

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS

The Low-down

Holiday shopping begins

NEW YORK — In the mall and on the internet, holiday shoppers gave the nation's retailers a promising start to the critical holiday season. Retailers are optimistic about this holiday season, due to high levels of consumer confidence, low unemployment rates and sharp gains on Wall Street. Hot items were anything Pokemon, DVD players, and digital cameras along with Pashima shawls and video games. Shoppers also seemed hooked on discounts and flocked to anything with a sale sign.

Russians cut Chechnya supply

GROZNY, Russia — Russian warplanes and tanks fought Sunday to cut off the last major supply route between Grozny and the rest of rebel-controlled Chechnya, clashing for hours with about 500 militants. Russian ground troops were battling the rebels for control of the road between Grozny, the Chechen capital, and the city of Urus-Martan, 12 miles southwest of Grozny. The Russian military has denied it plans to storm Grozny, and instead is seeking to cut it off from supplies and reinforcements while hammering it with air and artillery strikes to wipe out or drive out militants holed up in the city.

America's kids in trouble

NEW YORK — Grinding poverty, violent crime and absent parents are some of the gravest threats facing American children, according to a new report by children's advocacy groups and civic organizations. The report is the result of combined efforts of the National School Boards Association, the National League of Cities, Hollywood, Fla.-based Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital and Youth Crime Watch of America, a national nonprofit organization. The report — "Ten Critical Threats To America's Children: Warning Signs for the Next Millennium" — will be presented Monday at the National Press Club in Washington during a news conference with representatives from each of the organizations.

Labor protests against WTO

SEATTLE — International labor leaders began their protest campaign yesterday against the World Trade Organization in hopes of forcing



IT'S NOTTA TUMA: The cartoon characters of 'Toy Story 2' outgunned Arnold Schwarzenegger's new film as the Disney sequel smashed box office records for the U.S.

Thanksgiving holiday weekend, according to studio estimates issued Sunday.



INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT: Hollywood star Salma Hayek has sparked debate in her native Mexico by visiting Kosovo to entertain U.S. troops on Thanksgiving Day. Sen. Jorge Calderon, chairman of the Mexican Senate's foreign relations committee, bristled at the idea that the star of 'Wild Wild West' had traveled to Kosovo.

delegates to address workers' rights during this week's trade talks. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions organized a conference for labor unions. Other demonstrators - with interests ranging from protecting the environment to ending farm subsidies - began to gather in Seattle. The labor activists are among as many as 50,000 demonstrators expected before the start of the four-day trade negotiations on Tuesday.

Back stumping in Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa — Shunning the Thanksgiving leftovers, former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley was back stumping in Iowa this weekend, dining on home-cooked chili and sampling caramel popcorn during a three-day swing through the state. Bradley was the first presidential candidate to return to Iowa during the holiday weekend, touting his health care plan and pushing for more oversight of concentration in agribusiness. In Audubon, Bradley spend the day after Thanksgiving talking to 175 supporters - the largest gathering for a presidential candidate since Gary Hart's visit in 1984, according to the town's mayor - before polishing off a bowl of chili.

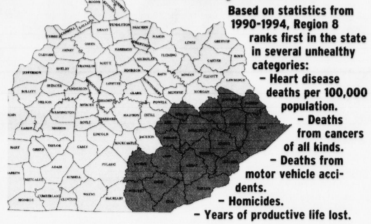
Bid rejected by Mannesmann

DUESSELDORF, Germany — Mannesmann AG's supervisory board rejected a takeover bid from Britain's Vodafone Airtouch PLC Sunday, setting the stage for the largest hostile corporate takeover attempt in history. The German mobile phone giant's board met Sunday evening to discuss in detail the \$125 billion takeover plan - already rejected twice by Mannesmann. The offer is the biggest takeover bid ever, topping MCI WorldCom Inc.'s record \$115 billion friendly bid for Sprint Corp., an acquisition that still awaits approval by U.S. regulators.

Jaguars beat Ravens 30-23

BALTIMORE — James Stewart scored on a 4-yard run with 1:39 left to cap a 23-point fourth quarter yesterday as the Jaguars recorded their eighth straight victory, 30-23. Jacksonville is 8-0 against Baltimore, including five wins by three points or less. This was another tight one - until the Jaguars' late flurry. Jacksonville (10-1) trailed 16-7 after three periods and 23:22 with 6:26 remaining, but Mark Brunell went 10-for-13 for 125 yards in the final 15 minutes and finished 27-for-47 for 338 yards and two touchdowns.

Kentucky's finest?



HEALTH

Continued from page 1

age of people leading inactive lifestyles.

It also has the second highest percentage of people with high blood pressure, a condition that puts victims at a much higher risk for other health problems.

The region also ranks first in injuries from motor vehicle accidents, has the highest rate of drunken-driving arrests, and residents use emergency rooms at a higher rate than any other region.

Epidemiologists say generally that high rates of disease, mortality and injury are common in areas that are in economic distress. Changing things will require improvements in many areas, Keperle says.

"It's a bit of everything. It's attitude, it's level of education, it's a lack of emergency services," he said. "You can't solve the problem simply by increasing the amount of primary care that's available, although that would certainly help. But you also have to make a frontal attack on a lot of other fronts, getting kids to stay in school and things like that."

KIDS

Boy driver gives chase

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — An 11-year-old boy was arrested Saturday after police chased him in a stolen car at speeds of more than 100 mph.

The boy, whose name was withheld because of his age, was charged with several traffic violations and forgery because he had a counterfeit \$100 bill, police said.

"We've never seen anything like this before with someone this young," police spokesman Chris Lagerbloom said.

It started when police tried to stop a reckless driver traveling south on Georgia 400, a major freeway connecting Atlanta with its northern suburbs.

"When they attempted to stop him, he sped off," Lagerbloom said. "He topped out at about 110 miles an hour."

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THE FINAL FRONTIER

Probes to explore Martian surface

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PASADENA, Calif. — Two little space probes heading for Mars this week won't float beneath parachutes or bounce to a landing on cushions. Instead, they'll smash into the planet at 400 mph, punching into the ground like interplanetary lawn darts.

If the drastic landing technique works Friday, the softball-size instrument packages will search for water and test lower-cost technology that could revolutionize solar system exploration.

The Deep Space 2 probes are flying toward the Red Planet along with the Mars Polar Lander.

After they reach Mars, Polar Lander will begin a controlled descent. The probes will follow 18 seconds later, but unlike the lander their 77-mile fall won't be slowed by any expensive parachutes or thrusters.

"We're not our average mission — we're slamming into a planet at 400 mph," said Deep Space 2 project manager Sarah Gavit at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The \$29.6 million Deep Space 2 probes

are part of NASA's New Millennium program, a series of inexpensive missions testing untried technology for future spacecraft. Ten systems will be tried out during the Mars mission.

For four years, Gavit and her team have been throwing models out of airplanes over the Mojave Desert and firing electronic devices out of air guns to find designs and materials that might survive a crash into the surface.

After about 20 attempts, they finally arrived at a design that should withstand the force of impact, which will be 60,000 times stronger than gravity on Earth.

Each probe will be protected from the

heat of entry by a basketball-size aeroshell, but that will shatter when it hits the surface.

Impact will cause a bullet-like penetrator to separate from the center of each probe and plunge up to 2 feet into the ground. A cable will connect the penetrator to the orange aboveground unit that contains instruments and a transmitter.

Even after successful tests on Earth, there's no guarantee of survival on Mars. The 8-pound probes might hit rocks and shatter. Their antennas could be swallowed up by soft, dusty soil. A gust of wind could blow them upside down during flight.

"We've got a pretty robust design, but it's like throwing one of these things out here in the middle of Pasadena and saying it has got to penetrate no matter where it lands," Gavit said. "If it lands in the middle of the freeway, it's not going to penetrate."

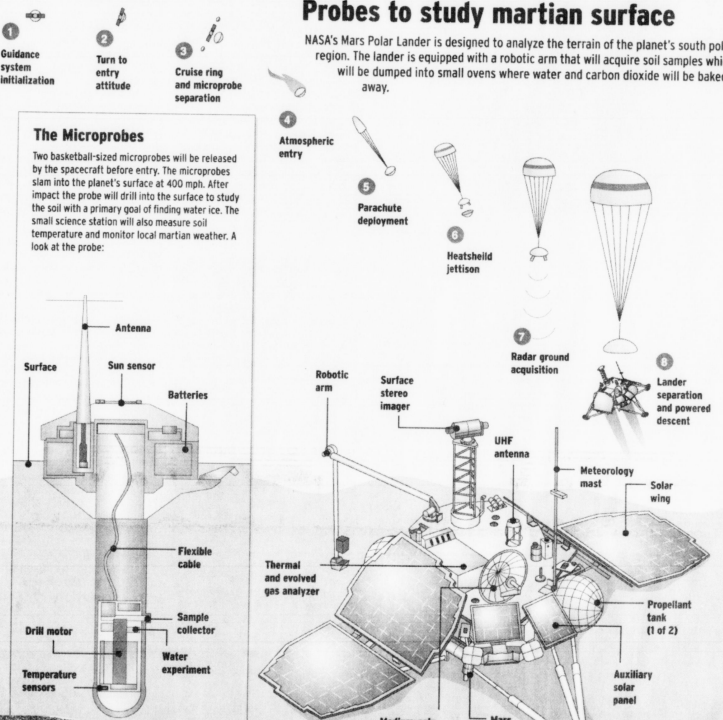
Deep Space 2 will be declared a success if mission controllers receive any signal from one of the probes. Any science data will be considered a windfall. Said Suzanne Smrekar, project scientist for Deep Space 2.



The Mars Descent Imager (MARDI) will take 10 pictures from the lander during descent.

Probes to study martian surface

NASA's Mars Polar Lander is designed to analyze the terrain of the planet's south polar region. The lander is equipped with a robotic arm that will acquire soil samples which will be dumped into small ovens where water and carbon dioxide will be baked away.





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KENTUCKY KERNEL MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1999 4

Scoring Woes
"Offensively, we're just standing around. When we move more the shots will come. We're playing impatiently and forcing shots too early on the shot clock."

-Tayshaun Prince

Strategies

We won't make any changes right now. Every time we have put people in to get better play, it has not happened. I don't think it could help shuffling our lineup right now."

-Tubby Smith

Stoned

"If there was going to be someone new in the lineup it would be Marvin because of his consistency"

-Tubby Smith on freshman forward Marvin Stone

HOOP WORLD

Looking to score

Cats need to run more, Prince says

By Adam Spaw
SPORTS LISTS EDITOR

UK turned in another display of token defensive domination in the finals of the Preseason NIT against Arizona on Friday, holding the western Wildcats to just 39 percent shooting from the field. The 63 points scored by Arizona was 19.7 points below its season average. Once again, UK showed it possesses one of the most suffocating defensive units in the nation.

Who cares? UK shot just 35 percent from the field, scoring just 51 points in the loss. UK's brand of basketball was both boring and bizarre — there were hardly no fast breaks and few uncontested shots taken, due in large part to the team's pathetic parade of passing. While head coach Tubby Smith blamed his team's lack of confidence to hit open shots against Arizona, overall, UK's offense was primarily dribble... dribble... dribble. On occasion, it was dribble... dribble... dribble... turnover.

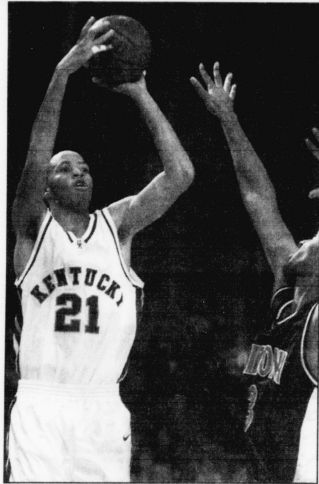
Both Smith and his players know the offense needs drastic help.

"We have to find some offense," Smith said. "We have to try and get some consistency and flow to our offense. I knew our defense would be ahead of our offense. It takes a while to get everyone on the same page."

UK was outplayed in nearly every facet against Arizona, committing 21 turnovers and being outscored 43-37. Arizona's 15 steals were the most from a UK opponent in over five seasons.

Junior point guard Saul Smith failed to score until the game's closing minutes and was 0-for-6 from three-point land. Senior center Jamaal Magloire scored just one field goal with 15 seconds left in the game, and committed six turnovers.

Despite some poor performances, coach Smith said he's not ready to make any line-up changes before tonight's matchup with Dayton in Cincinnati.



ASSOCIATED PRESS
UK sophomore led the Cats with 18 points in the loss to Arizona. "We have to get out and run," Prince said. "We need to push the ball up the court."

Last season when the Cats traveled to the Queen City, Smith pulled seniors Wayne Turner and Heshimu Evans from the starting rotation in place with then walk-on Steve Masiello and Tayshaun Prince. That, however, was for disciplinary reasons.

"We won't make any changes right now," Smith said. "We'll probably look at people getting more playing time, but every time we have put people in to get better play, it has not happened. I don't think it could help shuffling our lineup right now. I am more concerned with who finishes rather than who starts the game."

One player Smith is referring to is freshman Marvin Stone, who played just 14 minutes against Arizona, but was 3-of-5 from the field for six points.

"He has been the most consistent player for us," Smith said. "If there was going to be someone new in the starting lineup, it would be Marvin because of his consistency."

UK's biggest bright spot offensively was Prince, who led the Cats with 18 points.

"Shooting is the main thing we need to work on," Prince said. "Offensively, we're just standing around. When we move more the shots will come. We're playing impatiently and forcing shots too early on the shot clock."

For Prince, that doesn't mean playing "stall-ball."
"We have to get out and run," Prince said. "I feel like our only problem right now is that we're standing around offensively. That's not the point guard's fault. We need to take the ball out fast and push it up the court instead of walking."

UK vs. Dayton
Tonight, 7 p.m.
The Crown
Cincinnati
T.V.: ESPN 2
RADIO: 590 AM
Dayton (3-0)
Series Record: UK leads 3-1

ALMOST

Ejected coach misses near upset

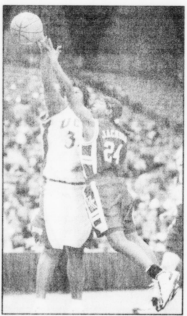
Hoops notes: UConn players elated after six point win over Mattox's Wildcats

By Matt Ellison
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Notes from the weekend in UK women's basketball, which saw the Cats lose to No. 1-ranked Connecticut and Clemson, 68-62 and 70-65 respectively:

UConn head coach Geno Auriemma didn't stick around long enough to see his Lady Huskies sweat out a win in their home state against coach Bernadette Mattox's troops. He was ejected in the first half with 5:45 remaining after protesting a hand-check foul called on his team, but he might have been frustrated with his team's offensive performance.

Consider this: The last time UConn was held under 68 points in a regular season game was last Jan. 27 in a loss at Rutgers. In addition, two nights after UConn's narrow escape over UK, they hung 109 on Old Dominion, ranked No. 14, in the championship game of the Challenge.



ASSOCIATED PRESS
UK point guard Erica Jackson battles for a loose ball in UK's loss.

UConn shot just 29 percent in the first half against the Cats, and 37 percent for the game. Their first basket didn't come until nearly five minutes into the first half, at which point UK had raced out to a 12-2 lead that by halftime would rest as a 35-31 lead.

Auriemma had not been ejected from a game since 1992.

"It's hard because we're asking our players to keep their composure under a lot of adversity," said Auriemma, who was replaced as acting head coach by UConn assistant Chris Daley. "I really didn't set a good example."

The UConn game was within reach at 61-59, but UConn player Shea Ralph, her team's leading scorer, found Svetlana Abrosimova wide-open in the corner for a three point shot. Her shot ripped through the net at 1:03 remaining, giving UConn a five-point cushion that was too much for UK to overcome.

"They lost me, I guess," Abrosimova said of her key shot. "It was an easy shot for me."

Following the game, Mattox was disappointed in her team's execution during crunch time, but was overall pleased with their effort.

"This game is a learning experience for us," she said. "We made mistakes (22 turnovers) that we will not make again, and I think we can only improve from here."

Coming into the weekend, it was the UK team that was treating the Challenge like a national championship game. But after the game, UConn's players were acting as if they had won another NCAA title.

"Our intensity level just skyrocketed," said Ralph of UConn's crunch-time execution. "It was a high we haven't felt in a long, long time. It was like we won a national championship."

ON THE SIDELINES

Bonner may not be UK's answer



Matt May
KERNEL COLUMNIST

dering.

Having watched football for nearly my entire 21-year life, I felt like I had developed a pretty solid understanding of the game, even if I hadn't played any organized ball (unless, of course, you count UK's very challenging intramural football).

But I learned something new this season you can throw interceptions and turn the ball over without even having to slip on shoulder pads and a uniform. As a matter of fact, all you have to do is earn yourself an expensive contract, wear a visor and throw a towel and you have what it takes.

Head Coach Hal Mumme's fierce loyalty to his quarterbacks continued after the Tennessee game, with Mumme deflecting nearly all of the blame for quarterback Dusty Bonner's five-interception day off of the signal caller.

"Dusty had five (interceptions), but I'm not sure any of them were his fault. They were just bad breaks."

Add those five picks to the others Mumme has taken the blame for and the total comes to 13, exactly the number Bonner threw this season.

Coincidence? No. Mumme has made no secret that Bonner will be his man, and we're not just talking for this year. You

"It ain't his fault" notes:

Just when you think you know enough about sports to be doing this job, someone comes along, completely confuses things once again and leaves you wondering.

can write this down and hold me to it. No quarterback who is already here or arrives at UK while Bonner is here will get a legitimate chance to unseat him.

Asked why backup Mike Scipione got zero snaps this year, Mumme quipped, "Dusty's a sophomore. He's the man and he needs all the reps he can get."

That's a believable excuse early in the season, but not now. Bonner plays hard and valiantly, but to think there isn't a quarterback out there who can beat him out would be ludicrous. If I were Scipione, or Jared Lorenzen for that matter, I would give serious consideration to my future as a quarterback at UK.

It's strange seeing Scott Padgett in a different uniform. Damn shame it's a Utah Jazz one. Can't stand the Jazz. Utah's only redeeming quality? My diver friend Kelly hails from there.

Correction, Utah has a couple of other good qualities, including a college basketball team UK owns and a head coach, Rick Majerus, who is the best in basketball. On all levels. Period.

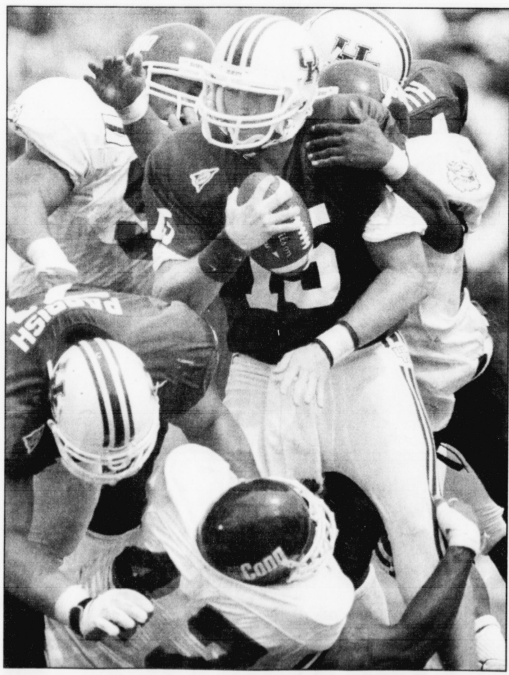
Okay, so my prediction of Florida and Virginia Tech for the national title was wrong. But that means the team I have followed since I was a kid gets in. Go 'Noles!

To all athletes in the audience: PLEASE cut out the throat-slitting celebrations. There is nothing more senseless and disgusting than this over-sensitized taunting display.

Jared Lorenzen takes a lot of knocks for his less-than-svelte physique, but one comment overheard in the press box on Saturday takes the cake.

Jared Lorenzen looks like Chris Farley down there. What's he got, a flak jacket on under that uniform?"

Speaking of rather generous figures,



FILE PHOTO
None of Dusty Bonner's five interceptions were his fault in the loss to Tennessee, according to UK head coach Hal Mumme.

is there anyone in college basketball who looks less like a basketball player than the roly-poly people in Connecticut call Khalid El-Amin?
Finally, Notre Dame, Ohio State and

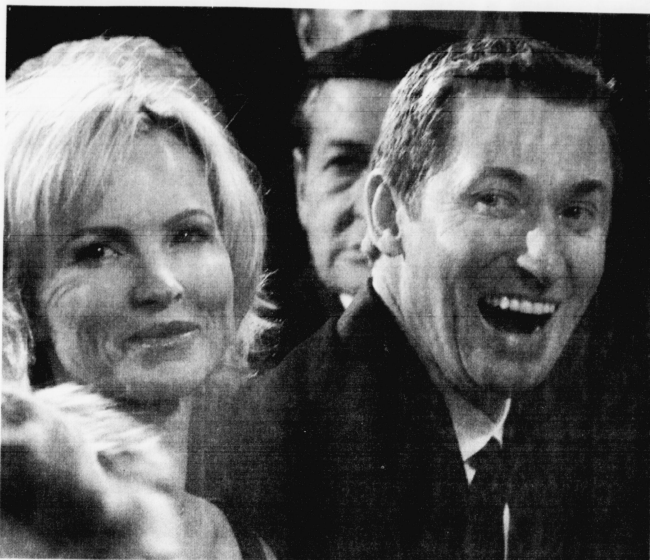
UCLA all came into the season as locks for bowl games. Four months later, all will be doing what I do over the holidays — watching on television.

THE '411'

Scoreboard

FLORIDA A&M	44
APPALACHIAN ST.	29
YOUNGSTOWN ST.	30
MONTANA	27
HOFSTRA	27
LEIGH	15
ILLINOIS ST.	56
COLGATE	13
UMASS	30
FURMAN	23
MIAMI	45
SYRACUSE	13
OKLAHOMA	44
OKLAHOMA ST.	7
WEST VIRGINIA	52
PITTSBURGH	21
TENNESSEE	38
VANDERBILT	10
GEORGIA TECH.	51
GEORGIA	48
ARIZONA ST.	42
ARIZONA	27
COLORADO ST.	35
UNLV	17

SUPERSTAR



"I felt so fortunate to be part of this game. I felt like a kid everyday," Wayne Gretzky said after being inducted into the Hall of Fame. ASSOCIATED PRESS

The great one enters hall of fame

Secret to his success: Great one always wanted to out-do himself on the ice

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TORONTO — Wayne Gretzky tried to set up his Hall of Fame linemates. He ended up scoring another classy goal.

The Great One attempted to share the limelight with his fellow inductees — former referee Andy Van Hellemond and former referee-in-chief Scotty Morrison — when they received their Hall of Fame blazers and rings during a ceremony last Monday.

Gretzky insisted that Morrison take the center seat at the interview table and called the honor of joining them in the Hall "pretty special."

Later, at a gala attended by family, friends and the National Hockey League hierarchy, Gretzky insisted the day belonged to Morrison and Van Hellemond as much as it did to him.

But the loudest and longest cheers were for the player considered the best ever, and Gretzky used his speech to thank all who made it possible.

"I felt so fortunate to be part of this game," he said. "I felt like a kid every day."

Such gestures have made Gretzky a national hero in Canada.

When asked what made him the most dominant player in hockey history, Gretzky credited his teammates and a passion that drove him to always want more from himself.

"I felt like I'd never done enough. If I had three goals, I wanted five goals. If I had seven points, I wanted to get the eighth point," he said. "I kept going every night, played 80 games every year as hard as I could, whether it was Oct. 1 or April 1.

"Maybe that's why I was able to have the records that I did eventually get," said the holder of 61 NHL records whose trademark No. 99 was retired after his final game.

The 38-year-old master left an extraordinary mark on the game, with four Stanley Cup

Gretzky joins the greats

The Great One joined a special group of all-time hockey greats Monday after he was officially inducted into the Hall of Fame in Toronto.

Here are some of the 61 records Gretzky holds:

Regular season

• Career

Goals	894
Assists	1,963
Points	2,857

• Season

Goals	92
Assists	163
Points	215
100 points	15
60 goals	5 (tie)
Points streak	51 games

Awards

- 9 Hart Trophies (Most Valuable Player)
- 10 Art Ross Trophies (Scoring champion)
- 2 Conn Smythe Trophies (Stanley Cup Playoffs Most Valuable Player)
- 5 Lester B. Pearson Awards (NHL's Most Outstanding Player)
- 5 Lady Byng Memorial Trophies (Most Gentlemanly Player)
- 3 Chrysler-Dodge/NHL Performer of the Year



Highlights

All-Star Games	18
Stanley Cups	4
Canada Cups	3

championships, almost every conceivable scoring record and winning every major NHL award multiple times.

He longs for the camaraderie and competition left behind by retirement, but said his decision to stop playing is final.

"Nothing can replace hockey," he said. "I wish I could still play and I miss it tremendously because it's a great game."

"But I said this before: I was going to retire one time, one time officially and I'm officially retired. I probably miss the game more than the game misses Wayne Gretzky."

His legacy is evident, on and off the ice. The NHL now features increasing numbers of swift-skating, highly skilled European players who prospered under the flowing, puck-control style played by Gretzky and his Edmonton Oilers teams of the 1980s that won four championships in five seasons.

Eight NHL teams play in southern U.S. cities formerly considered unsuitable for a winter game such as hockey, due in part to Gretzky's seven-plus years in Los Angeles and the popularity he helped spread.



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CHEMISTRY	7:00-10:00 PM Commons 308B Roy	9:00-11:00 pm Commons Ballroom Kevin	7:00-10:00 PM Haggin Computer Lab Roy	3:30-5:30 120 Student Center Kevin	7:00-9:00 PM Haggin Lounge Kevin
BIOLOGY	2:00-4:00 Haggin Lounge Marco	6:00-10:00 Commons Ballroom Marco			
PHYSICS	3:00-5:00 Holmes Hall Brandon	7:00-9:00 PM Holmes Hall Brandon	7:30-9:30 PM Commons 308A Brandon		
MATH	3:00-5:00 120 Student Center Combiz	3:00-5:00 Blazer Study Lounge Combiz	3:30-5:30 120 Student Center Vinh	1:00-3:00 Holmes Study Lounge Combiz	2:00-4:00 Blazer Study Lounge Vinh
SPANISH/ FRENCH	2:00-5:00 Blazer Study Lounge Jake		4:00-7:00 Blazer Study Lounge Jake	6:00-8:00 Blazer Study Lounge Laura **SPANISH ONLY	7:00-9:00 Blazer Study Lounge Laura **SPANISH ONLY

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Bloody looneys!

Naked swordsman attacks London church

Associated Press

LONDON - A naked sword-wielding man burst into a south London church during Mass Sunday, slashing and stabbing members of the congregation. Ten people were injured, three seriously. Six of the injured suffered stab wounds, including a man who lost part of a hand. The others were hurt in a stampede to get out of St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church in Thornton Heath, a London suburb.

Two other men armed with sticks followed the man into the church, lashing out at some of the 400-member congregation according to the priest, Canon John Lennon. Several men in the congregation, including an off-duty policeman, wrestled the man to the ground as he lashed out with the 3-foot-long sword, witnesses said.

Policemen said they arrested a 35-year-old man. There was no word of other arrests. The motive for the attack was not clear. "I had just finished the sermon and I looked up and a number of men came rushing in," Lennon said. "There were at least three of them. One was naked and brandishing a machete or sword and the others were slashing out at the congregation with sticks while they ran down the aisle."

The most severely injured victim, a 55-year-old man, had his thumb and index finger severed and suffered deep slashes in the jaw and neck, said Dr. Kamalz Hashemi, one of five surgeons who treated the victim. Among the other victims - most of them elderly - two men had bad shoulder lacerations, but were in stable condition, said the hospital's chief executive, Keith Ford.

The others had less serious injuries, including one who suffered a broken leg during the melee to get out. A trail of blood led from the church, located in an usually quiet suburban street. Police said the arrested man came from the area, but priests at St. Andrew's said he was not known in the parish. The attack happened moments before some 100 children were due to return to the Mass from an adjoining hall, where they had separate prayers and stories.

MAGAZINE

Smokin' the states' rights

U.S. Government must back off and let states decide on the use of medical marijuana

The opposition to medicinal use of marijuana seems to be a mainstay in the political pipe of Uncle Sam. Despite a report from a federal advisory panel, the Institute of Medicine, showing evidence that smoking marijuana can help fight pain and nausea associated with numerous diseases, the U.S. government is not satisfied. Instead the Justice Department is challenging voter-approved laws in several states that legalize use of marijuana for medical reasons. We believe the states, not the federal government, are in the best position to determine what is best for their own constituents when it comes

to the use of marijuana. Alaska, Arizona, California, Maine, Oregon and Washington all have statutes approving marijuana as a legal prescription drug. These states allowed the people to vote on the use of marijuana. Much like obscenity laws, the courts and the federal government should defer to local community standards to be the litmus test for what is and what is not appropriate use of marijuana.

So why should the federal government step in and try to determine what is best when the people of these states have already spoken?

The real problem here is that

the federal government is paranoid of a snowball effect. As soon as you allow one drug to become legal, the rest will surely follow.

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The federal government cannot allow the states to have carte blanche in drug matters because approving the use of certain drugs violates U.S. domestic and foreign policy. It is hard to get other countries to follow your lead when you can't control your own country. Despite the predictions that legalizing marijuana for medical use would cause a surge in its overall use, officials have not been able to show evidence of it.

Of course there are some technical issues that still need to be resolved. For example, in the state of Washington, the law limits patients to a 60-day supply of

marijuana for medicinal purposes. Some doctors are having a hard time determining what constitutes enough of the plant for each patient based on his or her disease. The state is working very hard to develop guidelines for which diseases can be treated with marijuana.

But this is a work in progress. The benefits to the patients in need of this drug outweigh the logistical and administrative problems associated with its legalization.

The federal government should allow the states to handle the details of a solution mandated by the people.

Binge drinking, public intoxication not funny



Jennifer Mueller CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

As I reclined in my seat last week, waiting for my biology class to begin, I noticed a girl a few rows over laughing so loudly that I knew her conversation had to be an interesting one. She was a typical girl. I noticed nothing outstanding about her features, and the guy sitting next to her struck me in the same way. He wore a hat emblazoned with the letters of his fraternity, and he would be the type of person who is difficult pick out of a crowd.

I listened to them speak, attempting to divulge the topic of their amusement. As I watched, the guy began to show her his knees, elbows, and hands. "It goes all the way back over my shoulder!" he said, referring to the large scabs covering his extremities. I began to wonder what he could have done to himself. Perhaps he wrecked his car, crashed his bike into a pedestrian, or decided to take up cliff diving at the gorge.

These options were promptly yanked from my mind as he began to tell of his exploits that took place the previous weekend. In a manner that would make his mother cry, this guy explained to his eager listener that he was so drunk after a party that he simply fell down on the sidewalk repeatedly for no apparent reason. He was simply not sober enough to stand on his own two feet. To make matters worse, he laughed about the fact that a car full of girls drove by in hysterics when they witnessed his actions.

At this juncture, my face began to redden. I was so embarrassed for this guy, not simply because he humiliated himself in front of a few girls, but because he thought it was funny.

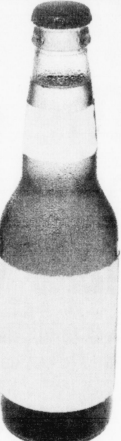
This is not an unusual story. I am sure that most of us have overheard tales like this one, and many of us have been the ones showing off our scabs. The very idea makes me sick. It saddens me that people are so ignorant that they believe this behavior is normal and acceptable. This should not be what college is about. Drinking should not be glamorous, desirable or humorous.

When I see my friends become intoxicated, the only emotion I feel is pity. I may laugh, along with everyone else, at their lack of inhibition. I will be the first to admit that drunken people can be hours of entertainment. Deep down, though, I feel sorry for them because they have no idea what is going on around them. They have no clue as to how absolutely ignorant they appear. In one instance, a friend had a party. He was intoxicated, as were most of the people in attendance excluding myself and a few other intelligent folks. Among the remarkably far from sober was a girl I shall call

Estelle. Well, as the night went on, Estelle had way too much to drink and passed out on the back porch. Shortly thereafter, from our perch on the roof of the house, Fred proceeded to unzip his pants and let out a golden rain onto the unconscious body of Estelle.

Instances like this are enough to make me regret ever touching a drop of alcohol in the past. As a college student, I have a constant reminder of just how important my decision to give up unhealthy activities like drinking really was. I don't mean to preach, but I do mean to make people think. The next time you find yourself at a party, in line for the keg, think about which person around you could be peeing on you later. Maybe your host has some orange juice in the refrigerator.

Contributing Columnist Jennifer Mueller is a biology sophomore. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel.



Debra Hatch GUEST COLUMNIST

Pokémon culture teaching children all the wrong ideals

Pokémon is one of the nation's newest additions. It has swept into marketing and entertainment, drawing with it thousands of young would-be Pokémon master trainers. It has swept the nation faster than the most aggressive strain of the flu.

Like the flu, it has infected almost every facet of life from the trading cards and video games to clothing and bed sheets, spreads and curtains. Nothing is sacred and nothing is pure anymore. Burger King, one of the top fast food joints, sells Pokémon toys and will soon be selling Pokémon trading cards. Burger King's soda cups even show the creatures now.

The retailers in both America and Japan have taken an addictive sounding yellow creature and its 149 other fellow Pokémon and successfully marketed it to appeal to children from age 2 up to chirping high school-age students. "Pika-chu! Pika-chu!" they cry in frighteningly cute voices, chirping along with the little yellow mouse-like creature that can shoot lightning from its head.

On November 10th, "Pokémon: The First Movie" opened in theaters throughout the nation. In the afternoons, you can watch Pokémon on television and you can buy videos of older Pokémon shows. Along with all the merchandising, marketing and hype, Pokémon has also brought in its wake thefts of Pokémon cards, hurt feelings and the eventual banning of the cards from some schools across the country. Some schools have even witnessed fights and extreme violence, like knives.

Parents and those in the teaching profession have made pleas and cries that the cards and phenomenon in general are causing their children to become obsessed with the game. In school rooms, the cards are preventing the children from settling down and doing work, going out on the playground and playing actively instead of not sitting and playing Pokémon - and are causing those who

don't have cards to have their feelings hurt by those who do.

A friend of mine works in a toy store and sees first hand the absolute bizarreness of the situation and craze. Children leave the store crying when they can't get ahold of the packages of cherished Pokémon cards simply because a certain amount are sent at a time. He told me about parents who ask their wee ones if they like Pika-chu with the response of a gurgling "pika-chu, pika-chu" chanting child rocking to-and-fro in the seat of the carriage. He sees the parents who are willing to shell out the big bucks to buy the creatures and their added attachments.

Collecting all of the Pokémon can be a long and expensive process. And my question is what happens when you have all 150 Pokémon? There is no higher level to the "game," but in the process of getting all the Pokémon the business behind it has profited.

My general feeling about these small creatures is that Matt Stone and Trey Parker got it right in their South Park episode parodying Pokémon with their "Chipokémon" toys. Pokémon is a brilliant marketing scheme, and even if it isn't a scheme on the part of the Japanese and Americans to take over the nation's children, it is still a brilliant marketing scheme. But the scheme has forgotten the fact that only so much can happen before people start getting hurt.

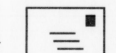
And getting hurt is something that no parent or family member would ever want to see happen. Fads last only as long as something new doesn't come along. Tickle Me Elmo was replaced with the Furbies, Furbies were replaced with Beanie Babies and now Beanie Babies have been replaced with Pokémon. As long as people realize that it is harmless and short term then the fad won't cost people their feelings or property.

Guest Columnist Debra Hatch is a journalism junior at the University of Maine. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel.

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Include your name and major classification (for publication).

For verification include your address and telephone number, which will be kept confidential.

The Kernel reserves the right to edit all material received.

Joshu Goebeler CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

Christmas spirit being replaced by corporate influence

Trying to find meaning in the Christmas season can be difficult. It is so easy to get lost in the orgy of consumerism. This is the time of year when the American population's thing-fetish is most pronounced.

I heard on the radio that the average person spends \$80 on gifts around the Christmas holidays. I am not sure what office this statistic was pulled out of. I do know that statistics like these seem to serve the purpose of making the poor feel inadequate and causing the middle class to feel that they should spend more.

My dictionary defines Christmas as a holiday celebrated by Christians as the birth of Jesus. It would seem to have undergone a metamorphosis, like a character from a Kafka novel, into something large and grotesque. Today Christmas is loosely based on a fat, red-faced alcoholic who shimmies down the chimneys of middle-class suburban America.

Wait a minute - middle-class suburban America doesn't have any chimneys. Logistics aside, the spirit of Christmas has been lost in the piles of advertisement for things that we never knew existed but now can't seem to live without. I believe that the corporations are preying on the consumers at a particularly vulnerable time. (Don't you just hate getting mail that begins with "Dear consumer...") Dec. 25 is on or around the darkest day of the year. The absence of sunlight has been linked to decreased levels of serotonin in the brain. When our serotonin levels drop, we are much more susceptible to depression. That is where the thing-pushers come in. Don't look inside yourself for happiness; there is none to be found. Do not follow your dreams; they are childish. Follow our corporate dreams instead. After all, it is the American dream. You wouldn't want people to think that you are un-American, would you?

Here is a thought I've had. It has been one of those nagging, recurring thoughts. Perhaps the

American dream is just one wet, nasty, nocturnal emission that many of us have yet to wake up to. It may seem real and wonderful, but in the end it is only an illusion. Sometimes I have intervals of a lucid existence, before the dream sucks me back into the illusion of being real.

What does this have to do with finding meaning in the Christmas season? Everything and nothing. Christmas was traditionally a time of thanks, reflection, meditation, prayer, gratitude and generosity. Its meaning has been shrouded in an illusion by the magic of the American dream. The homeless, the drug addicts, the drunks, the depressed - they find various ways of committing suicide. Some do it because they have nothing material in which to give them worth, others because they have taken their thing-fetish to feverish heights and now realize an emptiness that they have never known.

Christmas is not about consumption. It is not about playing the latest 64-bit game on your new movie-size television with bass speakers that are bolted into the floor so that you can feel the sound. For me it is not even about the birth of Jesus. It is about the birth of an idea. A concept that a man named Jesus, an ancient prophet, was supposed to have delivered into the world. This concept, if I am not mistaken, is that everyone on this little planet is interconnected. The universe is made of the same energy and we are all a part of it. By being a positive person and trying to be as selfless and nonjudgmental as possible we can perhaps realize the immersion of our soul into the ebb and flow of the universe.

For Christmas this year I think that I will throw the establishment off just a little by giving some of my friends a book that I have enjoyed. I hope this will ripple the relative fabric of reality in a positive way.

Contributing Columnist Joshu Goebeler is a sociology junior. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel.

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ON THE SIDELINES

Bring your own bucket

Jimmie's Chicken Shack: A few words with the band on music and their new fame

By Matt Mulcahey
ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

"One big ball of fun."
That's how Jimmie's Chicken Shack front-man Jimi HaHa describes being on the road with his bandmates. Which is good, because HaHa spends over 200 days a year on the road with bassist Che' Lemon, guitarist Dave Dowling and drummer Mike Sipple.

Although fighting the boredom is at times difficult, the band copes with heavy doses of music and goofing around. "We recently broke down near Donner Pass (the famous California trail where settlers resorted to cannibalism after being snowed in)," recalled HaHa, laughing. "One of the guys in the band went to college with one of the Blair Witch filmmakers. So we got out the video camera and made a little spoof."

Singer/songwriter/guitarist HaHa's (whose real name is James Davies) favorite thing about being on the road is the surprises. "Almost every town we go to someone unexpected shows up. Last week we were in Portland

and one of our friends from Everclear (the two shared a tour) showed up to hear us play."

Although famous for their high-octane, energized live performances, Jimmie's Chicken Shack's newest album passes through the entire range of the musical gamut.

Although most of their earlier music has a heavier edge, HaHa disagrees with some critics' classification of the band.

"I've heard us called everything from heavy metal to rap. I don't think we're rap at all, and I don't really like heavy metal. About the only kind of music we haven't tried is gospel, and I wouldn't rule that out."

In following up their successful major-label debut *Pushing the Salmiella Envelop*, which spawned the radio and MTV hit "High," Jimmie's Chicken Shack broadened its musical horizons to new heights on their newest release *Bring Your Own Stereo*.

While containing the band's trademark pulse-quickening rock, *Bring Your Own Stereo* incorporates more of HaHa's musical roots (he started in a two-man acoustical band with former Jimmie's



PHOTO FURNISHED

Jimmie's Chicken Shack has seen an explosion in their popularity over the past year with a major record contract and radio and MTV play.

Chicken Shack guitarist Jim McDonough). Along with more pop-inspired tracks like the hit single "Do Right," the album contains more introspective, acoustic driven tracks like "30 Days" and "Waiting," which HaHa says is probably his favorite track on the new album.

"It's the kind of song I would just lay in bed and play. A lot of bands would be afraid to open up and be this vulnerable."

One of the best perks of being a songwriter must be the ability to write songs trashing ex-girlfriends, a benefit that is not lost on HaHa.

"Do Right" is actually about two girls. The first one loves it, but the other one has no idea. Actually, most of the new album is about my last girlfriend."

Along with the good times on the road and the pleasure of performing come the drawbacks of being in demand, among them the increasing level of fame and time spent away from friends and family.

"The fame thing is kind of a hassle," said HaHa, "but it's worth it to be able to be on stage and connect with people through music."

FILM

Toys with talents

Pixar's sequel, suitable for both adults and children, won't disappoint fans of the series

By Patrick Avery
STAFF CRITIC

"Buzz Lightyear to the rescue!" was the phrase echoed by every kid a couple of years back with the release of Disney's *Toy Story*. This holiday season brings the sequel, *Toy Story 2*, to theaters. Despite Hollywood's history of inferior sequels, this animated action/drama comedy flick comes out on top.

All of the familiar toys are back as their owner Andy is off to Cowboy Summer Camp. When he grabs cowboy Woody (the voice of Tom Hanks), his arm is torn. Andy leaves Woody at home and goes to summer camp without him, devastating the doll and leaving him with another problem: a yard sale. In a desperate attempt to avoid being sold, the toys hide, but one of the popular penguin toys

is grabbed. Woody plots a rescue effort, but is captured by a toy collector named Big Al (the voice of Wayne Knight, better known as Newman on *Seinfeld*).

Buzz Lightyear (the voice of Tim Allen) and some of Andy's other toys seek to rescue Woody from the clutches of Big Al. Meanwhile Woody discovers that he was a TV show hero and meets Jesse and Stinky Pete, who were part of the show. They are about to be sold with Woody to a museum in Japan. Woody now has the dilemma of going with Jesse and Stinky Pete to the museum or returning to Andy. Buzz also has the task of finding Woody and making it across town to Big Al's toy store. His archenemy Zurg, who has escaped from his toy packages, also stands in the way. Another distraction for Buzz turns out to be the Barbie aisle at the toy store.

Pixar Animation is the entertainment studio behind the *Toy Story* movies. The age of computer animation in movies has arrived and the animation here is sensational. It is not an easy task to make a toy look human and do human things. The script is written with intelligence for both children and adults. Children will appreciate the *Star Wars* jokes and the adults will appreciate the moral lessons that it teaches their kids. A wide range of talent voices the rest of the characters, including Joan Cusack, Kelsey Grammer, Don Rickles, Jim Varney and Annie Potts. There isn't one toy in the movie that is miscast with a displeasing voice.

The two *Toy Story* movies may be the most enjoyable Walt Disney movies. Though they are fantasy, there is a realistic quality about them

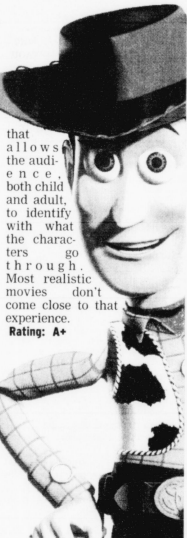
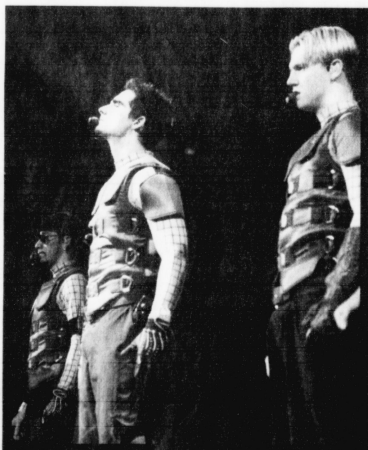


PHOTO FURNISHED

Woody
One of *Toy Story's* staple characters returns in the sequel



JAMES CRISP | KERNEL STAFF

Larger than life?

If you missed it over break, Teen idols, The Backstreet Boys, played to sold-out crowds of screaming adolescent girls at Rupp Arena. Parents shelled out the cash for tickets, now if only Pokémon were a band.

JESUS WAS A CAPRICORN

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