


 The logo features the letters 'UK' in a large, blue, stylized font with a white outline, positioned above the word 'VS.' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. To the right of 'VS.' is the circular seal of the Fayette Urban County Government, which includes the text 'FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT' and '1777 KENTUCKY'.


UNDER ONE ROOF

Students, neighborhoods, and City Council plead for University Leadership

"Limestone has great potential to be a very productive economic engine for the city. You've got one of the country's finest universities. You've got one of the country's finest cities. What's missing is the tie that binds them."

—architect Clete Benken, LFUCG work session, Oct 6, 2009.
On S. Limestone

An August 2002 Ace cover story by Tommy Wilson began with this forecast of 2010: "The year is 2010, and the place is the area surrounding the University of Kentucky. A walk around this area eight years prior would include such visual sites as old mansions containing multiple rental properties, students walking briskly despite their heavy backpacks, and an enormous number of economy cars lining the streets.

In 2010, the scene is barely recognizable as the rental properties have become the homes of middle class ex-suburbanites; the students have been replaced by families walking their purebred dogs; and the cars are European or SUVs, or both.

The area once the domain of the students has become the home of the modern bourgeois."

The August 2002 coverstory talked about College Town and the Lexington Area Party Plan and Dick DeCamp.

Of the UK president, Wilson wrote, "Lee Todd is the 11th president to serve the university and is, himself, no stranger to power. Since becoming the head of the university, Todd has excited professors, students, and alumni alike with his almost visionary reformist ideas that he hopes will culminate

in making UK a top 20 university.

Part of his plan is to connect downtown Lexington and UK with a retail corridor stretching down Limestone Avenue. It is Todd's hope that UK students can become the consumer backbone for the new Lexington shopping area and in turn enchant and sway prospective students into a freshmen seat at the university. His views on the LAPP have been somewhat less notable as his administration has no official stance on the issue. Despite the new direction Todd gives the university, his pledge to work hand in hand with Lexington and his lack of comment on the LAPP point to a underlying theme uniting both cases."

It's 2009, and the campus-adjacent neighborhoods are still talking about College Town, along with the Student Housing Task Force Proposal, Officer Gaines' Plan, vinyl box additions, and the devastating disruptions from a streetscape plan designed to link UK with downtown via Limestone.

In the past few weeks, students have marched on city hall and landlords and homeowners have faced off.

"Civil War" and "trail of tears" (see sidebar with one student's comments) might be overstatements, but not by much.

The planning committee has heard Public Input on the Student Housing Task Force Proposal at two separate sessions. The next meeting is scheduled for October 20.



Officer Keith Gaines' proposal will be presented Oct 20

One consistent theme has emerged over the last few weeks — and over the last few decades — UK leadership at the highest levels has been entirely too absent from the discussion — and from the Solutions.

Columbia Heights homeowner Kate Savage said at the October 5 forum, "I want to see UK brought to the table," asking "does ANYBODY have any ability to bring UK to task? ... They've created this problem. Where is UK? All we've got is UK students down here thinking that we're trying to drive them out. Where are the people who make decisions, who can engage with us, from UK?"

Anne Marie Stamatiadis, homeowner in the Seven Parks Neighborhood, present to convey support for the Task Force Report, said "I want to express my disappointment in the

University of Kentucky for not taking responsibility for this problem. The UK administration should be ashamed of itself for its minimal participation in the Task Force and for making no official offers to provide more student housing on its property or even seriously considering it in their future plans."

Ike Lawrence pulled spare change from his pocket and said "these two quarters from me represent the two phone calls that need to be made by either the Mayor or Vice Mayor to the UK Administration Building and to Donamire Farm to invite Dr. Todd and Mrs. Ball to this town and gown microphone to find out publicly for the first time why they don't socially provide for the critical mass of their students; why they have a dry fraternity policy, when no other state or SEC school has such a policy and why they keep knocking down older fraternity houses with no plans that they are ever going to build a new fraternity park. They have consistently broken this ten-year-ago promise that they made. My experience with all other town and gown universities is [that] strong home ownership naturally occurs around the perimeter of a University when the University takes the stand that it is their duty and moral obligation to institutionally manage their parties in well-kept fraternities or other outbuildings so that it doesn't end up in our neighborhoods. To this end, neighborhood leaders, landlords, and students are united as one as to the source of the Problem."

Transy Park homeowner and UK employee Donna

"The UK administration should be ashamed of itself for its minimal participation in the Task Force and for making no official offers to provide more student housing on its property or even seriously considering it in their future plans."

--Anne Marie Stamatiadis

Maupin referenced Yale and Duke as proactive universities, citing https://community.duke.edu/duke/neighborhoods/trinity_heights.html.

Homeowner Mark Barker said, "we have a law saying



Mark Barker (lives on Park Avenue)

that you can't have rooming houses in single family homes but that's pretty much ignored. Coming and picking up a rental check is not participating in the Community."

Landlord and Realtor Deborah Ball said, "there are ways that we want to help you, help this problem. It's kind of like I tell my children, 'help me, help you.' Don't fight me. Because there's things we can help you do. We're not the bad guys here."

Homeowner and UK student, Tom Cunningham characterized UK as "noticeably silent," suggesting they have a conflict of interest because "they will eminent domain these houses." (UK's



Nick Such works downtown, lives with four grad students

neighborhoods around Lexington. This could help with some of the bicycle and pedestrian-friendly recommendations that the city is pursuing... My point is that transportation is something that was not fully considered in the plan."

Ryan Smith, UK Student Body President said, "I think it's clear we need to start with a better level of communication between students, government officials, the University, local residents, and landlords," though he did not support the Task

use of eminent domain to displace an elderly Columbia Heights couple was a '90s Ace cover story by Rob Hulsman.)

Nick Such works downtown and lives on Montmullin with four grad students, and spoke in opposition to the Task Force Plan, saying, "cars occupy typically 60 percent of the land mass in the 20 largest cities in the world. I don't think Lexington would be considered much different from that. I think it's interesting that no one has put forth a proposal to move cars away from the

Force recommendations.

Chair and CM Gorton concluded the meeting saying "We will go back to council discussion of the proposals from the

Trail of Tears? Exile students to a Reservation

At the forum on Monday, October 5, UK graduate student (and homeowner) Tom Cunningham spoke to oppose the Task Force recommendations. "I've attended the University of Kentucky for the last eight years. First as an undergrad, now I'll be receiving my Ph. D. this year. I've gone through the whole gauntlet of different city council members I follow pretty regularly. I've been a registered voter for the last eight years." He told the Committee, "I don't have anything to hide in my house, as a



Photo by Kakkie Urch

UK Ph.D. candidate and homeowner Tom Cunningham



Anne Marie Stamatiadis

Task Force at our meeting on October 20 at 1 pm. And I'm hopeful we'll be hearing from someone at UK, and Officer Gaines." (Officer Gaines was present on October 5.)

Hopeful?

It's the Planning Committee. Not the Hope Committee.

Anderson Cooper always says, "Hope is not a plan."

Gil Haertel wrote Ace with this response, "With all due respect, there are enough studies and committee meetings and on and on. I have been around since 1976 and it's been nothing but study or committee. Lexington needs to move on something. Do something." ■

Ace reports most LFUCG proceedings live via twitter.com/ace weekly, with summaries posted at www.aceweekly.com.

homeowner, but I don't like the idea of a Code Enforcement agent coming in and checking out my property and my roommate's belongings without a warrant. I'm not a law student but I think that goes against search and seizure laws. That's not for me to decide. My lawyer, my simple petty bourgeois lawyer costs \$352 an hour ... That's how much it's going to cost for me to defend my rights as a student. I can only imagine how much the bourgeois lawyers in Chevy Chase area would cost the city to defend their position."

He added, "I read the entire proposal thinking Dr. David Stevens was an economist, a professor that knows a lot about planning commissions and zoning. Turns out, he's actually in my dissertation. He's cited for knowing what the nevicular bone does during pronation of the foot. I don't think he's an economist. I think these recommendations should be taken with a grain of salt. If we're going to move students away from campus, maybe down Tates Creek ... if we need a sidewalk to go down Tates Creek... that might be where he comes in to play to give us a trail of tears.

We can't just take a student body and displace them.

Replace student with any other ethnic group, it doesn't bode well.

Trail of tears. If you just made a reservation for all the students, how would that go over?

You could have a tailgating night of broken glass; round us up and ship us out.

That's not the way to go." ■