



The Last Hurray

Y2K woes

The rail is basically over for the semester, year, decade and century. Everyone is worried about the millennium bug, which is going to be less damaging than a toaster that always burns your toast in the morning. Here are our ideas on what problems will actually occur on the stroke of midnight on the last day of the year.

The party will be one-fourth the size as predicted. Why, you ask? Because no one with a child will be going out unless Grandma is available to visit since no one is going to want to babysit on the last day of the century.

All the ladies that are now "with child" are hoping to give birth to the first baby of the New Year while in serious danger. Let's see, all the doctors with any experience will be sitting home with the kids wondering where all the babysitters are or out boozing it up. How would you like to give birth in a hospital with no power, water and a ward full of interns that probably were drinking anyway?

There will be hawking of Dom Perignon on street corners at 11 p.m. for \$500 since the stores have no more (buy some now - our investment tip for the year).

People will destroy things just because they will be surrounded by thousands of people nearly as drunk as they are. Better yet, the cops will probably be too drunk to care anyway.

Huge outbreaks of mono will occur as everyone will be kissing everyone.

Taxi drivers the world over will become the third highest-paid occupation for the year 2000 (after bartenders and waitresses) as the huge influx of drunk people will start waving \$100 dollars to get a ride a mile away.

The New Year's Day Bowl Games will be unexpectedly postponed due to the fact that the players as well as the fans will be too hung over to show up for the game.

This rail is completely Y2K ready and will not interfere with any bank transactions or the dispersal of beer.

Written by Samantha Essid and Ron Norton.

THE 411

Tomorrow's weather



51 32
Hi Lo
Partly sunny.

Kentucky Kernel

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News tips? Call: 257-1915 or write: kernel@pop.uky.edu

KERNEL



FINALS EDITION

Next week, a look back at the past 100 years | MONDAY

December 10, 1999

http://www.hykernel.com

THE SAGA OF SGA

Neel able to still serve as SGA comptroller

Tracy Kershaw

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

SGA comptroller Adam Neel can finally rest easily.

The student Senate voted 14-11 in favor of keeping Neel as comptroller Wednesday night.

Neel came under fire when allegations arose that he had neglected his duty to present the budget to the Senate each month.

The approved recommendation requires Neel continue his job under certain conditions. He must spend three hours in the SGA office weekly, receive training under the discretion of the chairman of the Senate, present the October and November budgets at the first Senate meeting of the

new year and submit budget reports in spreadsheet format.

Erin Yeager, chairman of operations and evaluations, hopes people will see Neel is not solely at fault.

"I hope this recommendation is not seen as a punishment for Adam. It is a compound fault of the Senate, executive branch and Neel," she said.

The operations and evaluations committee partially based its recommendation not to fire Neel on the fact that the executive branch did not fully explain to him the complete requirements of his job.

During debate, Sen. Ali Amoli mentioned President Jimmy Glenn's role in the comptroller issue.

"President Glenn is lucky that he has

not been reprimanded for not choosing a good comptroller," Amoli said.

Yeager said she is pleased her committee came to a decision to keep Neel from being fired.

In other SGA news, Glenn encouraged the Senate to attend the Board of Trustees meeting next Tuesday. At the meeting, President Wetthington will give his recommendation to the board for the SGA proposal to increase the number of students on the presidential search committee.

Vincent Fields, chairman of the Senate, stressed the importance of Tuesday's meeting.

"It is a pivotal time in UK's history. It is the first step in the empowerment of students at UK," Fields said.

Get involved

Support the Presidential Search Committee

The Board of Trustees meeting will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, December 14 on the top floor of Patterson Office Tower.

All students are encouraged to attend and show their support for increased student representatives on the Presidential Search Committee.

THE HOLIDAYS

'Tis the season to spend



HOW TIMEFLIES | KERNEL STAFF

What happened to the good old days of GI Joe and the Transformers? Today's youth (and a few too many college students who know who they are) have caught Pokemon mania. So for a younger sibling or a friend who needs to grow up, Pokemon might be the perfect gift.

Holiday shopping woes: Avoid the stress of the malls, and go alternative this shopping season.

By Lindsey Clouse

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Maybe you're not sure what to do about Christmas shopping this year. Perhaps you're tired of Wal-Mart, bored with the same scented lotion and CDs you give every year. Or maybe you're just not familiar with the area, and don't know where to find the really unique stores. Never fear, here are some suggestions about how to tackle the Shopping Monster.

If you're thinking about heading to the mall, it has its pros and cons. Fayette Mall has plenty of department and specialty stores, as well as unusual places like All Wound Up, Natural Wonders and the Learningsmith. The location is also nice. There are plenty of restaurants in and around the mall when you need a break, and there's a movie theater right across the street.

Mall shopping isn't for everyone. If you have little time on your hands or are already on the

verge of a stress-induced aneurysm due to impending finals, the long lines and screaming kids might do you in. If you don't have a car, or simply prefer to forego the holiday madness, here are a few helpful ideas that you'll find nearby.

The Paisley Peacock, on Limestone, offers a wide variety of gothic-style merchandise. Most of the clothing is beyond the budget of a typical college student, but you'll find sunglasses, shoes and even fuzzy handcuffs that will better fit your wallet. Don't forget to check out the bead room in the back. You can pick from a large assortment of beads, stones and charms to make your own jewelry. This can add a nice personal touch to a gift.

Special Media, upstairs from the Peacock, carries art, incense and books on every topic from alternative healing to Zen Buddhism. Looking for a charm, an herb, a spell or an unusual print? This is your place. They also have

common novelties that make good gag gifts (need a stress doll?).

If vintage clothing is what you're after, check out Zing at 214 W. Maxwell. They have jeans, skirts, shirts and shoes to suit every taste. Prices are reasonable and the staff can be quite pleasant as well. The Zebra Lounge on Maxwell has similar goods, but bring your credit card. Their prices might be beyond even Santa's means.

New Age Gifts is another good stop for the alternative shopper. They have all kinds of T-shirts, plus body jewelry for all your 2,000 parts. It's also a smoker's paradise: Try some Djarrum cloves (100% legal) for your addicted friend. Not too steep at \$4.50 a pack.

If all else fails, you might want to trek over to Kismet at 321 S. Ashland. They have some interesting jewelry and clothes as well, and some unusual hats for those with wild tastes. You'll also find bumper stickers for every interest group out there.

Merry Christmas and happy shopping!

MILLENNIUM

What Lexington will be doing at midnight



One Lexington couple stocks up on various items for both the holidays and Y2K at Sam's Club on New Circle Rd.

DAE GRODIN | KERNEL STAFF

By Jennifer Sciantarelli

STAFF WRITER

Hotels

Stuck in Lexington on New Year's Eve? Don't pout. More than a few parties will be around to help you ring in Y2K.

Clubs

A1A Sandbar and Grille: Z103 will be broadcasting live. Really Big Box will be playing at Riptides. Soupbone will be playing at the rooftop garden. The dance club will be completely renovated. The party begins at 7 p.m. Cover charge.

Club 141: Dancing, shows and a champagne toast at midnight are just part of the fun. Cover includes party favors. The festivities begin at 8:30 p.m. Cover charge.

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The Phoenix: Appetizers, open bar and entertainment, what more could you ask for? Festivities begin around 9 p.m. \$50 per couple, \$30 single.

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Other

Comedy Off Broadway: Phil Kelley will be performing. His 10:30 p.m. show will run through midnight, ending with a balloon drop. The \$75 per couple tickets includes party hats and a bottle of champagne.

Ramadan

As today marks the beginning of the month long Islamic holiday Ramadan, last night Lexington-area Muslims pray at the Islamic Religious Center on South Limestone. Ramadan is a month of fasting used to celebrate the revelation of the Koran to the prophet Mohammed. "If you do something wrong you go back and correct and fix it. Ramadan has to do with a kind of annual preventive maintenance with a human being, physically, intellectually and spiritually," said Saleman Darrat, professor of Islamic studies at UK.

DAE GRODIN | KERNEL STAFF



THE PIGSKINNY

Bowling, with receivers too

Nashville Bound: This year's squad could be better than last, says Mumme, Whalen

By Adam Spaw
SPORTSDAILY EDITOR

Sometimes, most often around UK sports, history is worth repeating. Which is probably worth noting 15 years after the football program last appeared in back-to-back bowl games.

It was 1984 when the Cats redeemed a previous postseason loss to West Virginia in the Hall of Fame Bowl with a one-point victory over Wisconsin. Of course, UK coach Hal Mumme hopes to imitate then-coach Jerry Claiborne's late-December mojo when his team takes on Syracuse on Dec. 29 in the Music City Bowl in Nashville.

"This team wants to win this bowl game and equal last year's record," Mumme said.

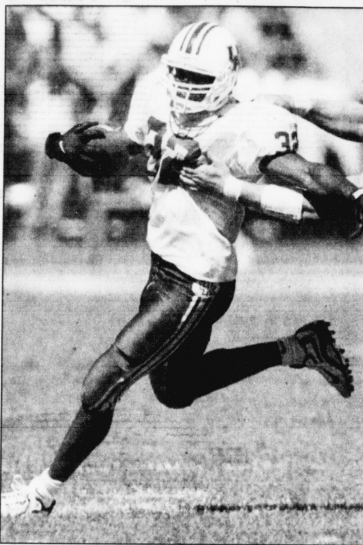
Some might consider that a tall order for this year's Cats, which defeated only one team with a winning record (Arkansas) and whose average margin of defeat was 26 points. But then again, Syracuse isn't exactly the Penn State-type collection Tim Couch and company faced in UK's last season Outback Bowl loss.

After jumping out to a 5-1 start and a No. 16 AP ranking, the tradition-rich Orangemen have since dropped four of five and plummeted to 6-5. Along Syracuse's slide were disappointing losses to Boston College and Rutgers, in addition to blowout defeats to Virginia Tech and Miami.

"I know they haven't had the kind of season they had hoped to, which makes them dangerous," Mumme said. "They're a talented team."

UK (6-5, 4-4 Southeastern Conference) didn't finish with a flourish, either. The Cats dropped their last three of four games, with a last-minute squeaker over Vanderbilt on Nov. 13 in Nashville.

"When we played at Vanderbilt it was a huge game for both teams, but I still considered that a home game for us," Mumme said. "You looked up and the place was half-full with Kentucky fans."



UK running back Anthony White, shown here in an early-season win over Indiana, will try and help lead the Cats to a Music City Bowl win over Syracuse. It will be White's last game as a Wildcat.

JAMES CRISP | KERNEL STAFF

Part of UK's late-season woes can be attributed to its core of injury-plagued receivers. Before games even began, quarterback Dusty Bonner was left without the services of senior Jimmy Robinson. A season ending injury to sophomore Dougie Allen would soon follow, backed by missed games from Gary Davis, Brad Pyatt and Quentin McCord, who will return to action against Syracuse.

"To get guys like Quentin and Brad will be a big lift for us," Bonner said. "They are just so fast that they can separate from people in a hurry. Any time you get a player back, it helps."

"We began the year as a young

team and towards the end of the year we just kept getting younger and younger because of the injuries," free safety Anthony Wadja added. "By the end of the year the sophomores were being looked at as the most experienced guys on team."

The UK coach recalled a day in August when All-American-to-be James Whalen told him the 1999 Cats would be better than Mumme's second rendition of Air Raid in Lexington.

"That can be true," Mumme said. "If the records are the same, I'd say this team is a better team because they played together and overachieved. They weren't as talented, but they were better in the team concept."

HOOP TIME

Cats to face familiar foe in College Park

Homecoming: UK guard Keith Bogans returns to Maryland after pouring in 17 on the Terps already

STAFF REPORT

Keith Bogans will return to his home state and try to wreak havoc on Maryland once again.

The UK freshman guard scored 17 points in 22 minutes when the two teams clashed just five games ago on the Wildcat slate in the semifinals of the Preseason NIT in New York. UK prevailed, 61-58.

"I want to do anything that will help this team, whether it's coming off the bench, scoring or starting," said Bogans. "Whenever coach puts me in the game, I'm ready to go."

UK has since run into some early season growing pains, dropping three straight for the first time since 1989-90. The Cats' wounds were healed, however, after a rout over a winless UNC Asheville squad Tuesday night in Rupp Arena.

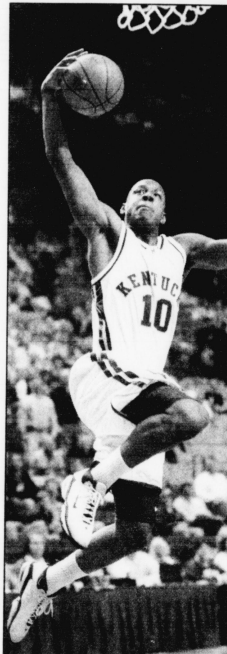
"We're a young team and people have to understand that," said UK center Jamaal Magloire. "One reason I came back my senior season was to be part of this team and the talent we have."

Win number one over the Terps didn't come easy for UK. The Cats let a 16-point first half lead wither to a 52-52 tie with less than six minutes to play. A potential game-tying three pointer by Maryland at the buzzer slid off the back of the rim.

Maryland was knocked off by George Washington a couple weeks ago and had to take Winthrop to overtime for a win on Tuesday. Despite the Terps' recent struggles, the UK players know they'll have their hands full in College Park, Md.

"They'll play us tough," sophomore Tayshaun Prince said. "We know what they're going to do and they know what we're going to do."

"Hopefully we'll start off against Maryland where we left off tonight," Magloire said after UK's win over Asheville.



JAMES CRISP | KERNEL STAFF

UK guard Keith Bogans returns to his home state Saturday night when the Cats face Maryland. Bogans scored 17 on the Terps in 22 minutes earlier this season.

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CONGRATULATIONS BETH FLOYD

Beth Floyd is a graduating senior in Agricultural Economics and has chosen a career at Archer Daniels Midland Company in commodities trading.

ADM is one of the largest grain and food processing companies in the world. Based in Decatur, Illinois, ADM is continually expanding throughout the United States as well as in China, Europe, Mexico and South America.

Beth found out about ADM's career opportunities from career services on campus and scheduled an interview with ADM. After completing a two-stage interview process, Beth was offered a position as a commodities trader. In April, she will begin a 4-6 month hands-on training program that will expose her to all aspects of ADM and commodities trading.

ADM is looking forward to having Beth join our team.



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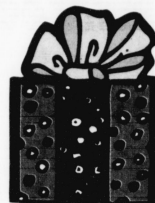
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FILM

The films that forever changed cinema

Films and filmmakers that influenced the art form of the Twentieth century

By Matt Mulcahey
ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

Although it appears to be merely a flat surface, there's something magical about a movie screen. It's a doorway, a portal into another world, another dimension. Film is the ultimate escape from reality for dreamers.

Here are the films that most shaped and influenced the way we view film. (With thanks to UK professor Dr. Greg Waller for his insights, which make up a large portion of the following list).

1. **Birth of a Nation** (1915)

D.W. Griffith's silent classic began the American film's never-ending quest for epic spectacle.

2. **The Wizard of Oz** (1939)

Released at the height of the studio system, *The Wizard of Oz* typified old Hollywood's flair for the grandiose with its colossal scale and glorious Technicolor.

3. **Citizen Kane** (1941)

Landmark film made innovations with its deep-focus cinematography and fractured narrative. It introduced the idea of the auteur, with Orson Welles serving as actor/director/producer/co-writer at the age of 24.

4. **A Streetcar Named Desire** (1951)

The moment Marlon Brando burst onto the screen with his mix of brute intensity and raw sexuality, acting would never be the same. Along with James Dean in *Rebel Without a Cause*, Brando helped transform acting and paved the way for method actors like De Niro, Pacino, and Hoffman.

5. **Bonnie and Clyde** (1967)

Along with Sam Peckinpah's bloody band of anti-heroes in *The Wild Bunch*, *Bonnie and Clyde* forever changed the way movies viewed violence.

6. **Night of the Living Dead** (1968)

Night of the Living Dead was the first horror chic before *The Blair Witch* filmmakers were gleams in their father's eyes. The predecessor of all modern horror films and an important example of American independent film.

7. **The Godfather** (1972)

Francis Ford Coppola's epic tale of the dark underbelly of the American dream gave a brief glimpse into the director-dominated cinema that started to emerge in the '70s with fellow mavericks like Scorsese and Altman.

8. **Jaws** (1975)

Jaws heightened the blockbuster mentality with cross marketing tie-ins and saturation booking. Started the changes that *Star Wars* made irreversible, paving the way for cineplexes.

9. **Raging Bull** (1980)

Scorsese's masterpiece examines the rise and fall of self-destructive, volatile boxer Jake LaMotta. Scorsese's incessantly moving camera and black-and-white cinematography turn the violent, bloody world of boxing into a ballet of movement, a beautiful mix of brute strength and grace.

10. **Pulp Fiction** (1994)

Pulsating, lightning-quick mix of violence and gallows humor. Tarantino borrowed a lot and influenced even more with his scatter-shot narrative structure and pop-culture saturated dialogue.

Raging Bull



"You never got me down Ray"

Picking up the gauntlet thrown down by Brando, Robert De Niro redefined the benchmark of a great performance with his complete physical (he gained over fifty pounds) and emotional metamorphosis into violent, self-destructive boxer Jake LaMotta in Scorsese's *Raging Bull*.

ALL PHOTOS FURNISHED



A Streetcar Named Desire

As the primal Stanley Kowalski, Marlon Brando forever changed acting by bringing the method approach into vogue.



The Godfather

Francis Ford Coppola's mafia saga was an offer filmmakers couldn't refuse and it made stars of Al Pacino, James Caan, and Robert Duvall. Contributed greatly to the all-to-brief period in the '70's when creative control was wrestled away from number-crunching studio heads and placed in the hands of filmmakers.



Pulp Fiction

Invaded the pop-culture consciousness like no other film of the 90s. The movie featured John Travolta's 87th comeback and one of Bruce Willis's rare good performances. *Pulp Fiction* has been endlessly imitated since its 1994 release, but no other film has come close to matching its level of cool.

LOCAL SCENE

End the millenium in style

Options for those trapped in Lexington

By Jennifer Sciantarelli
STAFF WRITER

Stuck in Lexington on New Year's Eve? Don't pout. More than a few parties will be around to help you ring in Y2K.

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There is a Santa Claus

From the Editorial Page, New York Sun, 1897

I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?"
— Virginia O'Hanlon

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virgins. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus? Thank God he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, say 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

DIALOGUE

5 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1999 KENTUCKY KERNEL

IN OUR OPINION

Stopping law abuse

Kickball lawsuit another example of selfish lawsuits

Whatever its origin, our society and the social interaction within it are becoming increasingly litigious. The law has always played a prominent role in determining the way people behave in social settings and, within a reasonable scope, this is clearly a good thing. The law provides boundaries for people and provides a framework in which we can expect most people to act. This legal structure loses much of its appeal when it stops directing social interaction and begins restricting and actually eliminating many of the ways we have come to deal with people.

It is increasingly apparent that the tendency of our society to place blame on others for problems in our lives has led to the expansion of our legal structure far beyond its desired limits.

One example that perfectly illustrates the dangerous, and even just mind-boggling, way in which the law is being misused in social situations gained recognition last week. A cafeteria worker, who was supervising children at an after-school activity at Russell Cave Elementary, was hit by a kickball with which the children were playing. Apparently during a game, the soft kickball ricocheted off of a wall and hit the cafeteria worker in the jaw. She now claims that she has

damaged vision in one eye and an injured jaw from the incident, and is suing the parents of the kid who kicked the ball. Though she reportedly asked the students to be more careful with the game, the incident was clearly an accident. It seems extremely doubtful that the elementary school-age child could have hit the lady in the jaw from any distance, even if that had been his intent. One could only imagine the kid calling the shot, "Off the wall, under the banister, over the school bus, one bounce — nothing but jaw!"

For our legal system to even hear out this clearly frivolous lawsuit not only takes time away from legitimate cases, but also lends it a certain amount of significance which could only encourage other such cases.

If indeed this woman has sustained the injuries she describes, she clearly deserves our pity. It is another thing all together to say that the boy and his family are legally responsible for the injuries.

Accidents happen. Sometimes events largely beyond our control determine the major twists of our lives. To blame anyone vaguely associated with instances of "bad luck" is clearly misguided and hurts society as a whole by making people weary of being sued for even the most innocent misstep.

During Finals, keep the faith



Dave Gorman
KERNEL COLUMNIST

It seems that if you ask anybody on this campus how they are doing, you will get the "F" word thrown back in your face. I'm not talking about the four-letter word that our mothers would take a soap bar to our mouths if we use, but the six-letter word that is kryptonite for even the most elite of college students: finals.

Even the most smart, organized, prayerful, in-shape, well-studied and rested students have fallen victim to the "F" word. The problem is that we need to realize that we are not the victims of finals, but the victims of ourselves. There have been more than many ways thought out of all our problems but we do not recognize them.

We need to realize that the decisions we make everyday will form and shape the rest of our lives. It wasn't the books or the professors who decided not to study and prepare for tests, papers and finals.

We were the ones who strayed off the straight and narrow path of studious workmanship. Although I do not want to leave an impression that school work is the only reason we go to college, I do want to emphasize that we need not be stressed in times like these.

I hold on to one of my favorite "F" words during these wonderful times: faith. We all should know by now that faith moves mountains, but faith does not go without works. Please do not use the Lord as a cosmic bellhop (thank to Leroy Young for the phrase) if you are not a friend of his in prayer and give yourself to him totally.

Many have heard the popular phrase, or verse from Kirk Franklin's song, that God won't put more

on us than we can bear. A Biblical truth stands behind that, and a way to do what is right always exists.

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." (1 Corinthians 10:13) This verse also shows us that where there is a will there is a way, so please follow God's will for you. Another one of my favorite "F" words, especially now, comes to mind: Father.

If you don't know what I am talking about, I mean Father God. He will look after his children and hear our prayers. Let us not lose sight of him as we sometimes get caught up in the rat race of college life. Keep your mind on your creator and know that he has blessed us so we can handle all of this. If you don't know the Father, I can lovingly tell you that first you have to know the Son.

In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." That is to say we must accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior to get to Heaven.

And to relate that to the mood of this week, we must also accept that we have to study to get good grades on our finals.

Many of us have learned lessons the hard way during finals. Let's make an earnest effort to learn from our past in all areas, especially in our work. It's funny how many times people have to be taught a lesson before they actually learn from their mistakes and make a change with the man in the mirror (that's Michael Jackson).

We will find the answer when we pray, and we will also find the answers when we study.

Kernel Columnist Dave Gorman is a journalism senior. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel.

PARTING SHOTS

Final Word

The Question:

In just a few days, Christmas will be upon us. For many, it's a time when we appreciate the people around us by giving and receiving gifts. Many people have been quite naughty over the past year in the local, regional and national spotlight. What one person (or persons) deserves a lump of coal in his or her Christmas stocking due to his or her actions for the past year?

What They Said:



Senator Robert Byrd (D) W. Va., strip-mining pimp, deserves a mountain of coal for destroying The Mountain State's mountains!"

— Mark Vanderhoff, Editor in Chief

Bryant Gumble, for his shameless behavior: His wife is right — infidelity is disgusting."

— Marianne Lorenson, Kernel Columnist



Any boy band, hands down. If hell has a radio station, then they should all be on it."

— Danny Tenkman, Contributing Columnist

Jim Gray, NBC sportscaster, deserves a lump of coal in his stocking for his badgering of baseball great Pete Rose."

— Natalie Johnson, Contributing Columnist

No one is more deserving of an industrial size lump of coal than Senator Mich McConnell (R) Ky. The only problem is that he would turn it into a diamond and sell it to finance the Republican National Committee."

— Scott Marchand, Kernel Columnist

Bill Clinton deserves a lump of coal because he didn't provide us with enough scandals to make Jay Leno interesting this year."

— Rebecca Burke, Contributing Cartoonist



I think that country singer Loretta Lynn should receive it, after all, she is a Coal Miner's Daughter."

— Gary McCollum, Kernel Columnist

These views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel

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Letters should be approximately 250 words. Guest opinions columns can be no longer than 600 words.

Include this info

Include your name and major classification (for publication). For verification include your address and telephone number, which will be kept confidential.

The Kernel reserves the right to edit all material received.

Jennifer Kasten

CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

Imagine world without the First Amendment

Since everyone has gotten so disturbed over the First Amendment recently, I say abolish it. It would create less controversy by far and essentially create a happier, more compliant America. What would we miss?

All those scary fringe cult-like religions, such as Judaism, would be gone. Look at Jonestown, look at Waco, look at the Hale-Bopp comet-chasers, look at the entire state of California and tell me that the national image would not be better if for the sake of these groups. No more leechlike religious cult members asking for your money in airports, no more Muslims (everyone knows to be an American is to be a blond Christian anyway), no more embarrassing the federal government when it burns a score or so American citizens inside a walled-off compound. America will truly be the utopian City on a Hill our forefathers envisioned when they fled from Cromwell.

With the unwanted sects no longer cluttering the spectrum of American religious life, one denomination should take prominence — God knows America needs a state Church to plot the spiritual course for the nation. We have a Christian heritage anyway; why not actualize it? Pat Buchanan and Gary Bauer will finally win more than 0.003 percent of the vote, and any sort of organization that routinely opposes Christianity, such as the American Civil Liberties Union, The Nation, or atheists could then be criminalized. Think of the collective sigh of relief the country could breathe when we could finally realize that the mass persecution of good God-fearing people would finally be over. Think about how much safer it would be to separate the hellions from the elect via some sort of mass boxcar-transfer-to-unknown-rural-walled-compound mechanism. Our children will grow up in an atmosphere un-

poisoned by heterodoxy; no more worries about them straying from the fold — there will be no other option!

Speaking of the ACLU, abolishing the First Amendment would stop all this idiotic whining over the so-called "freedom of speech" and "freedom of the press." How would America — I mean America — be better? No more degrading art exhibits such as "Sensation" or Robert Mapplethorpe, no more slanted leftist media bias, and most importantly, no more controversy over things that nobody really objects to anyway (like posting the Ten Commandments, or "change over time," or Jerry Falwell, or shooting homosexuals). Scott Crossbie can be our leader, the burning of the purple teletubette our national image. And the so-called Free Speech Area on campus would go the way of the dodo, removing the possibility for any other unpleasant incidents or mildly disturbing rhetoric.

The recent World Trade Organization protests demonstrate why it is so necessary to remove the final clause, "the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." It's all just a bunch of tree-hugging hippie crap anyway, and people in monarch butterfly costumes screaming over something as insignificant as awarding China Most Favored Nation trading status tarnishes our image (where would the national supply of cheap plastic Burger King toys be without such agreements?). Down with candlelight vigils for ridiculous causes, such as Human Rights or hate crimes! It has been clearly demonstrated that our nation would thrive under this new system. Why was this even in the Constitution in the first place?

Jennifer Kasten is a French and biology junior. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel.

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