



Dreaming

Hoping for clouds

Punxutawne Phil is the man of all men today. He supposedly decides whether we freeze longer or thaw sooner. Not so worried about that. The movie *Groundhog Day* interests me more. How would it feel to relive the same day over and over? Here are some good days I would like to live over and bad days I wouldn't.

Good: A day where I meet Alyssa Milano and she finds me really funny and we go out on a great date where she realizes that I am worthy of another. Tony Danza be damned!

Bad: A day where I'm kidnapped by people in a nursing home and forced to prove to the old women, on behalf of the old men, that Viagra is also needed by a youth in the same situation.

Good: A day that I drive a black 1998 1/2 Lamborghini Countach with natural leather interior (my dream car - so not picky, right?) on the Autobahn at 145 mph all day.

Bad: A day when I drive a 1980 Chevette that burns to the ground while I'm on the Bluegrass Parkway.

Good: A day where a Miller Lite truck inexplicably runs out of fuel in front of my house and the driver exchanges all his beer for a gallon of gas.

Bad: A day where I get run over by a beer truck and spend time in the only hospital in the world with strictly male nurses (bad for me, possibly good for you).

Good: A day that passes without football scandals or a UK coach saying, "We're just young."

Bad: A day listening to Claude Bassett deliver a lecture on ethics or watching Bernadette Mattox coach.

Good: A day spent with my favorite band, on the road, in concert and back stage.

Bad: A day where I cannot afford tickets to see them.

Good: A day when nothing goes wrong. The weather is perfect and the location is beautiful.

Bad: A day in the Arctic.

-Ron Norton
Rail_editor@hotmail.com

THE 411

Tomorrow's weather



40 30

Hi Lo
If the clouds would ever get out of the way maybe we'd get some sunshine.

Kentucky Kernel

VOL. #106 ISSUE #90

ESTABLISHED IN 1892
INDEPENDENT SINCE 1971

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FRIDAY KENTUCKY

KERNEL

February 2, 2001

BENEFITS

Committee pushes for benefits

Moving ahead: If trustees pass resolution health benefits will be available to domestic partners of faculty members

By Tracy Kershaw
NEWS EDITOR

To ensure UK attracts and retains the best professors, one student government committee thinks the University should extend health benefits to the partners of unmarried faculty members.

At its Wednesday night meeting, the Campus Affairs committee passed a resolution that requests that the Board of Trustees "adopt and pass a policy that grants benefits to all faculty members and their domestic partners, regardless of sexual orientation."

UK's policy now extends benefits to the spouses and children of faculty members.

The full Senate will vote next Wednesday whether to send the resolution on to the board.

Sen. Brian Roth, who co-sponsored the bill with Sen. Emily Rigdon, said the policy would make sure UK does not miss out on a qualified professor.

If UK passes a policy that would give benefits to the partners of homosexual faculty members, it would be a positive step in erasing the state's backward image, he added.

"In order to get the best faculty, we can't be behind the times," he said.

He knows getting the board to make such a liberal move in a state known for

conservative politics will not be easy.

Still, he thinks it is UK's responsibility as an educational institution to take progressive action.

In 1999, 141 colleges and universities, 87 cities and counties, and 570 companies provided domestic partner benefits, according to an article in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*.

On Aug. 1, the nation's top three automakers, General Motors, Ford and DaimlerChrysler, extended medical, dental and prescription drug benefits to partners of full-time U.S. employees.

Last summer, 86 of the Fortune 500 companies extended health benefits to employees' same sex partners, according to an article in *The Advocate*, the national gay and lesbian newsmagazine.

The only dissenting vote on the SGA committee came from freshman Sen. James

Monroe. Monroe questioned the term "domestic partner," saying that it could be abused by faculty members. For instance, he said, a professor might have a friend who needs health insurance and claim that friend on his or her insurance unfairly.

"That's a big loophole," he stated. Ford, General Motors and DaimlerChrysler sealed that loophole by requiring that couples be together at least six months and must sign an affidavit attesting that they have a committed relationship to qualify.

Roth said such details would be up to the trustees. He just wants SGA to take a stand on the issue.

Roth explained that he wrote the resolution because he wanted to do more as an SGA senator than sponsor a one-time fundraiser.

"I wanted to do something that might have a long, positive effect on UK."



Heading to the movies?
Check out the Kernel's take on 'Head Over Heels' 13

<http://www.kykernel.com>

THE SAGA OF SGA

Chairman's actions concern Senate members

Election: Some senators worry about biases, prejudices tainting the campaigns of those who voted against Jimmy Glenn

By Jenny Robertson
CO-DIALOGUE EDITOR

Despite hopes that the upcoming Student Government Association elections will heal the strained organization, senators are already concerned by the recent actions of the election committee chairman.

During the January trial of SGA President Jimmy Glenn that ended in censure, Chairman of the Election Committee Matthew Johnson said the Senate was biased against Glenn.

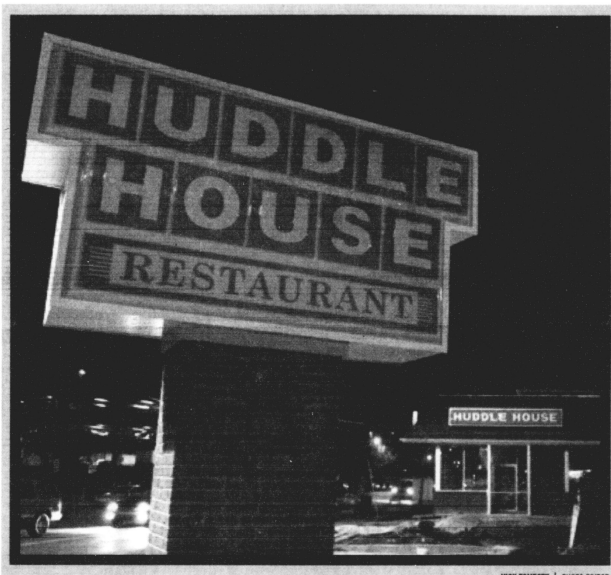
Some senators were uncomfortable with Johnson's behavior at Glenn's trial. At one point Johnson, whose tone was described by Sen. Eric Stoner at a later meeting as "threatening," stood in a chair to be heard. He also told the freshmen senators at the trial that he got them elected.

Although he later apologized for his actions, senators are still concerned that he might be prejudiced against those running for re-election that voted against Glenn.

Some senators are also worried that Johnson may harbor biases. At a SGA Senate meeting later that month, Johnson's capability as election chair was discussed.

"I don't take things personally, but when someone accuses me of being biased, I don't know if I feel comfortable with him," Stoner said at the Jan. 24 meeting.

See SGA on 2



Smothered and covered

A Huddle House restaurant is currently being constructed on South Limestone. The Huddle House is open 24 hours a day. The restaurant serves a variety of food and is well known for their big house combos.

NICK TOMCEK | PHOTO EDITOR

HEALTH

Students take notice of public need

Feeling icky: Pharmacists to answer questions

By Cara C. Hood
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With flu season well under way and so many products on drugstore shelves professing to treat every symptom, you may wonder how to decide which medication is right for you. Knowing the difference between a decongestant and an expectorant could be valuable to your recovery.

Why not turn your questions over to the experts? The UK College of Pharmacy is scheduled to host its 10th annual call-in show, "Ask the Pharmacist," this Saturday.

A panel of college faculty and community pharmacists will answer drug-related questions during the show, said Dwayne Green, assistant to the dean of student affairs at the College of Pharmacy. A moderator will relay some of the questions and answers to the viewers.

Panelists will include: Joan Fowler, Pharm. D., assistant professor in the UK College of Pharmacy; Jackie Hamilton, Pharm.

D., Lexington community pharmacist at Kroger; Deanna Fimmel, Pharm. D., clinical pharmacist at St. Joseph Hospital and Greg Naseman, community pharmacist at CVS in Louisville.

"Ask the Pharmacist" is a popular community service program, averaging approximately 500 callers every year.

Green said questions cover a broad range of topics from how drugs may interact with your body to why a physician prescribed a specific drug.

The pharmacists will answer questions about prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and herbal and homeopathic remedies.

"There is no boundary, and most are very good questions," Green said.

The show is increasingly popular among first-year pharmacy students who volunteer to handle the influx of calls as a class project. Three groups of eight students will take turns answering the phone lines. Class representative Jeremy Bowles said that

more than half of the students who volunteered for the 24 positions had to be turned down.

Students will not answer questions, but Bowles said it is important for them to interact with the community to learn valuable patient counseling skills.

"Pharmacists are more than people who dispense pills. Now, we're more into patient care," Bowles said.

Green added that exposing pharmacy students to the community prepares them for the kinds of questions they may be asked as healthcare professionals.

"There is a public need for this service," Green said. "It appears pharmacists are not readily available or people are not taking time to ask questions."

Question

"Ask the Pharmacist" will broadcast from 6-7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3 on WKYT-TV in Lexington and WYMT-TV in Hazard. The program will re-broadcast to the entire state at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1 on Kentucky Educational Television.



Black History Month

Yolanda Pierce, professor of African American Studies, along with her six-month-old daughter, Alex Stromm, listened to a lecture Thursday night on race and religion issues in the Student Center's Center Stage. The lecture was one of the many events planned for Black History Month and was sponsored by the African American Studies and Research Program.

NICK TOMCEK | PHOTO EDITOR

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS

The Low-down

I've just about run out of my repertoire of greedy, angst-ridden guys. I'll probably be looking for more period things coming up."

- Michael Douglas, 56, reflecting on his 30-year acting career, to the New York Times.

Battle to end over Ashcroft

WASHINGTON — The Senate was poised to confirm John Ashcroft to be President Bush's attorney general, ending the most vitriolic Cabinet struggle since the Senate in 1989 rebuffed the nomination of another former senator, John Tower, as defense secretary. With Ashcroft's confirmation, expected Thursday, Bush would fill his Cabinet within 12 days of taking office. It took President Clinton more than a month longer. Despite the near-certainty of Ashcroft's confirmation, Democrats labored to muster enough "nays" to show Bush that Democrats could put up strong opposition to any potential Supreme Court nominee who, like Ashcroft, has conservative views on abortion and states' rights.

President pushes faith-based initiative

WASHINGTON — Making his case before a host of believers, President Bush is appealing to lawmakers, foreign heads of state and spiritual leaders for support as he tries to expand religious groups' roles in helping the needy. The president, who was to address the National Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, also was emphasizing the significance of faith in society. Bush was to propose new federal help for disabled Americans. Earlier this week, Bush unveiled a series of initiatives to allow religious institutions to compete for a share of social-services money that the government distributes. He also would provide tax breaks to encourage charitable giving.

Earthquake refugees scramble

AHMEDABAD, India — Thousands of families dragging possessions salvaged from the ruins of their homes camped in Gujarat state's main railroad station Thursday, desperate to catch a train after six days of terror following an earthquake that killed more than 14,200 people. When a train steamed into the station, thousands rushed forward before it rolled to a halt. Men leaped onto the coaches. Others ran alongside, banging at doors that were jammed or locked. Women and children carrying bundles of clothing in each hand ran behind, yelling at the men or at straggling children as they tried to catch up. Railroad police tried to bring some order to the chaos, fearing that people could get crushed in the stampede. Each train can carry about 1,200 seated passengers, but about 4,000 of them squeezed in, sitting on the floor or on the overhead bunks.

Barak rejects switch

JERUSALEM — Ahead of a midnight Thursday deadline for changing candidates in Israel's election, Prime Minister Ehud Barak — far behind in polls — is rejecting suggestions that he let a party rival take his place. Instead, his aides



BATTLE: The latest twist in the off-surreal trail over the \$1.6 billion estate of the late J. Howard Marshall came on Tuesday, when his always news-worthy widow, ex-Playmate Anna Nicole Smith, 33, claimed in a Houston court that Marshall's son, Pierce Marshall, 62, wanted the 90-year-old Texas tycoon dead.



OH MY KNEE: Tiger Woods, 25, sprained his left knee on Wednesday while leaving the 18th green after a practice round at Pebble Beach, Calif., when he collided with an over-eager autograph seeker who broke through the golfer's security barrier.

California Assembly rejects bill

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The California Assembly narrowly rejected a \$10 billion plan to ease the energy crisis by letting the state buy power on behalf of two large cash-starved utilities. The measure, passed a day earlier by the Senate, would have let the state sign long-term contracts to buy power and sell it to the customers of Southern California Edison and Pacific Gas and Electric Co. The two together serve nearly 9 million residential and business ratepayers. The Assembly vote was 51-28, three short of the two-thirds needed. The bill's supporters, mostly Democrats, planned to take another vote, hoping to win over Republican opponents in the meantime.

Parliament censures president

JAKARTA, Indonesia — In a first step toward possible impeachment, parliament voted Thursday to accept the findings of an inquiry that implicates Indonesia's president in two corruption scandals. By a 389-4 vote, the legislature passed a censure motion demanding that President Abdurrahman Wahid answer the allegations against him. Forty-three deputies from Wahid's party walked out before the vote. The move could spark a constitutional crisis in the world's fourth-most populous nation because Wahid has said he is not answerable to parliament.

Billy Graham gets out of the hospital

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — The Rev. Billy Graham has been released from the hospital. The 82-year-old evangelist was at Mission St. Joseph's Health System for almost three weeks because of fluid buildup on his brain. He returned Wednesday to his home in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Graham was admitted Jan. 11 when tests showed a shunt inserted last summer to stabilize pressure in his brain was not functioning properly because of a blockage. Doctors originally thought they would need to remove the shunt, but Graham's condition stabilized and tests showed no signs of infection.

Stern picks Sprewell for All-Star

NEW YORK — Three years ago, David Stern was trying to keep Latrell Sprewell out of the NBA. On Wednesday, Stern made Sprewell an All-Star again. The NBA commissioner chose the Knicks guard and Dikembe Mutombo on Wednesday as replacements for injured Eastern Conference All-Stars Grant Hill and Alonzo Mourning.

Compiled from wire reports.

SGA

Continued from page 1

Other senators agreed with Stoner.

"What he's done, I consider unprofessional," Sen. Al Amoli said.

"That should not be something that the chairman of the election board does." Amoli, who brought the issue to the full Senate, initially called for Johnson's resignation. Later, Amoli conceded that time constraints would place a heavy burden on the Senate if Johnson did resign.

The filing period for SGA campaigns begins Feb. 19, leaving little time to find a replacement.

The controversy has left tension among the senators.

"My biggest concern is that there are two positions that absolutely need to be unbiased. One is the Supreme Court. The other is the election board," Amoli said.

Still, many have confidence in Johnson's ability to perform the task.

"I don't have any issue with Matthew Johnson," said Senate Chairman Edwin Orange.

"Even if he did have a bias, I don't think he'd use his position to influence the decision."

SGA President Jimmy Glenn agreed.

"Matthew is a very stand-up guy," he said. "I stand 100 percent behind him."

Some critics of Johnson acknowledge that his behavior could probably be explained as an emotional outburst in a tense moment.

plained as an emotional outburst in a tense moment.

Freshman Sen. Robin Bryant, who said she was "particularly concerned" about Johnson's remarks to the freshmen senators, said, "I think he was honest in his apology and realized he made a mistake."

Contrary to the opinions of his colleagues, Johnson argues that the voting process would not allow for any bias to affect the outcome.

"There is no place where one can be biased," he said. "There are checks and double checks to make sure that everything's done correctly."

According to Johnson, voting machines are sealed. Each vote is recorded in ink and the machine prints votes and writes in votes.

To get the results, election workers break a seal and take the results to SGA Adviser John Herbst, who places them in a lockbox. The votes are then counted twice by the election board committee.

Johnson started working with SGA elections last year. He also orchestrated last fall's election for freshman senators.

For the upcoming election, Johnson said he has already ordered voting machines, set polling places and completed the preliminary work for potential candidates.

Regardless of who runs the next election, many are hoping that it will cleanse the SGA of the high tensions surrounding relationships between the executive and legislative bodies.

"I think we've had enough drama," Bryant said.

EARTHQUAKE

Coming together

If students wish to donate money to aid in relief for victims of the earthquake in India, they can contact the Indian Student Association. Checks can be made out to the association and mailed or dropped off at:

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FILM

Funny twist on cliché plot



"All the women, independent, throw your hands up with me," Ivana Milicevic and Shalom Harlow co-star alongside Monica Potter in the romantic comedy *Head Over Heels*.

PHOTO FURNISHED

Pretty people: Young and hip cast adds romantic aspect to 'Rear Window' theme

By Samantha Essid
STAFF WRITER

A single, wallflower-like girl, living with four beautiful supermodels in New York. Not really, right? Well, in the new film *Head Over Heels*, that is exactly Amanda Pierce's (Monica Potter) lot in life.

Potter (*Patch Adams*) plays an art restorer working at the Met. After breaking up with her boyfriend, she finds an excellent deal on a high-rise luxury

apartment in eastside Manhattan. The only problem is that four perfect, though dimwitted, models (Shalom Harlow, Ivana Milicevic, Sarah O'Hare and Tomiko Fraser) also live there and her room is the size of a closet.

Just when her life is at its dullest moment, Mr. Perfect, Jim Winston (Freddie Prinze Jr., *Boys and Girls*), a fashion executive, enters her life a couple of times in a very laughable way, via his dog Hamlet.

Her and her roommates' apartment overlooks Mr. Perfect's. One night, they decide to go over to a party he is hosting. Amanda and Jim share a few special moments during the party and before he is called away they make a date.

Later that night, however, she thinks she witnesses him kill a woman in his apartment. This leads her and the models to begin spying on him. They get into his apartment after bribing a maintenance man with a dress. Misleading evidence continues to make Winston appear guilty, but the girls can't convince the cops to buy into it.

Despite his seemingly guilty ways, Amanda falls hard for the heartthrob and goes out on the date. Eventually the truth emerges about Winston's guilt or innocence.

The film has been compared to the *Rear Window* due to the similar plot including a neighbor across the street. The film is part romantic comedy, part satire and part did-he-or-didn't-he mystery. Sexual innuendoes flow throughout the film, which brings the majority of laughs.

Hilariously funny, and worth the money it will take for you and another to see it.

Grade: B+

ART

New exhibit takes art into the 21st century



"Hand in Door" by James Gordon is just one of the many digitally-produced artworks on display at "Art Odyssey 2001." The exhibit runs now through Feb. 10. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays.

PHOTO FURNISHED

Tomorrow and beyond: Exhibit gives the public a glimpse of art's newest medium

By Amanda Thompson
DIALOGUE CO-EDITOR

From the pieces displayed at the exhibit to the very building in which the show is housed, "Art Odyssey 2001" is a mix of new and old.

Open to the public since 1968, the Living Arts and Science Center is located in the Kincaid House, a national historic landmark, on Martin Luther King Boulevard. "Art Odyssey 2001," hosted by the Center, mixes art with new technology.

The LASC often offers classes to children as a "place where creativity grows." Yet "Art Odyssey" displays a variety of mediums, from simple computer prints and manipulations created in Adobe Photoshop to the uses of digital painting and even Microsoft Word, for people of all ages.

"The variety of what can be done with computers is amazing," Jim Brancaccio, LASC worker and participant in the show, said. "It is interesting how the artists have used the computer in their own special way."

The use of multimedia as an art form is still in its early stages. Just like the birth of photography, digital media faces controversy over whether or not it should be considered a fine art.

As for the gallery, the small room holding the work may feel cramped with works focusing on graphic design elements and multiple aspects of collage. Many were disappointed by the show due to the lack of quality and attention placed on the amount of space given each work. While some artists (such as Mary Kuster) works were displayed with ample light, oth-

ers competed for attention because of their intimate placement on the solid white walls.

There is also the question about how much each piece is worth monetarily. It is possible to sell one "original" work and then pop another original out of the copier. There can be only one original work when it comes to painting or drawing. However, along with photography, making original copies is not difficult for digital media artists.

The use of color in each piece offered insight into what many artists were trying to say. The message was not always clear and gave the impression that the medium was meant to display the actual meaning. In other words, the idea of manipulating computer pixels and soft paint was far more interesting than many of the works themselves.

It is obvious from examples like "Art Odyssey 2001" that multimedia is definitely up and coming. The show is not a closing chapter on the use of digital media; rather, it is an opening door to the wave of art's future.

A SILVER CELEBRATION PART II The Collection at 25

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Campus Calendar

January 29 - February 4, 2001

The Campus Calendar is produced by the Office of Student Activities, Registered Student Org., and UK Dept. on campus information for FREE online ONE WEEK PRIOR to the MONDAY information is to appear at: <http://www.uky.edu/CampusCalendar> (Call 257-8867 for more information.)

MEETINGS	Fri 2	Sat 3
<p>MEETINGS Cultural Event on French Mtg., 5:00pm, Kesselring Hall Basement</p> <p>SPORTS Tom Keanon De Club Practice Hours, 5-6:30pm, Alumni Gym Left</p> <p>LECTURES Dept of Entomology Colloquium, 4pm, Ag. Science Cr., North A-7</p> <p>ARTS/MOVIES "Dumb & Dumber" Begins, UK Art Museum, through March 4th</p> <p>INTRAMURALS/RECREATION "Open Gym Volleyball", Uplink Campus Ministries, 7pm, Calvary Baptist Church Gym "Basketball Doubles & Co-Rec Doubles Tournament"</p>	<p>MEETINGS Newman Center Mass, 4pm</p> <p>SPORTS Tom Keanon De Club Practice Hours, 11am-12:30pm, Alumni Gym Left Men's Basketball @ Columbia, 1pm</p> <p>ARTS/MOVIES "Made Chorus Day, 3pm, Singletary Cr. CH</p> <p>INTRAMURALS/RECREATION "Basketball Doubles & Co-Rec Doubles Tournament"</p>	
MEETINGS	Sun 4	
<p>MEETINGS Newman Center Mass, 3pm, 11:30pm, 3pm, and 8:30pm "Mass Bagel Brunch, 11:30am Jewish Stud. Org., 12:00pm, Manhattan Bagel on Richmond Rd. "UK Sigma Phi Frats, 7pm, 230 Stud. Cr. "E12 University Worship Service, 8:12pm, Southside Church of Christ "Episcopalian University Dinner/Discussion, 7pm, St. Augustine's Episcopal Chapel-Rose St. "Wilde Study: Jesus the One and Only, Uplink Campus Ministries, 5:30pm, Calvary Baptist Church Gym</p> <p>SPORTS "UK Audio Club, 5:30pm, Alumni Gym Left "Women's Basketball vs. Arkansas, 3pm, Memorial Coliseum</p> <p>INTRAMURALS/RECREATION "UK Audio Club, 5:30pm, UK Alumni Gym Left "Recreation Night, Uplink Campus Ministries, 7pm, Calvary Baptist Church Rec. & Outreach Cr. "UK Wildwatercraft Ball Session, 5pm, Lancaster Pool, S3 "Basketball Doubles & Co-Rec Doubles Tournament"</p>		

Wonder if he'll need a green card?

Elephant smuggled from Texas

SAN ANTONIO — Customs officials might have stopped a jumbo item of contraband at the Texas-Mexico border, if only they'd checked the trunk. Someone managed to smuggle a three-ton Asian elephant from Texas into Mexico, past a customs checkpoint in Matamoros, Mexico. "I don't know how in the world — well, they could do anything — look at the drugs they get across," said Sandy Summers, director for the Upper Valley Humane Society in Edinburg, Texas. Tom Bauer, spokesman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, confirmed Tuesday that the elephant — a member of a threatened species — was smuggled across the border. It was discovered at a Mexico City circus. The owner of the circus told the Mexican newspaper Reforma that he'd bought the elephant legally. But the circus owner, Guillermo Vazquez, apparently got tired of waiting for approval of necessary permits. He said he paid a smuggler \$4,500 to bring the elephant across. Vazquez said the elephant was transported in a trailer pulled by a pickup truck. Mexican customs agents waived it through on April 5's Day.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION. Got a nose for illegal activity?

Bad luck is waiting

Governor curses crime

BANGKOK, Thailand — Saying some police officers were ignoring his order to stop extorting money from street vendors, Bangkok's governor announced he was upping the ante by placing a curse on all malefactors. "Those who have become corrupted should face catastrophe in their lives from now until retirement," Governor Samak Sundaravej wrote in a letter distributed Thursday. "Everywhere they travel, bad luck is waiting and their lives should be ended in the near future," he wrote. Samak, a hardline law-and-order politician elected seven months ago, has been seeking to eliminate petty corruption in Bangkok. Police officers who extort money from merchants have been among his primary targets.

—Source: AP Wire
 Compiled by: Jenny Robertson

Send your letters to the editor to the Kernel!



Joshu Goebeler

KERNEL COLUMNIST

Black coal coats child's curiosity

I'm five years old living in Eastern Kentucky, sitting in my great-grandmother's lap. She is wearing one of those patterned flower gowns that she always wears around the house.

"There's a bunch of monsters out there around the coal bank," she says as she squeezes my frail frame against her soft upper body. "They live in holes in the ground up at the top of the hill and if you go out there they will reach out and get you."

When she says this she shakes my body and squeezes even harder. Nanny is telling me this because she is afraid that I will go out around the cliff that the coal company had left after they had blown the side of the mountain off.

My mother had told me about the way things looked before the coal company came. A garden and apple trees had grown where the cliff is now. She used to play there with her sister and brothers when she was as little as me. I was not allowed to play there because rocks would fall from the jagged slate mountain and splash into the dirty little pond that crept back into the abandoned mines.

"They told Pa that they would make him rich. My mother told me of the coal company. 'He never saw a red penny.' 'Why didn't they pay him?' I asked my mother in my innocent child voice. 'Because that's the way the coal company does business.'"

"Those monsters will get you! They love to catch little boys and cook them up in their big black cauldron." Nanny looks at me through her octagon bifocals. She designed these wild tales, moon dusting her little great-grandchild hoping to protect me from the environmental dangers left behind by the coal company.

I loved to hear these stories. She rocked me to sleep while I imagined her dog and I going out in search of monsters. I saw myself with a bag of lunch, a stick and little Sarah Dog by my side. As I drifted to sleep I would dream and imagine that we were seeing one of those apish monsters crawling out from its covert lair.

Sarah Dog would bare her fangs and we would pursue this hobgoblin back into the ground. Realizing victory over our foe, we would sit together and eat our Miracle Whip-covered cheese sandwiches.

Early spring, the sun is kissing my hair as I silently pull open the screen door to Nanny's house and whisper for Sarah Dog to come outside. We sneak up the hill behind my great-grandfather's tool shed.

I look down at the muddy little pond and marvel at how small it looks from my vantage point. Up we go past the tree line, treading a few feet away from the edge of the cliff. Sarah Dog scampers faithfully beside me and I strike trees with my stick, pretending that they are ill-tempered monsters trying to make a meal out of me.

Tumbling onward through the thick foliage and brambles in search of my arch nemesis, those foul smelling knuckle walking monsters. We walk for about 10 minutes before coming to a little clearing. I walk to the edge of the cliff and look down.

Feeling dizzy I move backward and sit down. It seems like I could fall forever. The drop is actually about 200 feet. The end of the fall has the promise of

pointed slate and muddy water. I'm frightened. What if a monster came at me from behind? I would have no escape. I couldn't move forward and the hill behind me is too steep to climb.

After peering over the cliff's edge, I am afraid to return using the path that I had previously used. The trail is so near the edge of this horrible abyss that I now fear to walk on it as I used to.

I cry. Cry because I am frightened. Cry because I do not know what to do. Cry because I know that I am going to be in trouble. Cry because of what I must do next. "Pa!" I scream as loud as my little five-year-old voice box will allow. "Help! Pa, Heeeellllp!"

Nanny had gone outside to look for Sarah Dog and I. She swoons and nearly faints when she hears the wind carry my little cry for help to her ears. She runs into the house and calls Pa, then hangs up the phone and calls my father, frantic and out of breath.

"I think he's gotten into that old pond down there and is drowning." She tells Clay in a frenzied voice.

Clay comes rip snorting down the hill barefoot over the sharp rocks and slate and piles of low-grade coal. He pulls his shirt off and tosses it behind him as he dives into the polluted little pond. He swims around calling my name, swinging his arms through the cattails sending their fuzzy little seeds into the spring wind.

Not seeing me in the pond Clay crawls into the decrepit, water filled, mine shafts. "Joe!" I hear him scream wildly. "Heeeellllp!" I wail. "Paaaaa, heeeellllp!" I yell for Pa because I know that he will not have the heart to spank me and that my father most likely will.

"Heeeellllp, Paaaaa!" I continue to shout as tears run down my pink little cheeks. Looking down I see the tiny figure of my great-grandfather slowly walking back on the narrow path past the pond. His blue and white baseball hat is a welcomed sight for my tear-filled eyes.

"Hey, Clay, he's up on the hill." I hear Pa yell toward my dad. Clay gets out of the pond and joins Pa. They walk around the side of the cliff where they can get up the hill and come to my rescue. They were as glad to see me as I was to see them.

I did get into a little bit of trouble over this little adventure, but I didn't get the spanking that I feared. Looking back now through the filter of years and my present hindsight, I realize that the monsters my great-grandmother told me about did in fact exist, and they continue to exist today.

They lived under the ground around the coal bank before I was born. Hiding in their cave with their metamorphic black gold like a metaphorical dragon. These mines are on fire today as if the dragon hordes its ill-gotten treasure, breathing fire to warn of would be intruders.

Burning beneath the mountain, it vents toxic chemicals through pores in the earth's subterranean tunnels. But by the time I went searching for the monsters, they had already gone. They had, however, left a reminder of themselves by the horrible claw marks that remain on the body and soul of my great-grandparents' once pristine, now tainted garden property.

Kernel Columnist Joshu Goebeler is a sociology and English senior. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel.

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Info

Letters to the editor should be approximately 200 words; guest columns should be no longer than 600 words.

All material should be type-written and double-spaced.

Include your name and major classification (for publication).

For verification include your address and telephone number, which will be kept confidential.

Responses that include libelous material will not be printed.

Responses should be current and relevant to issues that have been raised on the Dialogue page.

The Dialogue page is currently accepting applications for columnists and cartoonists.

The Kernel reserves the right to edit all material received.

PARTING SHOTS

Final Word

The Question:

"According to reports released this week, President Bush has taken steps early in his presidency to establish a White House office that would distribute billions of dollars to religious groups and charities over the next 10 years. Bush wants to let such groups compete for taxpayer money to provide after-school programs, prison ministries and drug treatment.

Bush has selected a University of Pennsylvania professor to head the first federal office designed to promote the integration of religious groups into federally funded social services, according to a New York Times report and plans to meet with various religious leaders to drum up support for his plan.

Bush has stated that he believes charity groups with ties to religious groups should be given financial assistance, since they are most effective in contributing charitably to society. However, critics say shifting government money to churches, synagogues and mosques so they can expand charitable work raises church-state separation questions.

Will giving federal funds to religion-based charities foster charitable giving in the United States? Or does the proposal overstep church/state separation boundaries?"

What They Said:

Only a nation devoid of virtue resorts to public funding of what should be an essential duty of all citizens; that of voluntarily contributing to charity."

Clayton Sandford, Kernel Columnist

I think Bush has the right to spend tax money on his own religious beliefs as long as he pays for the Church of Ghash to have new bendipulas installed in the Holy Yefinzo-Gan Parshamminas (and those can be expensive!) So who's ready to fork over some cash to the Church of Ghash?"

Kevin Clapp, Kernel Cartoonist

Do we have to report to confessional for veterans' benefits, revealing our sins and praying to the Bush administration for forgiveness? Or will welfare checks be handed out during communion: 'This is my body, this is my blood, this is some of taxpayers' hard-earned money, you sniveling piglet at the federal teat!'"

Andrew Grossman, Assistant News Editor

What? Let a group of localized people with an explicit commitment to social justice and the common good administer something as personal as drug treatment or welfare? The American people should know that individual membership to the church necessarily denies individual membership to the state!"

Jennifer Kastlen, Kernel Columnist

It certainly didn't take long for Bush to begin pandering to the far-right constituency that helped him snag the election in the first place."

Candice Jackson, Kernel Columnist

These views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel.



Stats

9

Scoring average of USC sophomore forward Chuck Eidson before he injured his knee against Vanderbilt more than two weeks ago. Eidson ranked in the top five in every major statistical category for the Gamecocks. He led the team in steals (1.9), was second in assists (3.1), fifth in blocked shots and fourth in scoring and rebounding (5.3).

5.1

Rebounds per game that UK sophomore guard Keith Bogans averages against top 25 opponents. In seven games against the top 25 Bogans has grabbed 36 rebounds and scored 17.1 PPG. His season averages are 16.4 PPG and 4.8 RPG. UK is now 4-3 against top 25 teams.

Crunch time

"If you want to be a top team, you have to beat the top teams."

UK coach Tubby Smith prior to Wednesday's game against Georgia on the difficulty of the SEC, playing on the road and what lies ahead for his team in the coming weeks.

 Travis Hubbard
 SPORTSDAILY EDITOR

Cats seek consistency



NICK TOMCEK | PHOTO EDITOR

Crunch time

Senior Saul Smith and the Cats stepped it up against Georgia. Smith will lead the Cats into Columbia, S.C. to face the Gamecocks tomorrow at 1 p.m.

Keep it up: Cats must prevent letdowns to remain atop the SEC

Don't get your hopes up. UK's convincing, yet dramatic, 85-70 victory against No. 25 Georgia Wednesday was a step toward greatness, but the Cats must gain consistency first.

Remember a similar dominating Cat performance in an 18-point drubbing of North Carolina in Chapel Hill? UK played sloppy and inconsistent throughout the first half, but behind the leadership of Keith Bogans and Tayshaun Prince and the inside dominance of Marquis Estill the Cats blew the Tar Heels away in the final minutes of the game.

Yet, a week later the Cats lost focus and stumbled to a buzzer-beating loss at Georgia Tech. Once again, turnovers and bad shooting plagued UK.

Then, at home on Jan. 16 Keith Bogans guaranteed a win against then-No. 4 Tennessee and backed it up with 21 points and nine rebounds — his best outing until Wednesday. Prince supported him with 16 points, but the Cats struggled to consecutive 10-point losses to Ole Miss and Alabama following the win.

In the three losses both Bogans and Prince performed well, scoring in double-digits each game, but a lack of leadership was apparent.

Wednesday, UK coach Tubby Smith specifically called on his top scorers for leadership. Smith went to Bogans during pre-game warm ups and to Bogans and Prince during halftimes.

Both answered admirably, scoring a combined 49 of UK's 85 points and each recording double-doubles.

The question now is, will Bogans and Prince allow the team to suffer another letdown?

UK cannot afford to lose at South Carolina tomorrow with a Teddy Dupay and Brent Wright newly fortified Florida team invading Rupp Arena on Tuesday and trips to Knoxville, Fayetteville and Gainesville looming on the horizon. There are no easy games in the SEC, especially on the road. And South Carolina is just as formidable an opponent as any team in the SEC in their own gym.

Smith and his players are aware of their past inconsistencies, though.

"We've had big wins before this year and we didn't come back and play well," Bogans told the Herald-Leader after the win against Georgia. "We've got to keep this going."

Bogans, Prince and the rest of the Cats must put away the Gamecocks to get closer to their goals of becoming SEC Champs and reaching greatness.

But a loss to South Carolina would backtrack the Cats into mediocrity.

Saturday,
1 p.m.

Frank McCreary Arena

TV: JP Sports 27

RADIO: WGLL FM 98.1

Series Record:

UK leads, 25-4

IN BRIEF

Sports bytes

GymKats host quad meet

This week's PNC Bank Student-Athlete of the Week is sophomore GymKat Mindy Smith.

Smith, a psychology sophomore, was named to the dean's list in both the fall and the spring of 2000. She was also named 2000 Academic All-American by the National Association of Collegiate Gymnastics Coaches/Women.

She has turned in several impressive showings and is currently ranked seventh in the nation and first in the region on the balance beam.

The GymKats host three challengers tonight at Memorial Coliseum for their "Flippin' Kickin' Country" night at 7:30. The GymKats will try to earn their first win against George Washington, Georgia and Radford in a quad meet.

Olson named SEC Swimmer of Week

Melissa Olson was named the SEC Women's Swimming and Diving Athlete of the Week, the league office announced Wednesday, Jan. 31.

Olson already had a NCAA provisional cut in the 200 individual medley, and her time last weekend at Cincinnati provisionally qualified her in the 400 individual medley.

Olson is the second Swimming and Diving Athlete of the Week the Cats have received this season. Senior Macon White earned the same honor for the men on Jan. 17.

The men's and women's swimming and diving teams will host Tennessee at the Lancaster Aquatic Center on Feb. 10.

UKAA inducts student-athletes

The UK Athletics Association inducted 31 student-athletes into the Frank G. Hamm Society of Character.

The Society of Character is part of UK's CHAMPS / Life Skills Program. It is designed to help student-athletes realize the value of higher academic achievement, a higher level of maturity, self-responsibility and greater overall success. The Society of Character was founded in 1988 to recognize those individuals who epitomize the term "student-athlete."

The following athletes were introduced at halftime of the UK-Vanderbilt basketball game on Jan. 27.

Angie Dal Pozzo, Andrea Eilerston, Beth Fogle and Leslie Kwiatkowski of the UK softball team and Bat Cats Vince Harrison and Brad Pickrell, Dougie Allen, Mike Belme, Anthony Kelly, Matt Layow, Josh Parrish, Mark Perry and Anthony Wajda from the football team.

Soccer players Annie Gage and Chris McAlpine, tennis stars Carolina Mayorga and Lauren Rookledge and trackers Temitayo Adegbo, Fatana Greenwell, Matt Kavanagh, Jack Morgan and Andrew Vander Wagen.

Swimmers Jaime Siegel and Tracy Sullivan, diver Aaron Kirkpatrick, April Barnhorst, Stacey Wallace, Megan Weiskircher of the volleyball team and GymKats Nichole Allen and Katie Toups rounded out the 2001 class.

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