



**WEATHER** Cloudy today,  
high near 35. Rain possible  
tonight, low of 20. Cold and  
wet tomorrow, high near 35.

**HITTING IT** Injuring Scott Padgett means  
definite win for Cats who face Camisius  
tonight. See Sports, page 2



# WeD

December 10, 1997

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ESTABLISHED 1894

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

INDEPENDENT SINCE 1971

## Lack of funds closes center

By Erin Gritton  
Contributing Writer

Students with children will no longer have the opportunity to use UK's Evening Child Care Program. At the end of the semester, Erikson Hall, where the drop-off center is located, will close its doors. Sponsored by the College of Human Environmental Science's Department of Family Studies, the program will not receive funding this year.

"It is too costly to run it anymore," said Jae Lee, director of the program. "With Lexington's chancellor not supporting it this year, it can't afford to stay open."

The program has been open since 1986. When it was started, various sponsors funded the facility, such as the Academic Support Services and the Office of Continuing Education for Women. The Office of the Chancellor,

along with the college itself, has been the main supporter in recent years. The program costs parents \$6.50 a night for the first child and \$3.50 for each additional child. Parents pay a \$20 supply fee at the beginning of the semester for the first child and \$10 for the next child.

"We have tried over the years to maintain the cost and keep it affordable for the parents," said Retia Walker, dean of the college. "It has been \$5 in the past and just increased to \$6.50, and we think that is pretty reasonable."

The remaining money needed to run the facility totaled nearly \$2,000 in past years. The lowest deficit has been the 1992-1993 school year, when it was \$290. Chancellor Elisabeth Zinser's office paid the deficit during her first year at the University, but last year the debt was paid by the college.

The closure of the program leaves many parents without child care while

they attend class.

"It is going to be a real crunch for many parents," said Laurie Gardner, social work graduate student and parent. "Child care services are so expensive at night, I'm not sure what the parents are supposed to do."

Although it seems parents are left out in the cold, Lee said there shouldn't be a problem.

"Since it is not getting utilized from many students, we don't see this as a big issue," Lee said.

On the average night, the program would have two or three kids. There have been nights when no child was dropped off.

"The facility is a drop-off program, so we never knew how many kids were going to be there in one night," Lee said. "This is not a good way to run this kind of program."

Lee attributes the lack of use to some complaints she has received from par-

ents. The aspects include the hours of operation and the ages the ECCCP accepts kids at. The hours are Monday through Thursday 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Children can be from 2 to 12 years of age.

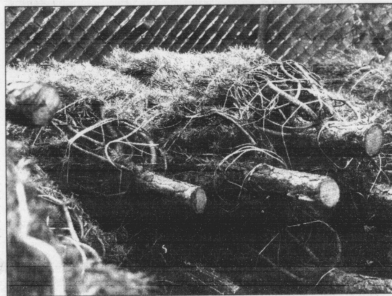
Suggestions have been to open earlier and stay open longer. Also many parents have infants which are too young for the center to watch.

Walker says this is an important service for many students but adds that the responsibility should not be borne by the college alone.

"It should be a service offered, but we don't know how to solve the issue of how to pay for it," Walker said. "This needs to be a universitywide decision."

Public Affairs Director Ralph Derickson said this is an issue that will not be resolved easily.

"We realize that it should be offered," Derickson said, "but who is going to pay for it and who will provide the services?"



## Christmas Tree

Group sells trees grown in the state

By Brian Dunn  
Assistant News Editor

Tom Kimmerer and his three children decorated their Christmas tree last night. Linden, 15, Larkin, 10, and Will, 3 months, helped string the tree, a 7-foot eastern white pine, with popcorn and cranberries. Well, Linden and Larkin decorated the tree.

"Will's a big help," Kimmerer said of his infant son before going home last night. "He's in charge

of drooling."

The Kimmerers plan to donate the tree, edible decorations and all, to the birds when they finished with it — their way of helping out the environment.

In the same vein, Kimmerer's buying the tree from UK's Student Forestry and Wildlife Association was his way of helping out the club's future plans and the Kentucky farmer, he said. The club has been selling Kentucky-grown Christmas trees at the Thomas Poe Cooper Building since Dec. 1, hoping to raise money for its future trips to conferences.

Not only does buying a tree from the forestry club help with its expenses, it also helps Kentucky farmers who raise the trees as a supplemental income to their main crops and livestock, said



**FAMILY TREE** Dan Bishop, an education student, picked up a tree at the UK Forestry Club's tree sale behind Cooper Hall on Central Campus.

## New public relations director OK'd

Former Royal Caribbean exec becomes UK spokesman

By Joe Dobner  
Staff Writer

The December Board of Trustees meeting is traditionally short, and this year was no exception.

Only part of the president's report was covered, and briefly, as the meeting started late.

Dean Tom Lester of the College of Engineering covered the first item on the agenda.

Lester was hired in 1990, and gave the board a hybrid of a progress report and a departmental overview.

The National Science Foundation ranks UK 55th out of 196 engineering schools nationwide. President Charles Wethington said he antici-

pates that UK will move into the top 20 engineering schools in the next century.

Wethington then introduced UK's new public relations director, Lloyd Axelrod. Bernie Vonderheide, the outgoing public relations director, served for 23 years and is now retiring.

Axelrod was formerly employed by Royal Caribbean Cruises as their public relations director.

The board approved all of the following action items presented at the meeting:

- ▼Granting authority over the community college system to the Board of Regents of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System

- ▼Approval of the degree candidates from the Community College System and the Lexington Campus
- ▼Transferring ownership of the Crisp Higher Education Center in Paducah to Murray State University.
- The \$2.2 million generated over 20 years will be used to back bonds for a new educational facility at Paducah Community College.
- ▼Approval of budget revisions for the 1997-98 fiscal year, acceptance of the interim financial report from July-Aug. 1997 and the quarterly capital construction report
- ▼Authorization of a compliance program for the medical center to prevent fraud and abuse.
- The authorization states that the federal government requires that, "healthcare providers will take a proactive stance in assuring conformity with applicable laws."
- The federal government mitigates sanctions against medical centers that have compliance programs.
- ▼Waiver of the required compliance with Senate bill 398 for the proposed law enforcement associate degree program at Prestonsburg community college.
- The program has not yet met its affirmative action goals.
- ▼Appointment of Luther Deaton, Jr. and JoEta Wickliffe and the reappointment of Alan Bloomfield to the board of directors of the Kentucky Business Partnership Foundation for four years
- ▼Acceptance of four gifts and pledges totaling \$695,000 dollars
- ▼Renewal and additions to three ongoing leases
- ▼Sale of the real estate donated to

## NEWSbytes

### NATION One killed in fire at Greenville dormitory

GREENVILLE, Ill. — When Ed Conkle woke to a loud crash and soot flowing from beneath the door of his dorm room, he figured someone was playing a trick on him. Then he saw the flames.

Conkle escaped unharmed, but one student died and seven others were injured in the fire early Tuesday at Greenville College in this southwest-ern Illinois town.

"I watched the door light on fire, then the computer, then the stereo. That's when I started hauling rear," said the 19-year-old Conkle, peering through glasses still smudged with soot.

The fire apparently began in a lounge area adjacent to Conkle's room. It gutted half the 29-year-old building. Investigators searched the building for clues to the cause.

The college identified the student killed as Joel Pierce, 22, of Warren, N.H. Firefighters found his body just outside his room in the most heavily damaged part of the building.

Pierce, a junior, was scheduled to be married Dec. 20.

### Teacher will not face prosecution

GEORGETOWN, S.C. — A teacher accused of forcing two kindergarten students to eat Moon Pies they threw away will not face prosecution. State Attorney Charlie Condon said Tuesday that a review of the investigation found there was insufficient evidence against Josie Solomon, who was scheduled for trial Dec. 22 on two child cruelty charges.

A teacher of 14 years, Ms. Solomon could have faced a maximum of 30 days in jail or a \$500 fine on each of the misdemeanors.

Her lawyer, David Hood, acknowledged that Ms. Solomon warned her students at McDonald Elementary School not to take food they wouldn't eat during snacktime Nov. 21.

When two 5-year-old girls threw away their Moon Pies after taking just a bite, she reminded them of the rule, he said.

According to a school investigation, one of the girls plucked her chocolate-covered cookie and marshmallow snack out of a classroom trash can and a teacher's aide retrieved the other Moon Pie and put it in front of the second girl.

"At no time was any food eaten out of any garbage can, period. And we were prepared to go forward with that in court," Hood said.

There was no answer at the school district office late Tuesday.

### STATE Carneal may be tried as adult

PADUCAH, Ky. — A grand jury may meet as early as Friday to consider criminal charges against a high school freshman accused of opening fire on his classmates.

Michael Carneal, the 14-year-old student charged as a juvenile in the shootings, was expected at a closed-door hearing in McCracken District Court on Wednesday, when a judge was all but certain to transfer his case to adult court.

Under Kentucky law, a person at least 14 who uses a firearm to commit a felony must be charged as an adult. Once that happens, courthouse sources said a grand jury will meet Friday to consider an indictment.

Once indicted, any criminal trial — if the case ever reaches that stage — wouldn't begin for nine to 12 months.

Carneal, at an unidentified juvenile detention center in another part of Kentucky, is charged with murder, attempted murder and burglary.

## NAMEdropping

### Slater arrested for beating girlfriend

LOS ANGELES — Actor Christian Slater agreed Tuesday to a 90-day jail term for beating his girlfriend during a drug and alcohol binge, then fighting police who found him screaming in a hallway.

Slater was not in court, but his attorney, Michael Nasrati, entered no contest pleas on his behalf to battery on a dating partner, battery on a peace officer and being under the influence of a controlled substance. Three other counts were dismissed.

"I have been acting since the age of 8 and I have been a celebrity for a long time," Slater said in a statement issued through his publicist. "And when you're a celebrity, you start believing you can act off the screen any way you want without consequence."

"Now I know that that is not the way I wish to live my life, and I'm ready to take responsibility for my actions."

His plea came one day after actor Robert Downey Jr. was ordered to spend six months in jail for violating parole on a drug conviction.

Slater's term is to be followed by three months in a residential drug treatment program. He must begin his sentence sometime before Jan. 10 and enroll in a yearlong batterers treatment program, said Ted Goldstein, spokesman for the city attorney.

The 28-year-old star of the movies "Broken Arrow" and "Interview with a Vampire" was arrested Aug. 11 after officers were called to a brawl at the posh Wishire Boulevard condominiums.

Police heard screaming and found Slater in a stairwell "swinging his arms and yelling incoherently."

Compiled from wire reports.

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# Padgett takes pain for wins

## Cats takes break from top opponents

By Brett Dawson  
Associate Editor

Need a win? Smack Scott Padgett.

It's worked so far for the UK men's basketball team. The Wildcats (6-1) have yet to lose a game when the junior forward suffers an injury.

In UK's season opener against Morehead State, Padgett took a spill and banged his head against the floor. Against George Washington, he suffered a black eye. Against Missouri he twisted his thumb. During the Clemson game, Padgett was kneed in the thigh. Against Purdue he took a shot to the nose. And last Saturday against Indiana, Padgett caught an inadvertent elbow from teammate Heshimu Evans.

"Against Arizona, I didn't have anything happen," Padgett said. "It's my fault we lost."

And though UK coach Tubby Smith jokingly threatened "to break one of my fingers if we're in a tight game," Padgett said, "I don't expect it to come to that tonight when No. 4 UK takes on Canisius (4-1) in Buffalo, N.Y."

The Cats travel to brand spanking new Marine Midland Arena (thanks in large part to a fat guaranteed payout) tonight to cap off a long string of miles logged. But the Golden Griffins — projected in a coaches' poll to finish sixth in the eight-team Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference — promise to provide less of a challenge than have recent foes like Arizona, Clemson, Purdue and Indiana.

"We try to teach our players that no game is any bigger than the next," Smith said. "Certainly there is that (let-down) aspect. But that is one of the reasons we practice. We are going to prepare for Canisius the way that we prepared for Indiana, Purdue, Arizona and everyone else."

That's often easier said than done. After a down-to-the-wire affair like UK's 75-72 win over IU, it's understandable that the Cats could have a tough time with self-motivation.

**UK vs. Canisius**

8:15 p.m.  
Marine Midland Arena  
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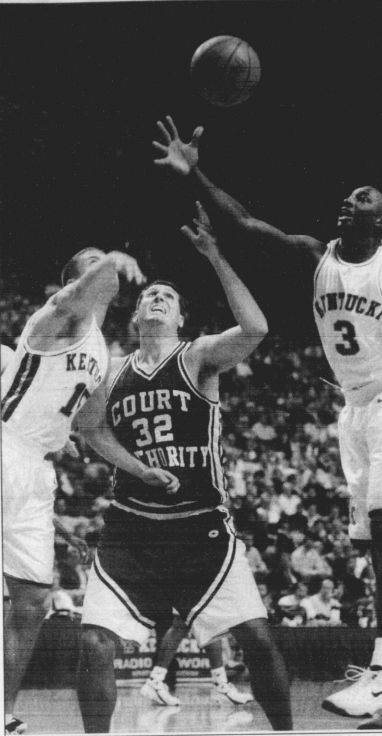
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#4 Kentucky Wildcats (6-1)

Probable Starters	PPG	RPG
G Wayne Turner	9.7	2.6
G Jeff Sheppard	11.6	3.7
F Allen Edwards	10.6	1.7
F Scott Padgett	8.7	6.9
C Jamaal Magloire	7.1	7.0

Canisius Golden Griffins (4-1)

Probable Starters	PPG	RPG
G Kevin Worley	10.2	2.4
G Kevin Thompson	12.8	4.2
F Keith Lambkin	11.8	5.8
F Jamie Cammaert	15.8	8.2
C Matt Tribul	5.4	3.4



TIP DRILL The Cats' Jeff Sheppard (left) and Allen Edwards attempt to seize a rebound. UK takes on Canisius tonight in Buffalo, N.Y.

"It's kind of tough to get up for a game like this after a big rivalry game like Indiana, but you have to find ways to get yourself motivated," Padgett said. "We're playing more against ourselves in a way, trying to continue to improve our execution."

That execution, particularly on the offensive end, has been ragged at times for UK.

The Cats managed only a Wayne Turner free throw in the final three minutes against Indiana, but pulled off the three-point win.

The key? Great defense. It's largely through that defense that UK is finding its identity. But UK is coming around in understanding its potential as an offensive and defensive squad, Smith said.

"We have a lot of people who can do a lot of different things," Smith said. "It creates matchup problems both offensively and defensively for our opposition."

Don't be surprised if it creates loads of those problems for Canisius.

Though the Griffins are 4-1, they haven't exactly beaten NCAA Tournament locks in Texas Southern, St. Bonaventure, Buffalo and Siena. Their one loss came to Arkansas State.

Still, tonight's game isn't without its interesting subplots, among them Heshimu Evans' return to the MAAC, where he played for Man-

hattan before transferring to UK.

"It'll be great to get back up there and see those Canisius players who I know and get to play in their new gym," Evans said. "I'll feel just like being back in the MAAC, but with better players by my side."

And Evans' past experience with the Golden Griffins kept him from going so far as to overlook tonight's contest.

"They play hard; they beat us at home when I was at Manhattan, and we never lost at home," he said. "The way we have to look at it is as the next game on our schedule. We have to just continue to do all the little things that get us ready for our conference schedule and the tournament."

And if that doesn't work, they could always kick Padgett around.

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# Wildcats topple No. 14 Western

By Dave Gorman  
Staff Writer

Forget records and rankings. It looked good on paper for No. 14 Western Kentucky going into Monday night's intrastate rivalry with UK. The Cats were sporting a losing record and had not enjoyed good luck on the road.

As a matter of fact no luck at all. The Cats had not won any games on the road, but UK shocked the world and brought home a 66-64 overtime victory from Bowling Green in the 15th annual Bowling Green Bank Classic.

"This was definitely a big victory thus far," said UK coach Bernadette Mattox. "I was very pleased. Everybody pitched in. The hole team kept poised late in the game and we came through. I am very proud of them."

UK was down by two (21-19) at halftime and captured the win as a result of a spectacular defensive effort. The Wildcats were ahead by two (60-58) with only 12 seconds remaining in regulation when Lady Topper Leslie Johnson tied the score and sent it into overtime.

In overtime, junior transfer forward Jaye Barnes gave UK a lead they would never give up with a lay-in before fouling out of the game with three minutes to go. Barnes led the team in scoring for the third straight time with 22 points and 10 rebounds.

"Jaye played great. She had a cold, but she is back," Mattox said. "Overall our defense was great. They all stepped up, we

needed the help from everybody."

Freshman guard Laura Meadows (18 points, 10 rebounds) followed Barnes' effort by banking a long-range three-pointed to give UK a three-point lead.

Then Western battled back within one point at 65-64. Then the Cats turned to senior Vonda Jackson to take care of business. She sank one of two free throws with seven seconds on the clock to help the Cats hold onto the victory — breaking WKU's six-game winning streak.

The Lady Toppers have not lost in the Bowling Green Bank Classic since 1985, when they lost to Oklahoma, 89-81. The Cats, 4-4, had not beaten Western (8-2) in Diddle Arena since 1991 when UK pulled a one point victory 67-66.

"I am very proud of the team," Mattox said. "We played great defense, got on the glass with Western and came out victorious in the end. That's what it's all about."

Center Kim Denkins contributed 11 points in the huge victory along with 10 rebounds.

The Cats host the Tigers of Auburn University (5-0) on Sunday at 1 p.m. in Memorial Coliseum.

Last season the Cats lost to the Tigers on a missed last-second shot. The Tigers also won the Southeastern Conference Tournament last season.

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# DiVERSions

## 'Reverb' a solid CD release

**Derailers deliver good honky tonk**

By O. Jason Stapleton  
Entertainment Editor

Tune your radio station to any country music station and you will get pretty much the same thing: substanceless songs sung by pretty boys/girls that they had someone else write for them.

Country music is at a stage today very much like rock was back in the '80s. The emphasis is put on image rather than music.

**'Reverb Deluxe'**  
The Derailers  
(Watermelon)

Thank God for groups like the Derailers and record labels like Watermelon Records, the Derailers are all about country music in its purest form. They have a distinctive honky-tonk sound reminiscent of the days of Merle Haggard and Buck Owens.

It's hard-core country about hard livin', hard drinkin' and hard lovin'.

*Reverb Deluxe*, the latest release from the Derailers, is just that sort of album. It doesn't have any pretenses about it at all. If hard rockin' country music is what you're all about then this is the CD for you.

The perfect example of this on the album just also happens to be the first track, "Just One More Time" is nothing fancy at all, but it has a good beat and catchy vocals.



**SUPER DELUXE** The Derailers, an old-school country band from Portland Ore., have released a new CD called 'Reverb Deluxe.' It is a fresh change to much of the country music that is currently enjoying popularity.

Tony O. Villanueva has the perfect voice for performing this sort of music and he is accompanied perfectly by Brian S. Hofeld on the guitar. Terry Kirkendall is on drums, and doesn't do anything spectacular, but is adequate.

Not all the songs are simply based on a catchy tune though, some even incorporate witty lyrics. "It's Too Late" tells the story of a couple who is in love but something happens along the way and she ends up marrying someone else.

"I can hear the church bells

ringin'/Lord, It's too late/Just listen to the choir singin'," Villanueva sings. "And the tears are wellin' up/And my hearts about to break/And when the ring goes on your finger... It's too late."

This is the sort of song that anyone who has ever been in love only to lose that person can relate to. The great thing about it though is that it isn't trying to be overly emotional. They tell the story and get on with it.

If this were a song from any of the major Nashville labels it would be so overdone that it

would lose its poignancy. The Derailers also incorporate other styles into its music. "There's certainly hardcore honky tonk, swing and rock 'n' roll," Villanueva said. "But then there's Cajun, Zydeco and Tejano music too."

This is evident in "You Don't Have To Go" which has a definite south of the border feel.

Overall though, *Reverb Deluxe* is a solid release. No one song really stands out as being excellent, but the there aren't tracks that just beg to be skipped either.

## 'Xena' actress enjoys stardom

Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — There's no accounting for taste. Just ask Renee O'Connor, who plays plucky sidekick Gabrielle on "Xena: Warrior Princess."

"The first season, I was getting these letters from men in prison," O'Connor reports. "I'm thinking, 'Hang on! It's Lucy who plays a barbarian who's exotic and sexy and dresses in leather!'"

Her co-star, Lucy Lawless, stands tall as the title character on this syndicated action hour (check local listings for time and station). But O'Connor, as Xena's best friend and travel companion, has conquered fans of her own. And — defying expectations — these admirers include jaihbnds less enamored of a lusty Amazon than O'Connor's 5-foot-4-inch prissy missy.

The fact that Renee is admired by anyone still catches her off-guard, she confesses during an interview. For instance, when she appeared at her first "Xena" fans' convention, she faced an adoring crowd of 1,500.

"I walked out on stage and I didn't know what to do," she

recalls. "I'm not a stand-up comedian. But I just started chatting with them and they started asking me questions. They knew the show inside and out."

"It's still too profound for me to absorb right now, because I'm in it," O'Connor says of the "Xena" phenomenon. "Maybe later on, I'll be shocked."

Well, anyone might be startled at the following: "Xena" has won since its launch three seasons ago. A spinoff of "Hercules: The Legendary Journeys," it's a fanciful feminist romp enlivened by derring-do, special effects and, with some frequency, a sly wink.

In between righting wrongs, "Xena" never hesitates to laugh at itself. After all, where else could you hear in the space of one hour "Round up those virgins" and "We've got to talk"; "I dropped my prayer scroll" and "You wuss!" Stylistically, "Xena" touches all bases.

Indeed, this is a series that, along with its idiot-proof themes of good and evil, carries a whiff of cheeky ambiguity for those inclined to give the question a moment's thought: Exactly what IS the nature of this friendship?

Especially in the age of

"Ellen," some members of the audience love to read into "Xena" certain Sapphic overtones. Let them, says Renee.

"We've had a good time with that, actually," she allows. "Not that Xena and Gabrielle are necessarily companions sexually. We just decided to add a new dimension to our relationship. Before, we were like sisters. This is something a little more flirtatious and playful."

Born in Houston, the 26-year-old O'Connor made her professional debut starring in the "Teen Angel" serial featured on the Disney Channel's "Mickey Mouse Club."

She journeyed half-a-world away to New Zealand to appear in the pilot of "Hercules." Then, back home in Los Angeles, she was cast in "Xena." She had four days to stash her belongings and race to Auckland, where filming was about to begin.

Initially the character of Gabrielle was meant to be a sort of daughter figure in her late teens.

"When she first started following Xena around, no one watching the show wanted this little pesky person bothering

her," says O'Connor. "But since Gabrielle started holding her own ground, people respect her more, which is great for me: I used to have to cry in every episode. Now the producers let me fight."

Gabrielle has grown up in another respect. Her earliest costume, which O'Connor describes as a dress "that made me look like a Laura Ingalls reject," has gone through several modifications en route to her current sporty ensemble: wraparound skirt, laced-front halter top and boots.

"Oh, boy, is it better!" she laughs with grateful relief. "Before, the skirt would ride up, and that would be embarrassing." Suffice it to say Gabrielle's garb is a fine complement to Xena's bad-mama leather sunsuit. But the two mythological hotties are a grand fit, too, especially from the standpoint of the junior partner.

"We're sort of like opposites that balance each other, aren't we?" says O'Connor happily. "But the show is about Xena, about Lucy, and there's really no pressure on me. I can play and learn and enjoy it all."

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## Speaker: Race is power

By Manish Bhatia  
Staff Writer

The audience at Worsham Theater Monday night got a taste of what it means to be privileged.

Frances E. Kendall, a consultant on organizational changes, spoke about the meaning of "white privilege" and its relevance to modern American society.

Kendall defined white privilege as "unearned power that was conferred systematically" on the white majority.

"They come in the form of a lens, that those of us who are white have super-glued to our eyes," she said. "I am assumed competent until I am proved incompetent, unlike people of color."

A white woman from California, Kendall spoke about how she would benefit from these inherent privileges in everyday life. For example, she said she was two to 10 times more likely to get a loan than a black person with similar financial means.

"I get the benefit of the doubt," Kendall said. "White privilege is systematically bestowed on all of us who are white and has nothing to do about whether we are good people."

Kendall obtained her doctorate in curriculum and instruction, and early childhood education from the University of North Carolina at

Chapel Hill. Since 1978 she has consulted several institutions and organizations such as the University of Michigan, University of California at Berkeley and AT&T.

Her visit this week will include meetings with several members of the UK administration. Among them are President Charles Wethington, chancellors Elisabeth Zinser and James W. Holsinger, Jr., student leaders and the Strategic Planning Committee.

"What she had to say was very heartfelt and very timely for a white woman to speak about some of the issues felt in the black community," said Maurice Morrison, an MBA student.

"Her being a white female leader her to be a credible voice for the privilege that does exist," he said.

Kendall said the extent of white privilege handed down on a person depended on other categories such as gender, age and physical ability. White privilege was bestowed pre-natally through better health care, schooling and assumptions of success, she said.

She gave the example of the septuplets, the new parents of the McCoy's, the new parents of the McCoy's were showered with gifts and even received a phone call from the President of the United States. But the birth of septuplets born to a black couple

in Washington, D.C., passed by in relative obscurity. Kendall spoke of the risks of speaking out about race in the South.

"I fear that you will see me as a traitor to my race," she said, talking about the South being the guilt carriers.

Catch phrases like "a proposal going south" acted as constant reminders of the problems in the south. Speaking about her southern roots, Kendall also said she did not have the luxury as someone in the Northeast saying they did not have plantations.

"We have to start talking about the contributions of the African Americans and other minorities to the success of this country," said John Lindsay, a member of AWARE, a UK student organization. "Without talking about or teaching those contributions, it is going to be hard to talk about diversity."

Some members of the audience like Kevin Button said they needed more practical solutions to the problem of race.

"I don't necessarily agree with every viewpoint presented tonight," said Button, a foreign language and international economics senior. "However I do believe that race problems exist."

Kendall said the challenge was to keep talking about race.



SMART WAY TO SAVE Miru Sehardi, a second-year business student, signed up to win a drawing at Keith LaBelle's booth at the College of Business and Economics ambassador event. It continues today.

## The business of relaxation

College sponsors a chance to relieve stress, anxiety

By Erin Giffon  
Contributing Writer

Take a break. Dead week is here and the Gatton College of Business and Economics suggests taking a break with them.

"I don't necessarily agree with every viewpoint presented tonight," said Button, a foreign language and international economics senior. "However I do believe that race problems exist."

Kendall said the challenge was to keep talking about race.

"It is a way to let the students know we care," said Joanne Beidleman, academic adviser for the college and advisor to the ambassadors. "We want to hear from them."

Because this is the first year for the event, the ambassadors want students to relax and enjoy themselves. Suggestion forms will be available to fill out and will help inform the ambassadors about students' likes and dislikes

in the college. "We are kind of like a liaison between the students and the faculty," said Nimrat Dhooper, a finance senior and second-year ambassador. "There seems to be a big gap between the two, and we want to cut the lack of communication."

The college has taken part in the ambassador program for three years. Other colleges on campus which have ambassadors include Agriculture, Communication and Information Studies and Human Environmental Sciences.

"It seems to be a successful way for students to voice their opinion," said Keith LaBelle, a marketing senior. "With focus groups it is hard to get students to attend, but with 'Take a Break' located in the atrium, we seem to reach more people."

Ambassadors also promote the college to perspective high school students, as well as help around the college.

A big time of year for the

ambassadors is during registration, when they help students with any questions about classes and professors.

"I have talked with a couple of the ambassadors, and they gave me valuable advice on which classes and professors to take," said Tallice Cabell, an accounting junior. "It's good to have students that can relate because they have been there before."

"Take a Break" appears to be successful and the ambassadors, as well as Beidleman, said this will continue for many years.

"Our goal was to not only give away freebies, but also get feedback and we have achieved that," Beidleman said.

Prizes to be given away include two UK basketball tickets to the Georgia Tech game at Rupp Arena Saturday, a gift certificate to Fayette Mall and UK memorabilia.

An M&M guessing contest will also take place today. If a student guesses the correct number, then he will receive the M&M's and a UK basketball media guide.

Popcorn, cookies and candy are the foods for the week. Papa John's Pizza is on the menu for Wednesday.

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## Hackers hold Yahoo! for ransom

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Hackers broke into Yahoo!, the Internet's most popular site, demanding the release of an imprisoned comrade and threatening to unleash a crippling computer virus if he is not freed.

Computer security experts were skeptical of the hackers' claim that they had implanted such a virus.

The hackers, calling themselves PANTS/HAGS, got into Yahoo!'s World Wide Web site Monday night, leaving a digital ransom note. Yahoo! is a computer directory widely used for searching the Internet. The note appeared briefly in place of the Yahoo! home page, preventing people online from using the search engine, which got 17.2 million visits in October.

"For the past month, anyone who has viewed Yahoo's page & used their search engine, now has a logic bomb/worm implanted deep within their computer," it read. "On Christmas Day, 1998, the logic bomb part of this 'virus' will become active, wreaking havoc upon the entire planet's networks."

The note said an "antidote" program will be made available if hacker Kevin Mitnick is released.

Mitnick was indicted last year on charges involving a multimillion-dollar crime wave in cyberspace. Yahoo! representatives did not return calls for comment.

Jonathan Wheat, manager of the Anti-Virus Lab at the National Computer Security Association, said it is at least theoretically possible to exploit security flaws on the Internet and implant such a virus. But he said he doubts this group of hackers — already known to security experts — pulled it off.

## Cram 'N' Jam eases tensions

By Jill Erwin  
Senior Staff Writer

During dead week, several groups are sponsoring activities and study times to help students with end-of-semester stress.

Cram 'N' Jam will be held through tomorrow night from 6 p.m.-10 p.m. in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Cultural Center. The center will remain open for extra hours to allow students a quiet place to study.

All of the materials within the center will be available to the students, and Director Sandra Cairo and some graduate students will be on hand for some informal help.

Originally Cairo planned to hold the extra hours next week

during finals week.

"The students expressed to me that it would be better off this week," Cairo said. "I just wish they had told me earlier."

Aside from the Sunday night phone call, the preparations have all been made. A movie was shown last night, and the studying commences tonight.

Cairo admits being stressed and tired herself but said it was important the students know this option is open to them.

"We're just trying to get the word out," Cairo said.

Another option for students is the Black Student Union-sponsored tutoring sessions on the third floor of the Complex Commons. Tutoring will be available

in chemistry, history and English from 7 to 9 through tomorrow evening. Refreshments will be available, said BSU president Alejandro Stewart.

"We just want to make you feel at ease," Stewart said.

Stewart lives off-campus and finds himself studying alone the majority of the time. But he realizes what works for him doesn't necessarily work for others.

"A lot of students like to get together to study," Stewart said. "We can keep each other on track."

The tutoring started Monday night and Stewart said numerous people were in the computer lab. He said he hopes to get more people to attend later in the week.

"Maybe we can get more people outside studying in the lobby," Stewart said.

Some students on campus said they are looking forward to the opportunity.

"I sure am," said Ashley Kinslow, an international economics and foreign language freshman. "Biology is kicking my ass."

For those who want to put studying out of their minds, shopping is always an option. The cultural center has added another day to the African Market. In addition to being open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, the market will also be held Thursday from noon to 6 p.m.

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## CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING TEACHING

The Chancellor of the Lexington Campus seeks nominations for the 1997-98 Outstanding Teaching Awards. The Chancellor's Awards are designed to recognize individuals whose performance in the classroom or laboratory has been consistently outstanding. All tenured and non-tenured (full-time) faculty and teaching assistants on the Lexington Campus are eligible. Awards will be given in three categories:

- Award for Tenured Faculty- \$5,000 (non-recurring)
- Award for Non-tenured Faculty- \$4,500 (non-recurring)
- Award for Teaching Assistants- a cash stipend of \$1,000

Nominations of no more than one typed page should be forwarded to the faculty member's department chairperson with a request for a formal recommendation to be prepared and forwarded to the Office of Undergraduate Studies, 405 Patterson Office Tower, 0027, no later than February 6, 1998. For additional information, contact Louis Swift, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean of Undergraduate Studies.



# CAMPUS

## Reception honors research

### Student, prof collaboration key to success

By LaShanna Carter  
Staff Writer

A reception was held yesterday at the Biological Sciences Building yesterday honored 19 students for their participation in research projects.

Poster displays described the various research of the undergraduates.

The areas researched are in a variety of subjects ranging from biology, pharmacy, agriculture, chemistry, veterinary, medical sciences and psychology.

The research projects are supported by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Undergraduate Biological Sciences Initiative.

The students are chosen by competition. Once students are chosen, they are encouraged to find a subject that interests them in addition to researching. The students are also required to collaborate with a professor.

The visual posters are the second phase of the process. Students first had to give oral presentations.

William Cohen, HHMI Undergraduate Biological Sciences Initiative acting director, said: "It is a great opportunity for UK to allow undergraduates the chance to do independent study research within a specific area of interest."

Some of the undergraduates

displaying their projects include:

▼Jennifer Drake, who studied the effect of antioxidants on a type of brain damage that might be involved in Alzheimer's disease.

▼Allison Mallory, who studied the positive effect that certain infections have on the survival of grass plants.

▼Chris Borths, who designed a general system to target cancer cells and find out how the body can rid itself from them.

▼Elizabeth Otte, a biology senior who examined the role that certain proteins play in the processing of RNA in a yeast cell model.

Two projects dealt with the HIV virus, yet in two different ways:

Allied health senior Tianne VanHoose examined a new way of treating HIV by targeting cellular enzymes instead of the venereal. She

said she enjoyed working on this project because it taught her several things.

"It is an experimental way of teaching me how to set up an experiment and put thought processes together," she said. "It is also a socially needed area to study."

VanHoose also said, "any undergraduate that has any extra energy put into research in this area."

The other project done by Brad Williams examined HIV effects on animals specifically horses and donkeys.

"This area was intriguing to Williams "there is not a huge area there is not a vast amount of research done on this subject." The techniques that he used were also taught in his classes.

Cohen comments on the group as whole "enthusiastic group who have worked hard."

## University class teaches parents how to be parents

By Andrea Rader  
Contributing Writer

Children do not come with instruction manuals.

To aid parents with the constant problems that come with parenting, UK's Outpatient Psychiatry Clinic is offering parenting classes.

Bobbie Burcham, a psychologist in the Department of Outpatient Psychiatry, said the classes are, "an opportunity to learn about issues and share information."

She will be teaching the classes along with Dorothy Keller, also a psychologist in the department.

"We want parents to understand what is in the realm of "normal" behavior and help parents deal with the stress of parenting," Keller said.

She said the classes will teach parents to help children get along with peers, show them how to be responsible and improve the overall relationship between parent and child.

Keller suggests both couples and single parents attend. "A lot of parents deal with

parenting problems alone, married or single, and this can be incredibly stressful."

Many parents who have children with behavior disorders spend too much time trying to find where they went wrong, she said, rather than dealing with the disorder.

"A parent could be the best parent and their child could still end up having behavior problems," Keller said. "A child could also encounter a tremendous amount of trauma and still end up normal."

The second in the series of classes takes place today at noon and tonight at 5:30 p.m. (find out if the classes are going on at any other time)

The title is "Your Child's Self Esteem." Some of the other topics of classes include "Managing Oppositional Behaviors," "Teaching Responsibility," "Getting Along with Siblings and Peers" and "Surviving Adolescence."

The date of the next course in the series is Jan. 13. The cost is \$10 per person and \$15 per couple. Class sizes are limited so those interested must plan in advance.

## UConn conversations monitored

By Jennifer Clair  
and Robert Westervelt Jr.  
The Daily Campus

STORRS, Conn. — Residents of the Alumni Quadrangle might want to be extremely careful about what they say in the hallways of their dormitory. This warning comes from the discovery that the intercoms located in the hall ceilings have a listen feature that allows whatever activity that goes on in the halls, including conversations, to be monitored.

Intercoms are located in the offices of Watson, Eddy and Brock halls, as well as in the apartment on the first floor of Belden hall and other older dormitories on campus. Few residents know that this listen feature exists or that it is

available to resident assistants, hall directors, as well as those who work in the offices.

Sweta Pandey, a Belden R.A. and 8th-semester finance major, unearthed the listening feature of the intercom system.

"I don't feel it is appropriate for anyone to listen to conversations going on in the halls," she said. "The fact that the listen option is there gives people the access to violate the privacy of residents."

The intercom works so well that the person listening can hear conversations, as well as the music playing on the floor, she said.

Maureen Isleib, Gilbert Road complex coordinator, said the intercom systems are old and many don't work any longer. "They were there before the late

'80s when there were pay phones in the lobbies," Isleib said.

Isleib said she doesn't think R.A.'s listen in on conversations, but said it might be a good idea.

"It sounds like a great idea. If it results in them being more prepared before walking into a dangerous situation, then yes, it's a good idea."

Jacqueline Seide, associate director of Residential Services and co-director of Residential Life said she didn't know the intercom system had that option and would discuss the option with staff.

"There can be uses for that option, but it's inappropriate to listen into conversations."

These intercoms can, but are not often used, to announce blocked cars, programs and emer-

gency announcements, said Pandey. However, during an R.A. training session before the '96 fall semester, one R.A. used the listen feature to find where others were hiding during a game of sardines, Pandey said.

Kellie Sylvestre, a 3rd-semester human development and family relations major, said "The intercoms are necessary for safety precautions ... This is the only way these should be used. R.A.'s should be the primary instrument for monitoring activity on the floor."

Heide Zabel, a 5th-semester German and management information systems major, said students have a right to privacy.

"A lot of people take their phone calls out in the hallways. It's an invasion of privacy."

## Cal dorm incident linked to drinking

By Louis Gray  
Daily Californian

BERKELEY, Calif. — UC Berkeley residence hall officials said yesterday they were concerned that the end of this semester's instruction prompted too much drinking and partying, resulting in one student falling into a window and another being taken to the hospital.

One Unit 2 resident, who lives in Cunningham Hall, fell into a window Friday night, cutting his head. After a worried call to university police by the eighth floor resident assistant, Berkeley Fire Department paramedics responded and assisted him in stopping the bleeding.

The student, 21-year-old Jeremy Jones, said he had been drinking, but that "stupid stuff has been happening in the residence halls all year" and the week before finals was not much different.

Housing officials said they were aware of the increased partying, but they realized they could not stop residents from drinking alcohol.

"We realize students are going to drink — that's a given," said Kayla Hamilton, resident director of Cunningham Hall. "Usually the Friday before finals is a big time to party. This is not the first school I have been to, and it happens there as well."

Jones was not the only student requiring outside assistance in what turned out to be a busy night for the Berkeley Fire Department.

An 18-year-old Griffith Hall resident passed out in his dorm room and was transported to Alta Bates Hospital Friday night. Upon arrival, he requested not to be treated, saying he was sober by the time the ambulance arrived.

"Honestly, I hadn't had too much to drink," said the resident, who asked not to be named. "I just hadn't had much sleep in a couple of days. I just passed out in my dorm room."

The two students both said they were not attending any parties last weekend, but instead were

drinking alone in their rooms. It is not yet known whether either of the dorm residents will face additional charges from student conduct.

"Usually the hall coordinator and residential life coordinator will deal with it internally for the residence halls," said UC police Capt. Bill Cooper.

Hamilton said her first priority was not to punish the individuals involved with alcohol, but instead to see if they were okay.

"I can't say what will specifically happen," Hamilton said.

Jones said he thought the call to the Berkeley Fire Department was completely unnecessary and that the cut on his head was minor.

"It wasn't a necessary call," Jones said. "I applied pressure and ice. They came and said, 'It's a little boo-boo and you'll be fine.'"

While he said the paramedic response was inappropriate, Jones said the whole incident was a mistake and he did not want to be made into an example.

"I'm not very proud of it," Jones said. "People make stupid mistakes. I was preparing for finals and I did have a little bit."

University police said the weekend had been busier than normal, but they were unable to say whether it was traditionally a busier time for parties before finals week.

"We've seen a couple of calls more than we often get," Cooper said. "There may have been a little bit more going on than normal."

Hamilton said that if students are going to drink alcohol, they need to be careful.

"We would hope that they would make good decisions about drinking and pay attention to how they react differently when they are drinking compared to when they are sober," Hamilton said.

## Trees

UK forestry club offers holiday trees

From PAGE 1

Kimmerer, a forestry professor.

He said trees displayed at the supermarkets usually come from Christmas tree farms in North Carolina and Michigan. Also those trees aren't as freshly cut as the Kentucky trees sold by the forestry club.

"If you buy a tree from Kentucky, it's probably been cut in the last three days," he said. "Not within the last three weeks as North Carolina and Michigan trees are."

Of the about 100 trees the club got from Hutton-Loyd Farms near Cartersburg, Ky., almost 50 have been sold, said Eric Byrd, a forestry senior. The club has been selling the scotch pines and eastern white pines at \$5 a foot.

"The eastern white pines have a feather duster kind of feeling," Byrd said of the difference between the two species of tree. The scotch pines, however, are more like the traditional Christmas tree, with short, one-inch needles. The eastern white pines have flowing, three-inch needles.

Mostly faculty members, especially from the Cooper Building and from the Medical Center, have been stopping by to pick up the 5-8 foot trees, Byrd said. But some students have bought trees.

"A lot of the customers said they wanted to help out the forestry club," he said. "Some people said they like our trees as opposed to the species sold at the other places."

Byrd appreciated any reason people had to buy the trees. "Definitely it helps the students defray the costs (of going to conferences and seminars)," he said.

Natural resources, conservation and management sophomores Daniel Berry agreed.

"We're just not out to make a profit," he said as he grappled with a fist-sized wad of money kept in a manilla folder. "We're out to raise money."

The club will be selling trees until Dec. 19 in the back of the Cooper Building, which is adjacent to Donovan Hall. The trees are on sale from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Mon. - Sat. and until 3 p.m. on Sun.

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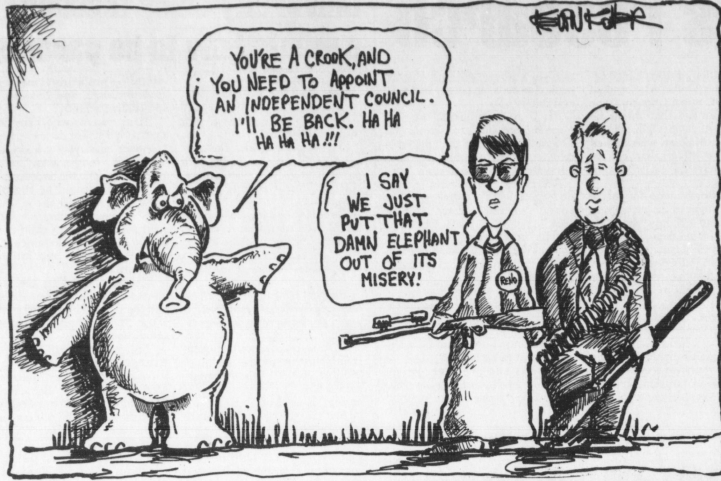
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Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me. It seems that age-old wisdom escaped Latrell Sprewell last week in his confrontation with Golden State Warriors coach, P.J. Carlesimo.

It also appears that the young man, who makes millions playing a game couldn't take what his coach was dishing out and decided to strike back in what NBA commissioner David Stern labeled a "clearly premeditated assault."

Poor baby, perhaps we can hear him now as he tries to explain his firing and one year suspension, "But mom, I only hit him cause he called me a 'toad-faced, rat fink that couldn't play his way out of a paper sack.'"

Okay, maybe he isn't that infantile, but he is pretty damn close. In the first days after the incident, Sprewell repeatedly tried to shift some of the blame to Carlesimo for provoking him verbally in practice. Call us crazy, but we wouldn't mind bearing the brunt of some heated exchanges in return for millions of dollars

doing what we love. But now he claims responsibility and publicly admits that his actions were out of line. We have to wonder if the NBA's suspension; cancellation of his shoe endorsement; and termination of his \$25 million contract had anything to do with his change of heart.

Unfortunately, hints of his true colors showed through yesterday at a press conference aimed at damage control. "I've been vilified. Every time I look at a clip it's always a picture of me looking mad and being aggressive. It was always negative. I felt that was unfair." Poor baby.

Maybe it is unfair that you've received the harshest non-drug abuse penalty in the NBA's history, but accepting the punishment gracefully and not whining is all a part of taking responsibility for your actions.

It's time Sprewell cut his losses, shut his mouth and took it like a man, rather than begging us to take pity on the grave injustice he feels has been dealt to him.

Kernel veteran reflects on the making of a man

Everyone we meet helps to shape who we finally become

Columnist Ben Rich, conservative Student Government Association Sen. Phil Feigel and I recently discovered that we all graduated from the same preschool here in Lexington (then called Mini-Skool, now a Kinder Care), all in the same class, we think. That may explain a lot to many people, but in fact it doesn't say much at all. It all really started the year after.

Miss Rhonda made me what I am today. She was the kindergarten teacher who knew she was dealing with one who was maybe a little out of step from the others, treating unusual ambition and unparalleled genius (I'm not exaggerating. I really was astoundingly brilliant) with modest encouragement.

Mrs. Schwartz in the fourth grade was likewise ecstatic over my often glaring and obsessive need to be original while continuing to understand my debilitating frustration in facing the cruelty of memorizing multiplication tables.

Everyone in between deserves credit for putting up with me. I guess, even though I can clearly describe the wallpaper or lead-based brick paint of the principal's office in every school I attended.

Sister Therese Marie was young and just plain cool, for me. Sister Dolores, however was very old, temperamental, not all there and good for daily pranks and laughs at her expense. We were just being boys, as one would expect, but it was mean and it was wrong and now I sort of wish we hadn't. Oh well.

John Akers, principal of Dunbar High School (whom I had originally compared with the warden in Shawshank Redemption, which was just a Stephen King novella at the time) turned out to be my last and greatest advocate in the end, granting the freedom to run a controversial column in the student paper despite all the hassle I'd caused him with a crude little satirical mag fellow student Matt Barton and I had published and distributed monthly.

College was dimmed by real life, but I still managed to pull an ego trip out of it. It was a dark and stormy no-man's land and I took it on like T.R. took San Juan hill. There were no prisoners in my war against academic absurdity, a war against boastfully liberal bias that I found rampant in sociology,

political science and communication courses for which I was personally paying thousands of hard-earned dollars.

A few eagerly joined the cause, and they grew from comrades in arms to friends and even to fraternity brothers. Not all totally agreed with me and most took me less seriously than I took myself, but they've been like family nonetheless and I won't soon forget them.

Much of the liberal bias still exists, but in upper level courses the students are smarter and better able to develop good counter-arguments or else to sufficiently blow it off. I still fear for the freshmen, though, because so many of them never bother to think for themselves.

Nevertheless, everyone should take time to personally thank those instructors who resist the obvious temptation to use their positions to forward leftist dogma and who make their standards as clear and objective as possible. Maturity has forced me to re-evaluate all of my beliefs

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READERS' forum

A misguided public fails to grasp true meaning of video

To the editor:

Prodigy's latest video, "Smack Your Bitch Up," aired last night on MTV, revolutionizing an industry which has been recently filled without thought or meaning. Surrounded by such ill-fated terms as "Generation X," a so-called unintelligible generation lost by its own culture, has begun to breathe once again.

Women's rights organizations have already deemed the song offensive, but I say this video declares "The world of the women is here and now." The video embodies the mind, body, spirit and soul of '90s women while proclaiming that the male youth of today is not only preoccupied with the thought of women as objects but women as an eccentric, essence of beauty,

mind, spirit and strength. The Prodigy project could be perceived as the prehistoric idea of the perfect male pornographic fantasy: An unleashing of drinking, drug use, strippers, ending with two women in bed together. This video is explicit and erotic showing full frontal nudity, cocaine use and a person going to the bathroom; however, one must look through the graphic content for the idealistic illusion which sets this video apart. One must look into the altered hourglass of perception to the truth that evokes "women as being," free from the shackles of yesterday.

A woman will no longer be an object of man's pornographic possession, but a force in the realm of a changing universe where state of mind rules over material wealth. People's perceptions will alter and beauty will be sought in one's being instead of one's body. Fires will burn from the depths of the earth triangulating mother nature, women and men as one. The human race will make love not war once again and

set aside all its ills partaking in great orgies that will bind our single human race together in a fight for our existence as sexual, sensual beings. Only altered perceptions allow unlikely illusions to prevail over the harsh cold reality we know and hate.

To the activists who dismiss this video as anything but enlightening, and especially those who will cry out pornography upon sight, I quote the poet Emma Kepp, "It's all in here." She points to her chest, "It's not what the object or idea looks like or even what it is. It's what you take to it that counts."

We must begin to open our eyes horizon wide enabling us to see the beauty and passion in all, whether in a creature or in an object, most importantly in each other. We must begin to transform ourselves so as to return our earth to the Eden it once was before "mankind" became so obsessed with becoming civilized.

Brad Meyers English senior

TALKback!

Readers are encouraged to submit letters to the editor and guest opinions to the Viewpoint page in person or by mail.

Address your comments to "Letters to the Editor", Kentucky Kernel Editorial Editor; 35 Enoch J. Grehan Journalism Building; UK, Lexington, Ky. 40506-0042. Send electronic mail to kernel@pop.uky.edu.

Letters should be approximately 250 words; guest opinions should be no longer than 850 words.

All material should be type-written and double-spaced, but hand-written will be accepted if it is legible.

Include your name and major classification (for publication), as well as your address and telephone number for verification.

Check out the Kentucky Kernel on-line at www.KyKernel.com for more letters to the editor.

INFORMED SOURCES "I'M THINKING, 'Hang on! It's Lucy who plays a barbarian who's exotic and sexy and dresses in leather!"

Renee O'Connor, Gabrielle of "Xena: Warrior Princess", on her reaction to fan letters from men in prison.

Run-ins with lab assistants don't have to be negative

The recent criticism of the microlab consultants has started a war of words between us (the few, the proud, the consultants) and them (you know who you are). Having been here four years, two as a consultant, I see no end to this debate.

The problem lies with both the students using the microlabs and the consultants working there. Students using the microlabs need to learn the virtue of patience. Two or three consultants cannot meet the individual nurturing needs of everyone in the lab. See the queue. Use it. Be polite and we will extend the same courtesy.

Contrary to what you think, we don't possess the gift of ESP. The spirit of Bill Gates in your computer does not have a psychic hotline to our brain. Please tell us clearly what you observed and we will assess whether the

problem requires us to go to your computer to fix.

If we have a long line, we will show you what to do on our machine. Pay attention. You are in college and must have an ability to remember what you've observed. I'll bet if it was a picture of Brad Pitt or Pamela Anderson, you'd have no trouble recalling what you saw.

Most consultants that I have worked with try to teach patrons. Patrons don't want to learn. They prefer that we take care of the problem of helping you find the start button over and over again, rather than be observant and try to learn, so as not to have that 'Oh I am so dumb about computers' look all the time.

I admit I am guilty of making fun of computer illiterate individuals. It's just outright funny when someone asks for help at the "white computer" or when someone points at the printers and asks if they can use the copy machine.

As a former patron, I have encountered rude consultants. Most of them have a simple problem that even our professors face, that is the inability to explain something complicated in plain English. However, some do need an attitude adjustment, for they feel the help desk is their domain, their castle, from which they rule over their subjects with contempt.

UK's solution to this problem has been an ineffective consultant training program. This is mandatory for all consultants. All we do is sit around, go over procedures, act out dumb role-playing games. That is not training and most consultants manage to get out of it. The new consultants hired probably

know as much about computers as my grandmother. The current hiring process requires filling out a form and a brief interview where none of your skills are tested. A solution would probably be a thorough training where consultants are not allowed to serve until proving that they can handle a variety of problems.

To consultants who may be too busy fiddling with their joysticks in the kingdom of Doom, all I say is develop a personality. Do your job. If you don't like it, quit. Don't give the rest of us a bad name because your date in the "geeks 'r' us" chat room is about to dump you.

There was a time when I didn't know what a hard drive was, nor did I know how to get to the Internet. I sat in the Margaret I. King microlab and asked the girl next to me how to get to the Internet as if I was asking for directions to class. To those who are sick and tired of being mocked, do what I did. Take

action. Learn what you don't know. Strive to overcome the complexity of the computer world. You have the resources available. You pay for them. Why not use them? I did.

After seeing Benjamin Hopper's cartoon "News and Germ," I'd like to point out that I can speak English in a clear tone than most people on campus. However, some consultants, who happen to be international students, may not have the grasp that you have on "your" language.

So the next one of them who does his or her best to help you out can't be appreciative of the cultural differences and the fact they are doing their best. Try to work with them to solve the problem rather than resigning them to be just another foreigner who can't speak English. I'd like to see you try explaining how to create a graph in Excel in Punjabi. Contributing Columnist Imad Naseer Khan is an economics senior.



Imad Naseer Khan Contributing Columnist





**Education**

# Student loan bill 'driven by politics'

By Jennifer Fleischer and Cristobal Edwards  
Medill News Service

WASHINGTON — When the administration admitted there was a crisis in the federal student loan program last August, Congress came to the rescue.

But some experts say the emergency relief bill driven through Congress in three months may have had more to do with a controversial political debate about the administration of student loans, and less with student welfare than lawmakers assert.

The bill, which would allow students to consolidate federal loans using private lenders, was introduced by Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, R-Calif., and Bill Goodling, R-Penn., in direct response to reports of a massive backlog of unprocessed loan consolidation applications at the Department of Education.

In August, the department said the backlog had reached 83,000 and that no new applications would be accepted until December 1.

"It was a national emergency," Goodling said.

The congressman, who is chairman of the House education committee, said the overwhelming bipartisan support for the bill came from the fact that so many families were affected by the problem. Regardless of constituency, rich or

poor, urban or rural, the problem penetrated into the lives of constituents for all representatives, he said. "Every member of Congress was catching flak," he said.

Because the bill shifted the consolidated loans to private lenders, opponents expressed concern that the bill represented the beginning of an inevitable shift of administration of the student loan program from government to private hands and a loss of access to funds for some students who would have difficulty qualifying for commercial loans.

The bill's proponents made no secret of their preference for shifting administration of student loans to private lenders. "The government has no business becoming the largest bank in the world," Goodling said. "Lord, they can't run anything, obviously they were going to fail," he said.

The bill passed unanimously in the committee and moved quickly and without significant opposition through both houses. It was incorporated into the balanced budget agreement, and was signed by President Clinton last month.

Despite the overwhelming support for the new bill, some supporters of the old direct loan program say there was more at issue than the student welfare and bipartisan cooperation.

"The legislators said it was necessary to help solve the crisis, but

the crisis is solved" independently of the bill, said Tom Butts, of the University of Michigan.

Though opponents of the program dispute reports that the backlog is under control, the Department of Education met its self-imposed Dec. 1 deadline for accepting new consolidation applications. The bill appears to have had little impact on that situation.

"The whole piece of legislation was driven by politics, not substance — it wasn't necessary, but it made good headlines," Butts said. The bill, slated for consideration early next year, offered more options for student borrowers, but the unexpected backlog of consolidation applications created an opportunity for the bill's supporters to demand action and a reason for Democrats to support it.

The largest impact of the bill can be measured in embarrassment to the Clinton administration, Butts said, which had made the direct program a top priority.

"Bill Clinton will increasingly be a lame duck president," said Melvin Kuldicki, associate professor of Political Science at York College of Pennsylvania. "Regarding this bill and others, he will have less and less clout with his own party as they look towards their next president."

"Education bills are something that people (lawmakers) want to bring the issues back to their dis-

tricts and brag to their constituents," Kuldicki said.

Nearly 7 million students, roughly half the student population in the United States, depend on federal student loans, borrowing nearly \$3 billion dollars a year. Despite the amount of banking business at stake, the use of campaign contributions by industry lobbyists was small by Washington standards. According to Federal Election Commission figures, contributions by political action committees and individuals who listed the issue as a concern came to less than \$132,000 between 1993 and 1997. Seventy-five percent of that money came from banks and lending institutions.

"Any business likes to be seen as (providing) community service," Goodling said. But, he continued, the prospect of future business could lead to a bank's incentive "I would assume that if you get the customer in a student loan situation they will become a member of your bank," he said.

The current program, by which the government lends money directly to students, was signed into law in 1993 to foster competition within the lending community and to make borrowing money for education direct and accessible.

In addition to deferral benefits to students, the direct loan program has been a relief for some financial aid administrators.

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# College gambling a national epidemic

By Debra Hirschfield  
Michigan Daily

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — It's not whether you win or lose. It's how you play the game. Where sportsmanship is concerned, the old saying may hold true. But for student gamblers who pluck down their cash in hopes of beating the odds and making a few bucks, winning or losing means everything.

Football aficionados credit their beloved sport as being the most exciting athletic event in the nation. But gamblers also rely on the sport as the pinnacle of all gambling seasons.

"Betting on other sports, such as basketball, hockey, and even baseball, exists all year round. But football season is the king of all gambling seasons," said an LSA junior and bookie known to campus gamblers as The Worm.

Although gambling on college campuses exists in forms that include activities such as poker, darts and billiards, national sports events prove most enticing to college gamblers, said Business junior and former bookie Mike Abramson.

"People bet on basketball and hockey, but not even close to as much as football," Abramson said.

The popularity of sports gambling on campus can be attributed to simplicity: It is relatively easy for students to pick one team and bet on an outcome according to the spread.

"The reason students bet is because the money is enticing. All you have to do is pick one team over the other. It seems too easy," The Worm said.

Even trivial propositions, such as who will win the coin toss before the game, who will kick the extra points after each touchdown and what team will kick the first field goal hold seemingly non-strategic stakes in the game. Still, these incidents represent potential profits for student gamblers.

"I've seen people bet on head-tails coin flips," Abramson said, acknowledging that he doesn't see it occur frequently.

"Coin tosses are reserved for the Super Bowl," The Worm said.

### Bowl berth breeds betting

The University's emphasis on sports, enhanced by the football team's exemplary season, solidifies sports betting as the most prevalent type of gambling on campus.

"Besides academics, football and sports are a primary reason why people love U of M," said LSA first-year student Nicholas Yo, saying he is not surprised by the pervasiveness of gambling.

A University senior and waitress at a local sports bar said she sees students gamble on all NCAA football games, not just those involving the Michigan football team. Betting on football games is definitely commonplace, she said.

Officials in the Athletic Department say they are unaware of any gambling issues affecting University athletics.

"I don't see it because I try as an individual to stay away from those situations," said Bruce Madej, assistant athletic director for media relations.

Senior Associate Athletic

Director Keith Molin had no comment about the prevalence of gambling on campus.

Postseason bowl games will likely enhance the amount of student gambling.

"Bowl games stand out because they are three or four days of intense football," The Worm said.

Considering Michigan's Rose Bowl berth, some students will have a personal stake in the bets on the game's outcome. Some gamblers see it as a way to display their spirit and exhibit support for their school.

"More people will gamble on the Rose Bowl specifically because we are in it. People will be convinced that we will win, so they will try to find people to bet on Washington," said Business junior Matthew Lapham.

"The Rose Bowl is a high-profile game, and more people will be inclined to place a bet," said Engineering first-year student Jason Keefer.

"Anytime a game gets bigger, it gets more and more enhanced," Madej said, referring to a potential increase in gambling as a result of Michigan's participation in Rose Bowl.

Abramson doubts that the Rose Bowl will encourage more students to gamble. "People who gamble will gamble regardless," he said.

Some students say they find gambling distasteful, since they have little control over the outcome of the game or their monetary compensation.

"I don't want to lose money on

something I can't control," said LSA first-year student Kent Shafer.

The Worm said the spread is not the only consideration when bettors pick what team to support.

"It is probably true that college students will bet on their school because of their ties. However, they are not betting with their head, but betting with their hears," The Worm said.

### Recreation and obsession

Students say there is a fine line between gambling for entertainment and gambling as an obsession. And it is often difficult to determine where these lines cross.

"For the most part, gambling is a pastime. It keeps students entertained throughout the game," The Worm said, noting that gambling can surface in the form of a friendly wager before a game.

Jacksots range from a drink at a bar or dinner at The Gandy Dancer - to bets worth hundreds of dollars.

With stakes determined in advance based on a spread, some students find entertainment value in the thrill of the gamble, not necessarily the monetary compensation.

"Often the score is not a good indication of the excitement value in the game," The Worm said, referring to the point spread and wagers that contribute to the outcome.

Abramson said one reason "students do it is for fun, for something to do." He said students see "the rush" that comes from the uncertainty of chance, rather than for any financial compensation.

# Freshman found in garbage recovering

By Jason Moll  
Badger Herald

MADISON, Wis. — The UW-Madison freshman found at the bottom of a residence hall garbage chute after a mysterious fall Halloween night was recently transferred to Bethesda Hospital in St. Paul, Minn.

Eric Schwanke, from White Bear Lake, Minn., was found covered with garbage by a University Housing custodial employee at approximately 7:40 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 1 in the basement of Witte A.

Authorities suspect he fell from the ninth floor.

According to Dean of Students Mary Rouse, Schwanke remained in a coma until late November. She said he gradually woke from his coma during the last week of November, but is still unable to talk. Schwanke was transferred to St. Paul because it is closer to his home, Rouse said.

# Smaller El Nino doesn't mean it's less of threat

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Although satellite observations show that El Nino — the vast pool of warm water in the Pacific Ocean — has gotten smaller, scientists say its potential to disrupt weather won't disappear anytime soon.

"Reports of El Nino's death are definitely exaggerated," said Bill Patzert, an oceanographer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, where scientists monitor the phenomenon with the Topex/Poseidon satellite.

The volume of warm water on Dec. 1 was 10 percent to 20 percent less than at a peak in the fall, said Lee-Lueng Fu, the Topex/Poseidon project scientist.

Even the current size is significant, however, and forecasters were not ready to change their outlook on the impact of this El Nino because of the recent decrease.

"I think our folks would still agree we expect the effects of the El Nino to be as strong," said Jim Laver, deputy director of the National Weather Service's Cli-

mate Prediction Center in Camp Springs, Md.

"We expect the winter to still present heavy rainfalls across the southern third of the United States," he said. "It's not going to go away quickly."

El Nino's current size is similar to that measured in early September, when the area of the water mass was estimated at 1 1/2 times the size of the continental United States.

"It's still a huge feature on the surface of the planet," JPL spokeswoman Mary Hardin said from the American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco.

El Nino affects weather through the transfer of heat from the ocean to the atmosphere. Volume is important because that indicates how much energy is stored, even at depths of hundreds of meters. Area is important because that's where the energy transfer occurs.

This El Nino has completed what oceanographers describe as a classic "double peak" pattern in the Eastern Pacific. The first peak in sea level occurred in July, followed by a peak in October-November.