

# KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 37 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

## Gov. plans to add more Dems to boards

By Jill Lester  
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The next members appointed to UK's Board of Trustees will likely be Democrats to more accurately reflect the political makeup of the state, said an official from the governor's office yesterday.

The state attorney general and Gov. Steve Beshear's offices came to an agreement this week that former Gov. Ernie Fletcher illegally appointed too many Republicans to the boards of trustees at UK and the University of Louisville.

State law requires the proportion of Republicans and Democrats on each public university's governing board to equal the proportion of Kentucky voters registered to each party, said Ellen Hesen, Beshear's general counsel.

No trustees will be removed from UK's board, Hesen said. Instead, Democrats will be appointed when any board member quits or retires from the board.

The terms of the agreement are pending until both parties appear before Franklin County Circuit Judge Phillip Shepherd on March 7.

UK's Board of Trustees has 16 appointed members, seven Democrats and nine Republicans. For the number of board members to match the proportion of the state's voters, 10 appointees would need to be Democrats, according to the initial lawsuit filed against Fletcher by former Attorney General Greg Stumbo.

Replacing Republican members with Democrats is a long-term solution, Hesen said. Terms expire at the end of this year for three UK board members, Frank Shoop, Billy Wilcoxson and Myra Tobin, all Democrats.

The next Republican board member's term will expire in June 2009, when James Hardyman will have completed a six-year term.

Removing a board member was never a viable option because it would lead to a sticky situation when deciding who to take off the board, Stumbo said in an interview yesterday.

Staff trustee Russ Williams said when Stumbo filed the lawsuit in September, he worried some trustees would be removed

See **Trustees** on page 6

## Unique date keeps leap day babies young

By Lindsey Simon  
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Want the secret to staying young? Have a birthday on Feb. 29.

This year is leap year, which means many college-aged leap day babies will be able to put that fifth candle on their cake today.

"Honestly, it's kind of strange to finally get a real birthday," said Emily Bridge, a pre-veterinary medicine sophomore. "I'm so used to skipping it completely that when I actually have a real day, I don't know how to feel."

Bridge's friends in elementary schools would tease her, but now she likes being a leap day baby because "it is something unique and different from pretty much everyone else, and it's also a good talking point when conversation is scarce."

Micha Forman, a sophomore business management and marketing major, also admitted that his friends would make fun of

his birthday. "When I was 16 (fourth birthday), my friends brought me Mickey Mouse buttons to wear and gave me children's cards," Forman said.

See **Leap Day** on page 6

## Sewage seeps into Dickey Hall classrooms

By Scarlett Springate  
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One inch of sewage flooding several rooms in Dickey Hall forced College of Education administrators to move several classes from the building yesterday.

The backup happened while the city was repairing a sewage line near Bolivar Street, said John Zachem, UK manager of mechanical services. Workers were using pumps to reroute

sewage flow around the damaged portion of the sewer line when a malfunction caused flooding in several rooms of Dickey Hall's basement at about 9:15 a.m.

No classes were meeting in the basement at the time of leak, and administrators were able to move later classes to other available rooms.

Students were largely unaffected by the sewage, said Tricia Adolph, who works in the dean's office of the College of Education.

"The crews have been doing a pretty good job of containing it and cleaning everything up," she said.

Classes in the basement of Dickey Hall are expected to resume as normal this morning, Zachem said.

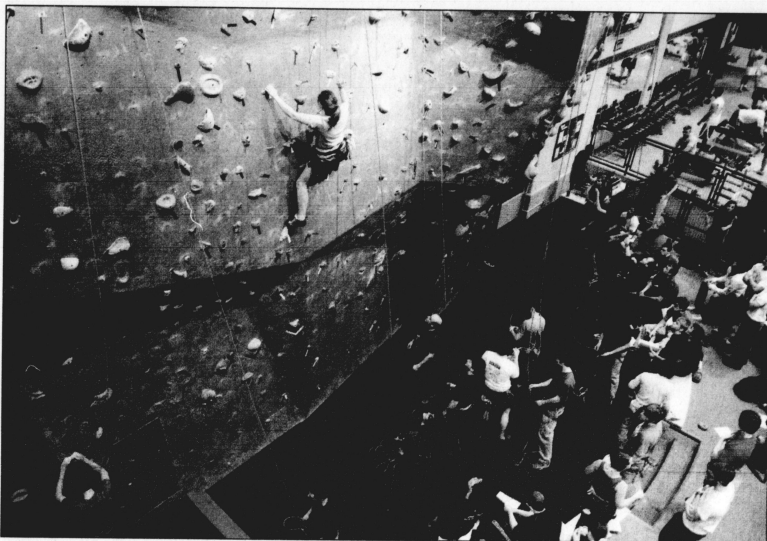
"It was a bad situation, but we're taking care of it," he said.

Dickey Hall was the only UK building affected, and a crew from the city was sent to help UK's physical plant division clean and disinfect the basement.

UK has contracts with several local companies to help if the physical plant division could not handle a sewage leak on its own, said Christy Giles, director of the Office of Emergency Management.

If the leak had affected students, UK would take actions to ensure they were in a safe environment, Giles said. That would include evacuation and relocation if a leak happened in a dorm and even medical attention if necessary.

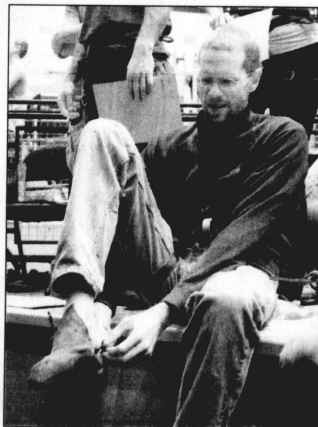
## RISE TO THE TOP



ELLIOTT HESS | STAFF

Agricultural economics freshman Laura Leavell climbs the white route, which was worth 88 points, last night at the Johnson Center climbing competition.

Climbers of all skill levels competed for hundreds of dollars in climbing equipment at the Johnson Center's rock climbing competition last night. About 70 competitors were divided into four classes: beginners, advanced, ladies only, and a faculty and staff group. The athletes were judged based on a points system while attempting to climb pre-planned routes that were marked with colored tape. The Johnson Center's rock wall is open Monday through Friday, 12-10 p.m. and 2-7 p.m. on weekends.



Mike Newell, a Bluegrass Community and Technical College environmental science student, puts on his climbing shoes at the competition last night in the Johnson Center.

WESLEY YONTS | STAFF

## Month-long cultural festival kicks off tomorrow

By Sarah Wainright  
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Students can take a trip around the world this month — try new foods, listen to unfamiliar music, watch foreign films — without leaving campus.

The 19th annual UK Cultural Diversity Festival begins tomorrow evening and continues through March 30.

Nearly 50 events are part of the month-long festival, which kicks off Saturday with a talent show. The events range from food tasting and art shows to lectures and career planning.

"The goal is to have a month-long event where we can not only celebrate diversity, but learn and grow from each other," said Mah-

jabeen Rafiuddin, the director of Student Diversity Engagement.

The event committee, which is made up of about 20 students and faculty, has met every week since last semester, Rafiuddin said.

"UK has a lot of international students, and this is one way for us to celebrate them being here," said Patrick Nally, a marketing and integrated strategic communications junior who is a member of the event planning committee.

The festival will expose students to different cultures and give them an opportunity to learn more about the world, said Naitore Kiogora, an integrated strategic communications senior.

"A lot of people don't really get the chance to step outside their own personal culture," Kiogora said.

"You get to learn about yourself, but you also get to learn about your world."

For many international students, "the events give a feeling of home away from home," said Arthi Vasudevan, an electrical engineering graduate student.

That is especially true for Vasudevan, whose home country is India, because former Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam is coming to give a speech on March 24.

"I am highly excited," said Vasudevan. "He really respects students."

Rafiuddin is looking forward to the Diversity Connection Panel and Reception, a new event where local companies will talk about the importance of a diverse work environment. CEOs from corporations like Lex-

mark and Thomas & King will discuss the measures they are taking on diversity. The reception will connect students of all majors with employers.

Nally said it is important to take time to focus on diversity. "It can get lost if you don't," he said.

Cultural diversity goes beyond students just attending these events — "it seeps into everything we do," Rafiuddin said.

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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 7 — Travel carefully, if you can't postpone the trip. Unexpected delays are, actually, to be expected. Take along a toothbrush in your pocket, just in case, and a hidden credit card.

**Taurus (April 20 - May 20)** Today is a 7 — Money continues to be a subject worthy of interest. Getting more interest and paying less is your next assignment. If you don't know how, start by reading the fine print.

**Gemini (May 21 - June 21)** Today is a 7 — Hold out for the most important items on your agenda. You may have to give up some of the others to make the deal. Set it up so

you can live with that.  
**Cancer (June 22 - July 22)** Today is a 7 — Luckily, you have an extra day in the month to get things right. Unfortunately, conditions now indicate conflict. Wait until Sunday to make requests.

**Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22)** Today is a 7 — What's needed is a logical plan upon which all can agree. Your partner comes up with one. Now it's up to you to sell it.

**Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)** Today is a 6 — Sometimes you have to make a bigger mess in order to get things clean. Don't be afraid; this could be fun. Rip and tear.

**Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)** Today is a 7 — Travel is complicated. Odds are pretty good you'll leave something you need at home. If you must go, double-check all the important stuff on your list.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)** Today is a 6 — Resist the temptation to buy toys and lottery tickets. Pay the bills first and then see if there's

enough left for a treat. Get one the whole family enjoys.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)** Today is a 7 — Some of the others are edgy. Don't let them knock you off stride. You're the one who knows what to do. Don't be surprised if they follow.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)** Today is a 6 — Disruptions at your workplace increase the chances for making errors. Don't get caught up in the petty squabbles. Maintain objectivity.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)** Today is a 7 — You're an excellent planner. You don't let passions interfere with achieving the results you're after. Coach your team to do likewise.

**Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)** Today is a 7 — Others may disagree, but you'll cast the deciding vote. Don't let them bully you around; stand up for what you think is right. They'll get used to it.

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## THE DISH

### HOT STUFF

Nicole & Joel: Break from baby!

In a brief 45-minute club appearance, Harlow's mom dances atop a banquet!

Nicole Richie may be a dotting mom these days, but she still has a wild side. Richie, 26, a former fixture on the L.A. late-night scene, and her beau, Good Charlotte rocker Joel Madden, 28, hit hot spot Teddy's at midnight on Feb. 16 — just five weeks after she gave birth to daughter Harlow — to celebrate Teen Vogue contributing editor Carlos Lopez's birthday. (Richie's mom babysat, a source says.)

"Nicole was having a blast," says a witness. "She was her old self again — not in a bad way, but she was letting her hair down." Another source says that after the pair found a table at the DJ booth, where Samantha Ronson was spinning, "Lindsay Lohan headed over and hugged Nicole" — and then the group grooved to Hanson's "MMMBop."

When Britney Spears' "Gimme More" came on, Richie climbed atop her booth and "danced crazily," says the second clubgoer. But that was as raucous as it got: Richie (who gushed to guests about being a mom) and Madden stayed just 45 minutes!

### Rihanna & Chris: Out of hiding

Rihanna and Chris Brown

insist they're just pals, but their PDA gives them away! On Feb. 12, the pair, who have long remained coy about the nature of their relationship ("We're just friends... We hang out," Brown, 18, said at a Grammy afterparty on Feb. 10), were spotted walking hand in hand into a private room at L.A. hot spot Les Deux. The occasion? A surprise 20th birthday party for the "Umbrella" singer.

After the crowd — including guests Kanye West and Wilmer Valderrama — belted out "Happy Birthday," a witness tells Hot Stuff, "Chris stood up and serenaded her with his own version, and she was beaming. He grabbed her when the song was over and kissed her." The source adds that aside from Brown's friendly dance-off with Valderrama that night, he and Rihanna "constantly had their hands all over each other, and were rarely apart." Sounds like a very happy birthday.

### Jennifer Aniston's single V-Day

Jennifer Aniston spent Valentine's Day celebrating her love for... her job. The actress, 39 — who's been shooting the drama *Traveling* — opposite Aaron Eckhart in Vancouver — pulled an all-nighter on Feb. 14, filming from 5 p.m. until 4 a.m. in the blustery cold of New Westminster's Queen's Park. "It was a rainy night and everyone was bundled up and trying to stay warm," an eye-

witness tells Hot Stuff. "But she seemed very polished and easily nailed her scenes. She seemed very happy with herself."

Indeed, says an Aniston pal, the actress is finding comfort in her career these days — and has depriorityzed her personal life. "She is happy, but it's the same old stuff," the friend says. "She is focusing on work and tuning out love. She just can't figure it out."

### Jessica grabs sexy skivvies!

Jessica Alba, 26 — who's expecting a child with Cash Warren, 29 — went to Trashy Lingerie in West Hollywood on Feb. 13. "She said, 'I'm pregnant! What will look good on me?'" says a witness, who adds Alba bought a frilly \$150 robe. While her rep says, "Not true. She was there with a friend," photos that day show her carrying a bag from the store!

### Milo: Bargain shopper!

Finding love with Hayden Panettiere, 18, may be priceless, but that doesn't mean Milo Ventimiglia, 30, doesn't like a good bargain. On Feb. 11, the *Heroes* hunk, 30, hit New York City's Reiss boutique, where he picked up two skirts — one for \$112, the other for \$63, and both on sale! — and proudly told staff: "They're for my girlfriend."

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J.D. Williams  
Asst. Sports Editor  
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In spite of the fact that they want to pronounce that they have it under control, I still think that it's not fully under control."

—U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush, D-Ill., on the notion that various professional sport leagues like the NFL and MLB have taken control of performance enhancing drug issues.

## Lacrosse team making strides

By Metz Camfield  
sports@kykernel.com

What happens when you mix football, hockey and soccer?

Lacrosse — a sport with roots on the East Coast that is slowly spreading its way westward. UK has had a club lacrosse team for a while now, but the team is starting to round the corner and is beginning to be taken seriously.

"Lacrosse is very fast-paced and intense," said head coach Jacob Knight, who is also the Kernel's advertising adviser. "There's just as much contact as hockey; a lot of plays are similar to hockey and football; the offensive and defensive matchups are similar to basketball. It's something new that you don't see a lot in Kentucky."

Club lacrosse started at UK in the '80s, but didn't really pick up until recently, Knight said.

"I varied in the commitment of the team, but the last three or four years it has become more serious," he said. "More come to play and try out."

The team practices three times a week and has its games at the Club Sports Field by the soccer and softball complex on Saturdays.

"Our goal is always to win a national championship," said junior long-stick middle Andrew McCarthy. "We want to continue making a name for Kentucky lacrosse."

McCarthy hails from Boston, Mass., where lacrosse is more of an everyday sport, and is trying to incorporate his knowledge into the team. Now in his third year playing for UK, McCarthy knows teamwork, as in most sports, is essential in lacrosse.

"We want to play more as a team,"



Andrew McCarthy, left, and team captains Kyle Kuylan, center left, Ben Chessler, center right, Michael Swindall, far right, along with the rest of the lacrosse team, will face Ohio University tomorrow at 4:30 p.m.

he said. "Focus less on the individual talents and more on the teamwork."

The Cats play against seven other teams in the Midwest South region, one of 12 in the National College Lacrosse League. The team goal is straightforward: win.

"We want to win the championship," senior defenseman Tommy Brummet said. "Last season, we made it to the final eight for Division II club teams. We brought a lot back, so our

goal is to win the tournament. Considering all the players we have, I think we can."

Brummet came to the UK as a kicker for the football team, but after he was injured he decided to come back to the sport he had played for 10 years.

"I had played lacrosse in high school and it was my favorite sport," he said. "Football didn't work out, so I came out for the club lacrosse team,

and I'm happy with my decision."

While the Cats' record is currently 2-3, they believe the losses will help in the long run.

"We've played some tough teams, which is what we need to do," Brummet said. "We fully expect to get to the playoffs. Our record doesn't reflect our potential, and we can turn it around."

UK faces the Ohio University Bobcats, a team the Cats have never beaten, tomorrow at 4:30 p.m.

### Remaining Games

- Mar. 1 Ohio University 4:30 p.m.\*
  - Mar. 22 Western Kentucky 1:00 p.m.\*
  - Mar. 28 Louisville 8:00 p.m.\*
  - Mar. 29 Xavier University 3:00 p.m.\*
  - Apr. 4 Midwest Tournament TBA
  - Apr. 5 Midwest Tournament TBA
- \*All home games are played at the Club Sports Field

## SEC East title hopes on the line in Knoxville

By Travis Waldron  
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As a senior, guard Ramel Bradley would love the chance to play for the SEC East title on senior night at Rupp Arena. That possibility is closer than most would have thought at the start of conference play.

UK's win over Ole Miss Wednesday night and Tennessee's loss at Vanderbilt on Tuesday have put the Cats just one game behind the Volunteers in the SEC East division standings.

With UK traveling to Knoxville, Tenn., to play the Volunteers on Sunday, the stakes are obvious: win, and the Cats take first place in the East.

For a team that limped to a 6-7 start on the season and began its SEC schedule 1-2, a shot at a conference championship is an opportunity it does not want to waste.

"It would be an unbelievable feeling," Bradley said. "If we put ourselves in the position to win a game and win the SEC, to do it at Rupp Arena on senior night, it would be unbelievable."

The Cats are now 10-3 in Southeastern Conference play, assuring themselves of a better conference record than in each of the past two seasons.

UK defeated Tennessee 72-66 earlier this season, beginning a stretch of nine wins in its next 10 games.

But the Vols, 11-2 in the SEC, will be looking for revenge when the Cats visit Knoxville, a challenge senior guard Joe Crawford said he is ready for.

"They're going to be gunning for us, just like Vanderbilt," Crawford said. "It's going to be a hostile environment. We're going to have to come out and play like it's a championship game."

Last time UK went on the road, it



Senior guard Ramel Bradley talks to head coach Billy Gillispie during UK's close win over Ole Miss Wednesday.

was in a similar situation. Facing a ranked opponent it had already defeated at home, the Cats came out flat and were blown out by Vanderbilt. The 'Dores held the Cats to just 11 first half points in route to a 41-point win, the largest margin of defeat to an SEC team ever for UK.

But the Cats bounced back and have won two straight over quality opponents — Arkansas and Ole Miss — setting up the meeting with No. 1 Tennessee.

The Cats will face one of the most raucous environments in the SEC on Sunday, Crawford said.

"It's going to be very emotional," he said. "I think Tennessee is the loudest environment we play in every year."

"They're focusing in (after the loss).

We're going to have to go out there and fight."

During the SEC coaches teleconference yesterday, head coach Billy Gillispie acknowledged that though he was not sure his team would end up this close to first place, he knew it would improve after battling through injury troubles that have plagued UK all season.

"If we knew that we were going to have relatively good health, I would've thought that our team was going to improve greatly. You never know what that's going to equate to wins and losses," Gillispie said.

"I never really think about where we're going to be, a certain record at this point in the season, but I knew we were going to improve greatly," he said.

## Emotions are high for seniors' final home game

By James Pennington  
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The women's basketball team will be looking for their ninth win in Southeastern Conference play when the team takes the Rupp Arena floor Sunday afternoon against South Carolina.

The Cats (14-13, 8-5 SEC) hope to play the final 40 minutes of their regular season with emotion that will be running high before their Senior Day even tips off.

"It'll be an emotional day, but emotions have really run well for us this season," said senior center Sarah Elliott. "I definitely think the emotion of Senior Day will pump us up for game time."

The pre-game ceremony will recognize UK's four seniors: Elliott, and guards Chante Bowman, Chelsea Chowning and Samantha Mahoney. The ceremony, which celebrates the final home game for the four seniors, is brief. However, the celebration of the players' careers extends far beyond basketball.

"It's hard to sum it up," Elliott said. "Life experiences happen here at UK. People say your college years are your best, and it's because that's where you learn the most and you grow up the most. I've grown up so much here — traveling, being on my own and meeting new people because nobody I knew came here. I was dropped into this really quickly, and I think I grew up a lot here."

Once the ceremonies conclude, all players — senior or underclassman — knows what's at stake in

their final contest before the SEC Tournament.

"I think that everyone will be focused," Chowning said. "This is a very big game we need to win. We'll all be emotional and thankful for the Senior Day, but I think that we'll have our minds focused on the task at hand, which is beating South Carolina."

In the previous meeting between the two teams, the Cats were guided by sophomore guard Amani Franklin's career-high 21 points to a 66-62 victory over the Gamecocks in Columbia, S.C. The four UK seniors combined for 17 points in that game, well below their combined season average of 31.1 points per game.

Despite a quiet outing from the seniors in that contest, the Cats are not going to focus on anything but the game ahead.

"I know how important this game is," Bowman said. "We all know how important this game is. I'm sure we'll all play our best, regardless of whether or not it's Senior Day or anything else."

The Cats went on the road to play Arkansas on Sunday. UK entered the building and, before the game, waited through the Razorbacks' Senior Day activities. The Cats played hard and left Fayetteville, Ark., with a 59-56 victory.

The Cats plan on playing hard to stop the tables from being turned on their Senior Day.

"I bet it's kind of hard, losing your Senior Day," Elliott said. "We're going to work hard, because we'd like to avoid that."

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# OPINIONS

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### ■ KERNEL EDITORIAL

## Hotel in plan doesn't justify damage to local entertainment

Many of Lexington's future plans as a city revolve around the 2010 World Equestrian Games. It's obvious why. The city will be placed on an international stage, and since this is the self-proclaimed horse capital of the world, it'll be a stage that suits the area well.

Lexington has much to gain from the experience, but it also has much to lose. With all the preparation for the games, many Lexingtonians are validly wondering if the locals — the ones who will remain after the international visitors depart — and local culture are a priority.

One example of this is the potential plan to build a hotel on the Rosenberg Block downtown, which would most likely begin with the demolition of such nightclubs as The Dame, Mia's and Buster's, as reported in the Feb. 22 Kernel.

The destruction of The Dame, the city's premier music venue and one of the very few places focused on booking bands, would be a huge blow to the local music scene and dramatically reduce Lexington's draw to touring bands. Destruction of the rest of the block would knock out what is one of downtown's very few entertainment districts.

No formal plans for the block have been filed yet, but city councilwoman and members of the Downtown Entertainment Task Force have said they either expect the block to be demolished or have heard about a hotel being developed on the site. Vice Mayor Jim Gray said in the Kernel article that an ambitious project was in the works for the block and that he hoped the city would make "every effort to retain energy that's been created there."

Gray is right to be worried. The benefits of a downtown luxury hotel during the equestrian games are clear. But, back to the original question: What about afterward?

Does Lexington have the draw as a

tourist city to benefit from such a project in the long-term? Only if more large events come to the city, said Tom Martin, chairman of the Downtown Entertainment Development Task Force, in the Kernel article. It's certainly a significant gamble — is it worth alienating locals and hurting the city's downtown culture?

Students and similar age groups will particularly be affected. And while it might be easy to paint this argument as little more than selfish people who have to find a new place to have a good time, it is unfortunately not so simple.

Nightlife is an essential component of a social community. And locally owned places like the ones on the Rosenberg Block not only provide entertainment after dark; they also go far in giving a city character.

Music venues especially serve as social and artistic communities, which in turn add to the quality of life in any city. A hotel might bring in some temporary money, but the block as it is attracts hundreds of people weekly. It's a significant pulse of the city's entertainment heart. Martin suggested that a hotel could add to Lexington's entertainment options, but this optimism seems murky.

As he pointed out, all of downtown is zoned to allow bars and venues, but presently there are few in existence, and the ones that stand are scattered. It seems illogical, or at least backwards, to destroy a block of entertainment to further that growth with a hotel. Visitors will most likely want somewhere to go at night. Unfortunately, there might be few options in the future.

But they have the luxury of leaving the city. The real losers would be the locals, closely followed by the city itself.

Lexington is looking to impress the world in two years. Hopefully officials won't forget that Lexingtonians are the ones who need to be accommodated here with or without the horses.

## Nader's candidacy in race irrelevant at any speed

The following editorial appeared in the Chicago Tribune on Wednesday:

Ralph Nader was just 31 years old when he burst into public consciousness by practically inventing a new role: consumer advocate. His 1965 book "Unsafe at Any Speed," which portrayed the Chevrolet Corvair as a scandalously dangerous vehicle, not only helped push the model off the market but induced the federal government to mandate a variety of safety features in cars, from seat belts to safety glass.

Never mind that the Corvair was eventually exonerated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration — Nader's reputation was established. He went on to push consumer-minded initiatives in other industries and founded public-interest groups dedicated to his causes. His energetic efforts attracted scores of young people out to change the world. In the process, he became one of the most notable social activists in American history.

But over time, his influence ebbed. His more pragmatic ideas, such as expanded regulation to promote safety in cars, food, and the workplace, found plenty of support among conventional politicians. His more radical ones, such as forcing companies to pay a "living wage" and withdrawing from the World Trade Organization, have never caught on with the general public.

Nader's endless denunciations of

corporations don't get much traction among the American people, many of whom value the jobs, goods and services that such companies provide. So he's grown increasingly irrelevant, seen by many as a humorless scold or a strident dogmatist.

Nader also did himself great damage among many liberals who will never forgive him for running for president in 2000 and — in their view — helping elect George W. Bush by taking votes away from Al Gore. So whatever Nader has been saying in recent years, not many people have been listening.

But he found in 2000 that if he can't get public attention any other way, he can get it by running for president. His announcement this week that he'll enter this year's race as a third-party candidate got the spotlight turned his way, at least for the moment.

He says he's doing it because so many of his goals — from cutting the defense budget to creating a "single-payer" health care system — are being ignored by the major candidates. But maybe that's because the candidates don't see sufficient public support for them, in which case it's the public that is mostly to blame.

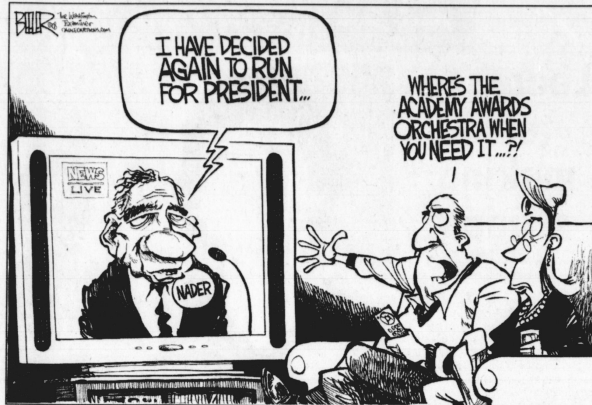
In any case, Nader's previous races for president don't appear to have helped those causes in the least. About all they've done is force people to pay him a bit more attention than usual.

Maybe that's the whole idea.

### Columnists Needed

The Kernel is looking for columnists, especially those with an interest in campus and local issues, to write for the Opinions page on a regular basis.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com



NATE BEELER, The Washington Examiner

## An open attitude can improve sexual health and education

I am flattered by the reactions on all sides to my column on abortion. Though my column ran several weeks ago, letters on the subject continue to appear both in print and online. I can hardly believe that anyone besides my poor parents actually reads my opinions.



CARRIE BASS  
kernel  
columnist

But folks, there are other issues besides abortion that are worth getting excited over. Plus, if you are so excited by the discussion of abortion, by all means make your opinions known through political activism or even just voting!

Believe me, I am passionate about abortion, but I also get pretty riled up about other issues, too. In fact, I am going to embark on a sister subject or a sequel, if you will, to my abortion column that might garner a few equally fervent reactions: sexual health and education.

Step one to improving sexual health and education while, consequently, reducing the need for abortion: a comprehensive sex- and body-positive education program that begins in kindergarten and continues throughout secondary education.

Before anyone gets a hania, let me clarify that I am by no means advocating that 5-year-olds be taught

the intimate details of sexual intercourse or the like. However, I am proposing that sexuality is as essential to human beings as breathing or eating, but exists on a continuum that is not fully developed until much later in life.

Sexuality is not absent or dormant in children, nor is it the same as in fully grown adults. Accordingly, children should understand their bodies in a positive way. I am sure that we can all recall some instance of kissing or flashing or some other bodily shenanigan that took place in our early childhood. These manifestations should be addressed in a positive manner rather than punished.

I do believe that the intimate details of intercourse (both heterosexual and homosexual) and the like should be taught in early middle school. For those who would argue that this age is too young, take a good, long stroll down memory lane and reflect on all those kids who were already experimenting with their sexuality by middle school. By the end of high school, the students of a true sexual education program should know how to protect themselves against unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases (especially AIDS), sexual violence, domestic violence and negative media images — as well as how to safely pleasure themselves as if it's their job to do so.

Step two to improving sexual health and education: easy and equal access to doctors, contraceptives, emergency contraception and relevant

information. This means electing political candidates who will implement universal health care. Doctors and hormonal contraceptives in particular are not cheap, nor is purchasing

Denial and suppression of sexuality have never been a successful regime. It's time to do something new.

This also means demanding that every Wal-Mart in Timbuktu keep a pharmacist on staff who is willing to distribute hormonal contraceptives and emergency contraception. Not everyone lives in the booming metropolis of Lexington, where one has his or her choice of distributors of these products within a five-mile radius.

Denial and suppression of sexuality have never been a successful regime. It's time to do something new. We could be the first generation to push positive sexuality out into the open and potentially offer the next generation a chance at a happy, healthy sexuality without shame. Or maybe I flatter our generation too much in thinking that we could do this.

Carrie Bass is an art history senior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

## Take a break from basketball season and support our theater department

The drama of the current UK men's basketball season may have tired your nerves, but that's a good thing.



DUKE GATOS  
Contributing  
columnist

While our university is well known for its court savvy and tradition of hoops excellence, it also sits in a position to be a cultural centerpiece for the state and, in fact, the whole Southeast.

Country is a place every Kentucky kid wants to go for the excitement of basketball. But since our team has had its share of ups and downs this year, maybe we can turn our heads and dollars to another place on campus.

Do you know what Guinness is? No it's not a pain reliever or a disease — it's our campus theater. Tens of thousands of fans will attend UK basketball games this year, while mere hundreds attend our plays.

I was fortunate enough to be required to attend both fall productions, and it was a riveting experience in both cases. Katie Keene and Alex Klumper were comic wonders as Trinculo and Stephano in Shakespeare's "The Tempest," the in-your-face criticism of media indulgence by Christopher Durang's "Betty's Summer Vacation" still rings in my mind. Our team mad Shakespeare modern

by making Ariel into a four-person role and through the creative original song "Ban Ban Ca-Caliban" by Ben Hayes and Nick Husted.

No offense to Derrick Jasper toughing out his injury and producing unselfish plays, but the real drama was the comic deftness and shocking brutality portrayed by Klumper as Back in "Betty's Summer Vacation." While Billy G. may have basketball smarts, they can't compare to Willy S.' eloquence, wit and pure genius. (If you didn't get that reference, stop reading and go back to the sports page.)

It's time to put our money where our priority should be: making students think rather than feeding the entertainment monster in each of us. While I'm sure the university is grateful we fill its coffers with hoop dollars, why couldn't we do the same with our plays? We have the talent sitting down there in the Fine Arts Building. Since the dollar follows the consumer, let's demand better theater venues and grand productions with our attendance.

The only reason we tend to be great in basketball is that we demand excellence in our coaches and our players, and we then show up to support them. Our theater department is excellent; we're just lacking in the support department. There's no real reason why we couldn't make Lexington the Broadway of the South. No other state or university is doing it, and it is sorely needed. March Madness isn't stopping

you this year, so why not spend that ticket money on something infinitely more rewarding? While you had your head turned following the drama of the arrival and subsequent departure

There's no real reason why we couldn't make Lexington the Broadway of the South.

of Alex Legion, you missed the last lessons of "Betty's Summer Vacation" and "The Tempest."

Don't let your depression from the Cats' probable National Invitation Tournament bid keep you from "A Soldier's Play." Now you have no excuse.

If you have trouble understanding the plays, meet one of our professors, actors or stage crew before or after the play. I'm sure they'd be happy to accommodate you. They have just as much Big Blue passion, if not more, but they'd rather see your face light up, watch your heart melt or notice the thoughtful look on your face as you engage with a play.

Basketball may thrill us, but theater may change us. Basketball can incite us to madness, but theater may just cure our madness.

Duke Gatsos is an English education major. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.



