

KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 36 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Three UK hospital programs among nation's best

By Chris Miles
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UK took another step closer to reaching top-20 status last week as the UK Chandler Hospital was recognized as one of the nation's top public hospitals.

In a first for the university, U.S. News & World Report ranked three of UK's medical programs in the top 50 in the nation: gynecology at No. 27, ear, nose and throat at No. 41 and cancer at No. 46.

In previous U.S. News & World Report rankings only one UK program has been recognized: the ear, nose and throat department.

"I think these rankings, these polls, provide a positive image of the university," said Dr. Jay Perman, dean of the College of Medicine. "The significance of this is that the hospital and UK are increasingly recognized as organizations that have expert provisions of care."

U.S. News & World Report reviews 5,462 hospitals around the nation in 16

different categories, ranging from cancer and heart disease to respiratory disorders and urology. This year, 173 hospitals appeared at least once in each of the categories.

"It's particularly pleasing to see UK's Markey Cancer center recognized because of the scourge that this disease is in Kentucky," Perman said.

The hospital's appearance in three categories signifies the hard work and dedication that not only the hospital has put in to become more prominent, but also the fervor UK has had to gain a

higher status as a public research center over the last few years, Perman said.

"I don't think this (hospital) was ever delivering anything but good care," Perman said. "But it wasn't providing enough. What we've done over the last three years has allowed us to catch up with the demand for care."

Dr. Michael Karpf, the executive vice president for health affairs, said that in the last three years UK has looked to build on its faculty and the resources they had at their disposal. "We recruited some excellent people

from around the nation," Karpf said. "We looked to find out where our strengths and weaknesses were. It's like building a football team. If you need a certain position like a running back or receiver, you go out there and recruit them."

Karpf partially attributed the recognition to the recruitment of personnel from Harvard and the Ohio State University and said that in order for UK to continue being ranked highly on such polls, further such recruitment would

See **Hospital** on page 3



PHOTOS BY ELLIOTT HESS | STAFF

Early elementary education senior Meaghan Woolson talks to kinesiology graduate and lifeguard Ann Skerkoski while Graham Gordon, right, a fourth-year architecture student, exits the pool after training for a triathlon yesterday at the Lancaster Aquatic Center.

SG back from D.C., resumes adviser hunt

By Blair Thomas
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Members of Student Government traveled to Washington, D.C., last week to help "give a face to UK students to the people in Washington," said SG Senate President Tyler Montell.

"We met with several representatives but the purpose of the trip was not legislation," Montell said. "We went to establish a relationship, to show the congressmen that the student body at UK isn't just a number, but cares about what goes on in Washington."

The four SG representatives, including Montell, President Nick Phelps and Chief of Staff Chris Crumrine, met with Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and other members of the Kentucky delegation to discuss House Bill H.R. 643.

The bill, a collegiate housing and infrastructure act, would allow tax-exempt charitable or educational organizations to make housing grants for tax-exempt social clubs like fraternities and sororities in order to provide, improve, operate or maintain collegiate housing.

"The legislation is important because it involves campus issues not just with the Greek community but also those students who live in the dorms," Montell said. "But we really took this opportunity to meet with anyone available to talk about the relationship Student Government can have with various issues in the future in Washington."

Now, back in Lexington, SG members are refocusing on their search for an adviser.

Phelps, Crumrine, SG Vice President Brittany Langdon and members of UK Student Affairs interviewed the first candidate for the new SG adviser and assistant to the Office of Student Involvement yesterday.

"It's really important to us that members of Student Government are there and play a part in selecting the right person for the position," Montell said.

One candidate has been interviewed this week and Montell said there are no more interviews scheduled for the next few days.

"We all liked the person we interviewed (yesterday)," Langdon said. "They had a lot of SG experience."

Neither Langdon nor Montell knew how many applications were submitted for the position.

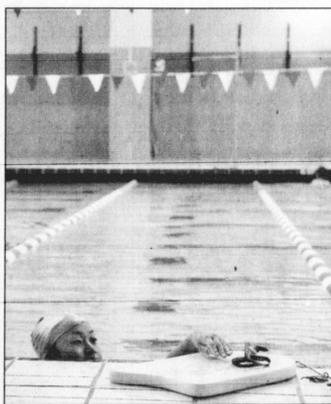
Phelps, who could not be reached for comment yesterday, had hoped to fill the position by the first week of July but said in an interview last week that they would take all the time needed to find the right person.

"We are talking about filling two positions, one with Student Government and one with the Office of Student Involvement," Phelps said. "We want to take enough time to make sure he or she is a fit for both positions."

'Just keep swimming'

During yesterday's hot and muggy afternoon, some members of the UK and Lexington community went for a cool swim at UK's Lancaster Aquatic Center.

The pool provides refuge from the summer sun from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday with a pass or valid ID.



UK graduate Mai Futamura prepares to get out of the pool after taking 30 minutes to swim laps yesterday at the Lancaster Aquatic Center. Futamura decided to escape the oppressively humid day at the facility on South Campus.

NEWS BRIEFS

Sexual assaults reported close to UK campus

Two females reported to Lexington Police on Sunday that they had been sexually assaulted in a parking lot just off Scott Street, according to a news release.

The assault occurred between 1:45 a.m. and 2 a.m.

The unknown suspect is described as a white male, 5-foot-7, with short, possibly shaved, hair. He is reported as wearing a black hat, black shirt and khaki shorts. The suspect implied to the females that he had a weapon.

UK Police advise students to be aware of their surroundings, be responsible when drinking and to carry a cell phone or other personal safety device.

Anyone who sees a subject matching the above description is encouraged to call 911 from the nearest phone.

UK health services official wins national award

Karen Clancy, associate director of UK's University Health Services, was awarded

the Affiliates New Professional Award by the American College Health Association at its 2007 annual meeting in San Antonio.

"Karen is one of those rare individuals who can see the big picture while juggling myriad details," said Dr. Gregory Moore, UHS director, in a news release. "Her experience providing medical care, her passion for students and her experience in medical management all contribute to (the) phenomenal success and excellent reputation that UHS enjoys."

The award recognizes ACHA members who have worked in the field of college health for three years and who have made significant contributions to their institutions or affiliates.

Clancy was also recently inducted into the UK College of Health Sciences Hall of Fame and has served as chair for the Kentucky College Health Association.

Student appears on Grammy winner's album

Angie Ortega, a UK senior, will be featured on the next

record from Grammy Award-winning jazz musician Gordon Goodwin and the Big Phat Band.

Ortega earned the singing spot by winning the "Big Phat Jam" online competition on the band's Web site.

"Right off the bat, Angie shows she knows how to sing, as she sings those lines with the band perfectly," Goodwin said in a news release. "She is confident, has a great range and her pitch and style is right on the money."

As the lead vocals contest winner, a caricature of Ortega will appear on the band's album cover when it is released.

For the contest, Ortega submitted a demo tape of lead vocals for the song "Too Close for Comfort," originally performed by Diane Reeves. The demo was used on the group's Web site, and Internet users voted for finalists based on the recordings.

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HOROSCOPES

By Linda C. Black
To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

- Aries (March 21 - April 19)** — Today is a 6 — Working around your own place is the most profitable use of your time. You don't make any money but you rack up a lot of points.
- Taurus (April 20 - May 20)** — Today is an 8 — You'll see what needs to be done to advance to the next level. You want long-term security. That is a goal you can achieve.
- Gemini (May 21 - June 21)** — Today is a 6 — There's a lot being said but a lot of talk is not the same as communicating. When it boils down to the basics, you can just say "no."
- Cancer (June 22 - July 22)**

- Today is a 7 — Slow and easy does it; the difficult part is almost over. Schedule a quiet weekend in the privacy of your own home.
- Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22)** — Today is a 6 — You're learning a lot but be careful. Everything you read will not apply. The subject you're studying is more complex than you thought.
- Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)** — Today is an 8 — Your work is paying off but you still need to be thrifty. Don't donate all your earnings, even to a good cause.
- Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)** — Today is a 6 — You're starting to understand more. Let people think you're still in the dark. It's wise to play the fool.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)** — Today is a 7 — A private conversation brings up hidden difficulties. Help solve these problems but not by throwing money at them.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)** — Today is a 6 — Put aside troublesome thoughts for a while. You don't need any. What you need is more time spent with friends. They've been missing you.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)** — Today is an 8 — You'll soon have an opportunity to advance your career. An important person is about to notice you, and be favorably impressed. Continue to do good work.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)** — Today is a 7 — Your work interferes with another fun activity but don't complain. It's more important for you to do preparations. You can play later.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)** — Today is a 6 — You're facing a barrier which, at first, seems insurmountable. It's tough, that's true, but don't give up. Find another way.



Rosie O'Donnell — Her Cruise Ship Rantings

THE DISH

On her annual voyage, O'Donnell yuks it up at the expense of her former Viewers

Looks like Rosie O'Donnell has some issues about her premature departure from *The View*. The comedian, 45, laid into Elisabeth Hasselbeck - her former friend and cohost - in front of a 1,500-person audience on her cruise (from NYC to a private island in the Bahamas) for gay and lesbian families. A witness tells *Us* O'Donnell trotted out a giant photo of Hasselbeck doctored up as the devil, made a "crazy" gesture at the poster and said, "Her only f---ing credit was *Survivor*. Come on!" And O'Donnell implied that the pair's famous last battle wasn't held on an even playing field. "I can't fight with pregnant people. Just go have your baby and have a nice life." (Hasselbeck's rep had no comment.) O'Donnell also told the crowd that when you do a show with a group of gals, "before you know it, you've got a Jimmy Choo in your back!" Finally, she targeted Donald Trump. Recalls the witness, "Rosie said she'd love to break into his apartment and rub her belly all over him." (Trump's rep could not be reached.)

from Johnny Depp," the source says. Doherty, 28, may have cheated on Moss once before: Lara Laghi, a student, told Britain's *Daily Star* she had a fling with Doherty eight months back. "Pete feels stupid," a source says. But Moss' friends are thrilled about the breakup. Says one, "No one gets her fascination with Pete." (Moss' rep says, "This is rubbish," and Doherty's rep could not be reached.)

major romance! Five months after Hot Stuff broke the news that the two had paired up, a source says "they're definitely still a couple." But don't expect wedding bells any time soon. Adds the insider, "Neither knows where it's going, but they love being together and are having fun." (Perry's rep had no comment and Ryan's did not respond to inquiries.)

Cameron's Rich New Suitor!

Hot Stuff has learned Cameron Diaz, 34, has made Criss Angel disappear from her heart and moved on to a man with his own magic touch: David de Rothschild, 28, a British environmentalist and heir to a banking fortune. The pair, first spotted in the VIP section at Live Earth in New Jersey on July 7, flirted and touched throughout dinner at NYC's Stanton Social just two nights later.

Joel Madden Defends Nicole

Joel Madden, 28, showed pregnant love Nicole Richie that he has her back at the Beverly Hills Hotel's Polo Lounge July 6. The rocker got huffy when he spotted The Hills' Spencer Pratt and Heidi Montag dining. Pratt tells *Us* Madden approached him and said, "You're talking s--- about my girl. I [could] beat your f---ing ass." (Madden was snuffed about a Details magazine story that quoted Pratt saying he orchestrated pal Brody Jenner's relationship with Richie, telling him: "You're gonna get that skinny bitch to eat!") But Madden and Richie are now focusing on the future: "Nicole's looking to get married at the end of August or beginning of September," says an insider. "They are so happy." (Richie's rep had no comment and Madden's did not return calls.)

Ileana's Getting Ugly This Fall

Hot Stuff has learned indie film darling (and Martin Scorsese's onetime gal pal) Ileana Douglas, 41, will join ABC's *Ugly Betty* as a new editor at fashion bible Mode. Typecasting? Douglas last year played legendary Vogue editor Diana Vreeland in Factory Girl. (Douglas' rep had no comment.)

Kate & Pete — Why It Ended

Kate Moss, 33, stood by her man through drug use, arrests and rehab. But she couldn't forgive him for cheating on her with a younger model. It's Kate's worst nightmare. "A source tells Hot Stuff of Pete Doherty's infidelity with stunner Lindi Hingston, reportedly 29. 'It plays into her deepest insecurities about aging.' Moss had the rocker's things removed from her home July 4. 'She's in a worse state than when she split

Meg & Matthew Going Strong!

Meg Ryan, 45, and Matthew Perry, 37, are in the midst of a

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23 CHOCOLATE TREES
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26 ELEC. BILL UNIT
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35 IRANIAN RELIGION

37 BE IN DEBT

38 HOME OF THE Masters golf tournament

42 FLAWED, AS MDSE.

43 LIKE CITIES

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28 CHARLIE WITH A #1 son

29 SHARPEN

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31 SHOULDER MUSCLE, for short

32 ALEXANDER ___, Reagan's first secretary of state

33 FRANC REPLACER

34 FARMING PREFIX

35 NEWBORN

36 SANTA ___, winds

39 PUZZLE WITH number squares

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47 LOSER TO DDE

48 USE THE Electrolux

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57 SILLY SORT, IN Sussex

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63 LAKERS' GP.

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BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

UK to use unconventional tactics

Shorter lineup may result in more starting guards

By James Pennington
sports@kykernel.com

Despite losing an entire coaching staff and two starters from one season ago, coaches from around the Southeastern Conference still expect UK to contend for the SEC East title.

Speaking at an SEC coach's teleconference on Monday, Tennessee head coach Bruce Pearl may have said it best.

"Kentucky is Kentucky," Pearl said. "It's always going to be Kentucky."

The Cats have lost four players from last year's team — forwards Bobby Perry and Shery Thomas and centers Lukasz Obrzut and Randolph Morris. But since arriving as UK's new head coach in April, Billy Gillispie immediately jumped on the recruiting trail. He hasn't slowed down since.

When Gillispie got to Lexington, UK had two signees for the class of 2007-08. Although it was late in the recruiting process, Gillispie managed to double the size of the incoming class for this season, including capturing coveted Huntington, W.Va., forward Patrick Patterson.

He also received commitments for each class up until the 2010 season, where he already has two players committed to the Cats.

"I think it's gone OK," Gillispie said. Still, Gillispie will be facing problems in his first year as coach.

Of the four players UK will not be returning from last year, none was shorter than 6-foot-8.

Of the four players UK is slated to bring in for next year, only one is taller than 6-foot-8.

"I would think that this will probably be one of the smaller teams that we'll have," Gillispie said.

Although Gillispie said he does not know what type of style to expect from the team, this year's squad will undoubtedly have an unconventional look.

"I'm always used to having two big, strong post players out there with three guards on the perimeter," Gillispie said.

Even South Carolina head coach Dave Odom recognized UK's lack of size.

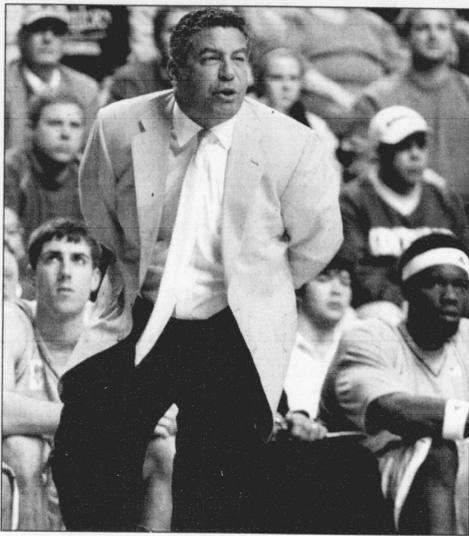
"Kentucky has a very strong perimeter and they can get their inside game going, they could be very strong," Odom said.

No matter what style the Cats play next season, Coach Gillispie is looking forward to the challenge.

"Every single game brings a challenge," he said. "I don't think any player or coach would be in this position if they didn't look forward to the challenge of each game."

Coaches debate young recruits

Gillispie, in only his third month as head



Tennessee head coach Bruce Pearl shouts to his players during UK's win over the Volunteers on Jan. 28. Pearl and other coaches from the SEC questioned UK head coach Billy Gillispie's recruiting of younger players.

coach, has up until now signed three players who won't wear a UK jersey for another two years: point guard G.J. Vilarino (2009-10), power forward Dakotah Euton and point guard K.C. Ross-Miller (both 2010-11).

Some SEC coaches feel that such early commitment can damage a player's attitude.

"The thing I want players to be is hungry and humble," Pearl said, commenting on the recent trend. "This recruiting can stunt a player's growth in that some can just say, 'OK, I've made it. (I've) arrived.'"

Georgia head coach Dennis Felton said he is concerned that when players commit so early, they don't take their commitment as seriously and feel as if they can back out if they see fit.

"The earlier kids commit, the less committed they are," Felton said. "Guys are committing but they don't necessarily mean it."

Gillispie rationalized recruiting such young players.

"One of the reasons that people are able to make commitments so early is because they play so much," he said. "There's also probably a lot more information about play-

ers than there ever has been in the history of basketball."

New Arkansas head coach John Pelphrey, who most Kentuckians know as a standout player for the Cats from 1988-92, said every situation is different in recruiting.

"I have seen a couple of eighth-graders that are going to be freshmen and if they wanted to commit to Arkansas, I'd certainly let them," Pelphrey said.

Pelphrey also recognized a downside of the process.

"If a kid commits as an eighth-grader and the coaches leave, now what happens?" he said.

Auburn head coach Jeff Lebo said he is concerned about the maturity of an eighth-grader.

"I didn't even know how to go to the bathroom as an eighth-grader," he said.

Even if the 12 basketball coaches in the SEC have different opinions on recruiting, Vanderbilt's Kevin Stallings made a point that every coach in the nation can accept.

"Recruiting is an inexact science, for sure," he said.

Former UK shooter wins silver

Riflist targets 2008 Olympics for next shot at success

By Chris Miles
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One of UK's former standout athletes is making big noise after graduation.

Amy Sowash, who captained the UK rifle team last season as a senior, received the silver medal in the women's 10-meter air rifle at this summer's Pan American games in Brazil.

"We're really excited for her," said Harry Mullins, head coach of the rifle team. "Especially for a senior who has



Sowash

team in 2003.

"She's not a recruit that is in for big things like Patrick Patterson (on the UK men's basketball team), but she's had some great

success in her career," Mullins said.

Sowash helped the Cats to a second-place national finish her junior year and a fourth-place finish last year. She was also named an All-American her senior year.

After graduation, Sowash took a spot at the Olympic training camp in Colorado, where she was able to take a spot shooting for the United States in the Pan American games.

Sowash's ultimate goal, though, is to participate in a much larger set of games, Mullins said.

"The ultimate goal is to make the Olympics and win those," Mullins said. "The Pan American Games are a stepping

stone to that."

The U.S. Olympic team has already started showing interest in Sowash, Mullins said.

"She's going to be on the national team for the next year, trying for the 2008 Olympics," he said.

But if the 2008 games fall through for Sowash, Mullins said Sowash will set her sights at the 2012 games.

Sowash's performance in Brazil was great, Mullins said, though he thinks Sowash might not exactly feel the same way.

"I'm sure she's disappointed because she didn't win, because she sure likes to win," he said. "But to see her get silver is

great."

CORRECTION

On July 12, the Kernel misidentified the Russell County High School girl's junior varsity soccer team and their coach, Anne Galito.

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HOSPITAL

Continued from page 1

be necessary.

"But we also need the facilities and the physical plan; you need to build the tools they need," Karpf said, gesturing from his office window in the Wethington Building and out onto the construction of the new hospital bed tower, medical school and pharmacy school.

UK's recent purchase of Good Samaritan Hospital will also help feed the growing needs of the medical center, Karpf said. The hospital, located on Maxwell Street, will now be called UK Healthcare Good Samaritan and will retain 95 percent of its staff. Every week 10 new patients from the Chandler Hospital will be admitted to the new center, he said, easing the burden on UK.

The U.S. News and World Report rankings show the kind of upward momentum UK has begun, Perman said.

"This (polling) will help in a very material way," Perman said. "When UK appears in these rankings people notice. People start asking questions and start taking a look at the great things we're doing. People want to know how we did this and that creates a buzz."

That buzz, Perman added, is one that will allow UK to gain more national recognition and better financial incentives in the future.

"Something like this creates its own momentum," Perman said. "There are those doubters of top-20, but we already are at the top. These rankings say to everyone that it can be done. And if it can be done in gynecology, then it can also be done in English and history."

OPINIONS

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Graduating good people, not just good students

When America's troubled need a helping hand, college students across the nation are turning out in increasing numbers to do as much as possible, according to the "College Students Helping America" report released by the Federal Corporation for National and Community Service.

Volunteerism among college students increased 20 percent from 2002 to 2005, according to the report.

UK students are no exception to this trend.

In early March, more than 450 students came together at UK's second-annual DanceBlue for 24 hours of dancing, standing and no sleeping to raise \$214,514 for the Pediatric Oncology Clinic at the UK Chandler Hospital. As well as raising money, many of those who participated in the dance marathon visited with families who will benefit from the funds. Students offered their time and emotional support to those families in need.

Also, two days before the fall semester begins in August, UK students will donate their efforts with the community service project UK For Unity and Service in Our Neighborhoods, or UK FUSION. An estimated 1,000 students will travel to 55 project sites where they will perform a variety of helpful tasks at locations ranging from nursing homes to law offices to homeless shelters, according to a UK

KERNEL EDITORIAL

news release.

"We want to graduate not only good engineers, good poets, good physicians and good students at the University of Kentucky," said Laura Hatfield, assistant director of Student Involvement and adviser to the Center for Community Outreach, in the news release. "We want to send good people into the world, young people who will make a difference for all of us."

We agree.

It's one thing to send people into the world who are good at what they've been trained to do. It's another to send good people into the world who are still good at what they've been trained to do. Numbers like those above seem to indicate that UK is successful in the latter.

We applaud those students who also specialize in being good people. As college students, we understand that college life can be busy and hectic even if all you're doing is taking 15 hours during a semester. It takes extra effort, and especially time, to put energy and focus into other extra-curricular activities.

Volunteering is an honorable activity and we admire and support the volunteers at UK and across the nation for all of their hard work and dedication to being good people and making this world a better place.

UK hospital makes the grade, nets national rankings

U.S. News and World Report recently ranked the UK Chandler Hospital among the nation's best 173 hospitals. Achieving national acclaim such as this is yet another step toward UK's goal of becoming a top-20 institution.

Chandler Hospital is the only Lexington hospital and one of only three Kentucky hospitals to appear on the U.S. News and World Report list.

This ranking and others — Solucient, a company that has been identifying America's top hospitals since 1993, recently ranked UK's hospital in the top 100 and listed it as one of the top 15 major academic medical centers — show the university's current commitment to providing quality health care to Lexingtonians, as well as residents in the rest of the state.

"Most patients can receive care at their local hospital where they are closest to support from loved ones," said Dr. Michael Karpf, executive vice president for health affairs, in a news release. "When more complex care is necessary, patients in Kentucky have the peace of mind that they do not need to

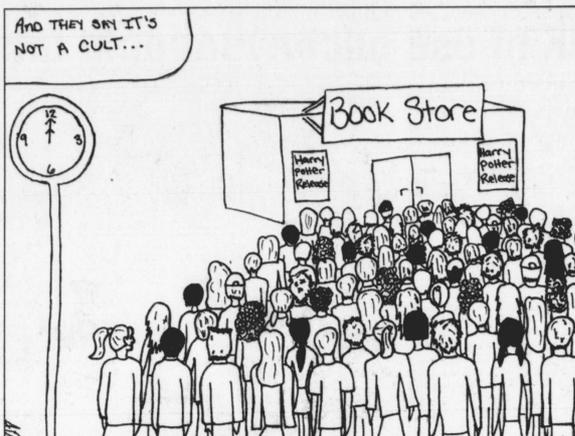
KERNEL EDITORIAL

travel beyond the state line." Having this peace of mind is incredibly important. Health care is a topic that sits in debate on the national forefront, and sickness reaches every person in one form or another. Knowing there is a nationally ranked hospital centrally located in Kentucky should bring relief to many of the state's citizens.

For the first time, three of UK's programs were also specifically ranked among the nation's best. Those programs are gynecology (27), ear, nose and throat (41) and cancer (46). These rankings should provide even more comfort.

UK is continuing to show its commitment to Kentucky citizens with the expansion of the Chandler Hospital. By 2011, Kentuckians will have a new building featuring new technology that will help advance Kentucky health care even further.

We applaud the efforts of UK and the Chandler Hospital and are hopeful about the advancements in health care for the state of Kentucky.



AZRA DRLJEVIC, Kernel cartoonist

No textbook for life's uncertainties

I'm convinced that the worst feeling in the world is not knowing. Not like not knowing the answer to a question in class or not knowing which shoes to wear with what dress, but not knowing important things.

For instance, let's say you're going out to dinner with friends. Everyone is excited and pumped about hanging out, but you all run into the same problem. Friend A says, "So, where are we going?" And friend B through Z answer with "I don't care," "I don't know" and "it doesn't matter." Immediately, your excitement fades and all of you are trying to make a decision. Until that decision is made, you're left with the feeling of not knowing.

Although food is important and without it life would cease and desist, this isn't quite the type of important I'm really going for, but it's something everyone can relate to. Just take that not-knowing-where-we're-going-

to-eat feeling and multiply it by about 1,000. There, that's a bit closer.

My last bout with not knowing — or at least the last bout worth recounting — took place during my senior year of high school. Of course, I was like any other 18-year-old female and all my problems revolved around guys. I was dating one, considered dating another and had another one or two summoning my heart as well. I didn't want anyone to get hurt, so I did the plausible thing — I put the whole decision-making part on hold and lived in the realm of not knowing for a couple months.

What I should have said is that I didn't want anyone else to get hurt, because living in that not-knowing realm caused plenty of pains of its own — for me. I didn't know what I wanted, and quite frankly didn't know how to find out what I wanted. I suppose it would have been a lot easier if someone would have sat me down and laid it out for me, but life doesn't work that way.

Instead, I made up my mind, broke a heart in the process and life went on. So far, that decision has lasted four years.

I say all this to focus on my current fight with not knowing. It's a big

one, and though most of you won't face it for at least a year, you will all at some point.

To put it bluntly, I'm not quite sure where my future is headed. To put a specific direction on it, one week from today the summer Kernel ends and so does my college career — and I still don't have a "big people" job. Having to question my career choice and my future plans puts a large strain on other parts of my life.

I don't know what I'll be doing in one week. I don't have a plan. All I have are a few employers that have told me they'd call me back. That'd be enough to make anyone a little crazy, right?

This craziness has led me to question if I even chose the right profession, and that's a pretty big decision I made four years ago. It's such a big decision that it leads me to question other decisions of equal and smaller sizes. Do I even know what I'm doing? Maybe I should shake a magic 8-ball and get a random answer.

The worst part about not knowing this time is that I can't really do anything about it. I guess now all there is to do is wait, and unfortunately that's the worst part.



SHANNON MASON
Kernel columnist

With the final installment of the "Harry Potter" series hitting shelves this Friday at midnight, it seems only fitting to reflect on the dismal state we've found ourselves in as literacy rates around the nation plummet and the printed word declines.

Let's face it. In the world of Web clips, podcasts, YouTube and Facebook, it's a wonder anyone can read anymore. As a society, we've managed to find a way to bypass literacy entirely by depending on images, sound bites and videos as our source of information. It's a depressing scene as we realize everyday how much shorter and shorter our attention spans get.

We truly are an attention-deficit disorder society.

According to Dave Lieberman of USA Today, newspaper circulation fell 2.4 percent during the six months prior to March 31, 2006. Some papers like The Boston Globe, The Boston Herald, and The Los Angeles Times fell losses all the way up to a 9 percent drop.

Pundits would love for you to believe the drop in circulation has to do with crazy editorial boards that are too biased, but the truth is that we just hate to read.

While there's nothing wrong with getting only the highlights of the news, we've forced companies to compete, not for the best (and more importantly, most accurate) stories, but for our attention. So instead of giving us a speech the president gave, or the full story surrounding the latest scandal in Frankfurt, the media have resorted to giving us nothing more than a 10-second sound bite so as not to bore us to tears.

But, our attention span has to be longer than 10 seconds, doesn't it? According to Michael Copps, the

Federal Communications Commission-

er in 2004, the average sound bite from the presidential candidates of 2000 had been forced down to eight or nine seconds. That means we're relying on a 10-second sound clip to decide who should make the most important decisions our country faces for the next four years.

How's that sound for "being informed" on the issues?

While you could make the argument that 24/7 TV news coverage and the World Wide Web have allowed for easier access to information for everyone, it is also crippling our attention span and giving us an appetite for a slimmed down version of the news. If a story doesn't get to the point quickly, we're bored and we move on in a matter of minutes (less time if there aren't any pictures).

As technology continues to advance, we're going to see more and more ways to access quick information as fast as we can, and if we're not careful, we'll lose the printed word entirely. The further we move away from the printed word, the less informed we'll find ourselves. Time has shown that with every new way to get a quick fix of daily information, we crave something even faster — even if that means less information.

So this weekend, as millions of people around the world celebrate the biggest book release the world has seen, we can only hope that it won't be the last of its kind. The written word provides us something that TV, podcasts, and Web clips never will. It gives us unabridged information and a chance to stop and enjoy a moment of solidarity in a world of multi-tasking.

If we let it fade away — we'll soon regret it.



BRETT NOLAN
Kernel columnist

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Pundits would love for you to believe the drop in circulation has to do with crazy editorial boards that are too biased, but the truth is that we just hate to read. Long gone are the days where we view morning coffee and the daily newspaper as the perfect start to a day. We'll have our coffee to go (preferably at a Starbucks drive-thru) and we'll catch all the news we can via a quick Web feed or tonight's episode of "The

Daily Show."

It's a wonder you're even reading this right now.

And although I'm as guilty as the next person as far as delighting myself in every fancy and geeky way there is to access information (my news feeds get sent straight to my iPhone), I can't help but see a danger in the path that we're headed down.

The most addicting part of 24/7 news coverage on TV and on the net is that we can get highlights of the real world without having to pay very much attention. I can browse a Web page with pictures and videos much faster than I can read a newspaper —

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Cartoonists Needed

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

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Submissions

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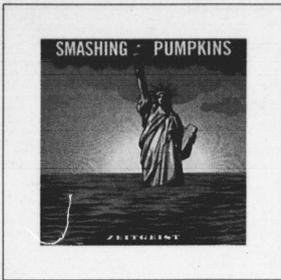
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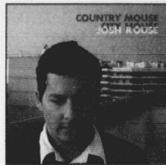
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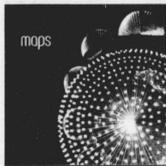
CD REVIEWS

By Josh Brock
features@kykernel.com

Smashing Pumpkins — "Zeitgeist"
It's hard to truly call "Zeitgeist" a Smashing Pumpkins reunion album, although it is billed as such. Only two of the original members returned for the album — Jimmy Chamberlin is on drums and Billy Corgan is responsible for everything else. Corgan was always the main creative force behind the band, but the absences of former guitarist James Iha and bassist D'Arcy Wretzky are still evident. "Zeitgeist" is a heavier album than previous efforts, as shown by the metal guitar riffs of the first single, "Tarantula." The heavier sound is not bad, but may not be as familiar as fans were hoping for. Approach this album for what it is — basically a Billy Corgan solo album — and you will probably enjoy it; approach it expecting to hear more Smashing Pumpkins genius and you may be let down.
For fans of: Velvet Revolver, Queens of the Stone Age, Foo Fighters



Josh Rouse — "Country Mouse, City House"
Not many people would move out of the country just for change of pace, but that is exactly what Josh Rouse did. In late 2005, he moved from Nashville to Valencia, Spain. Both his Nashville influences and his Mediterranean surroundings are evident on his latest release, "Country Mouse, City House." The album is a relaxed affair that recreates the kind of ambience one would imagine in Spain. Listening to the track "Italian Dry Ice" it is easy to imagine yourself sitting outside a cafe in Valencia enjoying a summer day. Those kinds of images run rampant throughout the album and are the primary reason the album is so good.
For fans of: Amos Lee, Guster, Damien Rice



Maps — "We Can Create"
James Chapman, the mastermind behind Maps, takes an unusual approach to making his electronic music. He eschews computers, preferring the painstaking process of recording to tape and hand splicing the sounds together in his bedroom. Given the means, it is incredible how epic "We Can Create" sounds. Listen to "You Don't Know Her Name"

for a prime example of Chapman's tendency to combine electronic instrumentation with trippy, psychedelic vocals. Although the instrumentation can get a little monotonous after extended listening, the album is interesting enough to keep fans of electronic music coming back for another listen.
For fans of: The Postal Service, Snow Patrol, Imogen Heap



Emerson Hart — "Cigarettes and Gasoline"
"Cigarettes and Gasoline," the first solo album from former Tonic frontman Emerson Hart, is a very personal record. Hart has always written songs full of emotion that plainly stated their intentions and he continues that with this record. "If You're Gonna Leave," a song about someone who is tired of hanging on to a dying relationship, is a great example of a song that continues this tradition — it also happens to be the first single and has "hit" written all over it. Another standout track is "I Wish the Best for You," one of the best break-up songs to come along in a while. Overall, this album is a little softer than the average Tonic album but still carries the same emotional weight, making for a terrific start on what will hopefully be a very long solo career.
For fans of: Augustana, Lifehouse, The Goo Goo Dolls



Rooney — "Calling the World"
It's difficult to imagine that an album could be catchier than "Calling the World," the second release from L.A.-based Rooney. The band combines a retro aesthetic with head-bobbing music and well-written pop-rock songs. They take the beach bum image and vocal harmonies of The Beach Boys, add a Beatles-esque ability to write hooks and turn up the volume. The result is a unique, high-energy brand of rock, showcased on songs like "Don't Come Around Again" and "All In Your Head." With the upbeat sound, Rooney finds that place in your head where songs get stuck and don't want to leave — and you won't want them to, either.
For fans of: Weezer, The Strokes, Hot Hot Heat

Today's naughty knitters make stuff that might make Grandma blush

By Monica Watrous
McClatchy Newspapers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Knitting is witty. Sewing is sexy. And cross-stitching? Well, it's not as crotchety as you might think.
Traditional crafts have gotten a cheeky, edgy update as material girls (and boys) across the country create unconventional projects from new how-to books that have reinvented the hobby.
Nikol Lohr, author of the saucy book "Naughty Needles," is one of the

women leading the pastime revolution. Her Knitted Burlesque Revue at the Jackpot Music Hall in Lawrence, Mo., contained examples of her eye-popping garments, such as clam shell bikinis and starfish-shaped pasties.
All the costumes were be knitted, right down to the G-strings, she said.
"My book's silly," Lohr said. "Some of my garments are practical, but most are honestly whimsical. I like the idea of taking traditional crafting and doing something unexpected with it."
Debbie Stoller, editor in chief of

Bust magazine, pioneered the trend in 2003 with the first of her Stitch 'N Bitch series, a handbook packed with sassy language and 40 knitting patterns that move beyond the prosaic potholder.
"I never claim that it's not your mother's or your grandma's knitting," Stoller said. "It is Grandma's knitting. It's just not her patterns."
In 1999, she set out to remove the old-lady stigma against knitting by engaging a younger, hipper audience. She introduced crafts to Bust in 1999. Since then, other magazines have surfaced, including

Vogue Knitting, Knit, I and Adorn, a teen-targeted crafting publication.
Yarn harlots Lohr and Jennifer Stafford, author of "Domknitrix," published their racy guides last year. Both contain seductive patterns that put the whip in whipsitch.
In their books you can learn how to craft straitjacket sweaters, black fishnet knee-highs and pirate-style eye patches.
Even homey cross-stitch got a makeover through Julie Jackson's "Subversive Cross Stitch," which contains 33 patterns of dainty presentations of flow-

ers and bunnies paired with surly statements, such as "Bite Me" or "You Suck."
"Why the sass? Why the edge?"
"I think it's a celebration of individuality in a cookie-cutter world," said Jackson, whose book spawned a stationery set, do-it-yourself kits and a wall calendar. "Things that used to be unique and 'off the beaten path' are now mass-produced and mainstream, available to anyone for five bucks. So making things you love is really one of the only ways to convey personal style anymore."

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