYING HIGH



James Croley, an architecture senior, attempts to fly a toy plane through a third story window in Miller Hall yesterday afternoon. **ELLIOTT HESS | STAFF**

## U.S., Mideast students connect via Web

By April Bethae  
MCCLEATHY NEWSPAPERS

"Aya" didn't spare any words as she described why she thinks the United States invaded Iraq.

Sitting in front of a computer on an Egyptian college campus, her voice traveled through the headset she was wearing. A webcam atop the monitor beamed her face onto computer screens in college classes across the Middle East and the United States.

In a lab for her Middle East media class at Queens University of Charlotte, sophomore Molly Hogan listened.

"I know I'm about to offend the Americans, but I don't think they know or care about human rights," Aya said. "They use terrorism as an excuse to invade."

More students gave their own theories: oil, weapons of mass destruction, defending Israel or protecting U.S. assets.

Hogan, 19, defended the United States. "We're trying to spread our ideas of what made us prosper so that others can prosper as well," she said.

This exchange was made possible by the Connect Pro-

gram. The goal of the nonprofit group Soliya, which runs the program, is to promote understanding and respect between Arab and American cultures. The name Soliya blends the Latin word for sun and an old Arabic term for "beam of light."

The Queens students in the class meet in two-hour labs once a week.

Each student is assigned to groups with a nearly even mix of American and Middle Eastern students. Schools include the Dar Al-Hekma College in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, American University of Cairo, the University of Iowa and Western Kentucky University.

Queens professor Mohammed el-Nawawy said the program challenges students' views about the cultures.

"I don't expect them to change their opinions 180 degrees," el-Nawawy said. "But I think by at least engaging, questioning some of the ideologies that they have and by listening to the other side, they see that there are other points of view worth considering."

Predictably, the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, U.S. military efforts and religion can spark heated discussions.

Hogan, who said she is more conservative than others

in her group, said she sometimes feels like she's forced to defend the U.S. government's policy abroad.

Still, Hogan said, Soliya is helping her learn more. She said she doesn't know much about what is happening in other countries other than what is in media reports.

Not every conversation has the students at odds. Many share similar views on politics and other topics, such as family and even a like of McDonald's.

In one of Queens junior Rebecca Sovine's labs, students discussed the role of women in society. Many — both American and Middle Eastern students — said it was important for them to get educated and make lives for themselves before settling down to have families.

In addition to the lab sessions, the students put together video segments using file footage of the 2006 conflict in Lebanon and partnered with a student from the Middle East on a final paper.

El-Nawawy said the cross-cultural exchange is letting the students know more about the Middle East without having to travel there. It's rare to have those type of opportunities, he said.

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# OPINIONS

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

## Don't waste flex cash; donate leftover dollars to Kentucky's hungry

Through the end of finals week, students can donate cash or extra flex dollars to a charity that will provide food to Kentucky's hungry.

God's Pantry Food Bank and Student Government are teaming by designating 16 spots on campus where students can give food, money or buy a \$5 bag of non-perishable food items.

This seems like a good, creative way to use leftover money from students' meal plans. Last winter's food drive raised about 300 pounds of food on campus and that was without much promotion on campus. This spring, SG and God's Pantry have tried to do a better job of getting the word out about the project.

Each year God's Pantry provides food to about 159,000 people. If they can continue those kinds of lofty contributions to the community, they should have no problem reaching their goal of 1,000 pounds of food during this drive.

As good as an event like this is, it won't be possible if students don't chip in. If you have extra flex dollars, you should stop by any one of the locations and donate to the needy. All of the loca-

### KERNEL EDITORIAL

tions — the classrooms, the residence halls and the dining halls — are convenient spots that students will be near every day.

It also wouldn't hurt to donate a small portion of the money students get when they sell their books back. Every donation, big or small, will help in the long run.

Students can't get cash back from their leftover flex plan money, nor does it carry over to the next semester. That makes feeding the hungry even better knowing if the money isn't used, it's just going to be wasted. Students have also been encouraged by SG to help deliver the boxes of food to God's Pantry.

This is a good event for everyone involved. Students will benefit from not allowing money to be wasted, and needy people around the city will be helped.

God's Pantry and Student Government should continue donating leftover meal plan dollars to the community, and the student body should step up and contribute to the cause.

## Find yourself before worrying about finding your future

I've had a recurring thought over the past few weeks. Maybe I could stay in school, go for that third degree... I'm sure I'll be thinking it as I stand at the commencement ceremonies.

I won't do it of course. I think that when Lee Todd looks at you in your (fifth) senior year and jokingly says "You're still here?" that it's time to pack the bags and get out. I'm not scared. Yet.

Part of what I think scares so many college students is knowing that there's something next and knowing a little bit about it, but not being entirely sure about what the details of this so-called future are.

We're going to get jobs, but where? Will we like it? Will we do you good at it?

We're all going to get old, barring an unforeseen, untimely passing. Will we age gracefully? How will we deal with balding, graying and wrinkles, to say nothing of the fierce competition on the shuffleboard lanes?

Most of us will have families. When? With who? Will we be good parents?

I'm being pessimistic, of course. The UN, fearing that my particular brand of weirdness might spread, has forbidden me from procreating. I don't even notice the men in blue helmets following me around anymore.

When I filled out that strange green little survey with my application to graduate cards, I was a little peeved. I normally am annoyed by such questionnaires and have to restrain a juvenile urge to fill in teacher evaluations at random.

Have I grown as a person? Absolutely. I'm not the same person I was when I came here. Do I think I'm prepared for the real world? Probably. I'm sure there's some things that college, or anything at all, cannot prepare me for.

Without a doubt, the most im-

portant things I learned in college weren't learned in the classroom (although a geology prof did once teach the class how to sleep in the chairs and make it look like they were actually paying attention).

What I'm trying to get across, is that while it's important to study hard, go to class and get good grades, there are other things going on that are just as important. In college, you see and hear new things, meet and get to know new people and have the opportunity to experience things you have never done before and may never get to do again.

College is supposed to be the last stage of our formative years, where we finally emerge from that strange, funky cocoon of youth into the adult we're supposed to be. Now is the time to take a step back and cast a critical eye towards the person in the mirror.

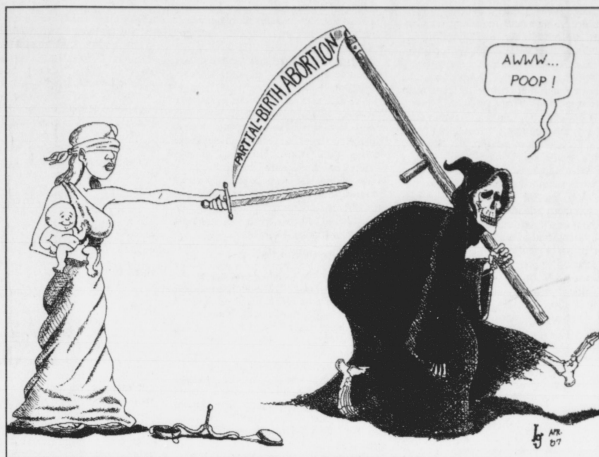
You cannot become the person you want to be without knowing who that future you is. What values are important to you? What qualities do the future you should have? How will that person act, think and feel? It's all up to you.

These are new things that you will discover and decide every day. We are the gatekeepers of our own future, the masters of our destinies (unless you're a Calvinist). We can make or break ourselves.

But as we make this journey of self-discovery and self-determination, we need to remember that we're all in this together. Here, on the grounds of this campus, in the shade of enormous trees and ancient architecture, surrounded by the warmth of fellow students who are aglow with their newfound selves, we will mold ourselves into what we want to be. We can, and we should, do it together.

Make the most of these years. Find and shape yourself and do it with the help of others. This is your time. In a week, my time will be up and my opportunity will be past and all I will have are the memories of this golden stretch of life and all the wonder and greatness that went with it.

Now it's your turn.



BRIAN GOODLEY, Kernel cartoonist

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Eliminate shooters' reasons for snapping

In the wake of the recent tragedy at Virginia Tech, everyone has been forced to ask the question: What could be done if a gunman were loose on UK's campus? Campus is defined by the freedom its inhabitants cherish — and are tragically made vulnerable by — so what can be done?

Any electronic system needs time to be set in motion and assumes all students either happen to be online or own text-messaging phones which they have present.

A system of warning sirens would need remote activation points, which could malfunction or easily be tampered with.

Beefy security and checkpoints would also create large crowds for someone to target and would make the delay to enter Classroom Building longer than to enter Lexington's airport.

Contacting the entirety of the "small city" of UK would take a system on the proportions of Big Brother; and even that neither saves those in the classroom where the shooter first pulls the trigger nor those on the sidewalk along Rose Street when a suicide bomber yanks the cord.

The only thing that can really stop a repeat of Thurston, Columbine and Virginia Tech... is you. Many related to the Virginia Tech community said they saw Cho as a disturbed student, but no one stuck with him to help him get healing. Many at Columbine professed that their shooters were both angry guys who secluded themselves in their emotional turmoil and social scorn; and few bothered trying to reach out. Time and again, hindsight warns forest that students who cry out with guns are crying out for help long before.

Step up to the plate! Get over social awkwardness and the need to be "politically correct." Resolve to live and be accessible to the hurting. There's no need for a hero to stop a shooter who gets healed before they snap. It's far better to live every day saving someone from themselves than trying in that fateful hour to find something or someone who can save the day... and us.

We don't need a call to guns; we need a call to arms and hearts.

David Rempler  
Computer science sophomore

### Hey, there is another candidate for governor

Brett Nolan's April 25 cartoon on the Republican governor's race and the battle between Gov. Ernie Fletcher and former Rep. Anne Northup was very interesting.

First because it showed the fact that neither has put forth ideas about how to fix Kentucky's ailments and have instead spent time attacking each other. And second because it fails to depict that there is a third Republican candidate who has proposed solutions.

Billy Harper has proposed numerous ideas for repairing Kentucky. From the Harper Report on Education to his plans to repeal the Alternative Minimum Tax that is attacking small businesses.

All of these plans are available online and you can even find videos of his political stances on his www.HarperForGovernor.com Web site.

May 22 is the primary date and I hope that voters will vote for Harper/Wilson instead of the bickering and scandals shown in Brett Nolan's cartoon.

David Butcher  
Political science and psychology freshman

### Story lends to blame the victim mentality

I know that Alice Haymond was just reporting the facts in her April 24 article "Grand jury dismisses UK soccer player rape case." But did you ever stop and think about the impact that the article would have on victims of sexual assault at UK?

What would you think if you had been victimized and then read that article? I have no idea what happened in that dorm room; but the only fact that matters is whether or not the young woman consented to having sex with Strong. Yet we are told that she kissed him on the neck, talked about having sex earlier and what she had posted on her MySpace page.

Those things don't matter! Not surprisingly, the most disgusting line in the article belongs to Strong's attorney, Fred Peters. He said, "It was not my client that poured the alcohol for her. It was not my client that got her into a bar underage." The implication, of course, is women lose their right to choose

whom they have sex with if they have been drinking.

The Kernel, in printing that quote without any comment, is doing nothing to refute that stance. You can write all the articles you want about fighting violence against women on this campus, but articles like this one undo all the good you have done and more.

It perpetuates the victim-blaming culture in which one in five women are sexually assaulted during their time at UK and only 1.5 percent of the victims report their experiences to the police.

If you truly want to make a positive impact you need to acknowledge your role in shaping the culture on this campus. Think about the effect of articles like this one on that culture. Then either stop printing articles like this, or stop pretending that you give a damn about the victims of sexual assault because you cannot have it both ways.

Tony Cox  
Finance senior

### NRA has too much influence in D.C.

The politically powerful gun lobby in our country holds Congress hostage. Lawmakers know if they buck the National Rifle Association, they won't get elected or re-elected. The NRA prides itself on its ability to dictate the gun agenda.

It is immoral for Congress and the President to allow the ban on assault-weapons to expire. America's love affair with guns and an outdated Second Amendment is disgraceful. It is unfortunate for America that Congress shows a greater concern for the gun lobby than it does the American public.

I read where rock guitarist Ted Nugent said the right to keep and bear arms is a God-given right. Where in the world did he get that false idea? If it were a God-given right for Americans, wouldn't Iran having a nuclear weapon also be a God-given right? I would venture to say God does not approve of our obsession with guns and nuclear weapons. We are in deep trouble when we love guns more than we love God.

Paul L. Whiteley Sr.  
Louisville, Ky.

### Weekly Poll Question

Do you think Jonah Brown did a good job as this school year's Student Government president?

Vote online at [www.kykernel.com](http://www.kykernel.com)

### Note to Readers

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### Submissions

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

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

## Colleges walk line to access students' mental health

By Holly K. Hacker  
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

DALLAS — College students struggle with becoming adults, handling relationships and independence. They might get depressed, even write an essay laced with violence or profanity.

So when do routine troubles become severe enough that college officials need to do something? That's often hard to tell, some college counselors and administrators say, reflecting on the mentally ill Virginia Tech student who fatally shot 32 people, then himself.

"What happened at Virginia Tech is an extreme example that makes for great conversation. But the truth is, if we treated every undergraduate who was depressed as about to exhibit a manic episode, we'd have to confront virtually every student in campuses across the country," said Dean Bresciano, vice president for student affairs at Texas A&M University.

Colleges say they can and do look for warning signs, but they simply can't predict whether a student will erupt into violence. They're also bound by laws that restrict access to mental health records and can make it difficult to get a disturbed person necessary treatment.

Monday's rampage at Virginia Tech raises questions about what campuses should do when students exhibit disturbing or threatening behavior. Some professors and counselors say it's a painful call to review their practices.

"I can't say that we could have prevented a Virginia Tech, but you can identify people who are ticking bombs, and you can keep a watch on them and you don't have to wait for them to commit crimes," said Murray Leaf, an anthropology professor at the University of Texas at Dallas.

This week, UTD's faculty senate voted to add rules on how professors should handle disruptive students. The decision is unrelated to what happened in Virginia Tech, it was a reaction to a few cases in which students have been hostile, Leaf said.

The new rules, which campus administration must approve, say a professor can request that a threatening student be barred from class or campus until the dean of students can resolve the matter. The

rules also define disruptive behavior to include stalking, being abusive and other things.

Leaf said there have been a few cases in recent years of students bullying faculty members, threatening lawsuits or using menacing language.

"My sense is there may be one or two on campus at any time, but not to the level of Virginia Tech."

College officials across Texas say they don't keep exact numbers on students with serious behavioral problems, but it's rare. Most students who seek counseling are dealing with typical challenges: general anxiety or depression brought on by homesickness, the stress of schoolwork, or troubles with a roommate or significant other. Some students have more serious issues, such as severe depression, an eating disorder or bipolar disorder.

### Counseling on the rise

"There's no question that across the nation, we've had higher numbers of students coming in for counseling. And we also have higher numbers of more serious mental health issues," said Jane Bost, associate director of UT's counseling and mental health center.

She attributes the trend to several factors: newer medications that help students who otherwise wouldn't be able to attend school and function well. There's more academic pressure than 15 or 20 years ago. And there's less stigma attached to seeking help.

The potential for violence has prompted college officials to craft policies on handling troubled or disruptive students.

For instance, UTD's policy states: "Every supervisor, administrator, and university official is responsible for responding promptly and thoroughly to allegations of campus violence and reporting such behavior." That applies to violence by students and staff alike.

UTD's policy says students in danger of harming themselves or others should be encouraged to go to the hospital, and the college should contact the proper medical or legal authorities. There are also instructions on how to pursue hospitalizing a student who refuses to go voluntarily.

The shooter at Virginia Tech, Cho Seung-Hui, was briefly hospitalized in 2005. A court had found that Cho, who was accused of stalking two female classmates,

was "an imminent danger to self or others." But he was let go and referred to outpatient treatment.

In Texas, people can be hospitalized against their will if they pose an immediate, serious threat to themselves or others. "It is a high burden, and it should be," said Barry Sorrels, a criminal defense lawyer in Dallas. "It's not a rubber stamp. It has to be backed up by evidence."

And as Cho's case shows, someone can still be hospitalized and released, and then later commit violent acts.

"Nobody can predict the future, and any time you're talking about state of mind and mental capacity there's always shades of gray," Sorrels said.

### 'Hard to judge'

But just because students write about violence doesn't mean they'll commit it. "Sometimes it's really hard to judge. Some kids are writing grotesque materials just to shock you," said Robert Nelsen, an associate provost who teaches fiction writing at UTD. And he said creative writing professors see violent or obscene writing "more often than you think you would see it."

Nelsen recalled one male student who wrote about women in an inappropriate sexual manner. In cases like that, he said he advises them to get counseling and tries to monitor them.

In other cases, when students seem depressed in their writing, Dr. Nelsen says he's walked them over to the counseling center.

Beth Newman, an English professor at Southern Methodist University, said she's encountered "worrisome" students, but no one who was aggressive and hostile. She said faculty members know whom to call if they think a student is depressed. "I often do that, and a lot of other people do as well," she said.

Privacy laws restrict how much a mental health provider can tell others about a patient. But Leaf at UTD says he believes colleges could do more to keep professors, deans and counselors connected.

## 'School House to White House': 13 boys who became president

By Marylou Tounsiann  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — They were normal, everyday kids — not so different from you.

That's the message of a small gem of an exhibit called "School House to White House" that's at the National Archives. On display are 152 items — report cards, letters, school photos and such — that peek into the childhood of 13 kids who would grow up to hold the highest office in the land.

"All of these boys dreamed big dreams and became men of large visions," said Timothy Walsh, director of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library in West Branch, Iowa.

But they were, at the start, fairly ordinary kids. And that's what this display celebrates.

Example 1, a 1930 report card for 13-year-old John Kennedy. "This report is not quite so good as the last one. The damage was done chiefly by 'Poor' effort in Latin. ... He can do better."

Example 2, 18-year-old Franklin Roosevelt writing home after getting a part in his school play when another student fell ill: "I suppose it is criminal to rejoice but I can't help it! I've got his part, and it's one of the best in the play!!!!"

Example 3, a homesick Jimmy Carter writing to his mother back in Georgia from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1943: "Dear Ma, I don't know what's the matter, but I haven't heard from you yet, and I've been up here 9 days."

The exhibit "puts the shared, though, was the desire to learn new things and then do something with that knowledge. And that's something we all have in common."

usually see them as homesick boys or students struggling."

The exhibit's visual delights include film clips of a youthful Ronald Reagan high-diving into a lake, George H.W. Bush in a snowball fight, and John Kennedy chasing his brother Bobby across a lawn.

Eleven of Gerald Ford's Boy Scout merit badges are included, along with his Eagle Scout card, on which he's called "Junior Ford." There is a 1935 letter from the Green Bay Packers inviting the athletic Ford to join the pro football team. "We will pay you \$110 per game," it says. (Ford declined and went to law school instead.)

Bill Clinton is shown playing his saxophone, Richard Nixon's violin is displayed, as is some of Harry Truman's piano music. (He would get up at 5 a.m. to practice. Seriously!)

The material, much of it never seen before by the public, comes from the presidential libraries of every president since Herbert Hoover, who was in office from 1929 to 1933.

Some of these 13 men grew up wealthy, but others were dirt poor.

Some had fine educations, but one (Hoover) didn't attend high school, while another (Truman) didn't have a college degree. Hoover did graduate from Stanford University, however.

And Truman, who claimed to have read every book in the Independence, Mo., library — including encyclopedias — by the end of high school, later studied law for two years.

What all 13 shared, though, was the desire to learn new things and then do something with that knowledge. And that's something we all have in common.

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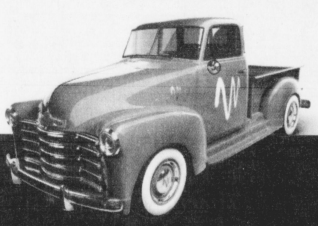
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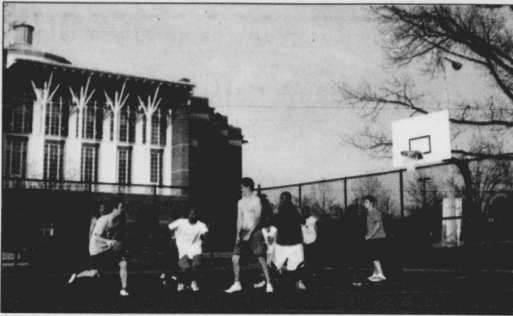
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STUDY BREAK



BRIDGET THOMPSON | STAFF  
Charlie Roland, a political science freshman, dribbles outside the arc on the court next to Haggin Field yesterday evening. Roland's team lost the pick-up game.

## Astronomers: Small planet may have water, be able to support life

By Robert S. Boyd  
MCCLEACHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — In a significant advance in the search for extraterrestrial life, European astronomers have discovered what they say may be the first habitable planet orbiting a nearby star.

They described their find as an Earthlike rocky planet that's small enough and warm enough that it might have liquid water, a necessary condition for life, on its surface.

With an estimated radius only 50 percent larger than Earth's, the new planet would be the smallest of about 200 such bodies that have been detected so far outside the solar system. It weighs about five times as much as Earth, apparently the lightest mass of any other known planet.

NASA scientists, however, cautioned that determining the size and weight of distant planets is an uncertain art. "It might be the smallest planet around a normal star, but they cannot be sure," said Jack Lissauer, a planetary scientist at NASA's Ames Research Center in Mountain

View, Calif.

The new object is one of three planets in a mini-solar system orbiting a star called Gliese 581, a "red dwarf" that's much smaller and cooler than the sun. Red dwarfs are the most common type of stars in the universe.

"The fact that it (the new planet) could have liquid water makes it even more fascinating and arguably the first habitable planet," said Alan Boss, an astronomer with the Carnegie Institution of Washington, who wasn't part of the discovery team.

"We have estimated that the mean temperature of this super-Earth lies between 0 and 40 degrees Celsius (32 and 104 degrees Fahrenheit), and water would thus be liquid," Stéphane Udry, an astronomer at the Geneva Observatory in Switzerland, wrote in a paper to be published Wednesday in the journal *Astronomy and Astrophysics*.

Xavier Delfosse, a colleague of Udry's from Grenoble University in France, said the planet "will most probably be a very important target of future space missions dedicated to the search

for extraterrestrial life. On the treasure map of the universe, one would be tempted to mark this planet with an X."

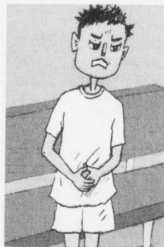
NASA plans to launch such a mission next year, named Kepler, to scour the skies for Earth-like planets.

"Kepler will monitor 100,000 stars for four years with enough precision to find Earth-size planets in the habitable zone," said William Borucki, a space scientist at NASA's Ames Research Center. Astronomers define a "habitable zone" as one that's not too hot or too cold, and not too near its star to permit life.

"Habitable," of course, isn't the same as "inhabited." Scientists say liquid water is essential for life, but its presence doesn't mean that anything is alive there.

Gliese 581 is about 20 light-years (120 trillion miles) from Earth in the constellation Libra (the Scales), in the southern hemisphere. The European team discovered a planet that's 15 times heavier than Earth, about the size of Neptune, orbiting the same star two years ago.

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