

FRIDAY KENTUCKY

KERNEL



RESIDENT EVIL

Fans won't be disappointed by latest video game, film | 3

March 8, 2002

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SPRING BREAK

Students skip class, beach bound

No one is reading this: Students trade class for travel, class attendance low before break

By Drew Duncan

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With spring break on the way, many students see little reason to stick around campus for the remaining days. Collin Williams, a math freshman, said he doesn't place much importance on attending the last few classes before the break.

"I just really don't care. The professors probably don't care either, unless nobody shows up to class."

Many professors have found ways to keep students from skipping class by holding quizzes and exams.

"I would leave early if I didn't have a test," said undeclared sophomore Alison Collier.

Such last-minute tests can make things difficult for students catching rides with others, said mechanical engineering sophomore Daniel Naas, who is headed to Canada for Spring Break.

Since he is dependent on someone else to get him there, his schedule partially centers around his ride.

"I don't particularly want to skip class, but I may have to," Naas said.

Skipping class is exactly what many students are doing.

Many classes are seeing a major drop in attendance as spring break approaches.

"Wednesday, in my statistics class, only 40 people showed up out of about 200," said economics senior Scott French.

With such low attendance, many students think that the final classes should not be mandatory.

"I think it would be better for everyone if they'd cancel

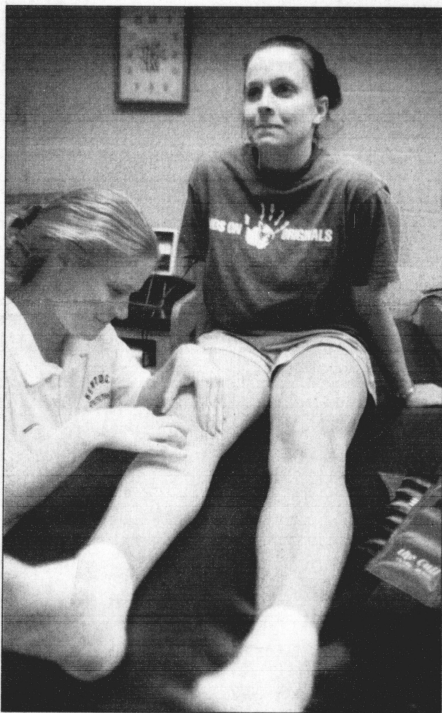
See BREAK on 2



Leavin'

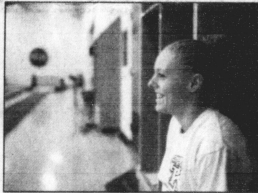
Music performance freshman Jessica Harrison packs her bags Thursday for Spring Break.

AMY CRAMFORD | KERNEL STAFF



THE FINAL FLIP

UK GymKats seniors take their last tumble tonight



JESSE LENUS | KERNEL STAFF

Above, Jessie Lemp laughs with her teammates before practice Thursday. For Lemp, who competes primarily on the bars and beam, Friday's meet against Alabama will also be the last home competition of her senior year at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall.

At left, GymKats senior Katie Toups endures the pain of having her knee massaged by athletic training graduate student Stacy Roller at Nutter Field House Thursday. Because of the early season ACL injury, Toups must also endure sitting out the final home meet of her senior year.

NATIONAL

Doctors say ads urge spring break drinking

Warning: Spring break alert blames binges on tourism and alcohol industry promotions

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PENSACOLA, Fla. — The father of a student who died from a balcony fall joined the nation's doctors Thursday in decrying alcohol-soaked spring break promotions such as "booze cruises" and all-you-can-drink nights.

The American Medical Association issued a spring break alert accusing the tourism and alcohol industries of fostering binge and underage drinking through ads. Frank Guglielmi's underage son, Andrew, 19, had been drinking when he fell two years ago from a hotel balcony in Panama City Beach.

"I have no words to express my anger for the lack of sensitivity to these children's lives by those who seduce them into these danger zones," Guglielmi said. His son, a student at Ohio University, had been leaning from a third-floor balcony when he lost his balance and fell, striking his head on a sidewalk below. He died nearly two weeks later.

"The intensive care unit was a war zone," the father said. "There were kids and families camped out there, kids in comas — drugs slipped into their drinks — kids dying from car accidents and balcony falls."

Guglielmi, of Findley, Ohio, said he and his wife share some responsibility for letting their son make the

spring break trip, but he said businesses that promote drinking and media that glamorize spring break debauchery also are to blame.

Dr. J. Edward Hill, the AMA's chairman-elect, said spring break is no longer an innocent respite from school.

"It's become marred with alcohol-related deaths, injuries and sexual assaults," he said. Hill cited an insert the Panama City Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau distributed in college newspapers with advertisements promising "you can drink all the beer you can handle" for \$5.

Bob Warren, the tourism bureau's executive director, admitted the ads can be perceived as an open invitation to overindulge.

"It's probably not something that I will do again," Warren said, but he also contended it would be unrealistic to ban all promotion of alcoholic beverages in spring break promotions because it is a valid market segment.

Francine Katz, vice president of consumer affairs for Anheuser-Busch in St. Louis, said the nation's largest brewer adopted a policy 10 years ago against spring break promotions at open-air sites. She said parents should take more responsibility.

"I've been through this," Katz said. "We were careful about where we let our children go for spring break."

RESOURCES

Crazy weather equals OT for Ag Center

Help: UK Agriculture Weather Center staff answers calls about erratic weather

By Vicky Hewitt

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last week when the weather was predicted to be 60 degrees one day and drop more than 30 degrees overnight, phones began to ring off the hook in the UK Agriculture Weather Center.

Kentucky weather can be crazy at times, which leaves residents curious about the weather's effects on the environment. But with the help of Tom Priddy and Wanhong Wang, of the UK Ag Weather Center, such questions can be answered.

Priddy, an extension specialist in Ag Weather data, has been working in the Weather

Center on South Campus since 1977. The center's main goal is to provide agriculturally-based weather services and programs in Kentucky.

"We want to minimize weather-related surprises for agriculture production in Kentucky," Priddy said.

Farmers across Kentucky have daily questions that rely on the weather. These questions can range from when to spray pesticides and spread manure to when to irrigate crops. They can be endless, but Priddy, along with the help of Wang, stands ready to assist those in need.

Wang, systems programmer and analyst of the UK Ag Weather Center, assists Priddy

by inputting data daily on computer modules and graphic programs.

"We write and modify all of our programs, performing forecast, generating weather maps, receiving weather data and watching system security, from scratch," Wang said.

Scrolling through the maps of the Ag Weather Center's Web site, Priddy explained that the data is put in models and programs daily to address Kentucky's questions. The information is then available on the Internet at the farmers' convenience.

Facts and data are available on insect degree-days, timely maps on tobacco handling and even maps for ideal corn growing.

"The material is on the cutting edge of accurate information for precision farming," Priddy said.

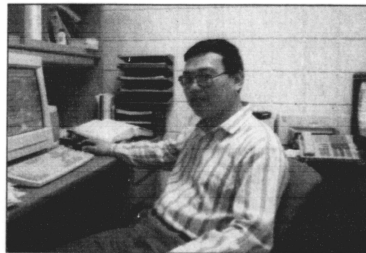
Priddy said the Ag Weather Center makes an impact on our lives, and it is much more comprehensive than information that is received from the National Weather Service.

"We try to go beyond the weather information provided by the National Weather Service general public forecast by providing very specific weather guidance for agricultural, lawn and garden operations in Kentucky and most of the Midwest," Priddy said.

In a dark room in the corner of the Ag Engineering building on South Campus, Priddy can flip through a list of people who call in, utilize the Web site and enjoy the information provided by himself and Wang.

The small, crowded room doesn't stop Priddy and Wang

See CENTER on 2



JESSE LENUS | KERNEL STAFF

Agricultural meteorologist Wanhong Wang gathers information at one of the Agricultural Weather Center's many data stations. The center processes several gigabytes of information daily, but they still rely on television weather reports.

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS

The Low-down

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Tomorrow's weather



62 24

A 40 degree drop in temperature should keep you on your toes.

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Staff Editor in chief If you have comments, e-mail them to Ashley York at ashley@kykernel.com or call 257-1915.

Summer/Fall registration March 25

Priority registration for summer and fall 2002 classes runs March 25 through April 17. Students should priority register using the UK-VIP telephone registration system. Before registering for classes, undergraduates must have their advisor hold released. Students who do not register during their window may not register until the first day of classes and will have to pay a non-refundable late fee. Students who need more information about priority registration may call 257-7173.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Documentary shows silly side of Bush

AUSTIN, Texas — Alexandra Pelosi came to the Texas capital as an NBC News producer to cover Gov. George W. Bush's bid for the White House in 1999. This week, she returned as a documentary filmmaker with "Journeys with George." The 77-minute movie, debuting Friday at the South by Southwest film festival, shows a silly side of the man who would become president. Some Bush aides have been apprehensive it might make him look unimpressive. "Stop filming me. You're like a head cold," an irritated but smiling Bush tells Pelosi in one scene. "This is going to be a lousy documentary." By the end of the movie, though, Bush has grown into a more comfortable, confident candidate. During one heart-to-heart, Pelosi asks how the 18-month campaign has changed him. "I started as a cowboy," Bush says. "I'm now a statesman." Pelosi, the 31-year-old daughter of House Minority Whip Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said she hopes the movie gives people an uncensored look at the president's personality, the crafting of a campaign and the molding of the media. "Journeys with George" — Bush himself suggested the title — captures a relaxed bologna and Cheetos-eating candidate who often joked with reporters, even after primary losses. He makes funny faces, blindly walks around the plane wearing large, dark aviator-style glasses, rolls oranges down the aisle and models what he calls real Texas fashion: long-tailed shirts, cowboy boots and a big belt buckle. The movie also shows a well-funded, well-orchestrated operation that ensured that every spot featured plenty of supporters waving hand-printed signs provided by the campaign.

Compiled from staff and wire reports

BREAK

Continued from page 1

some of the classes before spring break, especially the late ones. Most people don't show up anyway," mechanical engineering sophomore Kyle Frels said.

Several businesses around campus will be feeling the pinch of the students' absences before and during spring break, especially the more frequented eateries surrounding campus.

"When students are gone things really seem to slow down," said Nancy Franklin, an employee of Everybody's restaurant on South Limestone Street.

Not all people consider the early mass exodus of students from campus to be a bad thing. Collin Williams said that he enjoyed having classes with fewer people in them.

"I like it when people leave early because my classes

are less crowded." Overall, the attitude among students toward spring break is one of relaxed ambivalence. French aptly summed up the general feeling.

"I'd love to talk to you (more) about spring break, but I have to leave."

Protecting your things while you are gone

- Place lights on timers.
- Make your home look as though it is occupied.
- Secure garage doors.
- Avoid discussing your vacation plans in public.
- Have someone pick up your mail while you are gone.
- Never hide a spare key outside your home.

— Lexington-Fayette Urban County Division of Police

CENTER

Continued from page 1

from being on top of things and providing the highest quality information possible.

Not only do Priddy and Wang put the information together for the farmers and extension agents of the 120 counties of Kentucky, but the UK Ag Weather Center also reaches surrounding states and countries around the world.

An avid user of the UK Ag Weather Center, Candice Harker, Fayette County Extension Agent, highly recommends the center for anyone interested in agriculture or even someone who just wants to enjoy a day outside. Extension agents are educational resources to Kentuckians, providing help to improve lives and research-based knowledge.

Harker utilizes the infor-

mation several times a week in the winter, but during the spring and summer, when gardening information is at high demand, she often uses the Web site several times a day.

"The Web site is extremely user-friendly which helps create a successful way for agents to make the most of the information," Harker said. "In the context of someone who enjoys gardening outdoors, it's neat to go in and get the information to answer my questions without the bombardment of advertisers."

As phones ring and computer modules continuously update, Priddy and Wang continue to keep the information running successfully all seven days of the week.

During times when the weather is changing rapidly, the Ag Weather Center is at an especially high demand.

"We are here to support the farmers' needs during weather-related surprises," Priddy said.

IF YOU'RE IN TOWN

LCC alumnus brings farm life to kids' books

Writing: Children's author draws from farm for her new book *Hand It to the Bandit*

By Abby Ghibaudi

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The imagination of a child knows no boundaries. Animals can talk, people can fly and the world is an innocent place. Author and former LCC student Sandy Harding still dreams the impossible as an adult.

"I've always wanted to be an author," Harding said.

Her latest book, *Hand It to the Bandit*, is now available in bookstores, and she'll sign copies Saturday at Joseph-Beth Booksellers.

Harding found literary roots as a young child when writing stories with her brother Jack, for entertainment.

While at LCC, an imaginative writing class encouraged her to spread her creative wings. After graduating in 1977, Harding continued to write children's books that were drawn from her own childhood and adult experiences.

As a young girl, Harding's family moved from Long Beach, California, to the remote mountains of Oregon. There were no televisions, telephones, electricity or schools. Harding and her brother quickly turned to reading and writing for entertainment.

"We started to think of books as friends instead of as foes," Harding said. "We read

everything we could get our hands on."

A large part of her writing material came from her adult experiences when she moved to a farm. Surrounded by farm animals, Harding observed unique personalities in each one. She fondly remembers the time she hatched an underdeveloped egg and then returned the gosling to its mother.

The gosling, having not been hatched by its mother, did not know the "goose rules," such as walking in a straight line behind the mother. It quickly learned the correct way when its siblings would push it back in line. Harding uses such experiences as a basis for the strong personalities she gives her animal characters.

Harding started her book series, the Farm Adventure Series, with the hope that each book would teach a virtue of "friendship, acceptance, character development or forgiveness." Harding took the initiative to start her own publishing company, Lion's Paw Books, to begin production.

"I enjoy writing books with a moral message because there are lots of other types of books available, but I wanted to stick with real life."

If you go

Harding will sign her book at 1 p.m. Saturday at Joseph-Beth Booksellers in Lexington Green.



Harding

Women's Gymnastics

FINAL HOME MEET

Tonight @ 7:30 p.m. Memorial Coliseum

#1 UK GymKats vs #2 Alabama Crimson Tide

Fans will have a chance to win a Mitsubishi DVD player sponsored by Pieratt's.

Free t-shirt & dinners to be given away throughout the evening.

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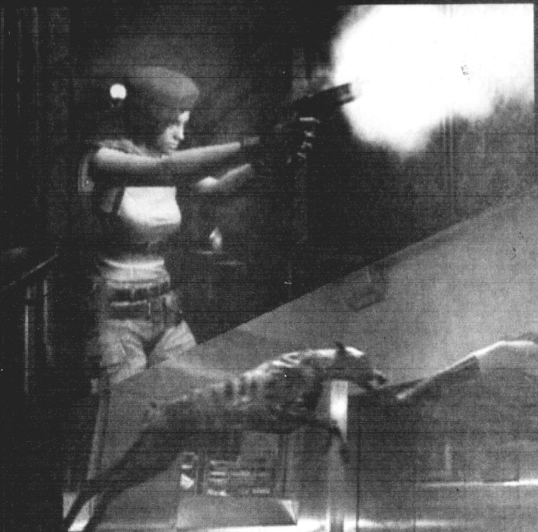
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PHOTOS

ATTACK OF THE UNDEAD

BIZARRE MURDERS IN RACCOON CITY



LEFT: Jill Valentine fires at an unknown horror in *Resident Evil* for Nintendo GameCube, debuting in game stores April 30. The game is a remake of the first title in the series, released back in 1996.

BELOW: Milla Jovovich kicks some canine can in the *Resident Evil* movie, debuting in theaters March 15. Early praise for the film names it the best zombie flick in years.

RACCOON CITY — The mutilated body of Anna Mitaki was discovered late yesterday in an abandoned lot far from her home in northeast Raccoon City, making her the fourth victim of the supposed "cannibal killers" to be found in or near the Victory Lake district in the last month. Consistent with the coroner reports, Mitaki's corpse showed evidence of having been partially eaten, the bite patterns apparently formed by human jaws.



Lucas Thomas
STAFF WRITER

Such is the vile and disgusting world of *Resident Evil*. The zombies of Raccoon City seem to never die — having infested a nightmare-inducing video game series for more than half a decade, and now spreading to the newest Hollywood action blockbuster.

From whence have these devilish creatures of the night come? No one knows for sure, but read on good citizen. Read on.

Haunted heritage

In the dark days of distant 1996, video game company Capcom took a deviating step from their previous publishing path. Famous for such bright and flashy games as *Street Fighter II* and the *Mega Man* series, Capcom was already well on its way into the

This story forms the basis for the entire *Resident Evil* series, which has now spanned five video game systems and had around eight installments. Many of the games have been released multiple times on multiple systems, making the total number of titles open to interpretation.

game industry history books. The PlayStation release of *Resident Evil* solidified that praise for good.

No game had ever been released quite like *RE*, as it established the now-famous "survival horror" game genre. Games under the designation place their heroes in an overwhelmingly defeating situation with limited ammo, little health and too many enemies to possibly kill before meeting an untimely demise. "Survival horror" titles will also almost always try to scare the living daylights out of the player with precisely-timed shock events that'll make them wonder where they left their stomach.

Resident Evil did all of these things, did them first and did them best.

Though the original game is now an aging classic, the storyline and scenario have persisted.

Sickening storyline

Raccoon City has always been a normal, quiet mountain town in the good ole U.S. of A. The citizens pay their taxes, eat apple pie and go for lively hikes in the surrounding forest. Until some disturbing things start coming out of that forest. People start disappearing, sightings start being reported of monstrous dog-like creatures — the whole town starts going to hell.

That's when the heroes are called in. Known only as S.T.A.R.S., the group is your basic anti-undead SWAT team with an attitude. Personnel include Chris Redfield and Jill Valentine, the two main characters of the first video game. They, along with the three other members of their team, must figure out just what's going on, rescue some captured comrades and kill a bunch of evil things.

This story forms the basis for the entire *Resident Evil* series, which has now spanned five video game systems and had around eight installments. Many of the games have been released multiple times on multiple systems, making the total number of titles open to interpretation.

The film adaptation

Like all good video game movies, the new *Resident Evil* film doesn't follow the plot of its video game inspiration to the letter. Liberties have been taken to include more characters, more action and likely more Hollywood special effects.

Milla Jovovich (*The Fifth Element*, *Dazed and Confused*) stars as a character named Alice, and Michelle Rodriguez (*The Fast and the Furious*, *Car Wash*) plays the sophisticated Rain. Neither of these characters have appeared in any of the *RE* video games, but they draw parallels to the female heroines of past titles — Claire Redfield in *Resident Evil* — *CODE: Veronica* being the closest match.

The two women do lead a strike team on an investigation, but the movie shifts the horror scene to a high-tech laboratory facility. Trapped inside the lab are tons of scientists and workers, all of whom have been infected with the dreaded "T-Virus."

That's a fancy name for "stuff that turns you into a zombie."

Milla and Michelle march into the madness and proceed to kick some zombified tail.

Zombies in the future

Rumors are already floating around the Internet about a movie sequel. Apparently a *RE2* script has been written, but the green light won't go on until the first film generates enough monster cash at the box office.

The video game series will be continuing in a big way, as well. All of the previous major *RE* titles are being re-released, exclusively on Nintendo GameCube. The first of these revisited installments will be the original *Resident Evil*, completely reshaped and remastered to take advantage of the new console technology available today.

The redone *Resident Evil* is scheduled for an April 30 release.

After that, the all-new prequel game *Resident Evil 0* is set to explode onto the scene this October, and the highly-anticipated *Resident Evil 4* will debut next year.

Zombie lovers certainly have a lot to be happy about, as this new wave of undead goodness should be enough to last anyone to their grave.



PHOTOS AND ARTWORK FURNISHED

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CAMPUS CALENDAR

Week of March 4 - March 10, 2002

The Campus Calendar is produced by the Office of Student Activities. Registered Student Orgs. and UK Depts. can submit information for FREE online ONE-WEEK PRIOR to the MONDAY information is to appear at: <http://www.uky.edu/CampusCalendar>. Call 257-5867 for more information.

<p>MEETINGS International Christian Fellowship: Friday Fellowship, 7:00pm-8:00pm, Augustine's Chapel, Rose Street</p> <p>ACADEMIC Math Tutoring, 2:00-4:00pm, Math Resource Center 065</p> <p>ARTS/MOVIES May Photography Lecture Series: James Rham, 4:00pm, Jordan Theatre</p> <p>SPECIAL EVENTS French Residence, 5pm-6pm, Basement of Kaeleland Hall</p> <p>SPORTS UK Kendo Do Club, 7:30-9:00pm, Alumni Gym UK Tae Kwon Do Club, 5:30pm-7:00pm, Alumni Gym Loft</p>	<p>Fri 8</p>
<p>MEETINGS Catholic Mass, 6:00pm, 320 Rose Ln</p> <p>SPORTS Hempson Self Defense, 3:00pm, Alumni Gym Loft</p> <p>INTRAMURAL/RECREATION UK Tae Kwon Do Club, 11am-12:30pm, Alumni Gym Loft</p>	<p>Sat 9</p>
<p>MEETINGS Catholic Mass, 9:00am, 11:30am, 5:00pm, 8:30pm, 320 Rose Ln</p> <p>ACADEMIC University Worship Service, 9:12pm, Southside Church of Christ, 30th Auditorium</p> <p>SPORTS Math Tutoring 188/189, 8:00-8:00pm, Kivans Tower Math Tutoring 120, 1:00-2:00pm, Kivans Tower History Tutoring 184/185/187, 8:20-10:00pm, Holmes Hall History Tutoring, 1917/198/199, 8:00-10:00pm, Kivans Tower English Tutoring, 8:00-10:00pm, Holmes Hall</p> <p>INTRAMURAL/RECREATION UK Judo Club, 5:7pm, Alumni Gym Loft</p>	<p>Sun 10</p>



School

End in Sight

Welcome to Friday the last day of school before our long anticipated and deeply deserved Spring Break. I never thought this day would come, but then again I've been behind in classes and have visited the wonderful people at student health three times in as many weeks. Now, however, the day has come when school can kiss off for a week while we depart to destinations around the world in search fun, rest and relaxation. In an effort to ensure that your Spring Break is one you want to remember, I have composed a list of things and situations to avoid.

If you plan on going to the beach make sure you know when high tide is. Imagine, if you will, sunbathing on your comfortable inflatable raft having a bit too much to drink, passing out, being swept out to sea and being rudely awoken as a shark mistakes your raft for the outline of a seal. Not exactly my idea of a fulfilling day at the beach.

If you plan to go camp at some large tourist sight, do not feed the cute squirrel that comes up to the picnic table begging for food. If you feed him, his friends will come, and before you know it you'll be surrounded by hundreds of ravenous squirrels. And once you run out of stuff to feed them you'll be lucky if the park rangers have much more than a finger left to identify you by.

If you plan on going skydiving, make sure that you go somewhere with a reputable safety record. You don't want to be getting onto a plane and have your instructor say, "I'm purty sure it's this here handle. Well, hell, I guess if that one doesn't work just start yankin' on em' all!"

Don't let your friends con you into eating any seafood unless you know what it is first.

Tents are supposed to be staked in for a reason and woodland bears are not cute, friendly and picnic-basket-hungry anywhere but in Jelly Stone Park. "Aye, Boo-Boo"

Have a fun and safe spring break. I can't afford to be losing readers - I already don't get any e-mail as it is.

Jared Whalen rail_editor@hotmail.com

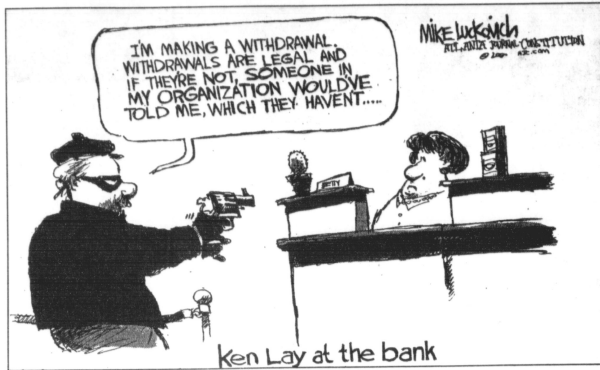
DIALOGUE

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4 FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2002 KENTUCKY KERNEL



Ken Lay at the bank

READERS' FORUM



Expressions

UK doesn't need trashy people

This is an open letter to the people who, at 10:14 p.m. on Monday, March 4, 2002, drove through the Richmond Road Hardee's and (according to their receipt) ordered two undetermined sandwich combos (both with regular fries, one with Dr. Pepper, the other with a Sprite and no mayo on the sandwich) and then proceeded to the W.T. Young Library and parked on the South edge of the lower lot behind the building, and then dumped their trash on the ground because they were too lazy to walk the 50 feet to the dumpsters. I threw away your trash and therefore have earned the right to say, "YOU SUCK!"

To everybody else: Keep Campus beautiful. Really, how hard is it not to litter?

MICHAEL CROW
INTEGRATED LEARNING TECHNICIAN

No posting is the best policy

In response to the column by Wes Blevins, "Support Tubby, but Not Religion in Public Places," I'd like to comment on the second part of the article concerning the Ten Commandments. I commend him on his attempt at being open-minded. I agree people should not have a certain

JAY SWINDLE
SOCIOLOGY JUNIOR

Good news from the bench should give hope to liberty

It's a very rare day indeed when I actually find myself encouraged by any branch of the federal government. Most of the time I allot for political contemplation is spent damning whichever politician or faction has managed to piss me off that day. Take note of this column, because it may be awhile before I praise a public official again. But hey, don't worry. I've still got room to throw some condemnation around.

When the Supreme Court refused to hear the state of Indiana's case seeking to justify erecting a Ten Commandments monument on statehouse grounds I actually felt like applauding. Partially because I was afraid the court would be quick to accept the case, but not least because I was glad some state other than Kentucky was making headlines for seeking to circumvent the Constitution.

In the recent past the Supreme Court has, in fact, thwarted a few attempts to violate the establishment clause, which prevents the federal and state governments from favoring any religion.

Just last year I was delighted when the ACLU (an organization I often find repugnant) slapped Kentucky legislators in the face by successfully challenging a bill that would have mandated that the commandments be posted in every public school classroom.

However, I feared for the worst this time around, given the Supreme Court justice's solidarity with President Bush. It seemed the time was right for the court to wessel its way around the separation of church and state, since Bush obviously cherishes every opportunity to legislate religious morality.

Well, what the court refused to even hear the case makes me dare to hope that my children might not be forced to attend a school where they're told what to believe.

What, well, what the court to buy into anyway? Schools do enough to make kids think alike already without delving into religion.

It takes just four votes in order for a case to be heard, and with a majority of conservatives in the court, backed by a president sympathetic to the religious right, it was easy to imagine a very different sce-

system of religious beliefs imposed on them. However, where the attempt at being open-minded took a turn in the opposite direction was when he proclaimed that it would indeed be acceptable to post the Ten Commandments in public places as long as the central doctrines of other religions were placed in the same manner.

What he has grossly overlooked are those of us who don't entertain any religious beliefs whatsoever.

All religions in this country should be universally respected, as he notes, but so should the thoughts of the non-religious (despite what our nation's president might believe).

Following Blevins' suggestion, I would have no problem with religious doctrines being posted in public places if we could also post, in the same manner, the top 10 arguments for atheism. We can be sure that in today's society this would not be acceptable, and it shouldn't be.

The fact is, regardless of how many doctrines are posted, the separation of church and state is still going to be violated, which is why the Supreme Court wouldn't allow the posting of the Ten Commandments in the first place.

Religious belief, or lack thereof, is and should be an extremely personal venture.

It's time that society took note of this, and put an end to these ignorant actions and proposals to reestablish religion in public places.

PARTING SHOTS

Final Word

The Question:

The United States is waging a war against terrorism, the Israelis and the Palestinians can't agree on anything and most students could care less because Spring Break starts this weekend.

With that in mind, Kernel staffers were asked who they would most like to spend Spring Break with and why.

What they said:

Martha Stewart, of course. Have you seen the can on that woman?"

Clay McDaniel, Dialogue editor

P. Diddy and the Bad Boy Family. Imagine how much fun I could have at the parties that he throws in The Hamptons."

Lamin Swann, Senior staff writer

Johnny Knoxville and the 'Jackass' crew. I'm not a daredevil, but I just want to laugh."

Ashley York, Editor in chief

Actors Kevin Spacey and Steve Buscemi. They're my favorites."

Stacie Meihaus, Scene editor

C.M. Newton. He has a house in the Bahamas. Let's put that \$75,000 annual salary to work."

Tracy Kershaw, Managing editor

SportsDaily editor Will Messer. That is, unless my back is broken from carrying him all year long."

Travis Hubbard, SportsDaily editor

MSNBC anchor Ashleigh Banfield. Unfortunately, the judge said I have to stay at least 50 feet away at all times."

Dwain Chambers, Freelance photographer

My Serta mattress. School is kicking my ass."

Emily Hagedorn, Staff writer

These views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel.

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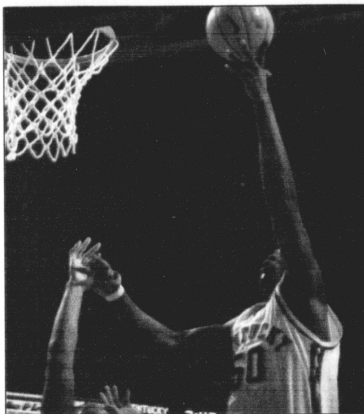
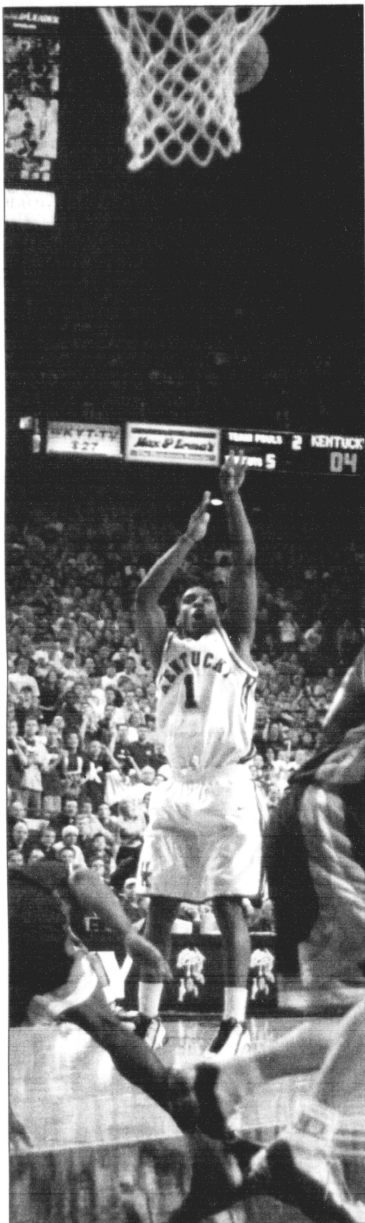
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RUPP ARENA SOUTH

UK travels to 'CAT-lanta' for SEC Tournament action



CHRIS ROSENTHAL | KERNEL STAFF

Clincher

Cliff Hawkins (left) and Marquis Estill (above) both scored in UK's win Saturday against Florida to help secure a bye in the SEC Tournament.

Tournament time: Cats seek ninth SEC title in 11 years at Georgia Dome this weekend

By Tom Soper
STAFF WRITER

Here it is, early March, and it's time for another trip to "CATlanta."
The UK men's basketball team opens the "next season" at 9:45 p.m. tonight in the Georgia Dome when they play in the second round of the Southeastern Conference Tournament.

UK (20-8, 10-6) fought its way to a first round bye with a thrilling victory over Florida in last week's regular season finale. Like many of its games this year, UK's whole season has been a rollercoaster ride.

Player suspensions and a mid-season transfer have provided plenty of distractions, but Coach Tubby Smith said all the adversity has prepared his team for a tough SEC Tournament and even tougher NCAA Tournament.

"I hope that's the way they feel," Smith said. "I'd hate to think what the alternative would be. Sure, you're moving on, you've made your mistakes. They've been focused in practice."
Smith wants the team to concentrate more at this point in time than at any other. He did not make the players available to the media on Wednesday and expressed how important the next few weeks of basketball are to him and his team.

"This is a serious business," he said. "We want to commit ourselves to doing all we can to limit our distractions. So that means that guys are going to have to tell their girlfriends and everybody else, 'look, I've got a four week window here that I have to commit to and concentrate on,' and they still have things they have to do academically."

The late time slot of tonight's game also worries Smith because UK will be forced to play three games in less than 48 hours in order to win the SEC Tournament.

"9:45 is a pretty late time to be playing basketball, so that's something that concerns me. You have to be really fresh and that's the key."

The Cats have a history of playing very well in the Georgia Dome. They are 9-2 in SEC Tournaments played there, and 13-3 overall in games played in Atlanta. Couple those numbers with the rich tradition UK has in the SEC Tournament, and UK's ability to win the tournament and ride that wave of confidence into NCAA Tournament, which starts March 14.

Even if everything does not go UK's way, Smith expects his team's defense to bail the Cats out, which it has done on more than one occasion this season.

"Our defense has to be solid," he said. "With a full complement of players, we can be a very vicious defensive team. We have three of the top shot blockers in the league, we're still first or second in defensive field-goal percentage. Those are the things that keep you in the game and help you win in these tournaments."

A vicious defense, tradition and a commitment to basketball have always been the necessary ingredients to a successful trip to Rupp Arena South.

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