

THURSDAY KENTUCKY KERNEL

UK swimmer
earns a spot on
U.S. Olympic
team
| PAGE 3



July 15, 2004

Celebrating 32 years of independence

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International heart conference hosted in Lexington

Doctors from around the world, UK attend conference; coronary researchers discuss new trends, procedures

By Jason McAlister
STAFF WRITER

About 50 world-renowned doctors checked the latest pulse in heart genetics and surgery techniques this week in Lexington.

The 46th annual World Congress International College of Angiology met at Lexington's Hyatt Regency from Sunday to Wednesday.

The meeting explored genetic predispositions to heart disease, which may soon allow diagnoses before symptoms occur, said Dr. Robert Mentzer, professor and chairman of UK's department of surgery.

"We are looking at predispositions of certain patients who develop diseases of the aorta," he said. The aorta is the large artery that

pumps oxygenated blood from the heart to the rest of the body.

Dr. John A. Elefteriades, chief of cardiothoracic surgery at Yale University, spoke about his findings from a study of a large database of patients known to have a predisposition to the breakdown of aortic wall tissue.

Elefteriades identified a cluster of heart-related genes that may be responsible for this breakdown.

The genes that Elefteriades studies, when "turned

on," can cause swelling of the aorta, which can result in an aneurysm, or an abnormal bulge in the wall of the artery vessel, Mentzer said.

"It's like when a tire is bald, and a blister forms. The wall becomes thinner and thinner until it blows," he said.

When a rupture occurs, the blood loss can result in shock or death due to massive internal bleeding.

These heart disease genes are often activated by smoking or high cholesterol, but in other cases they are

turned on for reasons not fully understood.

Sometimes even young, healthy athletes wind up with a predisposition to artery diseases, he said.

Mentzer said young people should tell their doctors if they have a family history of heart disease, so that genetic screening can be done.

In the near future, genes responsible for diseases like heart disease can be identified early, giving doctors a head-start on treatment options.

his own work at the meeting: the testing of heart-regulating devices that supply blood circulation to patients on waiting lists for heart transplants.

Mentzer also said a new technique using stents, or wire cylinders that are inserted in the artery and are inflated to push plaque back into the surrounding vessel to prevent collapse of the artery was discussed at the conference.

Mentzer also discussed jasonalister2@hotmail.com

Students build monster tractor



The long haul

Agricultural economics graduate student Evan Conrad performs a demonstration of the runner-up for the 2003 ASAE International Quarter-Scale Tractor Design Competition. Agricultural engineering associate Tim Smith supervises the pulling.

By Troy Lyle
STAFF WRITER

The UK Wildcat Pulling team placed second in the 2004 ASAE International Quarter-Scale Tractor Design Competition held in early June in East Moline, Ill.

Tyler Mark, an agricultural economics senior and one of the team's two drivers, stood in the rear of the Barnhart Building with 15 of his teammates Monday as a crowd gathered around this homemade, 16-horsepower, 14-scale mini tractor, known as 480 HTD.

"The night before we left we put it together and started it up and it actually moved," said Mark. "Up 'til then we didn't know what the thing was going to do."

This year was the team's sixth year entering the competition at the Quad City Downs, according to Brian Luck, a biosystems and agricultural engineering senior and next year's team captain.

"We finished second overall this year, behind Oklahoma State, bettering our previous best performance of third," Luck said. "Each team is given a 16-horsepower Briggs & Stratton engine

and must use Firestone 26 by 12 by 12 tires — other than that, the design and implementation are wide open."

The team placed second in the pull performance category, one of the five, judged categories, consisting of four different pulls at different weight classes, said Mark.

"I was the first to pull in the 1,500-pound class and got lucky and picked the right line," Mark said. "It was exhilarating watching all of the competition come up short and hearing them announce our team the winner."

The 25-member team consists of faculty advisers and students, said Evan Conrad, a May graduate in agricultural economics, the team's other driver and winner in the maneuverability category.

"We're a very tight bunch," said Conrad. "I'm in a fraternity but I'm much closer to this group than to any of my fraternity brothers."

"This competition is one of the few places a student gets a chance to actualize what they're studying," said Dr. Scott Shearer, professor of biosystems and agricul-

tural engineering and one of the team's advisers. "It covers the entire process from the abstract of an idea to an actual product."

"Our goal was to move forward and we did by taking second this year," said Courtney Fisk, a biosystems and agricultural bioprocess-

ing senior. "We want to get better with every year's competition."

That means first in next years competition."

E-mail:kernel@uky.edu



Agricultural engineering seniors Laurie Meszaros (left) and Jonathan Waits look on as Agricultural Economics graduate Evan Conrad demonstrates the pulling power of the 2003 model quarter-scale tractor. In the foreground is the trophy the group received for placing second in the ASAE International Quarterscale Tractor Design Competition.

UK linebacker faces charges; teammate hurt

Cornerback Bo Smith suffered from a broken skull after a fight in Oldham County on Saturday night

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PEWEE VALLEY, Ky. — One Kentucky football player was released from the hospital Monday and another remained in jail after a fight in Oldham County that involved at least four other people, police said.

Kentucky cornerback Bo Smith was released from University of Kentucky Hospital in Lexington, athletic department spokesman Tony Neely said.

Smith, 21, was hit in the head with a baseball bat Saturday about 4 a.m. EDT, Oldham County Police Detective Kevin Nuss said. Smith suffered a fractured skull and a broken orbital bone, Nuss said.

Michael Haire, 21, of Simpsonville was arrested Monday and charged with first-degree assault in connection with the fight, Nuss said.

Another Kentucky player, 19-year-old Ryan Schumm of Crestwood, was charged with first-degree assault after allegedly hitting Tyy Owens, 20, of Pewee Valley in the head with his feet and hands. Owens' jaw was broken in two places, Nuss said.

The fight happened in the parking lot of a business in Pewee Valley after words were exchanged at a party in Crestwood, Nuss said. The party was not at Schumm's house and neither player was involved in the initial verbal altercation, he said.

Police are still investigating the fight.

Meanwhile, Kentucky coach Rich Brooks said he hoped that Smith would have a quick recovery.

"At this time, our first concern is for his health and his playing status will be determined at a future date," Brooks said.

Kentucky players are to report by Aug. 9 to start practice for the upcoming season. The Wildcats' season opener will be Sept. 5 at Louisville.

Neely would not comment on whether the players would be disciplined. He said Brooks "is reviewing the situation and will take appropriate action when he has all the facts."

Smith, a junior from Owensboro, has been projected to be a starter for the Wildcats in 2004. Smith started seven games last season and was sixth on the team in tackles with 57, but missed the last two games of the season and all of spring practice with what was originally thought to be a pulled groin muscle.

That injury later was diagnosed as a sports hernia, and Smith underwent an operation to repair it in May in Philadelphia.

Schumm, a 6-7, 225-pound walk-on redshirt freshman linebacker, did not play for the Wildcats last season.



His playing status will be determined at a future date."

— UK football coach Rich Brooks, on Smith's head injury

Extended Forecast

Friday Mostly Sunny	Saturday Thunderstorms	Sunday Thunderstorms
81 64 HIGH LOW	81 64 HIGH LOW	80 62 HIGH LOW

INSIDE

Columnist: Cosby's speech harsh but true | DIALOGUE, PAGE 4
Flashy athletes take away from the game | SPORTSDAILY, PAGE 3

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ONTAP

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FRIDAY
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Happy Chichester w/ Captain of Industry and Nico Blue
 10 p.m. South Gate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$12

SATURDAY
Incubus w/ Sparta
 7:30 p.m. Rupp Arena. Tickets cost \$32-\$50.

WEDNESDAY
Wave Akin & The Gully Men w/ Los Strajackets
 7 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$10.

Los Lobos w/ Little Fed
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Lamb of God w/ Every Time I Die, Unearth, and Alroya
 8 p.m. Bogarts. Tickets cost \$12.

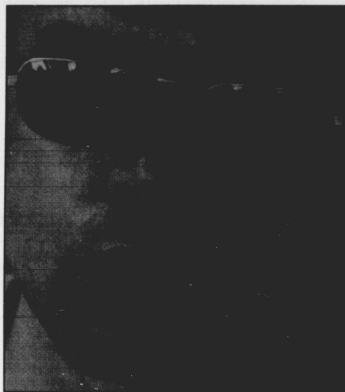
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 Riverbend, July 23

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 Applebees Park, August 21

Norah Jones
 Rupp Arena, November 6

Compiled by On Tap Editor Ryan Oehler



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 4. CINDERELLA STORY (PG)
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 4. THE TERMINAL (PG-13)
 4. THE MENTALIST (PG-13)
 4. HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN (PG)
 4. BRICK LIONS (PG-13)
 4. HONEY (PG-13)
 4. CINDERELLA STORY (PG)
 4. MIND ARTIST (PG-13)
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 4. BRICK LIONS (PG-13)

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS

The Low-down

This is the largest commitment this early in a campaign by a Democratic presidential candidate.

Mary Beth Cahill, a Kerry campaign manager on his recent ad campaign aimed at black voters

Student sues university over curse words

WALKESHA, Wis. — President Bush woke up in downtown Milwaukee Wednesday, but his campaign bus promptly headed for the suburbs and even farther out — Republican territory where aides believe his re-election hopes can flourish this year. Members of the Bush team say the rapidly growing suburbs and far-flung "exurbs" ringing cities such as Milwaukee and Green Bay, with their white, affluent, church-going populations, can counter the heavy Democratic turnout in urban areas and tip the balance in his favor. "If you're somebody who moved into Fond du Lac or West Bend in the last year or two, you're just not revved into local politics like you will be after a visit like this," Bush's chief political strategist, Karl Rove, told The Associated Press. "This is going to be one of the knife-edge states," Rove said. In his speeches, Bush branded Kerry a member of an "out-of-mainstream minority" that voted against his request for \$87 billion in supplemental funding for Iraq and Afghanistan last year. He accused Kerry and running mate Sen. John Edwards of delivering the "same old pessimism." And they're going to cheer us up with higher taxes. "On Friday, Bush's campaign bus troled southern Pennsylvania, another state he lost in 2000. He hit York, Kutztown and Lancaster — all Republican-leaning cities within 80 miles of Philadelphia — but stayed clear of the metropolis itself. In coming days, Bush will focus on suburbs and exurbs in Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota. Mark Meilman, Kerry's pollster, dismissed the significance of Bush's outreach to suburbs and exurbs. There is little point in Bush campaigning in inner cities, which typically are strongly Democratic, said Terry Madonna, director of the Center for Politics and Public Affairs at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa. "The strategy that emerged over the last couple election cycles is very,

very simple. You need to win the swing voters, the undecided voters, and the preponderance of them live in the suburbs. And you need to be sure that you get a strong turnout in your own base."

Kerry aims ad campaign at black voters

Democrat John Kerry initiated a \$2 million ad campaign aimed at black voters Wednesday, encouraging them to turn out to vote for the candidate because his plans on jobs, health care and education could have a direct impact on their lives. The campaign, much of it targeted to black-owned media, includes print, radio and television ads. The ads will run in battleground states as well as major cities in other states. Alexis Herman, Kerry campaign co-chair and former labor secretary, said the efforts to engage black voters are starting earlier in a campaign than any election year she can remember. "This is a conversation that must start now," Herman said. Kerry campaign manager Mary Beth Cahill said the \$2 million ad buy aimed toward black voters is unprecedented. "This is the largest commitment this early in a campaign by a Democratic presidential candidate," she said. Democrat Al Gore led Republican George W. Bush by a 9-1 margin among blacks in 2000, a reflection of his success in courting blacks and the deep popularity of former President Clinton among blacks. The Kerry campaign needs to turn out more black voters than Gore did to prevail in many battleground states and Southern states that could be competitive. In a 30-second television ad, black men and women ask who John Kerry is and whether he cares about them. An announcer advises them to "find out how John Kerry will fight to bring back the 1.6 million jobs that have been lost under George W. Bush." The ad also suggests voters learn more about Kerry's plans to provide health care to nearly all Americans, especially children. And it mentions his interest in creating an "Education Trust Fund" to provide more resources for public schools as well as plans to make college more accessible. Kerry campaign advisers acknowledge they are spending the money on ads right before the Democratic National Convention that starts June 26 because money the campaign has raised needs to be spent before Kerry becomes the nominee. The ads were done by Uniworld Group, a black-owned firm.

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Spectacle of sports causes lack of skills

By Michael Brent
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

Am I the only one who remembers when sports were athletic competitions?

Maybe I'm what you would call a sports purist. Maybe I'm just getting old. Whatever it is, I find myself saddened by the progression of the pastimes I have loved all my life.

I blame ESPN. I liken ESPN to MTV. In the early days of MTV, it really was music television. Music videos allowed music to be enjoyed in a totally different realm than ever before, and it was great. And so it was with ESPN and sports.

Unfortunately for music fans, MTV morphed into a confused, pop culture-induced haze of crappy music, unrealistic kiddie drama, and contrived "reality" programming. Even worse for sports fans, ESPN has followed the same evolutionary pattern.

In short, ESPN is no longer about sports; it's about entertainment. We see the highlight reel every night consisting of dunks, home runs, and one-handed touchdown catches — which is fine. Even an old-fashioned fan like myself loves that stuff.

But ESPN and many of its viewers have lost sight of the intricacies of sports that make the games work. Whether it's hitting a 15-foot jump shot or a sacrifice bunt or a block that opens the way for a first down, young athletes aren't practicing it. Instead, they practice their endzone dances for SportsCenter. The result is a sports world where athletes are great at creating spectacles

but struggle with fundamentals.

The recently completed NBA season illustrates the changing face of sports. Fifteen years ago, the Detroit Pistons won the NBA championship, shooting 49 percent from the field for the season and knocking off the Los Angeles Lakers. Last month, Detroit again beat the Lakers for the world championship. The Pistons shot 43.5 percent from the field this season.

The Sacramento Kings' 46 percent shooting led the NBA this season. Fifteen years ago, the NBA's worst shooting team, first year expansion franchise Miami Heat, shot 45.3 percent en route to a 15-67 record. But I'll bet they couldn't dunk like Vince Carter.

As I mulled these revolutionary ideals over, I started thinking, "Maybe I'm being too hard on the good people at ESPN." Then I watched the NBA Draft "expert" Stephen A. Smith ran off reasons for Philadelphia to not draft Oregon's Luke Jackson. "Philly needs athletes!" Smith screamed at me. Jackson isn't the flashiest player in the world. He is merely a 6-foot-8 guard who averaged 21.2 points, 7.2 rebounds, and 4.5 assists per game this year. He also hit 44 percent of his three-point attempts and 86 percent of his free throws. The kid can play.

But Smith said Philly needs "athletes," that doesn't include guys who can throw the basketball through the hoop with great accuracy. Maybe Smith would feel better about Jackson if he knew that during pre-draft workouts, his vertical jump was measured high-



FILE PHOTO
Kelenna Azubike dunks for UK. The dunk is becoming more of an icon today, writes Michael Brent, while fundamentals are pushed to the background in practice gyms.

er than high school star J.R. Smith (who has been dubbed by many as "the next Vince Carter").

Smith's attitude is typical of the ESPN generation. A player like Jackson who can shoot, pass, and rebound isn't considered a "great athlete." Athleticism now means you can jump like Kobe Bryant. The fact that Jackson has an outstanding vertical leap doesn't change that perception because he never showcases it with highlight-reel dunks.

Smith got his wish as Philly passed on Jackson. I don't know why that surprised me. The same experts pronounced Detroit dead before the Finals started because "they don't have enough offense." I guess they were half right: The Pistons didn't have an offense as good as the league's worst team in 1989. What the folks at ESPN forgot was the many other aspects of a basketball game. Detroit dominated every other facet of the game

and ran away with an NBA title. While it disturbs me that a team with such poor shooting could become world champions, I had to smile as Detroit used archaic strategies such as defending, blocking out, and teamwork to win.

In the meantime, ESPN experts like Smith and Scott scratch their heads in disbelief of the Pistons' methods. The same experts will continue to place fast-break dunks in SportsCenter's Top 10 plays. Future players will continue to put more effort into getting their first dunk than learning free throws.

And ESPN will continue to glamorize style over substance, then wonder why the greatest basketball players in the world can't hit 40 percent of their shots.

Michael Brent is a journalism graduate student. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel. E-mail: mbrent711@aol.com

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SportsBytes

UK grad headed to Athens

Rachel Komisarz, a UK graduate, qualified for the U.S. Olympic team last Thursday by winning the 100-meter butterfly event at the USA Swimming Olympic Trials in Long Beach, Calif. Komisarz, who graduated in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in education, won the final heat with a time of 58.77 seconds. Jenny Thompson, who won gold in the event at the 2000 Sydney games, finished

second and is expected to make the Athens squad.

Swimmers lapped

Komisarz fell short of making the U.S. Olympic swimming team in her second event when she placed sixth in the 200-meter freestyle final Saturday in Long Beach, Calif. Current Cat Daniel Cruz fell shy in his bid for the Olympic team after coming in sixth in the 200-meter butterfly Saturday

night. First place went to event world-record holder Michael Phelps, while second went to two-time Olympian Tom Malchow. Cruz also fell short in his bid for the 100-meter butterfly team, finishing 18th in the preliminaries and not making the semifinal. UK's Daniel Farnham and Tim Patrick finished 20th and 23rd, respectively, in the 50-meter freestyle event and Clay Gasparovitch finished at 23.83 seconds, out of contention for the semifinal. UK junior Shantel Commander finished 31st in the women's 200-meter breaststroke preliminary round.

Diesel unloaded

Embattled Los Angeles Lakers center Shaquille O'Neal was traded Wednesday to the Miami Heat for Caron Butler, Lamar Odom, Brian Grant and a future draft pick. After the Lakers' heavily favored run to the NBA title was denied by the Detroit Pistons in June, O'Neal decided he wanted out of L.A., and the situation suddenly had all the elements of a soap opera with the major characters being O'Neal and Kobe Bryant, who wanted O'Neal out so he could run the team.

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IN OUR OPINION

UK should help LCC with transition

All around us, from our news to our entertainment, we as consumers are assailed with products that contain spectacle and are pretty, but lack substance.

Television news gives us glitzy coverage of elections, complete with everyone with a name you might recognize giving their opinion and enough forecasting to make the Weather Channel jealous. After the elections, coverage dies down. Actual governing gets nothing more than a cursory segment on the evening news. Because it happens every day, government is portrayed as old hat and given none of the glamour that election coverage gets annually.

In SportsDaily, Michael Brent wrote about the lack of fundamentally sound play that has led to less quality sports than 15 years ago. It's all about getting on SportsCenter now, getting your image out there.

Pop music sung by today's musical icons is contrived for them; it plugs into an image doctored by marketing professionals and record producers. Image and spectacle are what pop music is all about, not singing or songwriting ability. How else can you explain the popularity of Britney Spears?

The highly publicized LCC transfer of power is in this mold. It did nothing for LCC except make it a separate entity from UK. UK did everything it could to get people excited about the transfer, which should have been an exciting enough subject as is,

but now LCC is floating around, seemingly confused with its newfound sense of authority and unsure of what to do with what it has acquired.

It was a good start by the Board of Trustees to give LCC control of its future and its merger with Central Kentucky Technical College. But with the merger and separatism of LCC come problems for the fledgling campus.

The flood of students into technical programs and associate degree programs means LCC will soon have the same problems UK should have seen in its future five or 10 years ago that it is just now beginning to rectify. These problems, including lack of funding for teaching salary increases, updated, more technologically capable classroom buildings, and the lack of physical space for dormitories and other necessary buildings, are all problems UK had or is currently having.

UK should use its experience in these situations to advise LCC and give the new university an easier road to becoming a productive institution and realizing their future goals in research and graduation, not just publicly congratulate itself for creating a new university and then moving on to other things before making sure the new university was fine on its own.

Dukes of Hazzard car is cultural, not racist, icon

By Keith Cox
KERNEL COLUMNIST

In last week's Kernel, I wrote a feature on popular 70s and 80s TV shows that were being released on DVD over the summer. As we were sitting around the newsroom talking about this story, "The Dukes of Hazzard" was a title that was tossed around quite a bit as a favorite.

Then I came across a little news item a couple days later that caught my attention. It seems the Dukes unknowingly contributed to the outrage of some people in Tallahassee, FL.

A local television station ran an ad for a fourth of July concert to be performed by country singer Mark Wills as a part of the "Celebrate America" festivities at Tom Brown Park. The ad showed a brief clip from Wills' music video for his hit "19-Something," which featured him climbing out of the window of a General Lee.

For those of you not familiar with "The Dukes of Hazzard," the General Lee was the 1969 Dodge Charger driven hard by the show's stars Tom Wopat (Luke Duke) and

John Schneider (Bo Duke) every Friday night for seven seasons on CBS. The car's notable distinctions are a reddish-orange paint job, a large black-and-white "01" on each door, and a huge Confederate flag running the length of the roof.

For what may have been a maximum of a half-second, the TV ad showed the car at an angle in which the flag could be clearly seen. Some citizens went haywire and wrote angry letters to the TV station, citing racism as their chief complaint.

The station responded by blurring out the car's flag on subsequent broadcasts.

When I read this, I thought to myself "This is right up my alley." I'm a big fan of Dukes, and I'd like to take a moment to make something known to anyone else out there who might have the same reaction about this topic as those people in Tallahassee.

Let me start by saying I'm completely against the Confederate flag being used as a symbol of hatred and violence toward African-Americans. It's groups like the Ku Klux Klan that make a bad name for the crossed bars which represent southern heritage to so many people.

But we're talking about a TV show here. The General Lee was never intended to be a symbol of racism. The car has become an American pop culture icon, instantly recognizable to millions of people all over the world. Anyone who isn't aware of that must have been living in a cave for the past 25 years, making fire by rubbing two rocks together.

The Duke boys chose to paint the flag on their car because it gave them a sense of history and family pride, as they had ancestors who fought in the Civil War, under the command of General Robert E. Lee. This made the car's name logical and appropriate.

Secondly, neither the Duke family, nor anyone else in Hazzard County for that matter, had a racist bone in their bodies. They were accepting of people of any race, color, or creed, and never turned away from someone just because they weren't white good ol' boys and gals from the South.

Heck, even when bad guys showed up in town, quite often one was white and the other African-American. And the badgies were almost always hired by fat, blustery county commissioner Jefferson Davis "Boss" Hogg,

whose name was even a throwback to the days of the war between the states.

Incidentally, an African-American actor, Anthony Anderson, is being considered to recreate the role of Boss Hogg for a big-screen version of Dukes expected to hit theaters sometime next summer.

The Confederate flag is a part of what makes the General Lee unique; it's like a character's costume. Without it, it would be like Superman without the big red 'S' inside the diamond shape on his chest. And this car, in some way, embodies the fighting spirit of the south. Why take that away from it?

Bottom line: I think people should stop taking things like the Confederate flag issue out of context and try to consider how it's being represented in individual situations. Maybe a white-knuckled ride and a brisk jump over Hazzard Ford in the General Lee would open up some eyes in Tallahassee.

Yeccccccccc Haaaa!!!

Keith Cox is a journalism senior. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel. E-mail COX1280@aol.com

Cosby's speech should inspire all

By Tanya Hodges
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

Thursday nights used to be a big deal in my house during the 1960s. That was the night "The Cosby Show" aired. Like my family, I had been intrigued as the characters drew me into a world that society believed didn't exist.

The Cosby family consisted of a successful mother and father — lawyer and doctor respectively. Their only son, Theo, was neither a thug nor a gangbanger. None of their four daughters had been teenage mothers who had succumbed to abusive relationships. Each child enrolled in college after graduating from high school.

The Cosbys were a cultured family who embraced people of all races, classes and religion. There was no lacking of love, communication, or support in the household. Cosby had caused many individuals to think, "If only I could live like that." So, it is no wonder he is deemed America's "favorite" Dad.

And like a father, Cosby took a stern approach when he addressed certain problems that plague the black community at the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition & Citizenship Education Fund's annual conference earlier this month.

An overwhelming number of black children — rich and poor — grow up in a single-parent home each year. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 48 percent of all black children lived in a single-parent home headed by the mother in 2002. Therefore, it is an advantage to the black community when prominent men, like Cosby, step up to the plate and offer something useful, like good advice.

At the recent conference in Chicago, Cosby told black men to "Stop beating up your women because you can't find a job."

The truth is there are jobs to be had by black men, but since many failed to prepare themselves for a successful career by dropping out of high school and not obtaining a college degree, their opportunities are limited.

Cosby also accused poor blacks of "squandering opportunities" provided to them by the civil rights movement. Some black individuals "squander" opportunities, period. For instance, a number of companies offer employees the opportunity to learn new skills as well as improve the ones they have. Free computer classes and tuition reimbursement are a few benefits individuals have, but rarely take advantage of at the workplace.

Cosby also expressed the need for today's black children to learn the importance of speaking proper English. There is a time and place for everything. The time to use street lingo is not at a job interview. However, as Cosby remarked, ignorance is a result of one's upbringing. He said he ridiculed black children for using phrases like "Why you ain't" and "Where you is" until he heard their parents speaking the same way. He stated, "Everybody knows it's important to speak English except these knuckleheads. You can't be a doctor with that kind of crap coming out of your mouth."

In all fairness, not everybody wants to be a doctor or lawyer. But the sad part — the part which has always puzzled me — is the fact that black people are expected to "give back" to the community if they achieve success in any profession.

It is hard to want to give back to people who sat around smoking blunts or having babies they can't afford to feed, while some sat in classrooms and worked two and three jobs at once in order to finish college.

If you are black, no one "gives" you anything. You have to fight for whatever you want in life. And the majority of the successful black people in America had to do it alone.

Furthermore, Cosby said black people need to stop blaming white people for what they do or don't have. We, African-Americans, must take responsibility for our own actions. Let's face the facts: if you are black, you will probably have to deal with racism in some form or fashion your entire life. But this should not keep you from trying to achieve your goals — daring to overcome the obstacles. Booker T. Washington once said a white man who cheats a black man usually cheats white men as well.

Cosby is only thinking about the future when he speaks. He knows Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. are no longer who inspire the black community. It is athletes and rappers. Today's black children are enticed to chase after "bling," but are not taught how to spell or manage it. People can achieve fame and fortune as entertainers, but it takes knowledge and education for them to keep what they have earned.

I think Cosby did the right thing by airing the black community's "dirty laundry" in public. Maybe one day the black community will have as many doctors, scientists and engineers as rappers. We can only hope.

Tanya Hodges is an English senior. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel. E-mail tshodg2@uky.edu

"Claymates" ache for Aiken at Rupp

By Tricia McKenny
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When many people think of hot music stars, names like Tim McGraw, Britney Spears, Janet Jackson and Justin Timberlake come to mind. But many people would add one more name to that list: Clay Aiken.

The "American Idol" runner-up, who lost the title by 130,000 out of almost 24 million votes, has sold 2.6 million copies of his debut album, *Measure of a Man*.

The 24-year-old has gained fans of all ages from all around the country, calling themselves "Claymates."

I couldn't really understand what made people so excited about Aiken, so I went to talk to some of the "Claymates" when Aiken performed for 3,000 fans in Rupp Arena on Monday night.

As I entered the arena, I was surprised by the variety of people in the crowd.

While most fans were female, there were people who could be your little sister's age or your grandmother's.

There was even a Clay Aiken look-alike contest winner in the crowd.

Tim Valenta, who will be attending UK in the fall, won a FOX-56 Clay Aiken look-alike contest and was able to

go on stage and sing part of "Measure of a Man."

"I like Clay because his lyrics are real. They just get to you," said Valenta.

While to some, Aiken doesn't seem like a typical pop star, his fans at the concert would disagree.

"We love him because he is a down-home country boy. He doesn't try to hide his accent, he is just himself and that makes him special," said Kathy Mathis, an 18-year-old from Manchester.

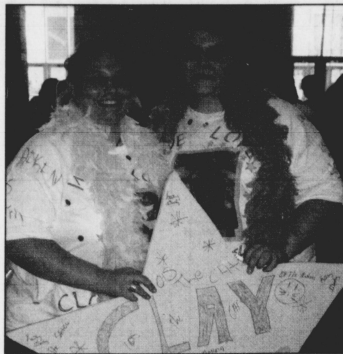
While there were quite a few teenage fans at the concert, many were parents and even grandparents.

Three sisters from Virginia, all mother- or grandmother-aged although they said they were only as young as they felt, enjoyed Aiken so much this concert was the fourth one they attended.

"The best part would be going backstage. We've never done it, but it would be fun," said one of the sisters, Linda Martucci.

Martucci and her sisters, Glenna Cook and Charlotte Rowsley even told me about their plan to rent a wheelchair and see if they could get enough sympathy to get allowed backstage by pushing each other around in the wheelchair.

Other "Claymates" have



Kathy Mathis (right), and Liberty Sizemore, both of Manchester, show their love for the "Claymazing" American Idol on Monday.

also gone to great lengths to see Aiken.

DeDe Hicks, a mother attending the concert with her son, has been to 19 other Aiken concerts and is planning on going to 19 more.

"As a person, he is just amazing. It is great because you can bring your kids to

his concerts and not have to worry," Hicks said.

While I was trying to understand how one person could appeal to so many generations, Hicks tried to make it simple.

"He's Claymazing!" she said.

CLASSIFIEDS

continued from page 5

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