



Justification

Too much this weekend

Just in case you think you drank too much this weekend - here are what some 'thinkers' of time gone by think about alcohol.

You'd be surprised how much fun you can have sober. When you get the hang of it.

- Joe (Jack Lemmon) in 'Days of Wine and Roses.' (1962)

There can't be good living where there is not good drinking.

- Benjamin Franklin

The church is near, but the road is icy. The bar is far away, but I will walk carefully.

- Old Russian proverb

A statesman is an easy man, he tells his lies by rote.

A journalist invents his lies, and rams them down your throat.

So stay at home and drink your beer and let the neighbors vote.

- William Butler Yeats

What contemptible scoundrel stole the cork from my lunch?

- Larson E. Whipsnade (W. C. Fields) in 'You Can't Cheat an Honest Man.' (1939)

Time is never wasted when you're wasted all the time.

- Catherine Zandonella

DO RE MI DRINK

- Homer Simpson.

DO... the stuff... that buys me beer...

RAY... the guy that sells me beer...

ME... the guy... who drinks the beer...

FAR... a long way to get beer...

SO... I'll have another beer...

LA... I'll have another beer...

TEA... no thanks, I'm drinking beer...

That will bring us back to... (Looks into an empty glass)

D'OH!

I was in love with a beautiful blonde once. She drove me to drink; that's the one thing I'm indebted to her for.

- W. C. Fields in 'Never Give a Sucker an Even Break'

Always remember that I have taken more out of alcohol than alcohol has taken out of me.

- Winston Churchill

If God had intended us to drink beer, He would have given us stomachs.

- David Daye

When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading.

- Henry Youngman

<http://www.skypod.com/drinking@lines>

Compiled by: Ron Norton

THE '41'

Tomorrow's weather



58 36
H L

No rain for the weekend. Eat it up.

Kentucky Kernel

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News tips? Call: 257-1915 or write: kernel@pop.uky.edu

FRIDAY KENTUCKY
KERNEL

April 21, 2000



Boy Band
Attention 'NSYNC fans, we have the concert scoop! 18

<http://www.kykernel.com>

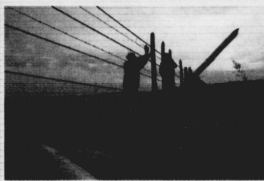


EARTH DAY 2000

The final day of the Kentucky Kernel's Earth Day Series combines the economy and the environment to show consumers how to put their money where their mouth is. From jobs to vacations to everyday purchases, companies have filled the niche created by citizens concerned about the environmental impacts of their daily habits.

Don't forget - Earth Day is tomorrow. Take a moment to stop, look around and realize what a truly remarkable planet we live on. Happy Earth Day 2000!

Ecojobs: Put that brain to work



Work to help
Staff at Addo National Park in South Africa cut a fence, increasing the size of the park's elephant habitat by 15,000 acres.

Got skills?
Degrees in engineering, hydrology and the sciences are valuable to consulting firms who specialize in making sure companies meet federal, state and local environmental standards. People with specialties in communications and the media can get jobs with the public relations departments of the many non-profit environmental organizations. Everyone can use their job skills to help the environment in whatever employment they have by advocating earth-friendly practices.

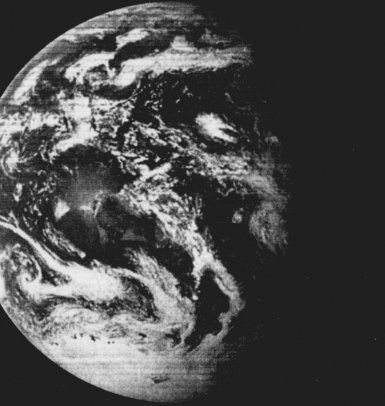
Ecotourism: Vacation on Earth



World apart
Examples of ecotourism: visiting wildlife and wilderness parks, scuba diving, staying at hotels who advertise their commitment to the environment.

Ecotourism has emerged as one of the most economical ways communities have found to protect cool places from destruction. Vacation in places that commit to preserving the environment by making it the main attraction.

Seeing green



Ecoproducts: The stuff of life



Paul Hardy installs a rubberized running track at Moadore High School in Moadore, Ohio. The rubberized mix consists primarily of recycled tires.

Buying earth-friendly products means investing money in the future by consuming with as little impact on the earth as possible. Finding earth-friendly products can be difficult sometimes, but advocating and purchasing them influences the market to carry them.

Ecotal, one of the web's oldest environmental portals, serves the shopper with a huge variety of links to businesses carrying everything from bath and body products to clothes to food to computer products.

<http://www.ecotal.com>

The cost of a conscience: Purchasing that's good for Earth

By Mark Vanderhoff
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Many years ago, inventor Thomas Edison offered a vision of the future.

"I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy," Edison said. "What a source of power. I hope we don't have to wait 'til oil and coal run out before we tackle that."

Edison may have thought it wouldn't take humans this long to wean themselves from the fossil fuel industry - the snail's pace of energy technology certainly looks embarrassing when compared to other technological achievements.

But progress hasn't entirely stopped. Tennessee Valley Authority, a provider of

electricity to many Kentuckians, recently announced they'd offer a clean energy plan for customers. It was a monetary commitment to clean energy for consumers and a development commitment for the company.

Today, consumers can take comfort in other products made by companies trying to lessen their impact on the environment. Earth-friendly products have moved into mainstream stores. Even Kroger on Euclid Ave. has a natural foods section, perfect for students like Jenny Crawford, a natural resource conservation senior.

"I think it (earth-friendly products) is better for my health, and I know it's better for the earth and better for other living organisms," she said.

"I feel more confident than ever that the power to save the planet rests with the individual consumer."

- DENIS HAYS, ATTORNEY, PRESIDENT OF THE BULLIT FOUNDATION, A PACIFIC NORTHWEST PRESERVATION GROUP

Tax breaks everybody can agree on

Every year, each of us give the garbage people nearly 1600 pounds of trash to put into landfills and incinerators. When you cut down on trash, you and your community can save on the cost of waste collection and management, which is paid for by taxes.

You also avoid the cost of replacing throwaway items over and over again.

About \$1 of every \$10 we spend on food pays for packaging. Support brands who don't wrap products in bags that are boxed with shrink wrap and...

Buy the large or economy size to save cash on a product with less packaging per amount of product. When you have just an item or two, say, "No bag, thanks."

GREEN PARTY

Nader visits UK

By Chris Markus
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Green Party presidential hopeful Ralph Nader addressed UK students, faculty and community members yesterday, offering not only another choice for voters tired of two-party politics, but also the choice of an expansive political ideology.

Nader's placed blame for social problems not on the government, but on the big businesses that he feels control a large part of Washington.

"The concentration of power and wealth in too few hands gets society in trouble," Nader warned.

The Green Party candidate criticized the government for spending money on defense from what he called "non-existent" enemies, while millions of children grow up in poverty.

Taking on corporations is not a challenge new to Nader, who wrote the book "Unsafe at Any Speed," a work that he said eventually led Congress to pass tougher safety regulations on automobile companies.

In addition to his assault on corporate America, Nader also likened the World Trade Organization to a giant loan shark that destroys the environments of the third world countries it is supposed to help develop.

Nader also praised UK student protesters for their crusade against the "staggering exploitation of Third World workers."

Nader pleaded for the UK administration to act as "wise elders" when disciplining the students arrested after the April 5 sit-in, and asked them to look at the bigger picture - that of students standing up for the rights of the impoverished.

Nader envisioned an America ruled by grassroots politics that are fueled by active citizens, as opposed to a union that bows to the desires of what he called "corporate extremists."

Nader's attack of cash-saturated politics took on a local tone when he called Kentucky senator Mitch McConnell, "the worst senator in the United States Senate."

"Unless Mitch McConnell is sent back to some Kentucky horse farm, he is going to put our government up for sale to the highest bidder," Nader said.

Nader was on the ballot in some states in the 1996 presidential election but says that he wasn't actively running for the office.

This year, Nader is planning a full-scale presidential campaign, but not with conventional funding.

Nader is refusing any campaign contributions from political action committees and is not accepting soft money donations.

He encouraged students to take an active role in the political process.

"If you don't turn on politics," Nader said, "politics are gonna turn on you."

TOP TWENTY

Conference aids research

By Luke Saladin
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

For UK, the road to becoming a Top 20 Public Research Institution begins in Montana.

Eight UK students, along with their mentors, will participate in the National Conference on Undergraduate Research April 27-29 at the University of Montana.

Over 2,000 students involved in scholarly and artistic activities from the arts, humanities and sciences will represent over 400 colleges and universities from nearly every state in the nation.

The students from UK were selected to participate in the conference because of the high quality of their research, said PH Kraemer, dean of undergraduate studies at UK.

Some of the research topics include cancer-targeting drugs, the genetic modification of plants, and the workings of animal neuromuscular systems.

The NCUR sponsors its annual conference to give students from around the country a chance to present papers and to be evaluated by professors and other undergraduates committed to research.

"My hope is that this conference helps stimulate interest in research at UK," Kraemer said. "Also, I think this should be a valuable recruiting tool to attract talented students to the graduate research programs at UK."

The NCUR was established in 1987 as a way of promoting undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activities in all fields of study. UK has participated in the NCUR annual conferences since its inception.

Kraemer learned last year that UK had won the bid for NCUR 2001. He and a group of administrators have been working diligently since then to prepare for the event, which he hopes will spawn enough interest at UK to start an annual research conference of their own.

See RESEARCH on 2

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS

The Low-down

Deaths in Columbine marked

LITTLETON, Colo. — As a gentle breeze blew, Coloradans hugged, shed tears and observed a poignant moment of silence yesterday to remember the 13 people slain at Columbine High exactly one year ago. "Today is about the angels who are watching over us, helping us to heal and helping us to remember," Gov. Bill Owens told a crowd gathered at the state Capitol in Denver. "We came through that tragedy with a stronger sense of community and with a resolve to ensure that the deaths of the victims will not be in vain." Owens presided over a moment of silence at 11:21 a.m., the time the Columbine attack began.

Too bad he didn't tell me I could have enjoyed it."

- Barbara Walters, reacting to the claim in author Geoffrey Giuliano's much-disputed new bio of John Lennon that the late Beatle had sexual fantasies about her.

Korean atrocities uncovered in papers

DOKKCHON, South Korea — More than 2,000 political prisoners of the Korean War were executed without trial by South Korean soldiers and police, and at times were observed by U.S. Army officers, according to newly declassified U.S. military documents. The new information, some of which also came from witnesses, has been detailed in reporting by The Associated Press and a Korean researcher. The AP found that large numbers of South Korean leftists arrested by the right-wing regime were secretly killed as its forces retreated before the North Korean army, apparently to keep them from collaborating with the communist invaders.

Pol: Americans want trigger locks

WASHINGTON — Most Americans say they want tougher gun controls, including a big majority who favor a law requiring that guns be sold with trigger locks, an Associated Press poll finds. But people are split on the best way to reduce violence: better enforcement of current laws or passage of tougher ones. "We need better enforcement," said Jeff Teasdale, a printing plant supervisor from Baraboo, Wis. "I don't think the laws right now are being enforced." The poll found that 42 percent thought stricter enforcement was more likely to cut gun violence, while 33 percent said enacting tougher gun laws was a better approach. Neither option was best for one-fifth of those in the poll conducted for The AP by ICR of Media, Pa.

Gore sees Elian 'family solution'

FORT LEE, N.J. — Vice President Al Gore said yesterday he is confident Elian Gonzalez's feuding relatives can still arrive at "a family solution" despite their increasingly entrenched and contrary positions. Gore, pressed by reporters, refused to criticize the handling of the



LOOSE CANNON: William Shatner will play a beauty pageant host/loose cannon in "Miss Congeniality," which stars Sandra Bullock. The picture concerns an FBI agent (Bullock) who must infiltrate the Miss Liberty pageant as Miss New Jersey in order to defuse the threat from a potential terrorist.



STEIN GOES ONLINE: Game show host, actor, speechwriter for President Nixon and Peppercorn professor Ben Stein will create an online game, a series of e-greeting cards and a daily poll for Shockwave.com.

case of the shipwrecked 6-year-old Cuban boy by President Clinton and his administration. "I'm not going to get into that. I respect the way they're going about this and I hope we'll be able to get the family members together," Gore said during a round robin of local TV interviews conducted on a campaign stop in New Jersey.

Dinosaurs were warm-blooded

WASHINGTON — A modern medical X-ray of a dinosaur fossil named Willo suggests the extinct animal may have had a four-chambered heart typical of warm-blooded animals instead of the simpler heart of cold-blooded reptiles. If verified by other studies that a rock-hard mass in the fossilized chest is a heart, it will mark the first time that scientists have been able to study the cardiac system of dinosaurs. A four-chambered heart would mean that the blood circulatory system of dinosaurs was much more advanced than previously believed.

Philippines jet data recorder found

DAVAO, Philippines — The pilot of an Air Philippines jet reported poor visibility minutes before the plane crashed Wednesday, killing all 131 people aboard. The airport transcripts from the Philippines' worst aviation disaster also indicated air traffic controllers tried at least twice to hurry another plane off the runway so Flight 541 could land. But the pilot of the doomed airliner reported that the other plane remained on the runway, so he circled and tried to put down from the opposite direction, slamming into a coconut grove on Samal Island.

Dow up 158 on earnings news

NEW YORK — Stocks were mixed yesterday, with blue-chips getting a lift from recent earnings reports — most of which have shown strong profit growth. Just before 4 p.m. EDT, the Dow industrials were up 158.62 at 10,833.58. On the NYSE, advanced led decliners 1,577-1,289. The Nasdaq was down 99.85 at 3655.35. Financial markets will be closed tomorrow for the observance of Good Friday.

Reds 11, Giants 1

CINCINNATI — Ken Griffey Jr. hit a pair of two-run homers into a swirling wind yesterday afternoon, leading the Cincinnati Reds to an 11-1 victory over the slumping San Francisco Giants. Barry Larkin also hit a two-run homer and Pokey Reese matched his career high with five hits as the Reds (8-7) moved above .500 for the first time this season. They're a month ahead of last year, when they didn't have a winning record until May 19, then finished with 96 victories.

Compiled from wire reports.

LOCAL

Hemp struggles to gain viability as good

STAFF REPORT

Many know the benefits of hemp from reading the inside of Cypress Hill's "Hits from the Bong." For those who weren't ever into that or never did a report on hemp in high school, hemp is a weed that grows anywhere, yields fibers stronger than cotton and is illegal to grow in the United States.

"We're optimistic about the returns that can be earned from growing hemp," he said, while at the same time cautioning that hemp is not a magic solution for farmers looking to get out of tobacco.

Hemp profits per acre could range from \$220, for hemp grown for grain or straw production, to \$600, for raising certified seed to be planted by other hemp growers, the University of Kentucky report said.

It's good for the earth because it doesn't require heavy fertilizer or pesticide and serves as a great nutrient-enhancing crop to rotate with grains and vegetables. Kentucky was once a large producer of hemp.

A University of Kentucky by UK's Center for Business and Economic Research said cultivating and processing hemp in Kentucky could bring up to 771 new jobs and \$17.6 million in worker earnings in the current market.

Mark Berger, a UK economics professor and one of the study's authors, told the Associated Press when the study was published that hemp is a viable crop. It can be used in paper products and textiles; as a fiberglass substitute; and as an oil in food, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

Find out more
Hemp Industries Association
Over 200 hemp-related companies and organizations belong to this industry group, and the website has links galore.
<http://www.thehia.org>
North American Industrial Hemp Council, Inc.
An agricultural group advancing hemp.
<http://www.naihc.org>
Drug Enforcement Agency
Some government officials fear hemp farming could provide a camouflage for growing marijuana. The DEA has been adamantly opposed to legalizing hemp.
<http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/>

RESEARCH

Continued from page 1

"The timing is perfect because right now we really want to emphasize research at UK," Kraemer said.

Although all of the participants from UK are involved in natural science research, "We have opportunities were open to those in other fields of study, including the humanities."
"Research seems to be

more natural to people involved in science because often it is a collaborative effort for them," Kraemer said. "Other fields of study are lonely areas of scholarship so often, they are not aware of opportunities like this."

So how will UK compete with schools already established as elite research institutions?

Kraemer said one characteristic of UK sticks out: "We have a very friendly faculty who are willing to help a lot of one-on-one help. You don't get that just anywhere."

UK VS FLORIDA

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www.ushock.com

EARTH-FRIENDLY

Ben and Jerry's Patagonia gear

STAFF REPORT

Childhood friends Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield opened an ice cream company in 1978 in a renovated gas station in Burlington, Vermont. Today, Ben and Jerry's Homemade, Inc. has stores and innovative ice cream flavors all over the world and is known for supporting local farmers, buying Vermont milk and cream.

The company gives 7.5 percent of its pre-tax earnings to philanthropies furthering solutions to social or environmental problems.

The company recently merged with Unilever, the world's largest ice cream company, whose famous brands include Breyers All Natural and Klondike, for \$43.60 per share for 8.4 million shares (that's a \$326 million value).

Under the terms of the agreement, Ben & Jerry's will operate separately from Unilever, with an independent board of directors, which will focus on providing leadership for Ben & Jerry's social mission and brand integrity, the company said in a press release after the merger.

And Ben and Jerry will still be on board.

Whacky website

Ben and Jerry's website is very navigable and even entertaining, with a flavor list, flavor graveyard for discontinued ice creams and game page full of random games, puzzles and assorted weird stuff. <http://www.benjerry.com>

STAFF REPORT

Patagonia may be the most popular earth-friendly clothier on the planet, setting the example for profits that minimize their effect on the environment.

They have succeeded in switching to cotton grown without synthetic chemicals, incorporating fiber from recycled plastic bottles in almost all of their fleece products, and adopting a wide variety of earth-friendly building techniques for their stores and facilities.

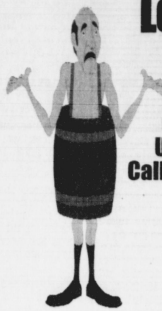
The company encourages employees and customers to advocate social and environmental change.

Their self-imposed Earth Tax funds Patagonia's external environmental efforts: the Patagonia Environmental Grants Program, services to environmental groups, issue-related events and displays in retail stores, and collaborative work with dealers.

Reports available to consumers online or by mail detail the company's environmental successes and where they've fallen short.

Feel like adventure?

Patagonia's web site is easy to use and has lots of cool photos, essays and articles. The online store has discount deals and pictures of their entire line of clothing and gear. <http://www.patagonia.com>



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GOOD STUFF

Buy recycled products and save ...



Energy
It usually takes less energy to make recycled products: recycled aluminum, for example, takes 95 percent less energy to make than new ore.



Landfill space
When the materials that you recycle go into new products, they don't go into landfills or incinerators, so scarce landfill space is conserved.



Clean air and water
Making products from recycled materials often creates less air pollution and water pollution than making products from new materials.



Money and create jobs
The recycling process creates far more jobs than landfills or incinerators, and recycling can frequently be less expensive than landfills.



Natural resources
Making products from recycled materials preserves limited resources, including forest recreation areas.

Source: Department of the Interior, United States Government



Look for this logo at the store

Make sure it says post-consumer recycled content. Check for the percentage used.

Commonly recycled products

Next time you go to the store, check out these products and find ones made from recycled materials.

Paperboard boxes - Lightweight cardboard boxes such as cereal, cracker, and shoe boxes are often made from recycled paper.

Plastic bottles and jugs - Some household cleaners, dishwashing liquids, shampoos, and other products can be found in plastic bottles with 25 percent or higher post-consumer recycled content.

Bath and facial tissue -

Toilet paper and facial tissue made from recycled paper meet consumer expectations and cost about the same as or less than their non-recycled counterparts.

Paper towels - Paper towels with recycled content are competitive in price and performance. But don't forget you can use a sponge or rag to do the same job!

Writing paper and envelopes - Top-quality recycled paper, envelopes, and greeting cards are increasingly easy to find. Some "designer" recycled

stationery is meant to look rough and unfinished, but most recycled paper looks just like the paper made directly from trees. (And don't forget to ask for recycled paper if you order printing or copying.)

... And many more
Other products made from recycled materials include: refined motor oil, fiberfill for sleeping bags, carpet, shoes, pencils, recycling bins, building insulation, wallboard, tiles, and many more.

Source: Environmental Defense

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BASEBALL

UK to take on No. 1

Travis Hubbard
ASST. SPORTSDAILY EDITOR

The Bat Cats are not changing their game plan for anyone, and that includes the No. 1 team in the nation.

The UK baseball squad will host No. 1 ranked South Carolina for a three-game SEC series this weekend, but the team wants to keep the same outlook and preparation that has led to their 29-10-1 record so far.

"I think if we take the same approach we'll be just fine," said junior catcher John Wilson.

The Cats have played well in every SEC series, with the exception of a home series versus Florida. UK dropped the first two games and the third ended in a tie, but the Cats were outsourced 31-8.

"I tell my players every SEC series is important," said UK coach Keith Madison. "We can't afford any letdowns, like against Florida."

UK has played well against USC in the past, winning five of their last six against the Gamecocks, including a series sweep last year in Columbia. The Cats have not lost a series against USC since 1993 and have been 16-4 head-to-head since then. Also, the Gamecocks have mostly the same roster from the last year that the Cats swept.

"I try not to put too much into (what happened last year)," said Wilson.

FOOTBALL

Cats hit field for Blue/White

By Will Messer
STAFF WRITER

The UK football team will have its annual Blue/White game, the final football scrimmage of the spring, at 6 p.m. Saturday at Commonwealth Stadium.

The format of this Blue/White game, however, will be quite different from the format of the team's first two spring scrimmages. The first quarter of the game will be comprised of two 10-minute UK football alumni touch football games. Alumni who finished their career in 1975 or earlier will play the first ten minutes and alumni who finished their careers after 1975 will play the second 10 minutes.

Wilbur Hackett and Lou Caribou serve as coaches for the alumni game. Hackett lettered for three years at UK (1968-1970) and was the first African-American team captain in the SEC. Caribou lettered two years at UK (1952-53) as a running back.

After the alumni game, the UK team will take the field for the second quarter, but the score from the alumni game will stay on the board.

Unlike the two earlier spring scrimmages, the Blue/White game will pit members of the first and second-string teams against members of the second and third-string teams.

"They have the same team they had last year for the most part," said Madison. "They had a talented, young pitching staff last year. This year they have more experience on their pitching staff."

Madison said he thinks USC's pitching has been the key to their success.

"They probably have the best pitching staff in the nation," he said.

Madison will try to counter USC's strength by sending Junior Brandon Webb and freshmen Rob Corrado and Scott Wade to the mound Friday, Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

Corrado will start a conference game for the first time since a 12-3 loss to Tennessee, in which he surrendered three runs in three innings. However, Corrado is coming off two consecutive non-conference wins against Louisville and Cincinnati. In the two starts, he has only allowed five runs and nine hits in 11.1 innings pitched.

Corrado said he is looking forward to taking on USC and getting to start for his team.

"It's not often that you get to play the No. 1 team in the nation, but in this league it seems like we do it once a year whether it's LSU, Auburn or South Carolina," said Madison. "We realize we have a good enough team to upset the number 1 team in the nation if we play well."

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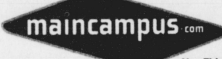
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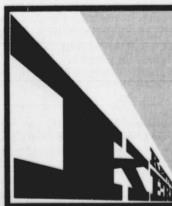
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Alternative pet

People adopting clean, friendly rats

DES MOINES, Iowa — Wanted: big-hearted animal lovers willing to take home a pet rat. Or two. Or three. The rats are being offered for adoption by the Des Moines animal shelter after they were recently abandoned.

"Quite frankly, rats make very good pets," said Tom Calvin of the Animal Rescue League of Iowa, Inc. "They are very clean, very social and fun to be around. They like to be around a family." Calvin's organization picked up 60 of the rats from the Des Moines animal shelter on Wednesday, the first day they were available.



Rat

"We'll keep six or eight of them here and send the rest to humane societies around the state," he said. Pet lovers adopted 30 of the rats Wednesday, while 48 rodents were still looking for homes.

Snake mail

Pythons mailed to animal shelter

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. — Talk about bulk rate postage. Authorities are trying to find out who packaged two 10-foot pythons and dropped them in the mail. The package was mailed from the downtown Morgantown post office and contained a fake return address, Morgantown Animal Control Officer Sylvia Smith said Wednesday.



Python

They were mailed to an animal shelter in Arlington, Va. "What if the box would've come open in the post office? What if the label would've come off and they had to open it?" Smith said. "The Arlington person was flabbergasted when she opened it. All they had to do was bring them to the pound, and we would've found a home for them," Smith said. Smith said the package contained no air holes for the pythons, one of which is albino. Still, the snakes survived. "They are tropical snakes and need to be warm and humid," Smith said. "I would call it cruelty if nothing else. You just don't wrap up a couple of snakes and mail them."

Source: Associated Press

Compiled by: Christopher Emmick

Aaron Woell
GUEST COLUMNIST

Unions outlived purpose in USA

It was a sign of the coming apocalypse. As I was scanning the CNN website, I saw the headline "Twinkie shortage looms." Although I'm not up on doomsday cults, whenever a staple of American culture finds its existence threatened, the end must be near. After all, baseball and apple pie went out in the 1950s with Cheerios. Today, what's more American than Twinkies and professional wrestling?

After reading the story, it became apparent that the end is indeed near, and that the Twinkie shortage is being caused by agents of Satan.

According to CNN, teamsters at a New England bakery went on strike last Wednesday and have since spread their evil grip over much of the northeast. The drivers set up picket lines in Philadelphia, New Jersey and New York. Sympathetic teamsters in those states refused to cross the lines set up by the New England drivers, resulting in the shut-down of a number of plants that employed roughly 3,000 workers. Already supermarkets across the northeast have put up signs on their shelves informing customers of the strike and the coming Twinkie shortage.

The bakeries, which produce products for Wonder Bread and Hostess, were in arbitration with the workers' union over terms of delivery and the firing of a truck driver.

Although I have no doubt that the courts will ultimately settle the issue justly, I believe the actions of the union raise some serious questions as to how viable unions are in this day and age.

There once was a time when unions were necessary. At the turn of the century, large corporations were run by evil despots who abused the working class. Workers had no rights, and crippling workplace injuries were quite common. While today, white collar types complain of poorly designed chairs with not enough padding for their posterior, in the early 1900s people routinely lost limbs and lives.

But since then workplace conditions have improved so much that one can only wonder what benefits unions now serve. Unlike the old days, workers are no longer routinely maimed or killed in unsafe manufacturing plants. Today's workers find themselves in regulated environments — barring catastrophic explosions and postal workers — safer than your front yard.

Even as society clamped down on workplace smoking, union negotiators made sure that smokers got five minutes every hour to grab a few puffs outside to cure their supposed nicotine addiction.

As someone who doesn't smoke, I sometimes find myself envious of that extra free time.

Sometimes it's enough to make me want to take up smoking.

But considering the relative utopia that today's workers find themselves in, I

think it is fair to say that most unions have outlived their usefulness. Workers are no longer finding themselves at odds with enigmatic Mr. Burns cut-outs, and the original workplace conditions that spawned unions no longer exist. Instead, many unions push for more than their fair share of privileges and contribute to an environment of us versus them.

The situation is analogous to an army without an enemy — rather than disband, they simply look for new fights or seek to extend their "rights" in the workplace. Less than two months ago, there was an incident in Charleston, S.C. that highlighted the pettiness of the unions.

According to CNN, police were dispatched to a dock to protect non-union workers who were unloading a Danish freighter (Jan. 20, 2000). Apparently several independent workers had been pulled from their cars and threatened by union picketers, and police moved in to combat the dockworkers.

International Longshoremen's Association President Kenneth Riley Jr. told CNN that he thought the police responses were overzealous, saying "You're not dealing with a group of thugs here. These guys are hardworking, good citizens of the city."

Despite Riley's claim, I think that any time you pull someone from his or her car and threaten that person, you stop being classified as a good citizen and enter the realm of ignorant goon.

What makes the situation even more infuriating is that the ILA already unloads 95 percent of the cargo in the Charleston harbor.

That they already have a monopoly is tolerable, but that they seek to extend it through unfair business practices is not. Despite Charleston, I think a case can be made for some unions where working conditions are poor or benefits are denied. The move to unionize by striking college teaching assistants in California last year — where they were denied benefits despite doing more teaching than most professors — was entirely justified.

But the ILA incident in Charleston wasn't. And it exemplifies the fact that a far percentage of the unions have outlived their usefulness. Just because unions have existed for decades does not mean they should continue to do so.

Nor should they expect our society to tolerate discriminatory business practices.

But maybe I'm wrong. Maybe the unions aren't to blame for the end of the world. But it is coming.

I just read that Miller Brewing Company is going to experiment with plastic bottles.

God help us all.

Guest Columnist Aaron Woell writes for the Iowa State Daily (Iowa State U.). His views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel.



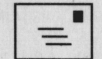
Above: Twinkie the Kid, the happy representative of Hostess snack cakes. Due to an organized labor strike, the columnist suggests that a Twinkie shortage could affect northeastern America.

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Length & style

Letters to the editor are to address previously printed editorials or columns. They should be approximately 250 words long.

Guest opinions should start new dialogue and not address other editorials or columns. Guest opinions should be no longer than 600 words.

Do be a love and spell check your work! Also check your work for grammatical errors and logic flaws. Remember, everybody (and their sister) on campus will be reading what you write.

Include this info

Include your name and major classification (for publication). For verification include your address and telephone number, which will be kept confidential. We cannot print any material without verbal confirmation of the material.

The Kernel reserves the right to edit all material received.

READERS' FORUM

Expressions

Kentucky youth standing up against undemocratic system

To the Editor:

Democracy is awakening from a long slumber. Nationwide, citizens are protesting labor injustice, environmental degradation, police brutality and corporate universities.

The Reagan Era's reactionism saw Baby Boomers selling out to Corporate America. It diffused into mini-interests, from "Save the Turtles" to Mumia Abu-Jamal.

The Mobilization for Global Justice, a 20,000-strong activist convergence on Washington, unified the disparate spectrum of interests, targeting the World Bank and IMF's guilt in feeding the world Reaganomic order.

Kentucky was represented by over 50 students from UK, UL, Berea, Transylvania, Ahernton and other schools.

Of these 50, several experienced firsthand the brutal depths to which police sink when powerful institutions are deemed threatened, even if by mere non-violent criticism.

Recent problems in the Commonwealth mirror the DC experience. The ongoing Reynolds case illustrates exactly whose interests the police seem to serve and protect.

The recent arrest and threatened expulsion of 12 UK anti-sweatshop activists mirrors other universities' reactions to this international movement's resolve.

Both private and public universities are increasingly conservative bastions unwilling to be autonomous refuges for controversial thoughts and thinkers.

But the main link between Kentucky and the Mobilization are the coalitions themselves.

Nationwide, the youth are awakening, and Kentucky's leaders should be aware that the undemocratic treatment of its citizens is being scrutinized by the world, broadcast over e-mail and highway lines.

TODD N. TUCKER
LOUISVILLE RESIDENT

Report of "uninspired" Red Hot Chili Peppers incorrect

To the Editor:

I have thought a little about the tense of this letter. I came to many conclusions, one of which is to dispute Mr. Mulcahey's article on the concert held in Rupp last Sunday night.

I do not mean any ill intentions, but I must stand up for my boys.

The Foo Fighters were absent from my night, as I arrived only for the Chili Peppers. This was by choice, one no regretted. Nothing could have topped the Peppers on Sunday.

This entails my first dispute: Mr. Mulcahey spoke of things like the "change of pace" the show offered, the "pulsating raw energy" and such things as "true rock."

Then on the other hand, he speaks of how there was not an ample amount of "slower Chili Peppers songs."

When I, a Chili Peppers fan, think of the Peppers, I do not think of their slower songs. But thoughts such as pulsating raw energy, a change of pace, and true rock do come to mind.

Either way, "Could Have Lied" off Blood Sugar Sex Magik is the best slow Chili Peppers song ever. Disputably, of course.

Finally Mr. Mulcahey speaks of the Peppers set being "uninspired."

Uninspired? The Chili Peppers have been around a long time and have overcome many, many obstacles. They are still rockin', my friend.

Another complaint was on the long period of poetic feedback given by Mr. Frusciante.

Ever listen to Jimi Hendrix? True rock, baby.

The Chili Peppers were everything Mr. Mulcahey talked about Lexington needing. Well, we got it.

How did you like it? Everyone is entitled to his or her own opinion, this is obvious. In the eyes of a true Peppers fan, I thought it was the best show I have ever seen.

FRANK J. DURSO
BIOLOGY SENIOR

Mari Stephens
GUEST COLUMNIST

Unhealthy images motivate women's fitness

March is Women's Health Month. It's the time of year when women are supposed to remind one another to get their annual Pap smears and mammograms, as well as learn how to give themselves monthly breast exams.

So, there's my reminder. But along with these very important things, women need to watch out for each other in other ways.

One of these ways is combating the constant negative self-image. This always seemed like more of an emotional problem to me, but recently I've come to realize the physical implications that a negative self-image can have on women.

I am in the process of trying to lose 50 pounds (I'm down 12 so far). After years of struggling with crash diets, fad exercise classes and unhealthy medications, I was faced with the fact that nothing is going to work but plain old healthy eating and exercise.

So I ditched the donuts and started working out at the Rec. Center three times a week.

While I started this program for more

cosmetic reasons, I quickly learned that I also enjoyed feeling better.

It's great to be able to walk across campus and not get winded. It's nice not to have a constant headache from all the sugar I've consumed.

Being healthy is my number one reason for eating right and exercising.

Looking better is a fringe benefit. However, about once a week, when I'm in the locker room at the Rec. Center, someone is throwing up in one of the stalls.

The first few times this happened, I thought, flu season. Now I realize it might be something more serious.

If indeed these women just had the flu, why were they working out when their bodies needed rest?

Or were they throwing up because they suffer from Bulimia?

Or did they work out too hard and get sick from too much exercise?

If any one of these explanations are true, and I suspect all of them are from one case or another, then we have a serious problem on our campus. That problem stems from a negative self-image.

By negative self-image, I mean that women (and this seems especially apparent in females aged 13 through 25) view themselves in a negative and unrealistic way.

Who can blame them? Unfortunately, this way of thinking comes as no surprise when you take into account the sheer numbers of TV and magazine advertisements that use underweight models.

They're everywhere! Healthy-sized women like models Emme or Mia Tyler are only used in plus-size fashion shows or catalogs.

This sends an incredibly harmful message to young, highly impressionable women.

Most women's bodies are not designed the way those models' are.

Women are supposed to have curves! It's what makes us women!

So, to shed those curves, women and, scarily enough, girls, diet excessively and/or over-exercise.

So, what can we do about this problem? Plenty.

We can start from within and recognize our own problems.

If you are one of the many women out there who have a negative self-image, realize you are beautiful!

Don't let a bunch of horny old men in Hollywood dictate how you feel about yourself.

And second, women need to recognize the beauty in the other women around them and celebrate it all the time.

I tell you, nothing felt better when another woman said to me last week, "Mari, you look so healthy!"

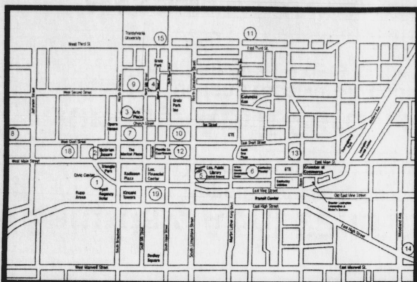
So let's honor each other for Women's Health Month — our physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health. You can't have one without the others.

Women are the strongest bunch of people I know and when you get us together in a group — watch out!

Guest Columnist Mari Stephens writes for the Rocky Mountain Collegian (Colorado State U.). Her views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel.

ART

Culture and free food



The Gallery Hop is tonight from 5 to 8 p.m. Here's a guide to the different galleries.

- 1) Artique
- 2) Artist's Attic, Inc.
- 3) ArtsPlace Gallery
- 4) The Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning
- 5) Central Library Gallery
- 6) Downtown Design Center
- 7) Gallerie Soleil
- 8) Heritage Art Center
- 9) Hunt-Morgan Carriage House Gallery
- 10) Kentucky Gallery of Fine Crafts & Art
- 11) Living Arts & Science Center
- 12) Marjorie Guyon/Studio
- 13) MetroLex Gallery
- 14) Miller Fine Art & Framing
- 15) Morian Gallery at Transylvania
- 16) Tower Cerlan Gallery
- 19) UK Art Department Downtown

By Tim Staley
ASSISTANT SCENE EDITOR

You've been telling yourself that you were going to get cultured this year: watch some plays, visit a museum. Now it's the end of the semester and the closest you've gotten to culture is watching black-and-white movies and looking at your roommate's Elvis picture.

Well, tonight is your chance to change that.

Twenty of Lexington's art galleries will be opening their doors for the Gallery Hop, an evening of free art, free music and most importantly, free food.

"The purpose of the Gallery Hop is to promote visual art, and at the

same time, promote downtown Lexington," said Terri DeAtley, Program Coordinator for the Lexington Arts and Culture Council.

"It's a good way to introduce art to people who don't usually come downtown," said Ann Tower, co-owner of the Tower Cerlan Gallery.

In its sixth season, the Gallery Hop gives you an opportunity to see local artists working in many different styles and mediums. You will get a chance to see everything from impressionism to abstract oil paintings to sculptures made with junkyard scraps.

The Gallery Hop also provides many opportunities you might not get just coming out to the galleries.

"The artists come out for these

[Gallery Hops]. You usually don't get the chance to meet the artist," DeAtley said.

If art isn't your thing, you still might want to stop by one of the participating galleries.

"It's a big party downtown. You always run into people you know or people you'd like to get to know," said DeAtley.

Be careful though, you might accidentally get cultured.

"People who come for the social aspect usually end up coming the next day or next week," said Tower.

Don't worry if you can't make it to tonight's Gallery Hop, even if you do make it to tonight's Hop, you will want to come out again anyway.

MUSIC (I GUESS)

Attention 12-year old girls: 'NSYNC's here

By Lyndi Allison
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Erin Cunningham
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Girls love 'em. Guys hate 'em. They have the looks, they have the moves, and they have the money. Who are we talking about? The ever popular 'NSYNC.

The group is enjoying the record breaking success of their second album, "No Strings Attached," which has been No. 1 on the Billboard Top 200 charts for the last four weeks.

Their highly anticipated tour begins May 9 in Biloxi, Miss. and will make a stop at Rupp Arena June 26th.

'NSYNC has greatly expanded their musical style and audience with futuristic beats and hip-hop tones. JC Chasez summed it up: "In the beginning it was about getting people's attention and interest. Now it is all fun. We can be more creative, and have moved on to the next level. We are trying to give them (the fans) something new."

The show will be no exception. The guys promise that no two shows will be the same and will allow for lots of audience participation. According to JC, "this show is 'NSYNC interactive. We want the fans to feel like they are in the show."

An enthusiastic Chris Kirkpatrick chimes in to add, "we want this show to be in your face!"

There is no doubt that it will be, especially with their opening act Sisquo, of Dru Hill, getting the crowd pumped up. Some parents of younger fans may find Sisquo's risqué moves and lyrics a little unnerving, but Chris tries to put their minds at ease.

"I don't think he will offend anybody. He's great at catering to an audience. I think that he will tone it down for our crowd and perform accordingly," he said.

When asked about the fans and how they deal with the frenzy of the screaming girls, Chris stated that they are more concerned with the safety of the fans, rather than

themselves. "Those girls don't realize what they are doing, and they just start climbing over each other. The security guards are there to protect the fans from themselves."

Lexington fans are just as excited about the 'NSYNC concert as they were about their own native Brian Littrel's Backstreet Boys. Some faithful Backstreet Boys fans call 'NSYNC wannabes, but that doesn't faze them at all.

When asked if they see their surpassing the Backstreet Boys as a "hard won triumph," JC said, "people make a bigger deal out of it than we do. We just do what we do and we don't worry about things like that."

'NSYNC

Rupp Arena

Monday, June 26
at 7:30 p.m.

For ticket information
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