

KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Seminar points out far-reaching meth dangers

By Blake M. Tyra
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Methamphetamine use is not just a drug problem.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Hydee Hawkins, it's a "national epidemic," affecting otherwise law-abiding Americans and their children, and is the number one drug that law enforcement battles today.

This was the focus of an hour-long symposium last night in the Small Ballroom of the Student Center for National Methamphetamine Awareness Day. The day was created after President George W. Bush issued a proclamation earlier in November.

"On National Methamphetamine Awareness Day, we underscore the dangers of methamphetamine and reaffirm our collective responsibility to combat all forms of drug abuse," Bush wrote in a statement.

Hawkins was the speaker at the event. She has been prosecuting meth cases for 15 years.

Three students and eight adults listened to Hawkins as she detailed the physical effects of meth, the basics of meth production and the effects of meth usage and production on children.

Sometimes called the "poor man's cocaine," Hawkins said that the effects of meth last for 14 to 16 hours and that the user cannot sleep during that time. She said she has seen many cases of truck drivers using meth because it allows them to drive all night.

"I can't think of anything worse than an 18-wheeler on the road with a driver that's under the influence of meth," she said.

Because of its potency, 99 percent of users are hooked after their first try, Hawkins said. There are 1.5 million regular meth users in the U.S. with one to two labs being discovered each day.

"If you do not stop, if you do not get help, you will die," Hawkins said.

In addition to death, meth usage can cause blindness, tooth decay and birth defects as well as many other health complications.

Hawkins stressed that meth affects many children.

From 2000 to 2005, 15,000 children were removed by law enforcement from homes with meth labs, she said. Many of these children had been exposed to the chemical fumes used in making meth, but the long-term dangers of such exposure are unknown.

Kentucky is one of 41 states currently restricting the purchase of pseudoephedrine, a common

See **Meth** on page 6

Video game tourney gives to children's hospital

By Emily Covert
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Videogames and helping children.

UK's chapter of Phi Sigma Pi, a co-ed National Honor Fraternity, hopes both will be on the minds of gamers this weekend as it hosts a Halo 2 tournament to benefit the Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville.

The chapter is teaming up with a national charity called Child's Play, which donates toys to children's hospitals, for the event. The tournament will be held from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday in the Cat's Den in the Student Center. The fraternity is hoping that enough people will sign up to fill all 128 tournament slots.

"Gaming appeals to a wide range of people, and that's what we're about," said Erin Malony, president of the chapter and a philosophy and political science senior. "It gives people (on campus) the opportunity to come together and have fun for a good cause."

Although participating in the tournament is free, the chapter hopes that the gamers will throw in a few bucks, said Jessica Cox, public relations committee chair and linguistics senior. She's hoping it will be enough for Child's Play to buy something fun for children.

"We would like to raise money for a full (gaming) system and a game — so about two hundred dollars," Cox said.

All the donated money will go to Child's Play, who donates toys to children's hospitals.

See **Halo** page 6



Education sophomore Danny Charles, left, strings lights on the Kappa Sigma house along with finance sophomore Matt Birunoff and civil engineering sophomore James Nyquist yesterday afternoon.

LIGHTING UP CAMPUS

Members of the Kappa Sigma fraternity decorated their house on Hilltop Avenue by stringing lights across the roof, in the windows and around the trees yesterday afternoon, spreading a little holiday cheer to campus.



Members of Sigma Kappa put up Christmas lights and decorations on their house yesterday afternoon.

ELLIOTT HESS | STAFF

Nobel winner to speak on proving Einstein theory

By Katie Sultz
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Wolfgang Ketterle is probably not as well known as Bill Nye the Science Guy among most college students. But then again, Bill Nye has never won a Nobel Prize.

Nobel Laureate Ketterle will be on campus today to discuss his work in the field of atomic, molecular and optical physics. Ketterle, a physics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was awarded the 2001 Nobel Prize for physics along with two other physicists at the University of Colorado. UK physics and astronomy professor Susan Gardner said that the research Ketterle did was monumental because it achieved the Bose-Einstein Condensate.

The Bose-Einstein Condensate refers to a state of matter achieved close to absolute zero, the temperature at which there is no heat energy remaining and molecules stop moving. In 1925 Albert Einstein predicted that atoms would behave abnormally once they reached temperatures close to absolute zero, basing his theory on the works of physicist Satyendra Nath Bose. In 1995, 70 years after this prediction was made, Ketterle proved the theory.

"They proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that this theory really existed in practice," Gardner said.

Keith MacAdam, a professor in the UK Department of Physics and Astronomy, said that before Ketterle's work, physicists had only reached the temperature of one-thousandth of a degree above absolute zero.

"They reached one-millionth of a degree above absolute zero," MacAdam said. "That is colder than anything in the universe. Atoms were displaying strange and unfamiliar quantum mechanic properties."

With these conditions, Ketterle was able to study the properties of a new condensate.

"They achieved a situation where a cloud of extremely cold atoms fell into lockstep with one another and acted as one unified thing," MacAdam said. "They could study the properties of the new condensate to find out what atoms do when they are not separated but acting in concert."

This kind of technology has to do with precision measurements and time keeping, but MacAdam said the specific applications of the research are still unknown.

"In research you often find the answers before you know the questions," MacAdam said. "People think that researchers know what they are doing, but the very nature of research is that you don't know what you are doing."

MacAdam encourages people to come listen to Ketterle and catch a glimpse of the outermost boundaries of physics.

"Ketterle is the most brilliant, creative and enthusiastic figure in his field," MacAdam said. "He is a very good speaker with colorful and interesting graphics."

Ketterle will be speaking at the Chemistry-Physics Building at 3:30 p.m. today.

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LIVE PATIO MUSIC THE WORLD FAMOUS TWO KEYS TAVERN UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

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 10 - Be your own scout and check out the territory you mean to acquire. Some of the information can be found in books but a visit is still required.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 6 - You don't have to make a lot of noise about your success. Living comfortably is the reward you've been after. You're making it happen.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is an 8 - You and everyone else on your team have a common objective. Don't let them forget what it is

for a minute. Your full intention is required.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 6 - It's a tough job but that's why it pays so well. Don't take any chances. Before you say you'll do it, get a very comfortable contract.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 10 - Make a list of all the stuff you'll be, do and have by this time next year. It's early but the odds are in your favor now.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 6 - You'll develop the plan. You can even draw it on a big chart, so the others know what they're supposed to do. Make an offer they can't refuse.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 9 - You're looking very good, and so is somebody you love. Graciously let yourself be talked into doing something you'll greatly enjoy.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 5 - First, finish the job you started and collect your reward. Later, celebrate with a person who always

makes you smile.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 10 - Get started early and use the skills that you've been practicing. Wonderful sensations are waiting to be experienced, by you.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 5 - A few of the items you've had stashed away have appreciated in value. The trick is to figure out which ones have, and get them to the right market.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is an 8 - Having a wide range of points of view at your disposal is good. Ask the others if any of them understand this gibberish. Somebody undoubtedly will.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 5 - You remember things that other people like, and other people like that about you. And, it can help your career, but only if you're sincere.

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the DISH

From near-strangers to inseparable, Britney Spears falls under the spell of new best friend Paris Hilton as the single stars take L.A. by storm

After Britney Spears took the stage at the American Music Awards to present the honor of Best Female Soul/R&B artist November 21 in L.A., she ditched her formal gown and headed over to the Hollywood Hills home of new friend Paris Hilton for a VIP afterparty. But when Spears arrived and saw the L.A. fashion queens, she second-guessed her look of jeans and a shirt. "Britney felt insecure about her outfit," a guest says, "so Paris brought her up to her bedroom closet and dressed her up in a blue tutu with a sequined sweater, plus white high heels to set it up." Hilton donned a tutu of her own to match her BFF's, and the two headed down to Hilton's in-house stripper pole to dance. "At one point, they came running out, as happy as schoolgirls, straight to the bar," says a party-goer. "Paris led Britney behind the bar and asked the bartender to make several shots of a green drink with vodka."

Just another night on the

Spears-Hilton party tour, which, after stops at L.A.'s hottest nightclubs Hyde (November 22 and 25, when they actually split a pair of stockings and each wore one leg), Teddy's (November 22) and Les Deux (November 24), may be coming to your town soon - or at least your TV screens. A Fox rep tells us exclusively, "Britney and Paris are cohosting the Billboard Awards" on December 4 in Las Vegas, where the twosome first connected on November 19. "I love her," Hilton, 25, told us while shopping in Malibu, California, November 27. "She is the sweetest girl I know. She's so down-to-earth. I just want her to smile and be happy." Hilton seems to have the magic touch: "I'm doing great!" Spears tells us. "Everything is fantastic."

Wunder Twins

Things might have not felt so fantastic if the newly single Spears, 25, hadn't found herself all alone November 19, just three weeks after filing for divorce from Kevin Federline, dad to her two sons, Sean Preston, 14 months, and Jayden, 2 months. In Las Vegas to record some tracks for her new album, Spears was invited out by Palms resort honcho and longtime Spears family friend George Maloof, who decided to play BFF matchmaker and bring her to dinner with Hilton, 25. "Britney has been fascinated with Paris for a while," says a source close to Spears. "Especially

while she was out of the 'cool crowd' that was going out." Adds another Spears confidant, "Britney literally knows no one in Hollywood. And Paris knows everyone." After a meal at the Venetian's Tao Asian Bistro, Spears and Hilton retreated to the ladies' room, where they locked themselves in a bathroom stall to primp for 20 minutes. (In the process, Spears lost her black tie.) After a stop at nightclub Tryst, Spears got to try her luck with her role model at blackjack (winning, of course, \$15,000) at the Playboy Club, before finally retiring at 6 a.m. to Spears' suite at the Sky Villa for a no-boys-allowed sleeperover. "They just let loose and had a good time," says a close Hilton source. "Issues of jealousy always come up. Britney isn't threatened." In fact, she's open to any tips from Hilton, particularly in the style department. "Brit asked if Paris could help her with a complete makeover," says a source close to Hilton. "Paris has agreed to take her shopping for a new wardrobe."

And so Spears' skirts have been getting shorter and shorter, and her necklines have become more and more plunging as she has spent almost every night of Thanksgiving week with Hilton, keeping a schedule that would make even the most avowed club kid beg for mercy.

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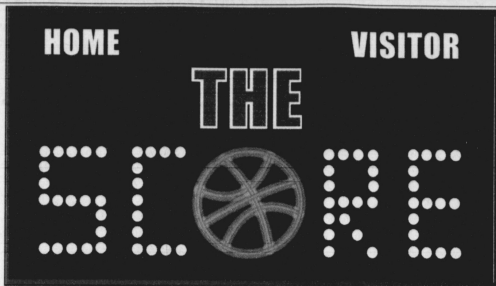
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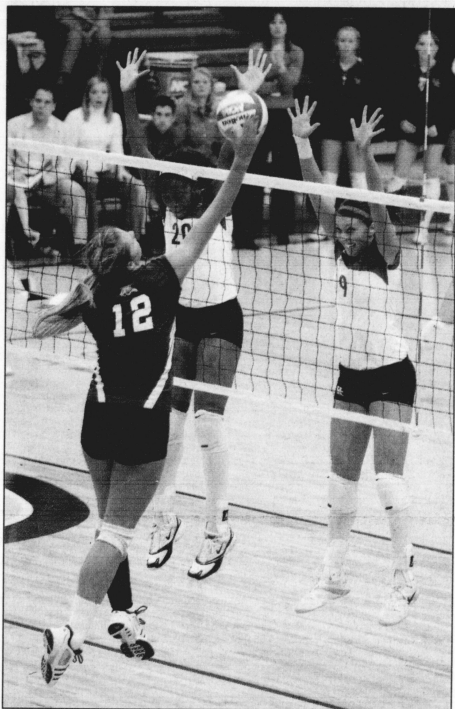


“I really thought we were going to win the tournament. I was a little disappointed we lost, but we did some positive things and we’ve got to take that and continue on.”

— UK guard Joe Crawford on the Maui Invitational

ROUND WON

Cats win first NCAA tournament game for first time since 1992



PHOTOS BY THOMAS SANDS | STAFF

UK middle blocker Queen Nzenwa, left, and outside hitter Ashlee Fisher block the ball against Ohio University 3-2 in the first round of the NCAA tournament last night. Nzenwa had a team-high 23 kills in the game.

By J.D. Williams
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West Lafayette, IND. — The UK volleyball team accomplished what they couldn't last year as they defeated Ohio University 3-2 in the opening round of the NCAA tournament yesterday at Purdue University.

The Cats (19-11) overcame an early deficit against the Bobcats (28-5) to take the game (20-30, 30-27, 24-30, 30-26, 15-9) and advance in the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1992.

Early in the first game, OU pounced on UK and took a 15-6 lead that left the Cats in dismay and resulted in an immediate timeout by head coach Craig Skinner to focus his team.

“I told them (during the timeout) it was important for us to stay positive and consistent and get focused because we knew that Ohio was capable of having a big offensive night and obviously they were doing just that,” Skinner said.

Senior defensive specialist Jenni Casper answered Skinner's call with a dig to keep the ball alive for a kill by freshman outside hitter Heather Hausfeld that started a 6-3 run for the Cats.

But as UK mustered a stingy defensive and an offensive surge, OU was able to keep its lead and ended the game on a 12-8 run to capture the first game of the match with a lopsided 30-20 win. The Bobcats offensive blitz was catapulted by limited attack errors. In the first game Ohio's hitting percentage was 32.5 and had only five errors, as UK struggled, nabbing only 13 kills on a 14.0 hitting percentage.

After losing the first game, the Cats looked to their All-Southeastern Conference duo, sophomore middle blocker Queen Nzenwa and junior middle blocker Nicole Brienkner to provide the lift for the Cats.

In the second game the middle blockers combined for a combined 16 kills on a .842 hitting average and no errors.

“Cutting back on errors increases the chances of capitalizing on offense,” Nzenwa said.

With UK ahead 18-17 and OU attempting to make the score even, sophomore setter Tess Edwards leaned over to motivate Nzenwa.

“We do really good blocking together so I told her to get up high toward the center,” Edwards said.

Nzenwa did just that, and sparked the Cats to rally. She recorded her sixth kill of the game, and after UK gave up a point to Ohio she nabbed her seventh of her team high 23 kills, increasing the Cats' lead to 29-27.

“(Nzenwa) is definitely a good player and she is a high jumper,” said Ohio junior outside hitter Stephanie Blackburn. “She's so tall and I just couldn't jump that high.” Blackburn said about defending Nzenwa.

A service ace by UK sophomore defensive specialist Alisa Pierce clinched the game for the Cats 30-27.

UK lost the third and fourth games as the players had their backs against the wall in the fourth and fifth games in a gut-wrenching seesaw showdown.

“We didn't stop them and they didn't stop us,” said Ohio head coach Geoff Carlston.

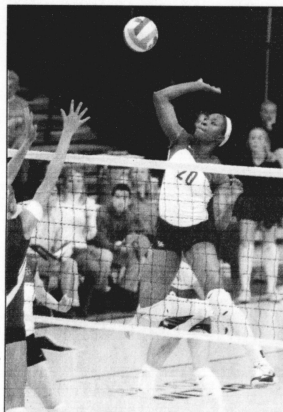
After an offensive explosion in the second game, Skinner changed the team's game plan to buckle down more on defense. That change pushed the Cats to a victory.

“Going into the fourth and fifth games they were out-digging us by about 15 digs, and it ended up they dug us by four, so I know our defense was able to capitalize on some shots that they weren't making,” Skinner said.

After winning the fourth game and with the team's season goal of advancing in the NCAA tournament on the line, the Cats were focused on getting out of the opening round with a win.

“We knew that it was do-or-die at that point,” said Brienkner, who finished the game with 20 kills on a .567 hitting percentage. “We were not ready to go down, so we threw everything we had out there and grinded it out to the end.”

UK will play Purdue in the second round of the NCAA tournament after the Boilermakers swept St. Louis yesterday in their opening round (30-21, 30-20, 32-30).



Middle blocker Queen Nzenwa, hits the ball across the net last night against the Bobcats.

Cats hope to carry defensive momentum with them to Chapel Hill

By Jonathan Smith
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When junior guard Joe Crawford dove for a loose ball not once, but twice on one possession in UK's game against College of Charleston on Tuesday night, it seemed to send a spark through the team.

Unfortunately for the Cats, his hustle play came in the second half when the game was no longer in doubt.

“That's something that we hadn't really seen,” said head coach Tubby Smith. “Not just with Joe, but the entire team.”

As the Cats (4-2) prepare for their showdown with No. 6 North Carolina (5-1), they can take into the game the fact that they bounced back nicely from the disappointing 1-2 trip to Maui by holding

Charleston to 32 percent shooting, and by the double-digit margin of victory.

But a link in all of those games has been the Cats' tendency to not start out with full intensity.

If the Cats keep the trend up tomorrow in the 21,800 seat Dean E. Smith Center, home of the Tar Heels, they could be in for a repeat of the 2004 game, in which they fell behind 24-6 and 36-19 en route to a 91-78 loss.

“That's going to be very essential, probably critical for the whole game, that we don't fall behind as far as we did (in 2004),” said center Randolph Morris. “It's going to be a tough job but I think we're up to that challenge.”

For the Cats, it's been a challenge to not fall behind by less than five points in the first half.

In four of the six games, the Cats

have trailed by at least five points before halftime.

Against Memphis, UK got down by six before losing by 17; against UCLA, the Cats dug themselves into a 17-point hole; in the season opener against Miami University, UK fell behind by 10, before rallying to win.

In the Charleston game on Tuesday, the Cats had to come back from a five point deficit to win by 16 points.

The worst part about the sluggish start against Charleston was that the Cats scored only half a dozen points by the 10-minute mark in the first half.

“Early on in the game we did not set the intensity level,” Morris said. “We picked it up toward the end of the half, and we started playing the way we wanted to.”

One reason the Cats may have gotten off to the slow start against

Charleston on offense was because of the work they put in on defense after coming back from Hawaii.

In Maui, UK gave up an average of 78 points per game, and allowed its three opponents to shoot 49.5 percent.

To fix that, the Cats focused harder on defense in practice, which the team said may have caused the early lapse on offense.

“We started the game excellent on defense, but we couldn't get it going on offense,” Crawford said. “We did pick it up, but we've got to figure out a way to play well on both ends of the floor.”

And if the Cats don't, they might not be able to make up for a lack of enthusiasm against a Tar Heel team that knocked off No. 1 Ohio State on Wednesday.

“We don't need any motivation,” Morris said. “They're in the top-5 and that's motivation enough.”

North Carolina vs UK

		UNC(5-1)			
Pos.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pts. Rb.
G	Ty Lawson	5-11	193	Fr.	11.0 3.5*
G	Wayne Ellington	6-4	195	Fr.	13.3 2.0
F	Rayshawn Terry	6-8	232	Sr.	8.3 5.7
F	Tyler Hansbrough	6-9	245	So.	20.7 9.7
F	Branden Wright	6-9	205	Fr.	15.7 7.

		UK (4-2)			
Pos.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pts. Rb.
G	Ramel Bradley	6-2	176	Jr.	12.0 3.1*
G	Joe Crawford	6-5	211	Jr.	14.0 4.0
F	Bobby Perry	6-8	215	Sr.	6.0 3.0
F	Sherry Thomas	6-8	285	Sr.	1.8 2.4
C	Randolph Morris	6-11	259	Jr.	16.0 8.0*

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KERNEL EDITORIALS

Despite increased test length, GRE changes will benefit students

Ignoring for a moment the terrifying idea of sitting in a room for four hours instead of two and a half to take the GRE, the changes that will take effect in the fall should actually turn out to benefit students.

Every student who applies for a graduate school program must take this exam, which is expanding from five sections to seven sections and will be set up in a new linear form, according to Monday's Kernel article.

"This is the biggest change in the 55-year history of the test: it is going to affect every aspect of getting into the graduate school of your choice," said Jung Lee, GRE program manager for Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions, in the Kernel article.

Considering how big of a change this is and how long it's been since the GRE has had such a change, Lee and his colleagues probably debated the pros and cons extensively before making the final decision.

And a change like this, while sometimes hard to accept, deserves some respect from those it will affect.

The current version of the exam is set up in an adaptive form, so that the difficulty of each question asked is based on answers to previous questions. As a result, a student could potentially flop a question and never make it to other questions that he or she would be perfectly capable of answering.

Security issues are also a problem with the current version.

"The current test has a pool of questions each test draws from and some students would spot the questions on the Internet," Lee said in the Kernel article. "The new linear form prevents repetition of questions."

The new linear form also gives students a chance to answer all the possible questions on the exam. Focusing on higher cognitive and reasoning skills, it should give a better prediction of how successful a student will be in graduate school.

Other changes, such as the decreased number of testing times during the year and the different scoring scale, will take some getting used to, but shouldn't have a negative effect. Although the test will be administered only 30 times each year, there will be more testing locations, and students should be able to plan ahead in order to schedule their test day without much difficulty.

As for the increase in time, well no one really wants to sit down and take a four-hour test, but the test should be more accurate and more fair as a result. And as students who plan on getting into medical school or law school would probably argue to those whining about the added time, the MCAT lasts over five hours and the LSAT lasts three hours, so the new GRE length is not as ridiculous as it appears.

All in all, as much as the idea of a four-hour GRE makes most students who plan on taking it cringe, it should be worth it.

Funds for UK suicide prevention program worth it

The number two cause of death among Kentucky's youth is suicide, which accounts for twice the number of citizens' deaths resulting from homicide and AIDS, according to Dr. Julie Cemel, an assistant professor of social work at UK and the Kentucky Suicide Prevention Group's chairwoman.

Now through the Garrett Lee Smith Act enacted in Congress, Kentucky is set to receive \$1.2 million in funding over three years to combat the high number of suicides.

Dr. Mary Bolin-Reece, director of UK's Counseling and Testing Center, agreed that suicide is a major problem.

"Preventing suicide is everybody's business and not just the responsibility of mental health professionals," Bolin-Reece said. "It is crucial that any hints of suicide risk be taken seriously."

Suicide was the 11th-ranked cause of death in Kentucky from 1992 through 2002 and 15 percent of people seen at the Counseling and Testing Center reported having suicidal thoughts, according to Bolin-Reece.

This money is important to the state and to the young people below the age of 24, whom suicide most affects. The funding to Kentucky mental health services will go toward suicide prevention and awareness as well as increased availability to those in need. This is an important factor in decreasing suicides in Kentucky.

This is a positive step for Kentucky and for the youth of the Commonwealth. Perhaps the most important part of this funding is the benefits it will give to survivors, loved ones and other people connected to a suicidal loved one.

"Preventing suicide is everybody's business and not just the responsibility of mental health professionals," Bolin-Reece said. "It is crucial that any hints of suicide risk be taken seriously."

With this grant money, suicide prevention will be.

Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Wes Blevins. 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

Columnists needed

The Kernel is looking for new columnists to write for the Opinions page on a regular basis. Columnists of all interests will be considered, but The Kernel especially seeks those who have an interest in local issues.

Contact Wes Blevins at opinions@kykernel.com



BRIAN GOODLEY, Kernel cartoonist

Make the world safe for democracy — but make sure it's safe here first

A recurring theme in President George W. Bush's speeches since the fall of Saddam Hussein has been that people everywhere yearn to live in freedom.

"As Americans, we believe that people everywhere prefer freedom to slavery and that liberty, once chosen, improves the lives of all," Bush said in an Oct. 6, 2005 speech to the National Endowment for Democracy.

Racists of a right-wing bent have been critical of these platitudes, arguing that attempts to build democracy "only understand force" and are incapable of self government. Enlightenment values, the argument goes, just aren't for everyone, especially not people whose skin happens to be dark.

But we need not make false and bigoted generalizations about foreigners to show that Bush is wrong about a universal yearning for freedom. Plenty of Americans choose tyranny over democracy in their everyday lives.

I'm not talking about the U.S. public's continued complacency about federal infringements on our civil liberties, such as warrantless wiretapping or indefinite detention of American citizens. Only White House decision-makers and Washington bureaucrats actively participate in those institutions of

tyranny: the rest of us just passively accept them.

Rather, I mean the local oligarchies to which so many people freely cede their personal liberties: the "homeowners' associations" that wield unseemly power over subdivisions throughout suburban and exurban America. They decide what people can do on their own property, going far beyond reasonable rules like "Don't play cymbals on the front lawn at 3 a.m." and into micromanaging what can be hung on the porch.

To wit: Last week, a homeowners' association in a subdivision 270 miles southwest of Denver told Lisa Jensen, who had put a peace-sign-shaped Christmas wreath on her house, that she would be fined \$25 for every day that she did not take down the wreath, according to articles in the Denver Post and the Associated Press. Apparently the peace symbol violated the prohibition of displaying "divisive" materials outside. (The association eventually relented and dropped the fine threats, though only after overwhelmingly negative national press coverage of the case.) I think this case just might encapsulate everything that's wrong with America right now.

First you have the militarism — going beyond the oft-uttered (and never-disputed) "support the troops," into making war a desirable value in itself. What else are we to take from the fact that a symbol of peace can be considered "divisive"?

It's a reflection of "over the hill" and foreign policy to recapitulate the culture wars of the 1960s. Hoping for global peace is a hip-

pie value and should be opposed because ... um ... someone spit on a Vietnam veteran 35 years ago! Real Americans understand that violence is necessary to get their way.

But these knights-errant of the American empire are fighting windmills — the 1960s are over, as far as the left is concerned. Just go to Daily Kos (www.dailykos.com), the popular Web site for Democratic activists, and look at the non-stop lovefest for Virginia senator-elect Jim Webb, the man who led the fight against the Vietnam Veterans Memorial for being a "wall of shame."

The second (and perhaps even more disturbing) cultural pathology revealed by the peace-wreath controversy is how much control people want to have over their lives. We hear over and over that American political culture is "individualistic," yet people want to fine their neighbors for what they put in their lawns.

That's not a good sign for a healthy democracy. A diversity of views — just as of cultures, religions, races, sexual orientations, and what have you — is inevitable in a large, democratic country.

The way to deal with that reality isn't to create homogenous, authoritarian localities within the varied whole. A better method would be to embrace small-liberalism — free speech and open dialogue.

So if you want to express your pro-war views, do it by hanging the militaristic symbol of your choice on your own door, not by silencing your neighbor's dissent.

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'Sex sells' attitude promotes unrealistic standards for normal women

Sex sells. If you go into any major advertising company there is a 99.9 percent chance that this quote drives their advertising ideas. Because of advertising, women, and even young girls, are given a false idea of what they are supposed to look like and eat.

Models in most ads are shown as the ideal shape and complexion that a woman should be. Over time, the idea of beauty has changed. In the old days it was better for a woman to be slightly pale and overweight because this meant she never went out because she was a wealthy housewife and that she ate very well because she was able to buy food.

On the other hand, it was seen as ugly if you were dark, had a tan and were skinny because this meant you were poor, had nowhere to live, you stayed outside and you had no food.

In today's world the perception is the exact opposite: Women go on insane diets and go to tanning beds numerous times just to look appealing. The reason that this happens has been speculated for years, but I believe it's obvious: The media have caused women to think that they must be of perfect size and looks to be accepted.

The sad thing is that this thought starts at a very young age. A 1991 study found that 81 percent of 10-year-old girls are afraid of being fat. I don't know about you, but I find this to be ridiculous. Why are our youth worrying about how much they weigh, when they should be worrying about what time they

are going to watch Disney.

This happens as a result of advertising in magazines, newspapers and on TV for plastic surgery and cosmetics. It has been proven that as a result of reading a health magazine or just simply seeing advertisements, women feel worse about their looks and body shape.

The average female model is 5-foot-11 and weighs about 117 pounds. On the other hand, the average woman is about 5-foot-4 and weighs 140 pounds. Fashion models are thinner than 98.7 percent of American women.

This just goes to show that the supposed perfect body is nearly impossible for every American female to achieve and that a normal woman can never be compared to a female model.

Another piece of information I found to be amazing is that the majority of models aren't perfect enough; most of the time these pictures of models are digitally enhanced so that the women will look more perfect. Another huge problem is age. In the public eye a woman is at her best physical state until the age of about 25; after she reaches this age she is considered "over the hill," and younger stars will take her place.

This can be compared to how Britney Spears is starting to fade and people like Hilary Duff and Lindsay Lohan are starting to become very prominent stars. As always, with men it's the exact opposite. When men get older they are considered in their prime and a lot sexier; this is shown by men such as George Clooney and Harrison Ford.

Another problem that advertisers have increased is sexism. Everywhere you look you can see some type of advertisement in which a woman is looked down upon or seems inferior. In magazines such as ESPN, female athletes are usually photographed in sexual poses, but on the other hand men are pic-

tured as being masculine and tough. In other advertisements, women are dehumanized; I can promise you that you can open a magazine and find an advertisement in which a woman's head is cut off and all you can see is her midsection and lower body.

A survey done on 7th through 9th grade boys showed how sexism is taking over their minds. When asked if they were to spend \$10 to \$15 dollars on a woman, would it be OK to force sex against her will, 24 percent of boys agreed that it would be. When asked if they knew that the girl had had sex with other men, 32 percent said forced sex was OK. Finally, when asked if it was OK after they had been dating for 6 to 12 months 65 percent of boys agreed.

This just goes to show that not only young girls, but also young boys are being changed mentally by these advertisements. If this is evident in young children then violence against women at an older age is inevitably going to happen. Studies have shown that crimes against women have grown four times more frequent than any other general crime.

Advertisers are not all to blame for this; we are the consumers and we show, by buying their products, that we like their advertisements and that they work.

It is our job to stop sexism, dehumanizing women and causing women to lose self-confidence just because they aren't up to par with the models of the world. This ongoing trend needs to be stopped, but once again the change starts with you.

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FRAME BY FRAME

This week's box office hits and misses

By Ricky Simpson
features@kykernel.com

Babel

Starring: Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett, Rinko Kikuchi

Every year there is at least one film that the national review gushes over and forces me to see only to find the celebrated film is in fact miserable.

In 2002 it was "About Schmidt," in 2003 it was "Mystic River," in 2004 it was "Fahrenheit 9/11" and in 2005 it was "Brokeback Mountain." This year it's "Babel."

To dwell on the unsatisfying points of a film is not in my nature, but a brief summary of my displeasure with this picture is that I do not feel it accomplishes what it sets out to achieve. There are 142 minutes of uninteresting intertwining stories. And the film does not even get to the bottom of some of them.

To say anything, this film lacks. It lacks characterization, it lacks a driven plot, and it lacks character communication.

That being said, I can count this out of one of my "Fav Five" for 2006, but there will be a number of awards handed out for individual performances. In particular, Brad Pitt's performance is great, and he shines in a number of intimate personal moments on screen. Of course, I'm sure you're surprised I say this. But to my knowledge he

has been underrated for years after a series of Oscar-worthy performances. A few people may also remember that he was nominated for Best Supporting Actor in 1995 for "Twelve Monkeys."

Still, the one you will be talking about after the flick is Rinko (Kikuchi Chieko), who never speaks throughout the film but dominates the screen. Her ability to portray such tortured inner emotions as a troubled adolescent and to use such unorthodox ways of speaking out is heartbreaking and troubling. Chalk her up for the red carpet in March.

This film is not as politically driven as advertised. Instead it focuses more on the relationships in the film, which should be good for those hesitant to go because of any politics involved. However, the film comes off as a weak effort and the plot is sometimes absent. In the end, you feel like you just ate a sandwich with no meat. The bread is simply not filling.

Grade: C+

Opening Today

The Nativity Story

Starring: Keisha Castle-Hughes, Oscar Isaac

This will be a breathtaking depiction of the "greatest story ever told." The tale of the first Christmas comes to life in a new way with Oscar nominated Keisha Castle-Hughes portray-

ing Mary as she and Joseph (Isaac) make their perilous journey to Bethlehem where the world is changed forever.

Playing At: Cinema Fayette Mall, Movies 10 Codell Dr., Regal Hamburg Pavilion

Turistas

Starring: Josh Duhamel, Melissa George

Here's a concept for a film: have a handful of beautiful teenagers encounter strange murderers while on a backpacking trip. That is the originality we love from tinsel town. Maybe next year we can have a sequel with a machete slashing hockey goalie. Lets cross our fingers.

Playing At: Cinema Fayette Mall, Regal Hamburg Pavilion

Van Wilder 2: The Rise of Taj

Starring: Kal Penn

I am not ashamed to admit that "Van Wilder" was actually a pretty funny movie. Now Taj (Penn) returns to lead a new group of socially inclined schoolmates to the world of college coeds. The original was a surprise hit and may give this one enough steam to become a sleeper hit as well.

Playing At: Cinema Fayette Mall, Movies 10 Codell Dr., Regal Hamburg Pavilion

Upcoming DVDs

Pirates of the Caribbean - Dead Man's Chest (Dec. 5)

Starring: Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley

"Dead Man's Chest" received lukewarm reviews and mixed opinions from the public. There's a bit of irony with this statement though. Although "Dead" was given less than stellar reviews, it out grossed the original.

24: Season Five (Dec. 5)

Starring: Kiefer Sutherland

Jack Bauer (Sutherland) is back averting disaster with his trademark insomnia and impeccable timeliness. The series continues to draw ratings because it continues to be good. Many postpone their viewing of the series until it is released on DVD, and now it is time for that 24-hour TV binge.

Miami Vice (Dec. 5)

Starring: Colin Farrell, Jamie Foxx

The classic duo of Sunny Crockett (Farrell) and Rico Tubbs (Foxx) joins us straight from the 1980s with a new hip look behind the trademark gritty camera lens of Academy Award-nominated director Michael Mann (The Insider).

HALO

Continued from page 1

Child's Play has also partnered with online retailers such as Amazon.com, where children's hospitals place wish lists of toys they need, along with the games and gaming systems that children have selected.

The Seattle-based Child's Play has spread overseas, and now donates toys to hospitals in countries such as Canada, Australia, Africa, England and Egypt.

In 2005, Child's Play's toy drive raised over

\$600,000 in toys and monetary donations for 20 hospitals in the U.S. and around the world, which put the gaming community's contribution level well over the one million dollar mark for the three years it has existed.

"There are no 'administrative fees' or other hidden costs associated with giving to Child's Play," said Jerry Holkins, co-founder of Child's Play, in a statement on the Child's Play website. "Every cent is passed on."

Cox would like to see the tournament continue at UK in the future.

"This is a trial run," Cox said. "We would love to make this a pre-dead week tradition."

METH

Continued from page 1

decongestant in cold medicine and a key ingredient in homemade meth production, by placing the medication behind pharmacy counters.

Van Ingram, of the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy, expressed doubt over the effectiveness that limiting access to pseudoephedrine is having on meth production.

"Folks who make meth won't be put off," he said.

At UK, Holly Hopper coordinates the Drug Endangered Child Training Network and is

chairwoman of the Kentucky Alliance for Drug Endangered Children.

Hopper said that she works with the Colleges of Dentistry, Medicine and Public Health, as well as the Kentucky Public Safety Cabinet to help children affected by meth and other drugs.

"We put forth a concerted effort to protect and treat kids," she said. "We are making progress, but there's always more to do."

Undeclared freshman Stephanie Kenney was one of the three students who attended the symposium. She said she went for her UK 101 class.

"I really liked it," she said. "I didn't know it was just so easy (to make meth)."

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