

# Kentucky Kernel

Vol. XCIV, No. 219

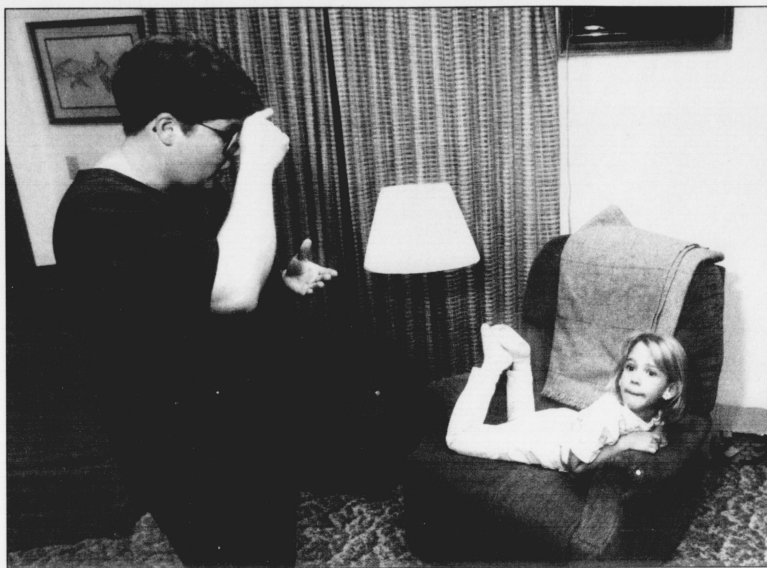
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## TALKING HANDS



GREG EANS/Kentucky Staff

Jena Richards, 6, and her mother Suzanne, are communicating through sign language. Jena became hearing impaired when she was an infant. Last month, doctors at UK Hospital performed the region's first cochlear implant on a child in Lexington.

## UK Hospital gives child chance to hear again

By KELLEY POPHAM  
Staff Writer

Six-year-old Jena Richards quickly signed numerous sounds that most children and adults take for granted — like her mother's voice.

When her mother asked her what she wanted to hear most of all, she paused and signed, "I want to hear everything."

Now, thanks to medical technology for the hearing impaired, Richards has the opportunity to hear.

Richards is the first recipient of the cochlear implant that UK's Medical Center has performed on a child. In fact, she is the first

child implanted anywhere in the state other than in Louisville.

The implant originally was restricted to adults, but since last summer the operation has been effective on children born with a profound hearing loss.

UK audiologist Dr. William Green said the cochlear implant "is most effective for adults who have heard and who have lost their hearing, and the reason is that they have a language base. They already are using that, and they don't have to learn all of that. A child who is born deaf does not have any basis for understanding their hearing and making use of it, and they have to be trained to use this device much more extensively."

"About 24 hours later, she was up and bouncing around," said Tom Richards, Jena's father.

After Richards' incision was healed, a magnetic device was embedded in the bone behind the ear with a skin flap placed over it. In six to eight weeks, a speech-processing unit will be hooked to the magnet and worn over the ear. Electrodes will stimulate Richards' auditory nerve, allowing her to hear computer-like sounds.

But doctors and Richards' par-

ents agree the toughest battle for her is not the medical procedure. Not only must the processing unit be adjusted for proper sound, she must also learn to recognize sounds she has never heard before.

Green said Richards was an ideal candidate for the procedure.

"She's a very bright, young girl," he said. "We expect her to make good progress. She's very quick. We're not sure exactly how long it will take to get the maximum benefit. We would expect to see some immediate benefits within the next few months."

Suzanne Richards, Jena's mother, said she is excited about the

operation.

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"She's a very bright, young girl," he said.

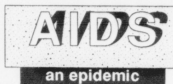
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See COCHLEAR, Page 6

## Study says 3/4 AIDS cases heterosexual

By CLARE NULLIS  
Associated Press



GENEVA — Heterosexual sex has caused the infection of 75 percent of people with the AIDS virus worldwide, and the infection is now rising in Western countries, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced yesterday.

The majority of the heterosexually infected people are in the developing world, particularly in Africa, and it still remains only a small percentage of cases in North America and Europe, the Geneva-based agency said in an extensive report.

The U.N. group says up to 5,000 people are infected each day around the world.

Concern about heterosexual transmission of the AIDS virus was heightened after basketball star Magic Johnson announced Thurs-

day that he has HIV — the virus that causes AIDS. Johnson said he had no homosexual affairs.

"It is not easy to change sexual behavior, but hopefully with more people like Magic Johnson coming out and talking about their illness everyone will realize they are at risk and take more care," said Dr. Michael Merson, head of the U.N. health agency's AIDS program.

WHO said heterosexual sex was "overwhelmingly" responsible for the spread of HIV in sub-Saharan Africa, where an estimated six million people carry the HIV virus.

## Magic relays HIV threat to students

By TYRONE BEASON  
Staff Writer

If anyone can bring attention to the AIDS crisis, Magic Johnson can, UK students said yesterday.

Chas Clark, political science senior, said Johnson's announcement last week that he is infected with HIV will make people aware of how widespread AIDS has become. However, he said people should already have opened their eyes to the issue.

"I think it's a shame that a sports superstar has to open the public's eye about the epidemic, but I admire him for coming out to be a representative," Clark said.

"Maybe this will convince a lot of kids and adults to be more care-

See REACTION, Page 6

## More people want testing, information

By RESA WRIGHT  
Staff Writer

When it comes to AIDS, students know what to do, but do they do it?

That is the question Cheryl Tuttle, substance abuse prevention coordinator and Red Cross AIDS instructor, continues to ask.

"Students have the knowledge (about acquired immune deficiency syndrome) ... but they don't necessarily translate that knowledge into actions," Tuttle said.

Tuttle said she has several theories for why students do not practice safe sex.

"Advertisers try to sell

See HEALTH, Page 6

## Harassment not to be a secret, panelists say

By JULIE FAIN  
Contributing Writer

Brought to the forefront by the recent confirmation hearings of Supreme Court Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, sexual harassment remains a hot topic of conversation.

With that in mind, UK's Student Government Association held a panel discussion yesterday at the Student Center on sexual harassment.

"The basic issue is not sex, but power," said Judith Worell, professor of educational and counseling psychology at UK.

"When students and employees are given the opportunity to reply anonymously, anywhere from 30

(percent) to 80 percent of women report they have been sexually harassed at the workplace or at universities, and about 15 percent of men."

The all-female panel, composed of two students, two University officials and one dean, discussed events surrounding the issue of sexual harassment.

With such a high number of reported incidents, the panelists stated the importance of realizing that the effects of sexual harassment can be very damaging.

Victims often feel powerless, degraded and alone.

"It is very difficult for most people to confront the situation head on," said Gretchen Lagodna, a former academic ombudsman.

She said harassment "deprives students of their educational opportunities."

Moreover, students who have been sexually harassed by their professors or instructors feel intimidated, Worell said.

"They fear that their grade may be affected if they bring attention to the offense," Worell said.

Lagodna said many people feel responsible for the harassment they have endured and "carry the pain around within themselves."



GREG EANS/Kentucky Staff

Gretchen Lagodna (center), former UK academic ombudsman, spoke yesterday at a panel discussion on sexual harassment. The event was sponsored by Student Government Association.

The panelists offered some suggestions for dealing with harassment.

"Tell someone," stressed Jan Hurley, associate dean for University Extension. "Don't try to deal with it by yourself. Deal with it as it happens."

Worell said victims have two courses of action: They may either take formal or informal action against the harasser.

"Informal action," she said, "is merely to stop the behavior. Whereas, formal action includes legal processes, such as lawsuits."

Before legal action can be taken, however, the case must fit the UK definition of sexual harassment, which can be found in the Student Handbook.

Students may refer sexual harassment complaints to the academic ombudsman, the dean of students, a department chair, a trusted professor/instructor or the affirmative action office.

The two student panelists were Page Estes, a graduate student and employee of the Office of Development, and Stephanie Stephens, an English junior and chair of the

SGA Speaker's Bureau.

Carolyn Bratt, a UK law professor who had planned to sit on the panel, was unable to attend.

The UK Women's Forum is holding a discussion, "One Year Later" featuring Carolyn Bratt and Susan Scollay. This meeting will take place tomorrow in the Student Center Ballroom from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Those attending are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch.

## U of L head keeps raise despite cuts

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The University of Louisville faces \$6.8 million in state-mandated budget cuts, but President Donald Swain says his salary will not feel the pinch.

He told faculty representatives he is proud of his 22 percent raise and will not ask U of L's board of trustees to reduce his salary.

On Thursday he told non-faculty employees that a 14 percent limit set last spring on merit pay increases did not apply to raises he and others received for promotions or to meet market competition.

He also said his previous salary of \$127,279 was not competitive with the market for presidents and would not have attracted an adequate replacement if he had left.

The \$6.8 million in cuts have been ordered to help make up for a state revenue shortfall of \$155 million. The faculty and staff senates asked Swain last month to come before them and explain why he accepted a 22 percent increase while limiting faculty to a 14 percent merit increase during a time of financial problems.

### SPORTS

UK Cool Cats hockey club sweeps Miami (Ohio). Story, Page 2.

### UK TODAY

UK's Applied Retail Promotion Class is holding a luncheon/fashion show today at the Lafayette Club. The luncheon is at noon and is free. The show is at 1 and is \$10.

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# Pitino, Macy call Magic 'great,' 'enthusiastic,' 'entertaining'

By GRAHAM SHELBY  
Senior Staff Writer

Magic Johnson's HIV-induced retirement has thrust him from the sports page to the front page.

Lost among the statistical accolades bandied about in sports pages from Boston to Baja are numbers UK fans may remember from the Wildcats' only tangle with the man called Magic.

Johnson's statistics against UK in

the 1978 Midwest regional final gave no indication that the freshman eventually would earn five NBA championship rings with the Los Angeles Lakers and become the league's all-time assist leader.

He shot 2-10, collected four fouls and handed out five assists and six turnovers.

UK won the game 52-49 on its way to a 30-2 record and the NCAA title.

Although Kentucky shut down

Johnson, former Wildcat Kyle Macy said he saw Johnson's potential even then.

"We knew he was a great player," Macy said. "We put Jack Givens on him to try to combat his size."

The Goose controlled the 6-foot-9 point guard, who finished the day with six points.

It would be another two years before Earvin Johnson ended his season with a loss. He led Michigan

State to the NCAA championship as a sophomore, defeating Indiana State and Larry Bird in the finals.

He came out early as the top pick in the NBA draft, guiding the Lakers to a title in his rookie year.

"He pretty much set the tone his first year (in the league)," Macy said.

Macy also played against Johnson in the NBA during stints with the Phoenix Suns, Chicago Bulls and Indiana Pacers and said he re-

members Johnson's idea of the nature of professional basketball.

"He understood that it was entertainment," he said, adding that Johnson played his game with "personality (and) showmanship." Johnson consequently is credited, along with Bird, for revitalizing the league that was struggling when he arrived.

"Anytime you think of Magic Johnson, you think of enthusiasm," said UK basketball coach Rick Pit-

no.

"He just loved to play the game," the former New York Knicks coach said. "In the forum, in front of 19,000 people or in the backyard."

Pitino also said he believes Johnson's enthusiasm will make him an exceptional spokesman for AIDS awareness.

"Magic is going to touch and save more people's lives because of his ailment than anyone else could possibly do," he said.

Former Wildcat Rex Chapman echoed Pitino's sentiments. The guard for the Charlotte Hornets and his wife have pledged to donate \$50,000 to any HIV research fund Johnson names.

Chapman told The Associated Press: "Magic is a lot of things to a lot of people, but above all, he is a friend. I hate that it takes something like this to make people more aware of this terrible virus."

Another call for increased awareness came from Pitino.

"I think here in Kentucky ... there's less of an awareness of this problem," he said. "We need to get more aware of it."



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1. To enter, handprint your name, address, phone number and zip code on an official entry form or a plain piece of paper. Official entry forms can be found in the October/June 1991 issue of Rolling Stone, the October/June 1991 issue of Entertainment Weekly, the November 1991 issue of U.S. magazine, the November/December 1991 issue of U. The National College Newspaper and the Fall issue of Directory of Classes. You may enter as often as you wish, but each entry must be mailed separately to: AT&T "IT CAN HAPPEN TO ME" SWEEPSTAKES, P.O. Box 4870, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. All entries must be received by December 30, 1991.

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## Cool Cats defeat Redskins 7-5, 6-4

By BOB NORMAN  
Senior Staff Writer

The Miami (Ohio) club hockey team came down to Kentucky this weekend expecting to play a bunch of hicks, chewing on straws of hay, with ice skates, said one UK player.

The Redskins thought they would give the Cool Cats a little lesson in Northern hockey etiquette and cold domination. Instead, they found an inspired UK squad led by Massachusetts native Eric Sanders.

"...everytime — throughout the game — they skated by, they would say, 'I can't believe we're losing to a bunch of rednecks.'" the UK goalie said.

"They really did, they thought we were all rednecks or ankle benders."

Unfortunately for the Redskins, UK skated with them and through them and finally past them. In the end, UK stunned them 7-5 Saturday and 6-4 Sunday for the sweep.

The Redskins obviously didn't know that UK was a team dominated by experienced, Northern players.

The sweep is, coaches and players say, the greatest single achievement in the history of UK club hockey. It was the first time the Cats had swept a traditional club powerhouse from the North.

"It was uplifting," Sanders said. "We really needed this for the future. These are the best back-to-back wins we've ever had. We were always on the map, but now our name is in bold, black letters."

Sanders, in his first year with the Cats, led the team with 38 saves in the first game and 41 in the capper.

"If you could name an MVP in this series," substitute coach Mark Shupe said, "it would have to be Eric Sanders."

Two-time Southern Collegiate Hockey Association MVP Chad Cooper led UK's offensive attack with a total of six goals and two assists — including a four goal performance Sunday.

Sanders, however, played the anchor for UK's incredible defense. And his performance was magnified by the circumstances surrounding his starting status.

He had been the only question mark on this year's squad. After winning back-to-back Southern Hockey Collegiate Association titles, the Cats' ace goaltender, Kurt Roberts, left the team.

Sanders, who had played club hockey at Syracuse a couple of years ago, has been the dark horse on the squad, the one who hadn't yet proved he was of championship stock.

"I feel I've always had the ability to play well against tough opponents," Sanders said. "But it's good to put Kurt Roberts' name aside for a while and get some credibility for myself."



# DIVERSIONS



## Mancini adds extra style to Fine Arts benefit

BY HUNTER HAYES  
Arts Editor

Henry Mancini took the stage at the Otis A. Singletary Center for the Arts Concert Hall Thursday evening, demonstrating all the class and talent expected of him.

Mancini and some of his own musicians joined the University of Kentucky Symphony Orchestra for a concert that featured several surprises as well as many of the songs to which Mancini is so closely linked.

The near 90-minute performance was the second half of a benefit to gain support for the College of Fine Arts. Various musical and theatrical acts were featured in the first half.

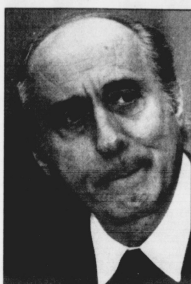
Mancini split his duties between conducting the more than 65-piece orchestra and joining it on piano.

Early in the evening Mancini brought out a surprise number — only hinting at those to follow — after telling an anecdote about a visit to UK in the 1960s. His arrangement of Pink Floyd's "On the Turning Away" was a brilliant use of dynamics. The highly emotive lead trumpet blended with but stood out from the rest of the orchestra.

Violinist Dick Dennison, who is a member of the small group of musicians Mancini brought with him, added extra punch to "Oklahoma Crude" in anything but a crude manner.

"He doesn't look like he can do the headbun but take a listen," Mancini said as he introduced Dickenson and the song. As he stood up and played the violin in a western fiddle style, Dickinson was on the verge of turning the Singletary Center into a well-dressed barn dance.

Later in the concert, Mancini ad-



MANCINI

dressed the older members of the crowd who probably did not hold a lot of respect for rock 'n' roll. Give it a chance, he told them before leading the orchestra into an innovative rendition of the Beatles hit, "Walk Like An Egyptian."

The horns and strings seemed to battle in a fierce call and response in the number. However, perhaps the strongest part of the tune was the percussion which did not override the rest of the orchestra as much as it greatly enhanced it.

Mancini tipped his baton once again to rock music in a medley of classic hits from the '50s and '60s. He led the audience, mouthing the lyrics to songs when they seemed to forget them, as much as he led the orchestra. Even though many people were singing and clapping along, he was more successful getting cooperation from the orches-

tra. The medley included "Rock Around the Clock," "Bye, Bye Love," "Great Balls of Fire," "Proud Mary," "Peggy Sue" and other songs in a very fun and unexpected number.

Of course any Mancini performance would not seem complete without the ever-popular themes from "The Pink Panther" movies and "Peter Gunn."

Mancini sat at the piano playing the very familiar opening measures to "The Pink Panther" theme with ease as he watched the orchestra launch into the number. The tenor saxophone lines seemed to rise and swell before falling back into synch with the piano riff. I nearly expected the humbling inspector Clouseau to walk on stage and crash into the orchestra.

The "Peter Gunn" theme was more intense than any of the countless rock versions of it that have been performed since it became hit nearly 30 years ago. It featured hot solos on electric bass, guitar and trumpets that captured the intensity of the song and multiplied it exponentially.

"You have a wonderful arts program. You should be very proud of it," Mancini said. He then introduced "Two for the Road" by saying it was the type of music that you heard when you were put on hold and in elevators, super markets and dentists' offices.

Finally, near the end of the show, Mancini led the orchestra into a beautiful rendition of his classic, "Moon River" from the film, "Breakfast at Tiffany's." A wonderful song in its own right, Mancini led the orchestra so well that it



GREG EANS/Kentucky State

Henry Mancini performed last Thursday at the Otis A. Singletary Center for the Arts as the featured guest in the 1991 University of Kentucky College of Fine Arts Gala Benefit. The concert was sold out.

was able to enhance the song without covering up any of its enticing textures.

Before going into "Pennywhistle Jake" from the film "The Molly McGuires," Mancini said that the Singletary Center Concert Hall was "one of the best sounding halls for orchestras I have ever been in." The quality of the hall's acoustics was proven with happy melody Mancini played on pennywhistle and with the stomping feet of the musicians.

Being able to have Mancini not only perform but also give up much of his time to spend working with the orchestra is a testament to the quality of the Fine Arts program. And having an orchestra and hall satisfy one of the greatest musical

talents of the 20th century backs this up. But those in the College of Fine Arts are not the only ones to benefit from this performance: Every one at the sold-out concert walked away a little for the better from seeing this man at work.

## 'Ceremonies' to open at Briggs Theatre

Staff reports

Message Theatre will present Lonnie Elder III's "Ceremonies in Dark Old Men" beginning Thursday at the Briggs Theatre.

The play is sponsored by the UK College of Fine Arts, the Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Center and WCKU-FM, U-102.

The play depicts the struggles of urban families as they weigh the consequences of surviving both inside and outside the legal system. It is set in Harlem, N.Y.

Admission for "Ceremonies in Dark Old Men" is \$5 for the general public and \$3 for students. The play continues through Saturday. All performances are at 8 p.m. For additional information call 257-4130 or 269-0470.

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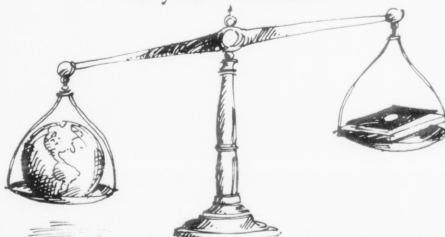
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# VIEWPOINT

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## Johnson brings AIDS tragedy home to all Americans

Earvin "Magic" Johnson's press conference Thursday announcing he had tested positive for the HIV virus has sent the nation into a tailspin.

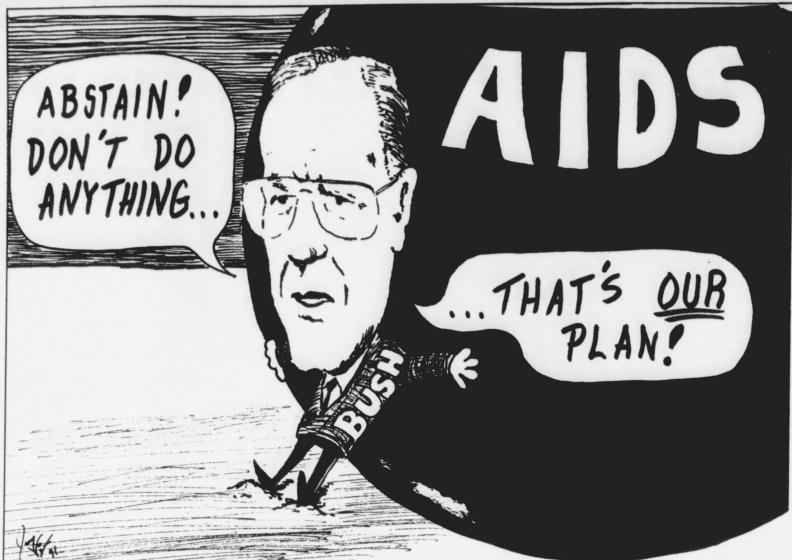
The news has sent a wave of shock, disbelief and panic into the homes of America — the pervasiveness of it is nearly unprecedented. Last week, people everywhere watched their hero, a 12-year veteran of the Los Angeles Lakers, admit that he has been infected with the virus that could lead to acquired immune deficiency syndrome, a disease that has no known cure.

His magical appeal and admiration ranges from small children to senior citizens. The image of Johnson as an invincible super-athlete, however, may be crumbling. While doctors report that he is in good health, the onslaught of this event has caused people to think about the mortality of one of America's most loved superstars — and the severe impact AIDS has on the world.

Johnson should be lauded for his attempt at bringing AIDS to the forefront of people's consciousness. Through courage and responsibility, he has reminded America that AIDS is not just a disease that affects homosexuals and intravenous drug users — it affects heterosexuals as well. Johnson has said he was infected through heterosexual contact.

Although he may not erase the stigma surrounding the issue, he at least will plant the seed in people's minds that the virus that can lead to AIDS is indiscriminate.

In addition, Johnson announced his immediate plans to retire from the Lakers and to become a spokesman for AIDS groups. We admire his attempt at teaching people, especially children, about AIDS



awareness and about mistakes that he has made.

Although it is a pity that it takes this kind of tragedy to make people think about the ramifications of AIDS, we sincerely hope that the knowledge gained about Magic Johnson will have a positive effect on prevention and education about the deadly virus.

Johnson needs to reach as many of America's youth as he can and teach them to be aware of the precautionary steps they need to take to avoid exposure to HIV.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, "The only sure way to avoid infection through sex is to abstain from sexual intercourse or engage in intercourse only with someone who is not infected and only has sex with you. Latex condoms have been shown to prevent HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases ... But they are not foolproof."

UK's Student Health Service provides confidential testing for the HIV virus. The initial test is \$40, and a second test, taken to confirm

a positive preliminary test, is \$59. However, if there is any medical indication that a person may be infected — and if a physician recommends the test for someone — the test may be given at no charge.

The Fayette County Health Department offers free, anonymous testing.

We must learn from the words of our hero Magic Johnson: "Sometimes you're a little naive about it and think it can never happen to you. You think it can happen to only other people. But it has happened ..."

It has happened to Magic, and it can happen to anyone. Be smart and take the proper precautions. Abstain from sex or practice safe sex. If you think you may be at risk, get tested.

It's that simple. Just do it.

## Magic & AIDS

### America must keep priorities straight during the turmoil

It is, I suppose, apropos that I learned of Magic Johnson's retirement from basketball while I was in his native state of Michigan.

It was Friday night and some people at dinner were talking about it — though out of my range of hearing. I inquired as to their topic of conversation — the woman next to me said, "Magic Johnson tested HIV positive and is retiring from basketball."

I mumbled something about Michigan being his home state and proceeded to sit in shocked silence.

Since I was a child, I have been a Los Angeles Lakers fan. And like many people, the primary reason was Magic Johnson. For years, I have defended him from the heresies about the superiority of Larry Bird and, later, Michael Jordan. I proudly sported my Magic Johnson MVP T-shirt and screamed in protest at outrageous calls made by obviously wicked referees.

Anyone who has watched a basketball game with me will testify to my seeming lucidity during the event. Few players would I defend



**N. Alan CORNETT**

as rigorously as Magic Johnson.

While some players might be as talented at basketball as Magic (even though I doubt it), none will be as well loved as he. Magic's brilliant smile and upbeat attitude always left you with hope that no matter how bad a game looked, Magic would do something that was, well, magical and somehow win the game.

I remember just a few years ago when the Celtics and Lakers were involved in their heated rivalry and every meeting between the two was a classic. The Lakers were behind with only a couple of seconds remaining. The Lakers threw the ball in to — who else — Magic Johnson. As soon as the ball touched his hand, he turned and launched about a 20-foot hook shot that swished

through the net and won the game, once again keeping down the evil Celtics (OK, they're not evil, but I'm a Lakers fan).

That is how I will always remember Magic Johnson.

Now we have Magic Johnson as a victim of HIV, the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Every time I think about it, I literally have to fight back tears. However, we cannot lose sight of what this all means.

When asked how he contracted the disease, Magic attributed it to "messing around with too many women." Because of Magic, AIDS will not be viewed as just a homosexual disease or a drug user's disease. This has both its good and bad points.

The good point is now people will realize that not just perverse behavior will get you in trouble, but promiscuous behavior as well. Those who vigorously preach "safe sex, safe sex" miss the whole point. The only truly "safe sex" is that which is carried out between two people who have been abstinent and

AIDS is *not* an epidemic. It still is primarily a homosexual male disease. It is a terrible disease. However, it does not warrant more attention than do diseases such as cancer and heart disease. Everyone who has AIDS has it because someone was involved in illicit behavior.

are now monogamous.

Usually this happens in marriage. That is why marriage exists. Get the idea?

Consequences always exist for unlicensed actions. Sooner or later, it will catch up with you, however not always as brutally as it has with Magic Johnson. But there is always that risk.

The bad side to this is that people will get caught up in the "AIDS epidemic" hysteria. AIDS is *not* an epidemic. It still is primarily a homo-

sexual male disease. It is a terrible disease. However, it does not warrant more attention than do diseases such as cancer and heart disease. Everyone who has AIDS has it because someone was involved in illicit behavior.

This is not to say that innocents are not affected. The stories of those who contract the disease because of blood transfusions, through a doctor, or because they were born with it indeed are heart wrenching.

Every precaution needs to be

made to ensure that these incidents do not occur through mandatory AIDS testing for health workers and for donated blood. But no matter what is done, innocents will be affected.

Former UK basketball player Rex Chapman and his wife donated \$50,000 to AIDS research.

If every NBA player did likewise, it truly would be amazing the money that would go to the noble cause of curing the disease.

However, we should not expect Congress to increase funding dramatically for AIDS research.

With the deficit we have and the number of diseases more pressing than AIDS, such spending cannot be justified.

As Magic said, if he were to die tomorrow, he still would have had a wonderful life. And he is still an American hero.

*Editorial Editor N. Alan Cornett is a history senior and a Kernel columnist.*

## Cast ye not the first stone, AIDS epidemic affects everyone

Last Thursday, I found out someone I know has AIDS.

Until Thursday, the disease wasn't real to me. It was something that only homosexuals and drug-users had to worry about — certainly not anyone I knew.

That was until Magic Johnson told me — and the rest of the world that cold, awful day last week — that he was infected with the virus that causes AIDS.

I have never met Magic, but I grew up with him. In awe, I spent hours watching him on television as he led the Los Angeles Lakers to five world championships. Even though I was on Larry Bird's side in the Bird-or-Magic debate, I still respected his inspiring grace and raw athletic ability.

I played with Magic on the court at my grade school playground. Magic may not really have been there, but it seemed like he was.

When my buddy Mike would take the ball to the hoop, you could hear him say in his best radio announcer's voice, "Magic with the drive ... HE SCORES!"

Or even better, Mike would make



**Bobby KING**

the same move with the same radio announcer screaming the play-by-play, but he'd flip a behind-the-back pass, à la Magic instead. It usually went sailing out of bounds, but it looked good and sounded even better.

That's how I got to know Magic. And that's why the news hurt so badly that afternoon when a friend told me over the phone. I sat, shell-shocked. It wasn't supposed to happen to the good guys, especially Magic, who was seemingly invincible on the basketball court. Surely he was above AIDS.

That's why he had to tell me, his friend from afar, and the rest of the world that he was a victim of acquired immune deficiency syndrome. He wanted us to know that we weren't above it either.

Sadly, after I came to, my next

question was "How?" Instead of feeling grief for my friend in crisis, I asked myself, "How did he get it?"

My reaction wasn't unique. I heard others ask the same question, and I've even heard a few ugly theories. Magic didn't specify how he became infected with the virus. Lord knows it is none of our business.

But this is where the real sickness is: Too many of us look at AIDS as a gay disease. We've put a cloak over it that has allowed us to hide our eyes. I've even heard some people say it was sent by God to wipe out all of the homosexuals. But I know that's not true.

The Bible tells us that Jesus came, not to condemn those who have sinned, but to heal them. When He did this, the scribes accused Him of blasphemy. But He replied with words that we would do well to take to heart today.

"Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk?' So that you may know that the Son of Man has the

I hope the impact of Magic's message will help turn the tide in the battle to bring AIDS into the consciousness of mainstream Americans. Perhaps this tragedy that has befallen Magic can be rewritten into a story with a happy ending. Whatever happens, it's time for us to wake up and meet some harsh realities.

One of those realities is that AIDS is an epidemic. There have been 195,718 cases of AIDS reported in the United States, and 124,380 deaths attributed to the disease.

*power to forgive sins" — he said to the paralytic, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed and go your way to your house." — Mark 2:9-11*

The Centers for Disease Control reports that 3,312 children under 13 in the United States have been diagnosed with AIDS. As of Sept. 30, 1,179 of those have died. An untold number of victims received the virus from blood transfusions and other ways that didn't involve sex or drug use. How, then, can we label this epidemic?

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the battle to bring AIDS into the consciousness of mainstream Americans. Perhaps this tragedy that has befallen Magic can be rewritten into a story with a happy ending. Whatever happens, it's time for us to wake up and meet some harsh realities.

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An estimated one million people are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus. Projections for

1993 estimate between 390,000 and 480,000 people will be diagnosed with AIDS. By 1993, 285,000 to 340,000 people will have died.

But Pam Goldman, executive director of AIDS Volunteers of Lexington, said those figures are a "gross underestimation of the problem."

Indeed, we have all underestimated the problem.

Now, we are watching our friends die.

*Senior Staff Writer Bobby King is a journalism senior and a Kernel columnist.*

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## Health

Continued from page 1

everything with sex," she said. With the recent announcement by "Magic" Johnson on Thursday that he has tested positive for the HIV virus, talk of the disease has increased in Fayette County and at UK.

"We are booked solid for people who are interested in getting AIDS testing and counseling," said Sandy Joseph, AIDS program manager for the Fayette County Health Department.

Pam Woodrum, health educator at UK Student Health Service, said she also has seen an increase in questions about AIDS.

On Friday she received five to six calls, compared to nearly none before Johnson's announcement, Woodrum said.

"Up until Magic Johnson's announcement, I did not see the opportunity to reach such a large

group of people," Tuttle said. "I think that although this has been a tragedy ... Magic Johnson has the opportunity that previous health educators have not — to give a message, particularly to younger children."

Tuttle said there are a number of steps people can take to reduce the risk of acquiring the HIV virus, including being aware that others can be infected without having symptoms and practicing safe sex. "It's what you do, not who you are that creates a risk for infection," she said.

"Sexual abstinence is the most sure thing," said Mary Brinkman, UK director of health education.

Brinkman also said that long-term monogamy is the next-best thing to abstinence. "Younger people sometimes think they are in monogamous relationships, when in fact they are not," Brinkman said.

College students are in a high-risk group because of multiple partners and a lack of communication,

Woodrum said. However, Tuttle said it is important to remember that AIDS is not easy to get.

"You can not get AIDS through casual contact," Tuttle said. Tuttle said an open forum is being planned at UK sometime in December for students, faculty and staff because of the recent increase in interest about the disease.

"Our office seeks to produce open communication about sex," she said. "Dialogue before sex is frightening to students, and I think that stems from a fear of rejection."

Students, faculty and staff have a variety of places to consult for precise information regarding the HIV virus and AIDS, including: the Student Health Service, Fayette County Health Department, the Dean of Students Office and the AIDS hotline.

Testing and counseling can be obtained at the Fayette County Health Department, by appointment, and at student health. However, the Health Department offers

anonymous testing, while student health gives confidential testing.

In confidential testing, an individual's name will be recorded, although it will not be released. Anonymous testing involves the person "becoming a number rather than a name," Joseph said.

Although the sudden increase in awareness may prompt some individuals to seek information about AIDS, some people will always ignore precautions, Woodrum said.

"I think there are going to be some people who will always be risk-takers," she said.

Instead of general education, the end of the "one night stand" would help students more, Woodrum said.

"What we need to change is the mindset of one-night intercourse and what it could mean 10 years down the road," Woodrum said. "We have to think about these things before we are in the situation."

## Reaction

Continued from page 1

ful."

Like most people, Denver Ockerman, was surprised to hear that Johnson has the HIV virus. Now that Johnson has made his condition public, others will get involved in the AIDS awareness movement, said Ockerman, an undeclared freshman.

"I think more people will come out of the closet about it," he said.

Ockerman said Johnson is one person who can teach the public about AIDS.

"I believe that if anybody can handle the situation, he can," Ockerman said.

Rebecca Bootes, a nursing senior, said Johnson can change negative stereotypes about patients who are infected with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

"He is such a well-known figure that he could have a big impact," she said.

"He can change the whole idea of how people perceive those who have AIDS. I think it's going to make the community aware that anybody can get it."

The black community will especially benefit from Johnson's involvement in AIDS education, said Dawn Crutcher, a sophomore.

Crutcher said blacks "don't know enough" about AIDS even though the disease is spreading quickly through predominantly black areas.

"AIDS is wiping us out more than any other race," she said.

The important thing for everyone

to remember is that "you've just got to be careful," Crutcher said.

Ironically, in light of Johnson's openness, others interviewed declined to have their names published. And one group interviewed reacted flippantly about the disease.

## Cochlear

Continued from page 1

er, said her daughter's progress is promising.

"Jena tries to talk now. Actually, she has very good speech with the amount of hearing that she has. ... The harder she tries now, that's going to continue with her. She's going to try real hard to be able to decipher what she's hearing from this implant."

At first, Mrs. Richards said her daughter was worried about the implant and would sign, "No, mommy I can hear" to avoid having the sur-

gery. But she has become more optimistic.

"She is really very smart, not just because she's my child," Mrs. Richards said. "She started reading at 3, which is almost unheard of with a hearing-impaired child."

Richards will be required to work with speech pathologists at school and at the Lexington Hearing and Speech Center until she can distinguish between different sounds she hears.

"It will be like an infant learning to hear," said Mrs. Richards said. "She daughter possibly could be integrated into the mainstream classroom in three to four years."

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