

**EDITRIX**  
Rhonda Reeves

**ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER**  
Rob Kirkland  
rkirkland@aceweekly.com

**ADVERTISING**  
Christina Noll

**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS**

Jim Embry, Bruce Burris,  
Kim Thomas

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS  
(ONLINE + PRINT)**

Kevin Faris, Keegan Frank,  
Rob Morris, Megan Neff,  
Dave Overton, Kacie Urch,  
Todd Wright, Andrew Wyllie

**WEBMASTER**

Matt Sparks

**CONTRIBUTING DESIGNERS**

Matt Beaulieu, Clif Dickens,  
Meaghan Sale

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Karen Burns

## Letter to the Editor

### The Student Housing Task Force committee

comprises the following Council Members:

Blues, Gray, Ellinger, Lawless, Beard, Feigel,  
Stinnett and McChord.

Linda Gorton Chairs.

This report is 29 pages long with 160-odd pages  
of appendices. It has been approximately two years  
in the making and was spawned by the H1 debacle  
that took place in the Columbia Heights/Hollywood  
Mt. Vernon neighborhoods resulting in a mayoral  
appointed task force to study the problems.

A similar report during Mayor Pam Miller's  
tenure was prepared to address the same issues in  
1999 and was 14 pages in length.



545 Columbia Avenue



Several of the Planning Committee members  
were also on this Student Housing Task Force:  
Gorton, Feigel, Lawless and Gray.

This report addresses the issues that pertain to  
student density in residential areas close to UK cam-  
pus. It does not address inappropriate development  
of properties.

There are **two separate dialogues** taking place  
right now.

a) **The Student Housing Task Force's recom-  
mendations** (licensing, inspections of homes for  
safety etc) and, **b) a Building Moratorium** that  
would be a stop gap measure put in place to freeze  
any possible building frenzy whilst solutions to  
these campus neighborhood issues are being sought.

It also would seem to be timely to mention that  
Council Member Feigel is a rental property owner in  
the Columbia Heights neighborhood.

Photos of her property are attached.

Unbeknownst to me I used her property as an  
example of a "student stuffer"/"vinyl box" in my  
recent slide presentation to Council.

It is in fact a duplex (although the Oldham  
extension is not listed on PVA as an address) at 545



Columbia Avenue.

Council member Feigel transferred the deed to  
her husband a couple of years ago. There is also a  
letter from Feigel to Dr. Stevens (5th District  
Representative at the time) on written page 30 of the  
appendices to the Student Housing Task Force  
report.

www.lexingtonky.gov/Modules/ShowDocum  
ent.aspx?documentid=8410

**Kate Savage**

# What are you rebellling against? Whaddya got?

It was a contentious day at LFUCG on Tuesday  
September 22 when the Planning Committee met  
to hear the findings of the Student Housing Task  
Force Committee.

UK students marched on City Hall to protest.

Council Chambers filled and the overflow was  
sent to the Ballroom  
downstairs.



John Michler asks LFUCG not  
to throw out baby with  
bathwater. "There are some  
good things in this report."

Committee Chair  
Mike Meuser summa-  
rized the report for  
the Committee.

L o n g t i m e  
Columbia Heights  
Neighborhood prop-  
erty owner Janet  
Cowen reiterated, "I  
am the history ...  
we're not opposed to  
students [but] UK  
needs to step up.  
They kicked drinking

off campus and  
put it in our  
neighborhoods.  
With the no-  
smoking issue  
coming up, we  
don't want to  
become an ash-  
tray either."

Westwood  
Court property  
owner (and GTV3  
series regular) Steve  
Olschewsky called the plan  
"wack" and told the Task Force they're "dreaming."  
UAHA attorney Richard  
Murphy said "Land-  
lords are not parents.  
Landlords and not  
bosses. Landlords are  
not the University of  
Kentucky."

Students and attorneys  
present invoked the  
words "discrimination"  
and "prejudice" repeatedly.

Joe Howard, attorney  
for the Greater Lexing-  
ton Apartment Associa-  
tion said, "if we all



Janet Cowen: "I am the history ...  
we're not opposed to students."



Bill Lear (of Lakeshore Drive) reminded LFUCG that Lex's  
goals are to "grow up not out," and "live where you  
work"

stood up and jumped off all the ordinances  
Council passed, we would break our legs."

Todd Sills (of Sills Brothers — brother Dennis  
yielded his time) characterized his business as "a  
family of carpenters" and used the word "ou-  
rage" liberally, saying "you don't have to be a  
protected class in order for prejudice against you  
to be ugly." ■

The next meeting is scheduled for **October 5 at 1pm**  
in Council Chambers. **Letters to the editor for the  
Oct 1 issue should reference UK/LFUCG in the  
subject line.**