

KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 36 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE



PHOTOS BY BRITNEY MCINTOSH | STAFF

Jonathan Watson, an employee of the UK Clinical Lab plays with his son, Liam, while his car seat is being examined. Safe Kids Fayette County, an organization focused on preventative child safety, hosted a free car seat check Tuesday in the parking lot of Commonwealth Stadium for all UK Employees.

Strapping in for safety

On a muggy summer afternoon in the parking lot of Commonwealth Stadium, representatives from Safe Kids Fayette County conducted free children's car seat inspections and demonstrated how to properly use the seats.

UK employees brought their families out on Tuesday from 2 to 5 p.m.

The next event hosted by Safe Kids Fayette County is July 14 for anyone to attend.



Liam Watson plays with his stuffed animal, Woolf Woolf, while Sherri Hannan adjusts his car seat during the free child safety seat check in the parking lot of Commonwealth Stadium.

Parking Structure No. 5 open for fireworks viewing

By Britney McIntosh
news@kykernel.com

On July 4, a valid UK parking permit will double as a front row ticket to see Lexington's annual Fourth of July fireworks display.

For the fifth consecutive year, UK Parking & Transportation Services will allow everyone with a valid UK parking permit to watch the fireworks from the top of Parking Structure No. 5, along side of South Limestone St. next to Kennedy Bookstore.

"Parking Structure No. 5 is an ideal location for watching the fireworks display, since it eliminates the hassle of looking for parking downtown," said Don Thornton, director of Parking and Transportation Services. Thornton originally thought of the idea to provide a safer viewing atmosphere for the people who had climbed onto the roofs of service buildings around campus before the department opened the parking structure roof.

"We try to make it convenient for people," said Chrissie Balding Tune, a spokeswoman for Parking and Transportation Services. "You don't have to deal with the hassle of parking. We will even have port-o-potties on the roof." In years past, the number of people viewing the fireworks show on the parking structure has not exceeded 1,000 and has included mostly UK staff, Tune said.

The security restrictions for viewing the fireworks on the parking structure are significantly lighter than that of "Red, White, and Boom," the event for fireworks viewing hos-

ted by the city, which will start earlier in the day with a free concert, Tune said.

This year "Red, White, and Boom" has altered its security policy for the upcoming holiday and will not allow outside food and drink, umbrellas, backpacks, boom boxes or personal grills, as it has in years past, she said.

Food and drink will be permitted at the parking structure, Tune said, however there can be no grills, open fires, alcohol, or personal fireworks. Two UK police officers will be on duty at the parking structure.

Tune expects the comparatively lax policy will create a draw, she said.

"Obviously our event is much smaller," she said. "It is a really family-friendly atmosphere."

Only 1,000 people typically view the show from the roof of the parking structure, as opposed to 50,000 at "Red, White and Boom," Tune said.

"And we've never had all the spaces taken," Thornton said.

UK will open the roof of the parking structure at 7 p.m. The lights atop Parking Structure No. 5 will be turned off so the ambient light won't take away from the fireworks display, Thornton said.

"It's an excellent place to watch the fireworks," Thornton said. "You're not caught up in all the traffic going on in the downtown area and parking is not an issue. You just park, walk up a few flights of stairs and you're there."

SG looks to build freshman leaders

By Blair Thomas
bthomas@kykernel.com

Student Government plans to change how freshmen get involved within the organization and on campus, if new legislation passes through the SG Senate in the fall.

The legislation would give the current SG Freshman Representative Council (FRC), which helps with freshman involvement, a new name and added responsibilities.

"This is a change we're really proud of," said SG President Nick Phelps. "It will give 25 excited and anxious freshmen a chance to get involved on campus and start networking among campus organizations."

The newly named Leadership Development Program (LDP) will include a mentoring program to familiarize the students with campus and its resources as well as increased involvement in SG, Phelps said.

"In FRC, the freshmen had required office hours, a weekly meeting and one project for the year," Phelps said. "At the end of the year, we were lucky if we had 10 members left."

Phelps thinks the increased involvement in SG and on campus will better benefit the students, he said.

"We realized that the program wasn't really working," said SG Vice President Brittany Langdon. "It wasn't achieving what we thought it should."

The program should benefit the future of SG, Phelps said.

"LDP comes back to help Student Government because students stay involved with the organization and become really great senators or they go on to get involved in other organizations like SAB (Student Activities Board), and Student Government develops a really great working relationship with these groups."

If the change is passed, LDP will be made up of 25-30 freshmen.

"By the end of the summer we hope to have talked to every incoming freshman about the program," Phelps said. "We hope to have around 200 applicants."

If the program draws high numbers of applicants, Phelps said those not selected for LDP will have the opportunity to get involved with other areas of SG such as the cabinets.

Alice Oregio, mother of incoming freshman Jack Oregio, said she was impressed by the opportunities LDP has to offer.

"Throughout high school, Jack was always involved in school things," she said. "I want him to stay involved in college."

Jack Oregio talked to Phelps at his freshman orientation last week.

"I liked the things he had to say," he said. "It seems like a great way to start early making new friends and getting to know UK. I just hope it isn't too time consuming."

NEWS BRIEFS

Meth documentary wins Daytime Emmy Award

A two-part series, which focused on the impact of using methamphetamine, and featuring three UK employees won, the 2007 Daytime Emmy for Outstanding Special Class Special by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

The series, "A Question of Life or Meth," featured UK experts Holly Hopper and Drs. Jim Cecil and Susan Pollack and was aired on the A&E Classroom channel.

The documentary examined the impact of meth from the users themselves and focused on teen abuse. Part one explained what the drug is and what it does, and looked at the impact meth has on the body. Part two examined how law enforcement has responded to the meth crisis and explored possible solutions.

A&E first contacted UK about the series because of its work with the Drug Endangered Child Training Network and the Kentucky Alliance for Drug Endangered Children programs, which are funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission and housed in the UK College

of Public Health.

Hopper is the project coordinator for the training network and chair of the alliance programs.

Cecil is a dentist and professor in the UK College of Dentistry. Pollack is a pediatrician and assistant professor in the UK Department of Pediatrics.

Alum nominated to direct Census Bureau

President George W. Bush recently nominated Steven Murdock, who holds a doctorate in sociology from UK, to be the next director of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Murdock attended North Dakota State University as an undergraduate. He is an academic and published author who has taught at NDSU, as well as Texas A&M.

If Congress confirms Murdock, he will be in place to lead the scheduled 2010 census.

UK extends deadline for transfer scholarships

The deadline to apply for the Trustes Scholarship — a schol-

arship aimed at students transferring to UK from the Kentucky Community and Technical College System — has been extended to Aug. 1, said Don Witt, UK's associate provost for enrollment management, in a news release.

As part of the "2020 Scholars" program, this scholarship will offer students with an associate's degree and a 3.5 GPA the opportunity to transfer to UK while continuing to pay the KCTCS tuition rates for two years.

Scholarships also will be offered to a limited number of community college students transferring with at least 48 hours of academic credit and 3.3 GPAs. All other transfer students with a minimum 3.30 cumulative GPA, who are currently enrolled at an accredited institution and who have completed 24 academic credit hours are eligible to compete for a limited number of \$1,000 nonrenewable awards.

Interested applicants are required to submit an application to the Office of Academic Scholarships by Aug. 1.



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5	4		6			3	8	
8		3	1				7	
6			2				1	
	6						1	
9	5				8	3		
	8						9	
4		1						9
3		2	6					5
2	7		5				8	6

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 6 — Conditions for travel are good now. Look around for the best deal. By booking your future trip now, you can save enough for new luggage.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — You're very smart and getting smarter. Keep doing the research. Be prepared when the tough questions come and you'll increase your profits.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 7 — Be thinking about ways to stretch your resources that have worked before. Let somebody else be in charge of negotiations for now.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

— Today is an 8 — A new method or procedure works now, so give it a try. You can do more better and faster than ever before.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 6 — You're pretty lucky now. Make a few long-range plans. Put them down in writing. What you ask for now can come true.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 5 — You can work quickly now and get your reality closer to matching your vision of how things should be. You're very creative now.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — Continue to follow the routine you've established and make improvements. Meanwhile, practice diligently to improve new skills.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 10 — Focus on making money. This doesn't require hard work. It does require promptness, a good idea and keeping your word.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

— Today is a 6 — You have the advantage again, partially because you know the truth. Reveal it when the time is right. You'll know.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 6 — You're getting important answers in your dreams lately. Have you noticed? Do it on purpose. Go to sleep tonight asking the questions.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — Your latest fabulous scheme may have nothing to do with your work. It's very important anyway. Money isn't everything.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — Your persistence pays off in status and applause. The money isn't pouring in yet but there's enough. Besides, you didn't do it for the money, entirely.

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the DISH

REESE & JAKE: IS THIS THE END?

Despite undeniable sparks, she puts romance on hold

Reese Witherspoon had an evening of laughs and libations at L.A.'s La Terza on June 16 with pal Renee Zellweger and six other friends. Missing? Beau Jake Gyllenhaal, 26. Though sources say the duo, who began dating in March (five months after her split from Ryan Phillippe, 32), had been getting serious in recent weeks — he bonded with her two kids and met her mom — Hot Stuff has learned the couple have cooled. The hitch? It may have been too much, too soon for the actress, 31, still smarting from her divorce. "She cares for Jake, but the timing is crappy," says an insider. "She doesn't have enough emotional space for him right now." Sources say the star — who has been hunkering down at home because "she's worried that when she's in public, everyone's talking about her failed marriage" — is staying strong for the kids. Alas, it seems it will be just the three of them for a while longer. A source says that Gyllenhaal recently told a buddy: "I'm single." (Their reps had no comment.)

Britney Spears Drinking Again
Is Britney Spears falling back into bad habits? The singer — who has repeatedly denied having a problem with alcohol — was seen kicking back several rounds of cocktails on June 15, less than 90 days after leaving rehab. Spears, 25, hit West

Hollywood hot spot Lola's and hung out with four pals at a private table on the bar's back patio. "She had two Jack [Daniels] and Cokes and an orange-flavored martini," Lola's manager, Sylvie Haines, tells Hot Stuff, adding that "her whole visit was pretty low-key, and she didn't seem drunk." Meanwhile, one reminder of Spears' prehab meltdown may soon be up in smoke. Esther Tognozzi, the owner of Esther's Haircutting Studio — the Tarzana, California, salon where the troubled star famously shaved her head on February 16 — tells Us she has abandoned efforts to pawn the locks online. "We just decided the whole thing had to stop," she says. "The hair's not in my shop, but it's in a safe place. I have no intention of doing anything with it — except maybe burn it."

Jeremy Piven Dates Top Model

It seems Jeremy Piven has America's Next Top Model on his TiVo list. Hot Stuff spied the Entourage star, 41, chatting up the newest ANTM winner, Janelene Gonzalez, 21, at the A Mighty Heart afterparty June 13 at NYC's Metropolitan Club. (The two left together, though she skipped the June 14 Entourage bash at NYC's Marquee.) "We're just friends, but he's hysterical!" Gonzalez tells Us. And this wasn't Piven's first ANTM flirtation. On January

16, he reportedly kissed previous season runner-up Melrose Bickerstaff, 24, at two post-Golden Globe bashes. And pals predict Piven's Model mania won't end anytime soon. Costar Rex Lee tells Us, "Jeremy's not quite ready to settle down."

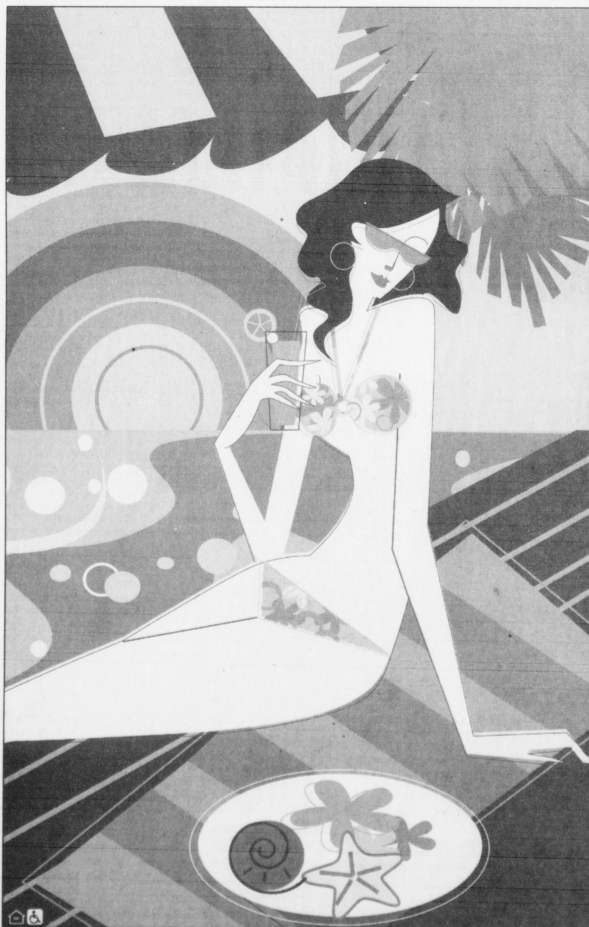
SATC Movie: Kristin Dishes!

Ever since Carrie sipped her last cosmo on Sex and the City, the folks behind the HBO hit have grumbled it's premature to talk plot points for a movie. But Kristin Davis, 42, has a scoop: "I already know what happens to Charlotte!" she told Hot Stuff at a June 13 dinner for Max-Mara's Nicola Maramotti in L.A. Other details? "I have to keep my mouth shut!"

Christina to Buy Ozzy's House

Talk about a rockin' new pad. Hot Stuff has learned that Christina Aguilera, 26, and husband Jordan Bratman, 30, have made an offer on Ozzy Osbourne's six-bedroom, seven-bathroom Beverly Hills mansion. An insider tells Us the home featured on MTV's reality show The Osbournes is perfect because "they wanted a place to start a family." (Reps could not be reached.)

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Men's tennis team signs four

By James Pennington
sports@kyjournal.com

The UK men's tennis team announced the signing of two recruits on June 18 to bolster its current freshman class to four. The signings should add new dimensions and new skills to an already potent team, said head coach Dennis Emery.

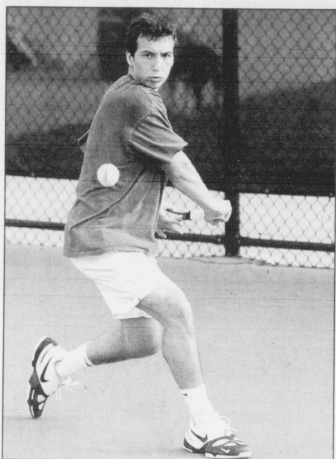
"With our talent level, if we're able to put it together, we can be a top-10 team next year," Emery said. "Our first goal is to get to the final 16 of the NCAA tournament, but we'd like to take it further."

One signer, Alberto Gonzalez, a strong baseline player who ranked No. 45 in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's junior tennis rankings. A native of Panama, Gonzalez currently lives in Miami. He trained at the nationally acclaimed Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy, where such notable players as Andre Agassi, Monica Seles, Boris Becker, Anna Kournikova and the Williams sisters started their careers.

Gonzalez's time playing with Panama's national Davis Cup team brings a lot of experience to the team despite being a freshman, Emery said.

"Alberto is a very sought-after player," said UK associate head coach Cedric Kauffmann. "He's very talented and he could become a very, very good player."

Alexis Musialek, another recent signer, is also a strong baseline player with a powerful serve and volley, Emery said. Musialek, from Dax, France, will have an impact in singles and an even bigger impact in doubles for the Cats, where he will act as an anchor for his paired team, Emery said.



Sophomore Bruno Agostinelli, who will return as one of the Cats' stand-out players, will help lead UK's four new recruits. Dennis Emery describes them as a possible top-10 team.

Musialek and Gonzalez will join Will Beck and Brad Cox in the newest class of men's tennis players. Beck, from the Washington, D.C., area, brings talent and size to UK's lineup, Emery said.

"(Beck) will definitely help in doubles and he has the talent to work his way into the singles lineup," Emery said. "Because of his size, he will help during the indoor season."

Cox will bring a very aggressive style of play, Emery said. A native of New Zealand who trained along with Gonzalez at the Bollettieri Tennis Academy, Cox reached as high as No. 119 in the International Tennis Federation's junior rankings. The additions of Cox, Beck, Musialek and Gonzalez comprise a very strong recruiting class, Kauffmann said.

"We're a top-five class as a whole," he said. "I'm excited."

The four freshmen will join

an experienced tennis team that is only losing one senior from last season, Peter Bjork. Sophomore Bruno Agostinelli was UK's stand-out player. He played near the top of the lineup last season but was bogged down with injuries that hindered him from reaching his full potential.

"He had three or four different injuries that kept him out for weeks at a time," Emery said.

"We hope he plays next year injury-free. He has the potential to be one of the best players at UK in the last 25 years."

Next year's team captain will be Swedish senior Marcus Sundth. Last year, Sundth went 18-15 in singles and 9-15 in doubles with four different partners.

Will Ward, who transferred to UK last summer, will also be a crucial factor to the Cats' future success, but has also been bogged down at times, Emery said.

"He was injured last year but we hope he can come back and play near the top half of the lineup in singles and doubles," Emery said.

Despite being injured, Ward went 9-6 in singles and 11-11 in doubles with two different partners, Agostinelli and Bjork.

"We have a huge upside for next season," Emery said. "I think we'll be particularly strong on the doubles side."

Both Emery and Kauffmann said they are excited for what they hope can be a big year for UK tennis.

"My expectations are high," Kauffmann said. "My job is to get the program back into the top ten and I think we have good enough talent to get up there. Now we just have to put the pieces of the puzzle together."

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NBA Draft not an exact science, so check back in five years

By Steve Adamak
The Record (Hackensack N.J.)

Click on to the Portland Trail Blazers' Web site and via video, the team hits you straight up with the decision that will christen Thursday's potentially volatile NBA draft.

Greg Oden or Kevin Durant? To fans voting in the site's poll, the choice is simple: By a ratio of almost 4-to-1, they say the Blazers should spend the draft's top overall pick on Oden, the former Ohio State center, instead of Durant, the ex-Texas forward.

No surprise there, considering the NBA's "size matters" maxim and the premise that a potential franchise center such as Oden shows up seemingly as often as Halley's Comet compared to the lunar eclipse that is Durant.

But "If five years from now, Durant becomes a combination of Michael Jordan and George Gervin and Oden turns out to be an ordinary center, destroy the tape of this conversation," said Orlando senior vice president Pat Williams, an NBA executive for more than three decades who chose Shaquille O'Neal ahead of Alonzo Mourning atop the 1992 draft.

"Because of Jordan ... you always have to be a little careful about passing on a potentially great player," said Indiana president and CEO Donnie Walsh, a veteran of more than two decades of drafts.

"That's why it's not an exact science," Washington president Eric Grunfeld said. Thus, 23 years after Portland chose Sam Bowie ahead of Jordan (and after Hakeem Olajuwon), it's valid to consider whether the Blazers will tempt the basketball gods by going chalk and drafting Oden.

One difference: Oden isn't the fragile Bowie, but prompts extraordinary comparisons after his one collegiate season.

"The biggest attribute he has is that he always plays to win," Walsh said. "The last guy I saw like that, who was always like that ... (Bill) Russell."

Now scouting his 60th draft, NBA draft guru Marty Blake gruffly dismisses the Russell analogy, except for Oden's shot-block-

ing ability, yet said that choosing the 7-foot 19-year-old ahead of Durant is a no-brainer.

"I was talking to Bob Cooney once and asked him who he would've taken, (himself) or Russell," Blake said. "He said, 'Why would you take a flea instead of a giant?'"

"You get a center every ... you don't find centers anymore."

"Every 15 years," Williams remembered Blake saying.

Yet, Oden isn't Patrick Ewing in 1985, chosen ahead of Wyatt Tisdale, or Ralph Sampson in 1983, with Steve Stipanovich the second-pick consolation prize.

Oden has Durant, whose long, willowy body and skill set produce a Kevin Garnett comparison from Grunfeld and Tracy McGrady talk from others. The consensus, though, is that from the get-go, he'll light up more buildings than Oden.

"Durant's going to put people in the seats," Blake said. "He's electrifying, one of the greatest scorers I've ever seen."

"Me, too," Walsh said when asked if he agreed.

Carroll Dawson, who helped draft Olajuwon and Sampson in Houston during 27 years with the Rockets (the last 11 as general manager), remembers Texas coach Rick Barnes telling him last year about a 6-foot-9 freshman Barnes insisted would be the No. 1 pick in this year's draft.

"I didn't believe him until I saw (Durant) and, holy cow, was he right," said Dawson, now a Rockets' consultant.

Right except for that size-matters premise — one reason why Dawson said Jordan wasn't on the Rockets' radar screen 23 years ago when, after having watched Olajuwon throughout his University of Houston career, they picked him No. 1.

And although it seems sacrilegious to say now, Dawson also cited another reason why Jordan fell to No. 3 in 1984.

"Not to knock Michael, who became the greatest player ever, but he wasn't talked about that way then," he said.

"I don't think anyone knew Michael was going to be Michael," Knicks president/coach Isiah Thomas said.

Nets president Rod Thorn, who drafted Jordan for the Bulls, always has said that, given the choice between Olajuwon or Jor-

dan, he would have drafted the size, too.

"Everyone (then), in my opinion, would've taken Olajuwon instead of Jordan," he said.

Hence, the question mark that hangs over the Oden-Durant decision in Portland — where numerous signs encourage drivers to "honk once for Oden" and "honk twice for Durant," former owner and current president emeritus Harry Glickman said.

The man who announced the choice of Bowie 23 years ago for then-GM Stu Inman (now deceased), Glickman insists he doesn't have any fears about current GM Kevin Pritchard making a mistake when the Blazers make their pick Thursday.

In 1984, he said Bowie seemed the logical choice because the team already had Clyde Drexler, played a style under coach Jack Ramsay that utilized a center like Bowie who could pass from the high post (a la Bill Walton) and thought the same about Jordan as others.

"I don't remember one person on our staff, or anyone on any other staff, who thought Jordan would become the best player in the league," he said.

Instead, Jordan and the Bulls won six titles — the only ones produced by a team not anchored by a Hall of Fame-caliber big man since Thomas and the Bad Boy Pistons repeated in 1990 with one exception: the 2004 Pistons with Ben Wallace in the middle.

So, all things being equal, "which they never are," Walsh said, "you have a chance to get a center that can anchor your team once every 20 years or so."

"At the other positions, you might find a special player every three or four years."

"I think any team, if you had a dominating five center, would want the dominating five," Nets GM Ed Stefanski said. "No question about it. But if there's a potential star (at another position) ..."

Doesn't matter, Blake believes.

"You could go down to the Ganges River and find someone dozing, wake them up and ask who's going in this year's draft," he said. "And they'd say, 'Oden, Durant.' In that order. There is no controversy."

For now, at least. Check back, though, in a few years.

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SG adviser should earn students' tuition

As the dog days of summer drag on, so too does the search for Student Government's very first staff adviser.

The search, which was prompted by new SG president Nick Phelps, is something that is sure to give the off-discredited office that "represents" the student body a stronger edge when it promotes an initiative to help students.

The adviser will ultimately help SG bring resolutions that it passes to the UK administration and more easily transition those to the student body. The adviser will help move resolutions that are passed by the SG Senate to the campus administrations who can address the concerns of the legislation and apply them to UK.

"We want an adviser not so much for the purpose of authority, but rather to serve as a mediator between the administration and Student Government," said SG Senate President Tyler Montell in a June 7 Kernel article.

Along with this, the adviser will help bring smoother transitions between future SG administrations.

The main reason we want an adviser is for transitions," Phelps said in a June 21 Kernel article. "It is important as new Student Government administrations come in for someone to be there that has seen how the past president ran things."

Phelps is right. Keeping more consistency within SG would benefit both administrations to come and the students they serve. Along with the normal duties of simply advising SG on day to day business, the adviser would understand how to deal with important situations that come up from administration to administration (i.e. suggest that SG not pour mon-

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ey into a wasteful endeavor that has failed in the past). This is a consistency that SG currently does not have. The same typical ineffectiveness seems to have plagued many of the recent administrations.

Every year we see SG seemingly attempting to spend money where it doesn't need to be spent in the first place. Student thoughts on SG more and more are negative.

"Nick (Phelps) is acknowledging that, in many ways, Student Government is failing the students," Montell said. "This is our effort this year to take the first step to appear transparent about what we're doing and why we're doing it. We are doing away with closed-door conversations between the president and chief of staff. We are making our process open to the students."

With an adviser, though, it would seem like future administrations would be deterred from wasting their time and resources.

More over, the adviser would be able to build and foster a relationship with the UK administration and help funnel resolutions to them and thus to the student body.

"We realize that there are some things we want to get done that we're afraid we won't be able to without help," Montell said.

This aspect would in turn help SG truly be more helpful to the students.

Phelps' plan to have an adviser is sound and can only bring benefits to the students, even if those benefits come with a \$50,000 price tag the university will end up paying.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Heterosexuals face same risks as gays

Martin Cotran, senior policy analyst for The Family Foundation of Kentucky, recently declared that "homosexual sex isn't a good idea," listing numerous diseases caused or transmitted by gay sex. What he doesn't say is that no homosexual engages in any sort of sexual activity that is not also practiced by many heterosexuals.

Heterosexual activities can lead to all those dreaded diseases and injuries he mentioned, but it gets even worse: women who contract the human papillomavirus, which causes cervical cancer, mostly do so from having sex with men.

Also, as everyone knows, heterosexuals also face the risk of unintended and unwanted pregnancies, which if carried to term can have many disastrous consequences: educations cut short, long-term and lifetime poverty, child support and possible prison time for not paying it, unwanted children being abused, "had-to" marriages with an extremely high divorce rate, risk of a severely handicapped child (which doubles a couple's risk of divorce), and much more.

If the pregnancy is aborted, there exists the possibility of severe guilt, medical complications, and maybe even eternity in hell. Childbirth can make existing health problems much worse, create serious new ones, and can even be fatal. Contraception can fail and occasionally has harmful side-effects.

Seems to me that when it's all said and done, gays come out on top.

PATRICK BUCK
Part-time instructor

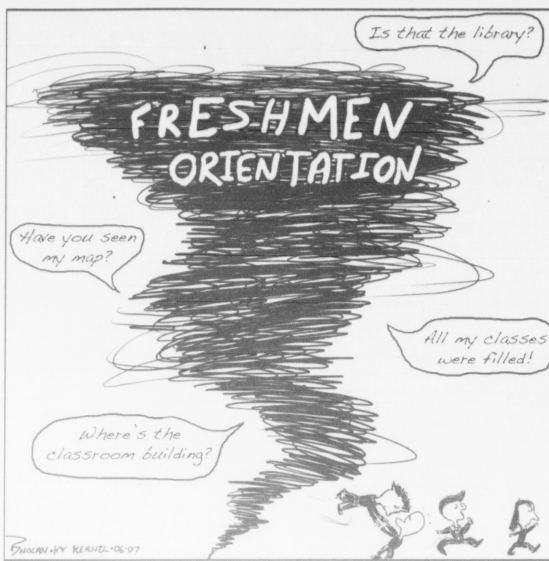
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Send a guest column or letter to the editor to the Kernel. Please limit letters to 350 words or fewer. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

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BRETT NOLAN, Kernel cartoonist

Just like the iPod before it, the iPhone will live up to expectations

Tomorrow thousands of people will flock to their nearest AT&T or Apple store, eagerly waiting to get their hands on Apple's newest toy — the iPhone.

Since its announcement by Apple CEO Steve Jobs this past January, the hype has been building around the iPhone like it's the second coming.

Electronics critics have been looking for any type of leak, or any type of spin they can put on the device that Apple refuses to let anyone test. Online magazines like Engadget, The Inquirer, and Slashdot have all scrambled to publish the tiniest bit of news every chance they get — hoping to score new readers off of such a popular story.

The iPhone is the most anticipated product of the year — but will it flourish like the Wii, or plummet like the PlayStation 3, both of which had similar hype to them?

Despite all the hype surrounding it, the PlayStation 3 failed miserably after its release, and the iPhone could do the same. There certainly are plenty of Apple fanboys out there, willing to buy anything with a luminous Apple logo on the back of it, but not enough to support a phone that costs a minimum of \$500. Apple won't be able to rely on just its consumer base to carry the iPhone.

The question, then, is whether or not the iPhone is as innovative as they want us to believe. When the iPod was

announced in 2001, it was ridiculed for being so expensive. Just like critics have said of the iPhone, no one believed the iPod would be worth the money.

So what happened? The iPod delivered innovation in a market that was scrambling for a winner — and the consumers ate it up.

Just like the MP3 market of 2001, the smartphone industry is scrambling. Sure, the Blackberry appeals to the business type — those suits and ties who are sending hundreds of emails a day — but what about the regular people?

We need a savior in the cell phone industry.

It's easy to understand why the iPod took the MP3 industry by storm. It's simple, it's innovative — and it's sexy. Apple managed to create a product that was easier to use than anything that came before it, and they turned it into a fashion statement. But can they do that same with the iPhone?

In order for the iPhone to win, it has to offer more than just a sleek design. It has to bring innovative features that change how the cell phone is used. And the iPhone does just that.

The multi-touch display on the iPhone is its primary selling point. It's the first touch screen phone that is designed with no buttons, and purely meant to be used with your fingers (no stylus). This will allow the iPhone's user interface to change for whichever program is running. Instead of having to decipher which key means addition and which means subtraction when you open your calculator program, you just tap on the right part of the screen. This is very appealing to phone users who are tired of having to memorize shortcut

keys. We will never again wonder if the left arrow key takes us to our text messaging or our camera.

Another innovation is the incorporation of "visual voicemail." Imagine checking your voicemail like you check your email. You open up your inbox and see a list of new messages — and you can listen to them in any order you want. We're all tired of listening to magazine salesmen leaving us long-winded messages on our phones — and now we don't have to. Visual voicemail allows us to delete and sort our voicemail just like we would email.

The iPhone also offers a fully functional web browser. Unlike other mobile devices that offer what the iPhone commercials refer to as the "watered down" internet, the browser built into the iPhone displays entire websites — allowing you to pan and zoom-in just by tapping the screen.

Of course the iPhone has a built in iPod — but that's old news. The integrated iPod is just a bonus feature for those of us who already own one — or at least an MP3 player. It would be nice to have a solid MP3 player like the iPod built into my phone, but when I've already shelled out \$250 for my iPod video, I don't think this addition is a strong selling point.

The launch this Friday will be big. Expect lots of noise and lots of fanfare, followed by a hailstorm of critics bombarding the iPhone with every ounce it takes to unseat Apple from its mighty throne. But when all of the commotion settles down, it's the innovations and ease of use that will determine the iPhone's success.

Does the iPhone have what it takes? I think so.

Eliminating student loan middle man will only cost co-eds more

Motivated by the incorrigible business practices of student loan vendors the federal government has recently been forced to re-examine its policies towards higher education.

It has taken 43 years, but Congress seems ready to address higher education and, for the first time since the inception of the GI bill (1944), we are told that substantial help is on the way.

The Senate and House have introduced bills that will regulate tuition costs, increase Pell Grant values and eliminate subsidies for the \$85 billion student loan industry. Sen. Ted Kennedy has proudly proclaimed that it "will reverse the crisis in college affordability" and "restore balance to our broken student loan system."

On the other hand, loan vendors such as Citigroup and Sallie Mae are crying foul. They believe the elimination of government subsidies will de-

stroy the market for student loans. Their arguments, clearly vested in self-interest, are valid. The government would effectively eliminate competition in the student loan market by administering these loans directly. Complete control of student financial aid would be in the hands of the government. Sound like a great idea? I think not.

In theory, the new program eliminates the middle man, thus streamlining the process and saving money. Unfortunately, it is not quite that simple. In the short-term it would be more economical, but will end up resulting in rapidly diminishing returns. Management of student loans would turn into another social welfare program, and these programs are monuments of inefficiency. There is no reason to rejoice in the establishment of a new bureaucracy. Lacking any competition from a free market, we would soon find ourselves in even more desperate circumstances.

Moreover, the proposed increase in Pell Grants, a post-secondary educa-

tional grant given out by the government, is modest at best. Over the next five years the maximum amount of money available for students will only increase from \$4,050 to \$5,200. Congress believes that this will "restore the purchasing power of the Pell Grant." It is absurd to even suggest that. By 2011, inflation will negate much of the \$1,150 increase and we will be forced to wait another decade before the Senate chooses to raise the maximum grant amount. It is not pointless to increase these grants, it will certainly help some students, but the modest increase is hardly cause for celebration.

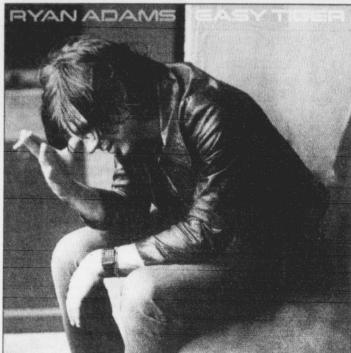
With respect to Sen. Kennedy, his optimistic scenario doesn't hold up to the light of reason. The system is broken, we're adults and we can accept that. But don't insult our intelligence by offering solutions that are insufficient (Pell Grant increases) or simply exacerbate the situation (eliminating subsidies). We have a genuine crisis, and it requires bold new policies, not hollow rhetoric, to seduce votes from frustrated students.

FEATURES

Features
Phone: 257-1915
E-mail:
features@kykernel.com

CD REVIEWS

By Josh Brock
features@kykernel.com



Ryan Adams — Easy Tiger
Prolific songwriter Ryan Adams delivers another solid release with *Easy Tiger*, his fourth album in two years. *Easy Tiger* is a mostly down-tempo affair that finds a sweet spot among his wide-ranging body of work. Few artists can merge classic country and modern folk-rock as smoothly as Adams, and the results are quite satisfying. The album's first single, "Two," is sure to satisfy devout fans and is capable of expanding his cult-like following.
For fans of: Ray LaMontagne, Wilco, Johnny Cash

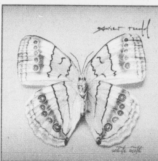
Lifehouse — Who We Are
The aptly-titled *Who We Are*, the fourth release from Lifehouse, finds the band continuing to produce radio-friendly rock songs. Long-time followers will feel at home among the album's tracks, while most fans of Top 40 radio will find something to love. "Disarray," the album's opening track, finds the band venturing into slightly heavier territory, while the title-track could easily sit on any other Lifehouse release. This album is a blueprint for commercial success — take that in the best possible way.
For fans of: Matchbox 20, The Fray, Five for Fighting



Chris Cornell — Carry On
Former lead singer of Audioslave and Soundgarden Chris Cornell, is known for his distinctive singing voice — a voice that links *Carry On*'s otherwise diverse tracks together. Ranging from the expected up-tempo rock of the opening track, "No Such Thing," to a haunting acoustic interpretation of Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean," the album never settles on a single style. Judging from the quality of this genre-hopping release, Cornell seems to be "carrying on" just fine.
For fans of: Hinder, Daughtry, Queens of the Stone Age



Xavier Rudd — White Moth
If Jack Johnson gave birth to Bob Marley's love child, the result might sound like Xavier Rudd. The new album, *White Moth*, from Australian singer/songwriter Rudd, showcases his brand of socially-aware surfer folk-rock. Songs such as "Twist" and "Come Let Go" reveal his reggae influences, while "Whispers" and "Whirlpool" let his softer side loose. Overall, this is a great album for laying back and enjoying the summer.
For fans of: The John Butler Trio, Ben Harper, Tracy Chapman



What's opening in theaters this week

By Stephen Becker
The Dallas Morning News

LIVE FREE OR DIE HARD

Bruce Willis returns for this fourth installment of the "Die Hard" franchise.

Opening June 29

RATATOUILLE

"Incredibles" director Brad Pitt helms this tale of a rat living in a Parisian bistro who has dreams of becoming a chef.

EVENING

Vanessa Redgrave, Claire Danes and Toni Collette star in this tale of two daughters coming to grips with their mother's impending death.

SICKO

Michael Moore's latest film points the finger at the American system of privatized health care and compares it with other industrialized nations.

Researchers may have been infected with biological weapons agent

By R. A. Dyer
McClatchy Newspapers

AUSTIN, Texas — Three Texas A&M University researchers became accidentally infected with a highly contagious biological weapons agent last year and then university officials covered it up, an Austin-based watchdog group alleged Tuesday.

The infections were confirmed in April 2006, but the university did not report them to the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention in Atlanta until recently, in violation of federal law, the watchdog group alleged.

The biological weapons agent is known as "COXIELLA BURNETTI," or Q Fever, according to the watchdog group. The organization's director said Q Fever is extremely contagious, although fatal in only 1 percent or 2 percent of cases and is treatable with antibiotics. However, a university official released a document that indicates the individuals did not become ill.
"A&M's infection of its staff and

students with bioweapons agents and its serial violations of (federal regulations) demand law enforcement," said Edward Hammond, director of the Sunshine Project, a bioweapons watchdog group based in Austin. He said the university should receive severe sanctions under the federal Bioterrorism Act.

"Congress surely did not intend biology professors to consider law to prevent bioterrorism optional," Hammond said. His organization was the first to report a separate A&M incident in 2006

in which another worker also became infected with a biological agent.

The university said that elevated indicators of Q Fever exposure were detected among three individuals during an annual survey for an occupational health plan. "In connection with the ongoing investigation by CDC, the university adopted a procedure in April 2007 that redefines occupational exposure . . . (and) we dutifully reported . . . to the CDC following the adoption of this procedure," A&M interim Vice President and Provost Jerry R. Strawser

said Tuesday in a statement.

"We are awaiting a CDC response and will have no further comment until that time," he said.

A spokesman for the CDC said that the agency had begun an investigation, and that it appears that notification protocols were not followed. But CDC spokesman Von Roebuck also said it would be left to the inspector general of the Health and Human Services Department to determine any penalty. He said he did not know when the CDC investigation would be completed.

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