



WEATHER Partly sunny today; high 60. Cloudy and mild tonight, low 50. Chance of showers tomorrow, high 60.

OUTSIDE SHOTS With a three-point barrage, the Wildcats cruised to a 90-62 victory over Wright State. See Sports, page 2.



Tue
December 10, 1996

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ESTABLISHED 1894

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

INDEPENDENT SINCE 1971

Students say no to system

By James Ritchie
Senior Staff Writer

Students offered a resounding "no" to the question of plus/minus grading scale at yesterday's University Senate meeting while faculty were divided both on whether such a system should be implemented and whether students' opinions on the issue matter.

The meeting was devoted entirely to discussion of the merits of a plus/minus system. No motions were allowed.

Michael Tomblin, a graduate student and senate member, said he was "frustrated by the aloofness of the faculty," since some of them pushed for a switch to a plus/minus scale even though they know students oppose the measure.

He cited last month's Student Government Association-sponsored survey of 401 UK students, in which 70 percent opposed plus/minus grading.

Tomblin said faculty could offer "no defensible arguments" in favor of a change to the plus/minus scale.

However, he said he might be willing to reconsider his position if some problems could be worked out of current proposals.

"We're willing to compromise on this issue...as long as it doesn't

hurt students," Tomblin said.

Possible solutions might be adding the plus without the minus, or allowing students to choose the plus/minus grading option when they use the University's automated telephone registration system, Tomblin said.

Registrar Betty Huff said making plus/minus grading an option during registration would not be feasible at this point "unless we get NASA to do our programming."

Several faculty members pointed out that plus/minus grading would certainly have a detrimental effect on the grade point averages of students who are consistently earning As.

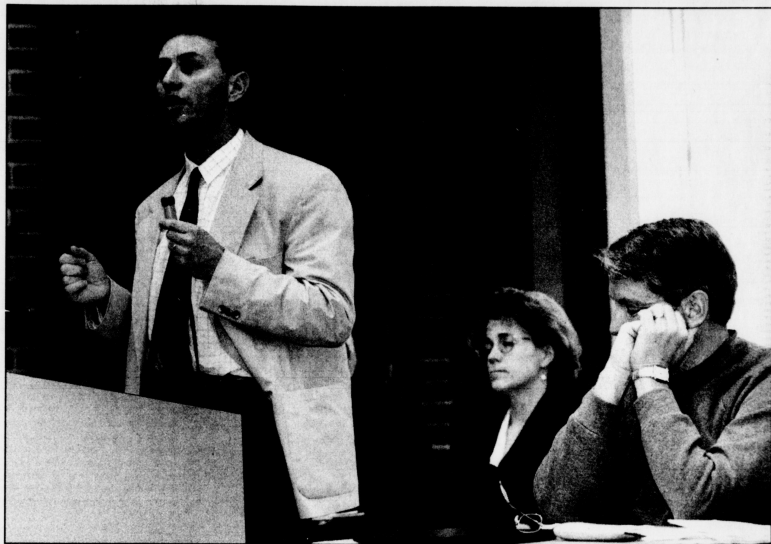
"The solid A students will be penalized," said Doug Paul, a professor in the College of Business and Economics.

Paul said whether or not students prefer plus/minus grading is irrelevant.

He said what matters is whether the system will enhance learning; he does not think it will.

"There is no consensus among the faculty this is a better way to do things," Paul said.

Jed Porter, architecture professor, whose college already uses a plus/minus system, said he has consistently favored this type of grading, even when he was a student at UK.



PLUS OR MINUS Steve Hart, assistant dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, addressed the University Senate open forum on the plus/minus grading system yesterday. Opinions on the issue were divided.

"I have always welcomed the challenge of getting an A rather than an A-minus."

He said he appreciates the greater precision the plus/minus scale allows in grading.

Dean of Undergraduate Studies Louis Swift said the senate should first settle the issue of whether to have a uniform grading system across the campus, and then decide on the details of such

a system.

A uniform grading policy would be impossible to achieve, said philosophy professor Joan Callahan, since professors are individuals.

"The fact that some students would get lower GPAs does not entail anything," she said, since some students are unfairly advantaged under the current system.

Service group hosts children for Santa party

By Jerri Cook
Contributing Writer

Some UK students are giving underprivileged children a chance to have a merry Christmas.

Alpha Phi Omega, a service fraternity, is hosting its fifth annual Christmas party on Thursday at the Lexington Children's Museum from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The party is held to provide gifts and food for 50 underprivileged children from the Lexington area.

Jennifer Johns, a member of APO, urges UK sororities and fraternities to donate to this cause.

"There are still a handful of children who need sponsors, and we would appreciate anyone willing to sponsor a child," Johns said.

Johns has been participating in the event since her initiation two years ago. She is in charge of the Christmas party and said she is excited about the annual event.

"I enjoy helping with this party, and I'm really looking forward to the kids taking pictures with Santa Claus this year," she said.

"We thank them all," Johns said. "We could not have done it without their help."

The Lexington Children's Museum has been the biggest contributor to this event. The museum will provide its facilities for the Christmas party.

The 50 children were referred by local community groups in Lexington, such as the YMCA spousal abuse program and Manchester Center, which is an after-school program that helps youths stay away from gangs.

Representatives from these agencies chose the children and gave the sponsors the children's first names, ages and wish lists for Christmas.

Johns said the children's identities are kept confidential.

The party will begin at 6:30 p.m. The children will be given dinner and then taken to the party room. There will be one volunteer chaperone for every two children.

The children will be allowed to explore the museum for 45 minutes. Then everyone will gather around to take a picture with Santa Claus and receive a gift.

Many children have not been sponsored, and it is never too late to make Christmas special for a child.

See ALPHA on 3



BOURBON MAN Bill Samuels, owners of Maker's Mark distillery, signed Maker's Mark posters, bottles and other items at Sporting Tradition in the Civic Center Shops yesterday afternoon.

Making a mark

By Chris Campbell
Assistant Editorial Editor

Can you imagine a world where the buildings are dipped in wax? A world which every man, woman and child has a bottle of bourbon all to themselves.

Well, maybe not children, but Bill Samuels hopes to make every person's dream of sweet smelling Kentucky bourbon come true.

In a time when Kentucky Bourbon has become more popular than his horses, the Maker's Mark owner sat down with me at the unveiling of his first-ever catalog featuring a variety of products bearing the Maker's Mark name.

Samuels, wearing a trademark bourbon necktie, spoke with me about college, his business and the support UK and Lexington have given him and his company.

CC: Chris Campbell: Where did you go to college?
BS: Samuels: I did a lot of college. I very indirectly was trying to stay out of a war. You know, that famous war. I went to Case Institute of Technology in Cleveland, OH, did an undergraduate degree in engineering. Then I got a master's there at the University of California-Berkeley in physics. Then got my law degree from Vanderbilt. All trying to stay out of the war.

CC: So how did that land you in Bourbon?
BS: It was the only job I could get because my father started the company.

When I got out of high school it wasn't really a company. The first drop of Maker's Mark came on the line in 1959, and I was a freshman in college. It

was a slow development. Even when I got out of college in 1967 we hadn't made a profit yet, so we were still a fledgling little business.

CC: So Lexington is the home of Maker's Mark?
BS: Lexington was our first market. If it hadn't been for Lexington, if it had not been for the University of Kentucky... there would not be a Maker's Mark today. So we stuck close to home, stuck to Kentucky and people found out about it real fast and saved us in what it did.

CC: So why are you such a supporter of UK if you went to Vanderbilt and these other places?

BS: I can do worse than that. I remember the first time I got sent to my room was the NCAA tournament in 1951, we were sitting around the kitchen listening to Kentucky play Louisville. Both my parents graduated from Louisville, and I am sitting there yelling for UK and I almost got killed. And of course the other problem I've got is I'm on the University of Louisville Board of Trustees.

CC: Are there any college experiences that you think stand out in your mind the most?
BS: Well, I was not the greatest student in the world. I have always been kind of driven. But I was way over my head and for most of what I remember was the pain, the punishment and the anguish. I remember my fraternity, and a lot of my outlets were in athletics.

CC: Do you think UK winning the national championship provided you with an excellent opportunity?

See MAKERS on 3

NEWSbytes

NATION Olympic bomb investigation continues

ATLANTA — More than four months after the Olympic bombing, the FBI posted a \$500,000 reward yesterday and for the first time played a tape of the 911 warning call, hoping someone might recognize the man's deep, slow voice.

One-time suspect Richard Jewell, meanwhile, reached an undisclosed cash settlement with NBC over his claim that news anchor Tom Brokaw implied he was guilty of the bombing that left two dead and hundreds injured. NBC said it agreed to the settlement to protect confidential sources.

The FBI's deputy director, Weldon Kennedy, denied that investigators are at a dead end, and said the agency has made a "lot of progress." He said investigators believe people have photos, videos or other information that may identify the bomber or bombers.

WORLD Famous archaeologist dies

NAIROBI, Kenya — Archaeologist and anthropologist Mary Leakey, whose driving curiosity about prehistoric humans led her and her husband to momentous discoveries about man's origins, died Monday. She was 83.

Leakey found fossils in Tanzania and Kenya that indicated man's evolution began in East Africa 2 million years ago, far earlier than was believed at the time of the discovery.

Working with her husband in Kenya in 1947, Mary Leakey discovered the skull of Proconsul africanus, an ape-like ancestor of both apes and prehistoric man that lived about 25 million years ago. In 1959, at Olduvai Gorge, she discovered the skull of an early hominid — or pre-man human — that Louis dubbed "Zinjanthropus."

In 1976, six years after her husband's death, she made her most important discovery: footprints frozen for 3.5 million years in volcanic mud, which demonstrated that early hominids walked upright much earlier than previously thought.

NAMEdropping

Wrestler's heart weakened as Santa

FRANKLIN, Ind. — No more bumps and bruises for former professional wrestler John Hill — just the bear hugs reserved for Santa Claus by dozens of happy children.

After 25 years of being tossed around by the likes of Hulk Hogan and Andre the Giant, the former "Gentleman Jerry Valiant" loves his gig as a shopping-mall Santa. It's even brought tears to his eyes.

"I had a group of orphans come here last year, and a little girl came up to me and said, 'I'd like nothing more than a mommy or daddy to love me,'" Hill said. "What can you say?"

The 54-year-old Hill retired last year after a career that included 10 seasons in the World Wrestling Federation. The 6-foot-3, 280-pound Hill now runs a landscaping business.

Compiled from wire reports.



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UK in Wright State of mind in victory

By Brett Dawson
Senior Staff Writer

Inevitably, with UK coming off a rout of Indiana over the weekend, there was some thought that the Wildcats might be in the Wright State (of mind, that is) to play Wright State last night.

Any doubts, as it turned out, were unfounded. Thanks in part to a highlight-reel special from Ron Mercer, the Cats routed the Raiders 90-62.

Mercer nailed a career-high five three-pointers and spiked a pair of crowd-pleasing dunks en route to matching Derek Anderson's team-high 19 points.

"If you go into the tournament you play a No. 1 against a 16 seed, then you go on and get a better team," Anderson said. "We did the opposite. Mental preparation always has to be there and I think it was pretty much there the whole time."

Playing a regular-season game in Rupp Arena for the first time this season — its latest home opener ever — UK got off to a 17-5 start, then cruised to an easy win that sounded as if it satisfied the 23,127 who packed Rupp's rafters.

"One of the weaknesses we have at home is that we try to perform rather than play," UK coach Rick Pitino said. "I thought in the first half we really came out to play."

The Cats' half-court execution led to wide-open looks from three-point range. UK hit its first five threes — two each from Mercer and Anthony Epps — and knocked down 10-of-15 in the first half.

"We came out and exploited some of their weaknesses," Anderson said. "They were slow rotating, so we had to make the open shot."

For Wright State, though, it could've been worse. "I had visions watching tape," Raiders coach Jim Brown said, "that we

UK 90, Wright St. 62

UK (90): Pickett 2-5, 2-2; Mercer 7-10, 0-0 19; Maglore 2-3, 2-6; Anderson 6-10, 5-6 19; Epps 5-9, 0-0 15; Edwards 3-6, 2-4 9; Turner 3-5, 2-8; Mohammed 3-6, 0-0 6; Masiello 1-3, 0-2. Totals 52-57, 15-20 30.

WSU (62): Sivasand 1-2, 0-2; Corner 2-6, 0-0 4; Kos 3-8, 0-2; Welch 6-9, 4-4 22; Brooks 3-18, 1-3; Burton 3-8, 2-2; Oliver 1-3, 0-0 3; Richardson 2-4, 0-0 6; Lewis 0-0, 0-0 0; Sheppard 0-0, 0-0 0; Watkins 1-1, 0-0 2; Yeager 1-3, 0-0 2; Brown 0-0, 0-0 Totals 25-63, 7-11 62.

Halftime UK 56, WSU 29. Rebounds: UK 42 (Maglore 10), WSU 28 (Burton 7). Three-point FG: UK 15-28 (Mercer 5-7, Epps 5-9, Anderson 2-5, Edwards 1-2, Pickett 0-1, Masiello 0-2), WSU 8-18 (Welch 5-7, Richardson 2-3, Oliver 1-2, Kos 0-1, Brooks 0-1, Corner 0-2, Yeager 0-2). Assists: UK 27 (Pickett 7), WSU 11 (Brooks 5). Blocks: UK 8 (Maglore 6), WSU 0. Fouls: UK 14, WSU 14. Fouled out: Maglore, A. 23:17 (25:00).

wouldn't even score a point tonight."

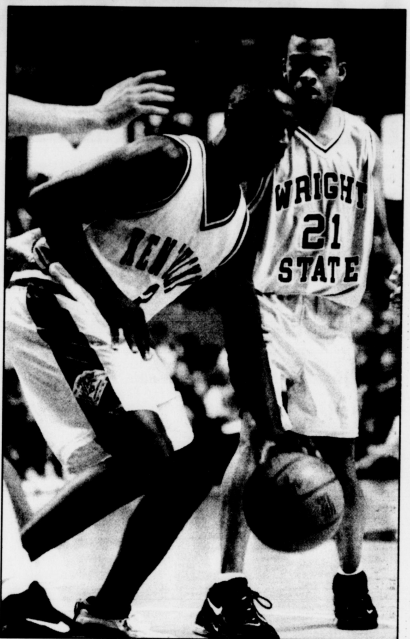
They scored their share in the second half, when UK outscored Wright State by only one point, 34-33. Despite six second-half three-pointers from guard Rob Welch, the Raiders never threatened.

"In the second half, we came out and played a lot harder on defense, which makes the offense come a little easier," Welch said.

"While they kept it up on defense, they wanted to take it easy on the other end and we made them work a little harder."

Though UK's play was ragged in stretches, there were plenty of plays to excite the Cat crowd, including a one-handed flush from Mercer and an in-your-grill stuff from Maglore who slammed over Wright State center Steno Kos.

But the crowd saved its loudest ovation for UK's last bucket. With a chance to rip the rim again, a fast-breaking Mercer instead



STEPHANIE CORDELE Kernel staff

MIAMI SLICE UK's Allen Edwards splits a pair of Wright State defenders in the Cats' 90-62 win last night at Rupp Arena.

flipped the ball to walk-on Steve Masiello for an easy layup.

"I wanted to see him score, the crowd wanted to see him score," Mercer said, "so I gave it to him."

Notes:

• In addition to 6 points and 6 rebounds, Jared Prickett dished out a career-high 7 assists.

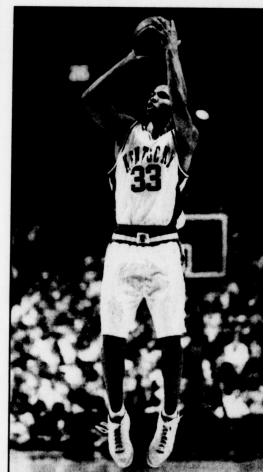
"They were playing zone on us, the guys were trapping down on us and I just threw it to the open man," Prickett said.

Included in Prickett's repertoire was a behind-the-back pass to Nazr Mohammed, which it lacked in beauty, it made up for in shock value.

"A pass from him is great any time," Anderson said. "In what might be construed as a call for meatier home scheduling, one UK student campaigned last night for a meeting with a more powerful Ohio opponent."

The sign read, "Wright State, Wrong Team: Bring on Cincinnati."

Another step on the road to repeating



Chris Easterling
Sports Editor

If there is another team in the country who is as explosive as the Cats are, I'd like for them to please step forward.

After what was witnessed by 23,127 at Rupp Arena last night against Wright State, there has to be very few of them around.

Not that anybody actually expected the Raiders, whose team lost its coach because he stole vitamins, to pose a challenge to the third-ranked team in the country at their home court. Instead, it was because of what had transpired in the previous five games the Cats had played.

The 90-62 win was nothing more than a culmination of a five-game stretch in which the team had been beating, no, make that bludgeoning, teams who dared stand in their way.

And it's not like they have been playing Cupcake State Dayton, although last night's visitors from Dayton, Ohio, would classify in that category.

Take Syracuse, who did not exactly resemble the Orangemen who took the court in the 1996 national title game, but was still a respectable foe. Cats throttled them by 34.

Then there was the College of Charleston, a team which will make up the field of 64 once the committee unveils it in March. UK rolls to a 27-point win.

Or there is Purdue, three-time defending Big 10 champions. The Cats sleep-walked their way to a 14-point victory, without one of their two superstars turning in one of his usual performances.

Need one more example? Try last Saturday's beating of Bobby Knight's Indiana Hoosiers. They were 6-0 at the time and ranked eighth in last week's Associated Press

poll. Cats stroll to an effortless 99-65 white-washing.

See a trend? Remind you of anything? Like last year's team.

Not to say that this year's team is like last year's national title team, or that they will achieve what last year's team did.

But they sure as hell are doing a pretty good impression of that team. Last year's team made a habit of blowing teams out that they had no right to blow out (i.e. the first Mississippi State game, Wake Forest, Utah).

This year's team has done much the same thing.

Did you really, in your wildest dreams, expect the type of performance against the Hoosiers? Or against Syracuse, especially after the showing against Clemson in the opener?

Probably not, but it just shows how good this team, barring any unfortunate happenings like a season-ending injury.

They have two of the top players in college basketball in Ron Mercer and Derek Anderson, both who will likely be draft picks in the upcoming NBA Draft (as long as Mercer decides he wants to leave after this season, which would seem to be likely).

They also have quite possibly the top college coach in the country in Rick Pitino, who has already repeatedly shown what he is capable of.

So, how far can this team go in the NCAA Tournament?

See you in Indianapolis.
Sports Editor Chris Easterling is a journalism sophomore.

Cats dethrone No. 1 West Virginia; end nation's longest winning streak

By Price Atkinson
Contributing Writer

Winning streaks are made to be broken.

On Saturday afternoon, the No. 2 UK rifle team broke the longest home winning streak ever in any college sport by defeating No. 1 West Virginia, 6,178-6,170.

West Virginia had not lost a home dual meet since 1979. UK Coach Harry Mullins said it was an intense match, and he was happy to see his team come out on top, which included ending the long-running winning streak for West Virginia.

"It feels good knowing that it is something they cherished very highly and defended well," Mullins said.

Senior Eric Anderson said he was not aware of the West Virginia winning streak until after UK had won the match.

"I found out after the fact," he said.

The four starters for UK were Anderson, Owen Blakemore, Mike Beggs and Mary Elsass.

UK took the lead in the first area of the competition, called the prone, by going up five points.

Mullins said this is when the home team saw a tough match ahead of them.

"Once we beat them on prone, they saw these guys (UK) are for real," he said.

Standing and kneeling were the next two areas in the competition, in which UK added two points on each to build a nine-point lead

going into the final area competition, the air rifle.

The air rifle is the area in which Mullins said his team has been strong this year. The Mountaineers gained only one point in the air rifle, giving UK a narrow eight-point win.

In the air rifle, West Virginia finished shooting first and had to sit back and watch while UK was still on the line shooting.

All the Mountaineers could do was sit back and watch, hoping someone on UK's team would choke.

No one did.

"They weren't surprised we won, but that reality hit them," Mullins said of the West Virginia reaction.

Mullins said the three seniors on UK's team wanted this win but knew West Virginia was a very tough team to defeat.

Despite the big win, Mullins said UK will probably drop to No.

3 in the next poll. The rifle poll is different from the Associated Press football and basketball polls because the coaches' association votes, not the media.

The national championship will be held during the second week end in March at Murray State University, where UK has shot more matches this season than at home.

Before going into the national championship, UK will have to shoot in the NCAA selection match, also to be held at Murray State.

The top eight team scores in each event are placed in the national championship.

Mullins said Dec. 7 will always be a day to remember for the rifle team, but they acknowledged there is more shooting ahead before they make it to the national championship.

"We still have a long, uphill battle," Anderson said.

CAMPUS

Alpha

Students get their reward from children

From PAGE 1

Lee Ellen Martin, associate director of the Children's Museum, said the former educational director at the museum used to work for the Student Activities Board at UK.

That director helped get the use of the museum.

Martin said the event is a unique one.

Not only do children receive gifts and food, but they also get to visit the museum.

"I also feel UK students should be commended for the continued efforts over the last five years to help get this event off the ground every year," she said.

"I know the beginning of December is a very busy time for students, but the fact they still want to have this annual event shows that they feel this is an important cause."

Laura Koenig, a member of

APO service fraternity, is involved in the first stages of the event. She calls local sponsors and asks for donations.

She said this time of year is stressful for students, but she said seeing the smiles on the children's faces makes every rewarding worthwhile.

"It is a very rewarding feeling when you see a child happy because someone showed they cared," Koenig said.

If you are interested in sponsoring a child, contact Koenig at 323-2251 or Johns at 254-1639 before Thursday, Dec. 12.

Makers

Samuels: Bourbon fastest growing spirit

From PAGE 1

I wanted to also make something that I could give the proceeds to the University, and that's when we landed the Daniel Pitino foundation. What we thought would be a very modest contribution of \$20,000-30,000, ended up being \$253,000. He (Pitino) was thrilled and we were

thrilled. It is not often that a little company like ours can make a charitable contribution of that size.

CC: Where do you think Maker's Mark stands as far as the national scope, coming from a small state like Kentucky?

BS: Bourbon is the fastest growing distilled spirit... and of course all the bourbon in the world comes from Kentucky. Bourbon and Kentucky are synonymous, so it really bodes well for Kentucky's economy. When I was growing up, if you said Kentucky to anyone outside of this country, they would say horses.

Now, you say Kentucky, and they say bourbon. And it is totally youth-driven.

CC: After the beating of Indiana, how do you think you will handle the U of I game?

BS: Well, I am going to handle it very delicately (laughing). Since I will be sitting with my fellow board members, it will probably be the one game at which I will make very little noise. I love the way Rick (Pitino) handles all this because above all he encourages everybody just to have fun. My head says I need to be for U of I, but in my heart I have been a UK fan since I was a baby.

Classifieds

From PAGE 5

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FOUND: Watch, silver in color. Found it on the way to see Clinton. 269-9394.

LOST: Gold and pearl bracelet. Lost around BAE on Wednesday, 12/4. Call 257-2300, ext. 249

LOST: Prescription sunglasses (Rayban) in hard, black leather case - ca. Nov. 14-20. REWARD! Call Michelle 273-6902.

LOST: Signature ring with initials T.S.R. REWARD! 323-7814. Ask for Tom.

LOST: T82 with letters RHY etched in back. Reward. Call 323-7927.

MEETINGS

UK SHOW SSKI CLUB - Accepting Spring Break money 12/19/96 in Room 113 Student Center 7:00 p.m.

UK WATER SSKI CLUB Meetings Mondays 9 p.m. at 106 Student Center. new members welcome. Call 255-9296 or 323-7956 for questions

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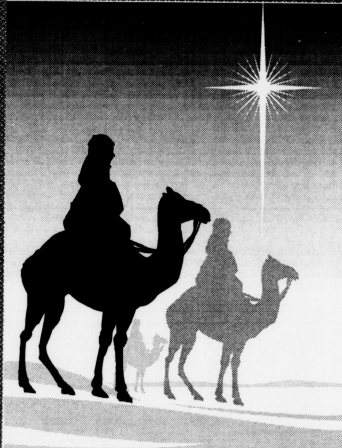
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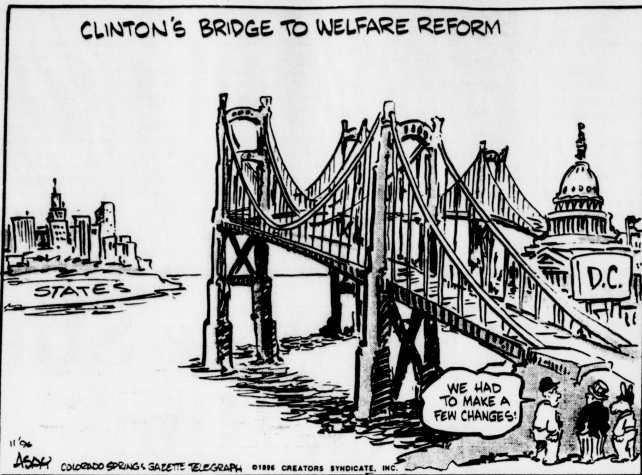
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Social theories

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Through the working together of several departments, UK social theory students have the opportunity to explore many issues next semester.

The Committee of Social Theory has bridged humanities and social sciences together to give graduate students a program in theoretical studies of social life.

In the spring semester, this program will be tackling some tough topics.

Among the courses offered will be: **IN OUR OPINION** feminist theory, theorizing the University, being/time/nothingness and finally, whiteness.

These classes are needed at a University that is supposed to be diverse and inclusive. By exploring the world around us can we understand why society is the way it is.

"Race is an important topic that I think UK can really benefit from with discussion," said German professor Wolfgang Natter about the whiteness course in a recent ACE magazine story.

"We must understand that each of us gets to a point in life where we are solely considered

by others because of our race, gender, class, and social standing."

The class will help explore effect that race has on society the way history is portrayed.

The University is becoming known for its innovative ideas like the social theory program. Several professors cited UK's social theory program as the reason they came to UK.

"The combination of disciplines is, in my view, essential to the productive outcome of the social theory course offerings," said architecture professor Ron Witte in ACE magazine.

English professor Dana Nelson, who is also teaching a section of the seminar, said the one thing she is excited about is getting to work with professors in other disciplines.

The interaction of the program can only benefit the students involved and eventually the university as a whole.

As these classes explore the social environment around us we hope that they present their findings to rest of the University so everyone can benefit from what these students learn.

Don't make me get ethnic on your fool head; I might snap

I was cruising in the Escort with a girlfriend of mine when two guys in a low-rider (the Nebraska version, the tractor-tire type) pulled up at the stop light next to us.

Rap music blaring, Starter gear on backwards, they gave us a nod. Not a "Hello, young ladies, how are you?" nod, but one of those Beavis-and-Butthead type once-overs. As if!

And if being checked out by two teen-age wannabes wasn't bad enough, they were blaring the treble in their car instead of the bass.

It wasn't necessary to peer too closely through the tinted windows to know they were white boys.

If one more hat-to-the-back boy from Wavy tries to talk to me, I'm going to call the people at the cable company and plead with them to take BET off the air.

These are the girls with their hair all cut to hell, spit curls gelled to death, deep forest lipstick outlined in black, with a couple of gold chains and acrylic nails that would scare FloJo.

When they say things like "Whuz up, homegirl?" it sounds like they've been practicing in their mirrors at home.

I've been told by many white people over the years that sometimes they feel like they don't have a real ethnic identity, or that they're sorry about that whole slavery thing.

Unless you've got some shackles in your book bag you haven't told me about, get over it.

Forget ethnic identity; have you tried finding your own personal identity? Whiteness is only a small part of what makes a person who they are.

I am not first and foremost a black girl — for one thing, my name is Sonia.

Some white folks do come from areas where they were exposed to a lot of ethnic minorities, and they just dress that way or naturally speak slang.

The difference between these wear the cap and the wannabes is well, remember Vanilla Ice? OK, they're the opposite of him.

There are black people afflicted with the wannabe disease as well ... you didn't think I was going to let them slide, did you? For example, let's remember when we are as far as regional geography.

This is Nebraska, not New York, not Oklahoma, not Cabrini Green. Trying to act hard here is like trying to put thugs on "Sesame Street" and who happens to LIKE *Gate with the Wind*.

Frankly, I was insulted that this guy felt the only level on which he could "relate" to a black girl was with some wack-mack line he'd heard on "The Wayans Brothers." I am not some ghetto hoochie. Don't work my last nerve.

To top it all off, he was trying to look like he was packing. For those of you who aren't down with the black vernacular, let me drop some science for you (translation: Miss Hollimon will now define terms used in this article): "Packing" refers to carrying an illegal firearm. "Ghetto hoochie" is similar to a slut, but not as naive.

Instead of the V-chip, I propose the "E" (as in ethnic) chip — just a tiny mechanism slipped into the televisions of those morons who are idiotic enough to think that it's possible to relate to people of other cultures by mimicking how they are portrayed in the media.

It isn't just white males who do this — unuh.

White girls have their own special formula for "acting black."

Guest Columnist

Sonia Hollimon

READERS' forum

Students take grade debate too personally

To the editor:

The recent debate on the plus-minus grading system seems to be getting derailed by all sorts of interest groups taking the issue much too personally. Each time the subject is discussed, the matter of "fairness" comes up — "It's just not fair that a student earning an 88 percent should be assigned the same letter grade as a student who earns an 80 percent."

Now that we're approaching the end of the semester, students are realizing that those borderline A's or B's they have been striving for are likely to show up as an A- to B-. (To further the students' aggravation, the new plus-minus grading system has essentially raised the bar for an A from 90

percent to 93 percent, without the chance of an A+ at the upper end of the scale.)

The issue is not one of "fairness," but accuracy. To receive a B for an 88 percent is an imprecise measure of a student's mastery of the course work.

That solution is to record each course grade as a numerical value, a simple percentage. An 88 percent course grade could be recorded as an 88 percent on the permanent record system would then be maintained, and your GPA would then be computed based on this much more precise data. (Those 8 percentage points that would have been lost in "rounding off" an 88 percent to a B under the old system would then be maintained, and your GPA would be calculated using this more accurate input). Your GPA is already automatically recalculated each time new grades

are added — this would simply allow for a more accurate outcome.

Then, no matter what the current trend may be to establish new criteria for grades, each student would have the benefit of maintaining all the credit that he/she has earned.

This should also be acceptable to instructors. It eliminates one step in the process of calculating grades — no need to translate that number grade into a letter grade. Further, it eliminates the hagglng with students who are borderline A-B, B-C, etc.

This is not an issue of "fairness," just a matter of using the tools at hand to give students a more precise and accurate account of their accomplishments.

Elizabeth Sellin
middle school education journal

TALKBACK!

Address your comments to "Letters to the Editor," Kentucky Kernel Editorial Editor; 035 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. Frequent contributors may be limited, and we reserve the right to edit all material.

INFORMED SOURCES

"WE CAN'T flush the toilets, the refrigerator door remains closed.... I'm dying for a cup of coffee."

Kim O'Grady of Thompson, Conn. where she has been without power since a fast moving storm moved through the New England region earlier this week knocked out all the utilities in the area.

Problems with Kernel Viewpoint page prompted thefts

I have been reluctant to respond to the various articles printed about the theft of the Kentucky Kernels late last semester.

I assumed that the action spoke for itself. Instead, the situation has been misunderstood and misrepresented: the latest two articles appearing on Dec. 2 and Dec. 5. Apparently, I cannot rely on the free press to convey the whole story.

On the morning of April 26, I, along with Cory Petry, Wes Thornton and a few others removed an estimated 11,000 Kernels from their bins on campus.

These papers were then taken to a local recycling center and deposited.

This has never been denied. Our action was a political protest of how the Kernel Viewpoint page was being run at the time.

What the Kernel has failed to

grasp is the nature of our complaint.

In an e-mail brief, responding to allegations of a poorly run Viewpoint page with the following: "has made every effort to balance the page throughout the year and has limited coverage of conservative views to only one-third of the page's total content this year."

This leads me to believe that the Kernel still has not grasped the nature of our complaint.

The quantity of liberal vs. conservative views is irrelevant.

The quality of both sides of each issue is consistently misrepresented.

This is not an attack on opin-

ion. This is an attack on poor journalism.

Though there are numerous examples, I will cite one that is most familiar to me, which is the reporting of the theft of the Kernels.

At least five separate comments in both the News and Viewpoint sections have been printed since the incident.

To date, neither I nor anyone else involved has been contacted for comment on this issue, though our names have been available to the Kernel from the beginning.

What the Kernel failed to mention in their response to the removal of the papers, was that a town meeting between campus

groups and the Kernel was held two days prior in order to discuss better ways of representing issues. Some people listened, and a few did not.

Removing the Kernels for a day was an effective, temporary means of protest against a paper that was regularly printing sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, and to a degree, racist articles.

Recycling the papers just seemed like a good idea. The underlying statement behind the whole situation is this: Ignorant journalists cannot help but to poorly represent any issue. To quote a friend, "Those of us that know the truth are laughing at you."

However, by no means am I suggesting that every member of the Kentucky Kernel is an ignorant journalist.

It has been maintained that we violated free speech.

This allegation does not adequately represent the issue.

When the Kentucky Kernel fails to fairly represent the whole of the University ("freaks," "pinkheads" and "liberal brats" included), it becomes propaganda.

Look it up.

Aside from this, I maintain that free speech was not violated.

I assert that 6,000 Kernels were left in their bins when the Kernel is available to all

Guest Opinion

Chris O'Bryan

It has been maintained that we violated free speech. This allegation does not adequately represent the issue.

students daily on the Internet at <http://www.kernel.uky.edu>.

Seven students do not have the practical ability to stifle the Kernel's right to free speech.

Rather, I hope the members of the Editorial staff will use their power of pen in a more educated fashion.

Stay off the "high road"; more people will be willing to talk if you are willing to listen.

Lastly, I'll try not to comply with the Editorial staff's "love it or leave it" opinion, and keep an open mind about the whole deal. If you have a comment for me, you can e-mail me at cmobry@ukcc.uky.edu

Chris O'Bryan is forestry junior. I hope these do not necessarily represent those of the Kentucky Kernel.

DiVersions



Photo furnished

SCREAM OF THE BUTTERFLY Ying Huang (right) plays the title role in the film version of Puccini's opera 'Madame Butterfly.' The film plays at the Kentucky Theatre through the end of the week.

'Butterfly' can't spread wings

By Dan O'Neill
Assistant Arts Editor

Have you ever brushed your teeth in the morning and then proceeded to drink orange juice at breakfast? You're left with a repulsive taste in your mouth, because the two just don't go together. That's sort of the way it works (or doesn't work) when it comes to opera and cinema.

So, when another film version of Puccini's classic Italian opera *Madame Butterfly* is released there is definite cause for skepticism. Martin Scorsese, who has presented movie goers with restored classics such as *Belle Du Jour*, *Purple Noon* and *El Cid*, attaches his label to the updated remake.

Madame Butterfly tells the story of a trusting 15-year-old Japanese geisha Butterfly, who marries a visiting American naval officer. After he abandons Butterfly and the child she bore him, she waits patiently, sure of his return. After several years, he finally returns with an impossible request, which ultimately breaks her will.

The underlying problem with this type of film is the need for the opera voices to be dubbed over. With this, the volume level never seems quite real and thus amplifying the unnatural feel of opera in cinema.

In addition, the set restricts itself to the confines of a small house on the outskirts of Nagasaki. The single setting and long take after long take can get tiresome, quickly. There are moments, however, when the beauty of the original surfaces to produce some scenes of undeniable power.

Although I'm by no means an expert on opera, it appeared the character of Pinkerton couldn't deliver the same powerful vocal performance as the other leads. The 23-year-old soprano Ying Huang, who made her U.S. debut at Cincinnati's May Festival last year, performs the title role with a dynamic vocal range and poise.

Frederic Mitterand (nephew of the late French president) makes his feature film debut in an uneventful fashion. His direction fails to make up for the relatively mundane single setting with any interesting camera work to set things in motion. The fairly standard cinematography delivered occasional postcard quality shots of breathtaking beauty. *Madame Butterfly* garnered two nominations for costumes and set design, winning for its costumes at this year's Cesar Awards.

As my first experience with such a film I couldn't help but feel many sequences would have been more visceral and compelling in live performance. For what it is however, the latest filmed remake of *Madame Butterfly* succeeds where there is limited room for success.



MOVIE review

★★★

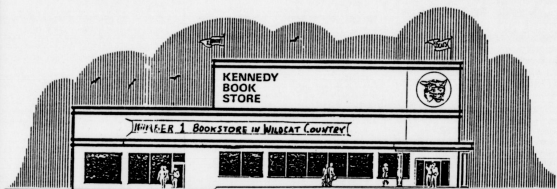
'Madame Butterfly'

Sony Classical

Directed by Frederic Mitterand



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