

KENTUCKY Kernel

GET A CLOONEY

Clooney shows he's got what it takes to play with the big boys in Hollywood. See Arts, p. 4



THU

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MAKING A FACE: NEW STUDENT ADVISING

By Matthew T. Patton
News Editor

New faces are appearing almost daily on UK's campus as freshman and transfer advising conferences begin.

The conferences, which began on June 22, are conducted by the staff of the advising conference and registration office. Freshmen conferences are scheduled in two-day blocks, and transfer conferences are held on Wednesdays. "The Advising Conference for new students is an important tradition at the University of Kentucky," said Donald E. Witt, UK registrar, in a welcome letter to UK's new students.

Suzanne McGuirk, program coordinator at the UK Registrar's Office, said a comprehensive review is exactly what these new students need when they are entering such a new and "foreign" phase of their lives.

During the conferences, interest sessions provide an opportunity for students to choose a facet of university life that may appeal to them and listen to speakers and audiovisual presentations of campus activities. Some interest ses-

sions include academic life, campus housing, parking services and a student panel that discusses campus life from the students' viewpoint.

The student staff that assists with tours and sessions is chosen based upon their experiences and personalities from a pool of over 100 applicants.

Luke Riddle, a communications junior, is part of the staff. "It's a great experience and a lot of fun. It's great to have the chance to help students get over their fears. I know what it's like. I've been there."

The student staff is required to work full-time during a two-week period to familiarize themselves with campus information, and are required to meet with a representative of every UK college.

Pam Stone is assisting with the program as well. "I taught UK101 and was an R.A. for a few semesters, so I know that students need help and attention. I think it's a great program for everyone," Stone said.

In addition to the information sessions, students meet with their college advisers and register for classes, have student IDs made and are allowed to take tours of campus facili-

ties such as residence halls and the W.T. Young library.

Shawn Russell, 22, is a senior transferring from Kentucky State University. He said that he didn't go through a similar advising conference there, but believes that UK's advising sessions will "provide him with the information" that he needs.

Elton Chambers, a freshman from Owensboro, feels the interest sessions that he attended, such as Smart Start—a session that "reveals secrets for success" from the University Counseling and Testing Center—will help him become a better student when he begins classes.

The program does not stop with preparation for the students. Parents and guests of the students are invited to participate as well. On the second day of freshman advising, sessions provide information to parents about university health, housing, food services and residence life.

Chambers' mother, Marnell, attended the Advising Conference with her son. "The conference is really nice. This is new to us. I think I'll sleep better at nights because it will be easier placing in my head exactly where he's at."



JONATHAN RODGERS Kernel staff

SAY CHEESE! The UK ID office made over 600 student IDs this week as hundreds of incoming students visited campus for orientation and summer advising.

Proposed historic district could affect students

By Jessica Coy
Editor-in-Chief

It's all over the news.

Monday night the Urban County Planning Commission unanimously supported the creation of an H-1 district that encompasses hundreds of properties surrounding UK.

The council's decision brings the proposal one step closer to becoming a reality. The final decision rests with the Urban County Council which will vote on the zone overlay within 90 days.

Should the H-1 zone overlay go into effect, home owners will have to get approval from the Board of Architectural Review before making any changes to the exterior of their property. The main idea behind the proposal is to prevent developers from tearing down older houses to make room for apartments and hence preserve the historical character of the neighborhood.

The original proposal included over 1000 properties, but at the first hearing on the issue last week, the planning commission removed

over 400 homes south of Euclid Avenue.

The remaining area, bordered by Main Street and Ashland, Euclid and Lexington Avenues, still constitutes the largest single H-1 zone in Lexington. With 900 properties still included in the proposal, it is almost as big as all the other Lexington historic districts combined, which include 1,250 properties.

The proposed zone has created a tidal wave of public opinion. The Planning Commission received eight letters in support

of the H-1 zone and 23 letters and a petition signed by 45 people in opposition.

Opponents and proponents packed the council chambers at hearings last week and Monday night, where more than seven hours of testimony was heard before the board approved the zone overlay.

While there has been considerable talk about the affect the new zone overlay will have on local businesses, families and developers, many students are left guessing as to how the

change will affect them.


Bill Lear, a Lexington attorney, said that the proposal has the potential to raise rent for students.

"If it raises costs for landlords, I'm sure those costs will trickle down to the students," Lear said. "Proponents have said that the proposal is not anti student, but the buildings that they are targeting are buildings built for students."

Kige Kiger, manager of Wassmer Properties, also said that should the proposal go into affect,

See ZONING on 2

CAMPUS



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Medical research providing new hope

UK College of Medicine study searches for hepatitis C cure

By Amy Clark
Contributing Writer

Hepatitis, a disease that attacks the liver, afflicts thousands of Americans each year and millions worldwide.

While these numbers may be startling, many remain unaware of the prevalence of the different viruses that cause hepatitis — something Dr. Marcelo Kuglema attributes to being part of the problem.

As a clinical scholar of medicine from the department of gastroenterology at the UK College of Medicine, Dr. Kuglema recognizes the lack of awareness

surrounding hepatitis.

"Education is very important," stresses Kuglema. Yet, unfortunately not everyone is well-versed

on the behavioral risks associated with the various types of hepatitis - how the viruses are transmitted and how they can be prevented.

A study at UK Chandler Medical Center is focused on finding a cure for the potentially deadly viruses.

Hepatitis B and C patients are treated with the drug Interferon, the only drug currently approved by the FDA for hepatitis C patients with chronic infection. The drug has proven effective in 30 to 40 percent of HBV patients, reducing the chance of return of the disease.

Currently, 50 percent of HCV patients respond to Interferon. But the UK study offers hope for increasing that number.

A new form of the drug, Pegylated Interferon, is injected once per week on naive patients, or those who have never been previously treated for hepatitis C.

So far, three-quarters of patients are exhibiting good initial responses.

"It's an exciting study because it reduces the number of injections per week, has shown better response rates, and has less side effects," Kuglema said.

Yet, while the research does offer new hope, a cure still has not been found for hepatitis C.

According to Kuglema, the most effective measure against the viral disease for now is prevention through education.

"It is very important that people understand the behavioral risks associated with transmitting hepatitis C," Kuglema cautions.

He says people who engage in high-risk behavior, such as unprotected sex, body piercing, tattooing and alcohol abuse are prime candidates for contracting the viral disease.

"If you have sex, use condoms," Kuglema said. "And if you must get a tattoo or body piercing, have it done somewhere that is clean."

"People should also limit their alcohol consumption," Kuglema added. "Drinking excessively can only compound problems associated with hepatitis."



If you have sex, use condoms, and if you must get a tattoo or body piercing, have it done somewhere that is clean"

Dr. Marcelo Kuglema

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Zoning Students concerned about zone change

From PAGE 1

students will be negatively impacted.

"Having to go through so much red tape to make repairs and changes to properties will raise costs for landlords, which in turn will raise costs for students," said Kiger. "They try to say this whole thing isn't anti-student, but when I go to the neighborhood association meetings, all they talk about is the students and all the problems they cause."

Joshua Bell, a junior history major, agrees. He said that while

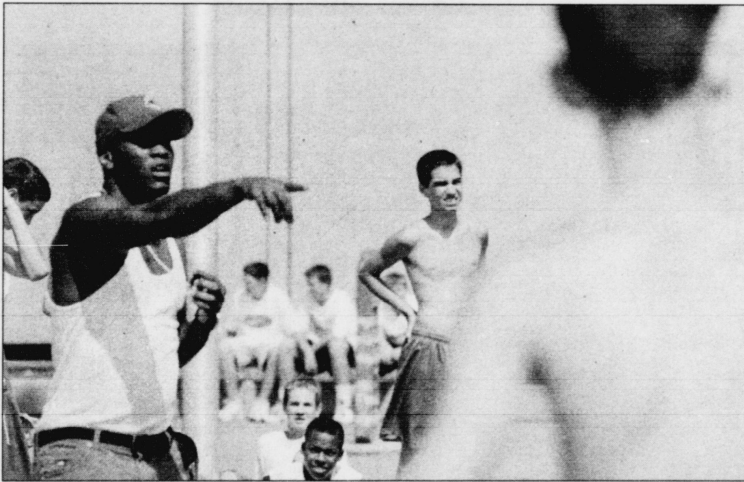
the H-1 zone proposal may be aimed at preserving the neighborhood, it has an ulterior motive.

"Of course the rent is going to go up, but I think that other things will follow, making it a historic zone is just going to make it easier for the neighborhood association to push through other proposals that are blatantly anti-student," Bell said.

But student opinion on the issue is divided.

Taylor Bale, an art senior said that she doesn't think the proposal is anti student, and she thinks it is a good idea to preserve the neighborhood.

"I think the historic district is a good idea, I don't think that it will affect me or raise the rent, but I could be wrong, I guess we'll just have to wait and see."



JAMES CRISP *Kernel staff*

SUMMER COURT Former UK basketball player Anthony Epps worked with campers as a coach and referee during a week-long basketball camp being held this week at UK.

Camps keep campus busy

UK housing works on accommodating thousands of visitors

By David Salvo
Contributing Writer

While most UK students are packing up and heading home for the summer, the UK housing department is stepping into high gear to prepare for the roughly 10,000 to 15,000 visiting students expected to attend summer camps and conferences on campus this year.

The programs, which include summer advising and high school science teacher conferences as well as baseball, basketball, volleyball and diving camps, generally last five to seven days and run from May 13 to August 14.

Accommodating the thousands of campers is a full-time job for UK Housing, which works year-round planning for the summer conference season.

"We start planning for the camps in the winter," said Robert Rash, UK's campus housing manager. "By the first of the year we will have caught everything up and then we will have to start all over again."

Rash said without the help of nearly 100 student volunteers and the help of UK's maintenance and housekeeping personnel, the job would be impossible.

"We rely heavily on the custodial crews. They have a lot of work to do over the summer," he said.

Charles Peyton, senior maintenance supervisor agrees, saying that experience and teamwork are responsible for the continued suc-

cess of UK summer conferences. "We work together," he said.

Lee Farar, a dietetics senior and four-year veteran of summer conference work, also sees the housekeeping personnel's work as invaluable.

"We have a great crew here on campus," she said. "They come in after each group and clean up; they handle the linen service and general sanitation and are vital to the smooth flow of the summer."

The student workers and volunteers are also an important part of the conferences.

Farar said the personal attention the students give to the visitors goes a long way toward improving the programs.

"I like to get to know the campers," Farar said. "I see some of them that I've met in previous years and when I recognize them it makes them feel comfortable," Farar said.

"That makes this a great calm-down job. As long as you make them feel comfortable, they have a good experience."

The UK students who assist are employed for the summer by campus housing and receive a free room for the summer in addition to their standard wages. Their responsibilities vary depending on where they work, but all are required to keep track of room occupancy and handle disturbances.

Student workers are also hired to work as registration guides for incoming freshmen.

Jason Cook, a senior English major works at some of the 11 advising conferences held over the summer, and helps parents and students with their registration woes.

"It's fun for me to talk to the parents and the students," Cook said. "I like to ease their fears about UK because I know as an incoming freshman it can be very overwhelming."

"It's good for the university, it's good for the students who visit, and it's a good deal for the students who work with us," Rash said.

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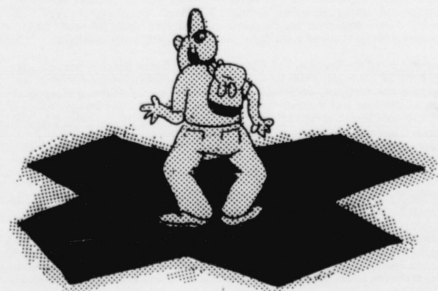
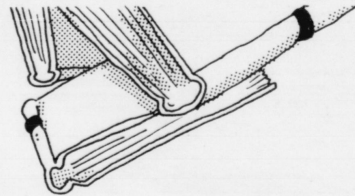
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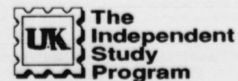
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OUT OF SIGHT

WATCH YOUR BUTT
George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez star in Steven Soderbergh's *Out of Sight*, playing at Lexington Green and Man O' War.

The Graduate School Doctoral Dissertation Defenses

<p>Name: Fengang Xu Program: Phisicology Dissertation Title: Hierarchical Generation Related Signal Transduction in American Lobster Major Professor: Dr. Tim McClain Date: July 7, 1998 Time: 2:00 p.m. Place: McSwain Medical Center</p>	<p>Name: Sachin Sun Program: Agricultural Engineering Dissertation Title: Heat Transfer and Soil Thermal Stability as Related to a Plate-Type Heat Exchanger in Ground Source Heat Pump Systems Major Professor: Dr. F.A. Payne Date: July 8, 1998 Time: 2:00 p.m. Place: 126 Agricultural Engineering Building</p>
<p>Name: Suzanne Barber Vega Program: Music Dissertation Title: An Analysis and Comparison of the Duo of Zoltan Kodaly and the Sonata of Maurice Ravel for Violin and Violoncello Professor: Dr. Harold Wason Date: July 20, 1998 Time: 10:00 a.m. Place: 202 Fine Arts</p>	<p>Name: Chandrasekar Venkataratan Program: Microbiology Dissertation Title: Differential Signaling Through Protein-Tyrosine Kinases And CD19 In CD73-Induced Antigen Receptor-Mediated B Lymphocyte Activation Professor: Dr. Subhasini Bonde Date: July 15, 1998 Time: 1:00 p.m. (Seminar) 2:00 p.m. (Defense) Place: M363 Medical Center (Seminar) M363 Medical Center (Defense)</p>

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Manufactured and distributed by Buy Wise Distributors, Tennen III comes from Canada, where it has been sold nationwide for six years. President Cory Chiarello developed the product with the safety and overall health of the customer in mind. The supplement is an innovative combination of vitamins, minerals, and botanicals that help curb appetite and speed up metabolism. The capsules consist of all natural ingredients, including kelp, beet powder and gymnema, which lower "sweet cravings". Tennen III does not contain ephedrine, guarana, kola nut, or any artificial coloring or flavoring, sugar, preservatives, petroleum products, dyes, wheat, corn flour, or milk products. Many people who are diabetic, or have heart or lung conditions, can take Tennen III without side effects.

The "Diet Plan", which is included with the Tennen III product, works on chemical breakdowns, so the company advises against modifications and substitutions if possible. If certain foods cannot be tolerated, customers may call the toll-free number to talk to a representative about possible substitutions. The diet consists of 1000 calories per day, and is following on a "3 days on - 4 days off" schedule. You continue on this cycle for as many weeks as it takes to reach and maintain your goals. The capsules are taken every day, two before breakfast and two before dinner. As with all diets, a physician's advice is recommended.

Tennen III is being sold across Canada, a country where 27% of the population is overweight. Introduced to the American population in October 1996, it has grown in distribution to over 7000 pharmacies and health food stores by Fall 1997. The demand has recently become so great that additional plants are now producing Tennen III to the company's rigid specifications. Certainly part of the success of Tennen III can be attributed to the company's marketing approach, which supports its dealer network with national and local advertising, and services the user with a toll-free "help line" to answer questions that will help to not only lose weight, but also to keep it off-naturally and safely. Many diet products available today suppress appetites by speeding up the heart rate, or by raising blood pressure - both potentially dangerous to the user's health. The company believes that by taking Tennen III capsules and plan has helped thousands of overweight people shed unwanted, and unhealthy pounds. While making no claims to be a "miracle pill", the company knows that Tennen III will help anyone lose weight, feel healthier, and do it in a natural, long lasting, and safe manner.

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Clooney film a gem

By Dan O'Neill
Managing Editor

For the four years following the release of *Pulp Fiction*, every wannabe hip crime drama/comedy has been compared favorably or unfavorably, fairly or unfairly, to Quentin Tarantino's irreverent cult jackpot.

Not until this past weekend, however, has a film of similar style been worthy of more than the idle comparisons critics and fans love to create. *Out of Sight*, although bearing many similarities to its predecessor, stands on its own as a film that creates rather than mimics.

Based on the book by crime novelist Elmore Leonard and Directed by one of America's most talented filmmakers, Steven Soderbergh, the film stars George Clooney as bank robber Jack Foley and Jennifer Lopez as Federal Marshal Karen Sisco.

The two meet in the trunk of a car shortly after Foley escapes from prison and kidnappers hear as she attempts to stop him. A brief conversation about movies and a few gunshots later a romance develops between hunter and hunted.

But true to most Leonard novels the paradoxical romance takes backseat to the lovable low-lives and their complex scams and comical double-crosses. His most recent big screen novels *Get Shorty*, *Jackie Brown* have thrived in this mode and

Out of Sight is no different. These films know the criminal mind, they accept it, and often uncover its twisted poignancy.

Soderbergh, best known for his success with *sex, lies and videotape*, departs from the independent scene to direct his most mainstream project to date. For style purposes, Soderbergh alters the time-space continuum with a divided narrative while using effective freeze-frame editing. His command of look and tone combined with a sick sense of humor lends the necessary support to the Scott Frank's airtight screenplay.

More importantly, however, Soderbergh has the ability to make his pin-up superstars act. Clooney sheds his head-down-

eyes-up acting style to give his sympathetic bank robber a charm similar to Warren Beatty's in *Bonnie & Clyde*. His female counterpart Lopez matures beyond her "Fly Girl" sex appeal and shows elements of grace and spirit rare among leading ladies.

Although the film makes proven actors out of Lopez and Clooney, its supporting cast steals the show on more than one occasion. Ving Rhames as Foley's partner Buddy, Steven Zahn as Foley's stoner ex-partner Glenn, and Don Cheadle as the foolishly vicious ex-boxer Snoopy, give humor and depth to their already well-written characters. Throw in a few surprise cameos and the cast is as entertaining from top to bottom as any film in recent memory.

But in the end, it is the film's understanding of the criminal mind and ultimate fate that separates it from just a clever mixing of characters.

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Rave against the machine:

*Raves losing appeal due
to commercial influence*

By Vic Gaines
Contributing Writer

Pulsating music, gyrating bodies, glassy-eyed and flamboyantly clad club kids lost in both time and space — this is the media portrayal of raves.

Many people think raves are only held in places like New York city, but last Friday night Louisville hosted another "One Night Stand," which is one in a series of Mid-West (particularly Louisville) raves bearing the same name.

"One Night Stands" generally have one or two headlining DJs and feature a number of local talents. The headliner Friday was DJ Josh Wink, best known for rocking the electronica scene with tracks like "Higher State of Consciousness," "Don't Laugh" and "Are You There?" Benman was also present, as were a few unannounced local acts.

I attended this rave with high expectations, as Wink is my all-time favorite DJ, but I was quite disappointed by the event, which cost \$15 to attend. Raves are generally advertised as location: secured venue. This means that the entity sponsoring the party has hired security, and no outside law enforcement will be present (there is no denying the presence of illegal substances at a rave, but no one can deny their presence elsewhere, either...). I did not see a flyer for this particular rave, but based on past "One Night Stands", I figured this would be secured.

Much to my surprise, Kentucky State Police were crawling all over the area, pulling cars over, and patrolling the parking lots, ques-

tioning random partygoers and looking for reasons to harass. Inside security was overbearing and the wait to get in was over an hour. The doors opened at midnight, but we did not walk inside until after 1:30 a.m. I presume this was to give peace of mind to the Louisville Police Department, but I know of no instances where ravers have caused trouble, so this was intriguing.

The first DJ ruined the entire evening.

He was not mixing, but rather, playing deep house, and attempting to sing and/or hype the crowd over the record. Not quite what we came for. Commercialism manifest. SNAP was played out in, 1989.

Josh Wink did not begin his three hour set until 3 a.m. According to a rave vet, he is the type of DJ who likes to build the energy in his set gradually, generally beginning with relatively slow, trance-techno, and building into Jungle, and then Hard House. At about 4 a.m., it appeared he was doing exactly that, and the tempo was beginning to increase; but the set would not have reached peak energy until 5 or 5:30 a.m., and that is way past my bedtime!

Therefore I regretfully cannot give a full criticism of the performance, but, for the sake of Wink's reputation, the bass was banging when we left.

Unfortunately the Louisville "One Night Stand" was just another example of how the underground rave scene has recently become more commercial, selling-out to the "powers-that-be" in order to make a fast



buck.

More kids are attending raves, drawn to the perceived rebellion of the latest alternative fashion trends and techno music. Walk into trendy retail stores and you will likely find 10-year-old girls trying on tight shirts and hip-hugging, wide-leg jeans or little boys in JNCO Big Rig jeans and chains hanging out of their pockets, speaking fondly of 'candy' (LSD) and E (ecstasy).

Conservative American news shows have fooled viewers into visualizing raves as the Studio 54s of the 1990s, where partygoers engage in illicit activities, or even worse, die, while under the influence of various drugs. One such program introduced the "hot" topic with the phrase: "If you do not want to know what your kids do at raves, do not watch this." Dramatic, let me tell you.

Stereotyping the rave scene is irresponsible. A rave is about not thinking, something of a living Zen metaphor for the more philosophical reader. Consider it a dance party without the liquor-induced, sex-driven male aggression factor. A rave is about the willingness to relinquish control of your mind and body (with or without the use of various substances) to the ever shifting, trance-inducing music.

Watch a few minutes of late afternoon television and you will probably see the latest Gap khakis commercial. Recognize the music in the background? It is Crystal Method's "Busy Child." When did Crystal Method go mainstream? The influx of attention from mainstream America has given a bad vibe to the mystique of the underworld, and the free will and camaraderie of ravers has dwindled significantly, as has the quality of music the DJs spin (many times, as dictated by their record companies).

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ViewPOINT

It's time to pay up for Aylesford's sins

Can you hear it? The gnashing of teeth and the wails of anguish from a multitude of students, developers and property owners in the Aylesford neighborhood.

If you listen closely, you can almost hear their cries of freedoms denied, profits lost and skyrocketing rents. Together they point a finger at those who would impose H-1 zoning upon their lands of the free and brave.

It's probably true that some residents want students out regardless of how considerate a neighbor students may be. They might even believe all students are little varmints, hellbent on ruining a once peaceful neighborhood.

Of course, we know better! All students aren't that destructive of property nor unmindful of the benefits that come from living in a quiet, diversified neighborhood.

However, it's just as true that some students, developers and property owners have forgotten an age-old piece of wisdom — *we reap, what we sow*.

Many — though not all — have forgotten that a neighborhood is more than a collection of individual plots of land, it is a true community with a character all its own.

So when we buy a property, we are also buying into the community and accepting the responsibilities that come with it. Sadly, it seems that we too often push our rights to the limits while shoving aside the responsibilities.

In the end, we find ourselves surrounded by self-interests that lay exposed for all to see. Perhaps it's in the form of commuting students who take advantage of free parking on public streets or absentee landlords that fail to maintain an aging home or worse yet, developers who say to hell with aesthetics and build multi-story monsters constructed of vinyl siding and wooden stairwells that scar a once picturesque neighborhood.

Such tragedies have occurred habitually and have left weary residents with little or no recourse but to stand by and watch their neighborhood be snipped apart, piece by piece, through the years.

These concerned residents — students, faculty and alumni included — have spoken out in the past, yet the piecemeal destruction continued until one day they said, "enough" and looked to historic zoning as a last chance to save a dying community.

Some of these concerned residents may have had darker motives — the expulsion of students perhaps — but they didn't create the conditions that made passage of H-1 possible because whining about loud students alone wouldn't have done it.

Rather, it was a lack of foresight by those who took advantage of their property rights and who now see those same rights pared back to repair the damage that was done along the way.



Why pay six bucks for the truth?

It's all lies ... a devious government plot involving Barney and the Beatles

The summer theatrical release of "X-Files: Fight the Future" has sent X-File mania to a new heights. So much so, that even those of us who don't watch the cult hit have become familiar with the elements of conspiracy and paranoia that are part of its allure.

Admittedly, I am not familiar with the exploits of Agents Scully and Mulder; however, I do have some insights into the shady world of the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

As many of you are already aware, my wife is interning in the nation's capital this summer. What you probably don't know is that she is working with the FBI.

So just for laughs, I had her dig up some honest-to-goodness national secrets for me to expose right here in the Kentucky Kernel — God Bless America!

So, without further ado (or any regard for concerns of national security), here are some of the dark secrets the FBI has been keeping from the good American people.

▼ Fat is good for you. The only people I know who eat low-fat foods are fat people. All the thin people eat burgers and fries. Sure, those supermodels may pick at their salads in public, but behind closed doors they consume their weight in pork rinds.

▼ Ringo Starr was the Beatles. OK, so his solo career hasn't

gone all that well. That's because he is being paid by the government to maintain a low profile since the band's break-up. Sure, every now and then they let him do a wine cooler commercial, after all the guy has to pay for those cool threads.

▼ The Beatles weren't even British. The American government formed the group as a way of distracting teenagers from government activity abroad. Ringo was the front man all along, while Lennon and McCartney were trying to dodge the draft in Vietnam.

▼ President Clinton is a virgin. In all honesty, the president has never even seen a woman naked except for that time he walked in on Janet Reno.

So why fake all the big sex scandals?

Simple. No foreign country is going to respect a country led by a virgin. We'd be the laughing stock of the global community. Instead, they've made Bill out to be a southern-fried stud. Truth is, he's never even kissed a girl, much less an intern.

▼ Barney really is the devil. A few years ago, Satan popped up in the White House and demanded that he be given a children's television show or he would blow up the world. Naturally, our leaders complied. Now disguised as an inconspicuous purple dinosaur Satan corrupts the minds of America's youth.

Explains a lot, doesn't it? ▼ Professional wrestling is real. Sure, we all love watching fat sweaty men beat the crap out of one another, but we'd all feel guilty if we thought anyone was really getting hurt.

To spare our consciences, the government made wrestlers pretend it was all an act.

▼ "Godzilla" was a documentary. You didn't think they would spend all that money on such a boring movie, did you? It seems a giant lizard really did destroy the Big Apple last year.

Fortunately, Matthew Broderick and a film crew were on hand to capture the whole thing.

▼ Aliens have landed. Mostly they live in the suburbs. Who else did you think was buying all those Spice Girls albums?

Come to find out aliens love inane forms of entertainment. They're the ones who kept Urkle on the air all those years and without aliens Tony Danza wouldn't even have a career.

▼ Finally, millions are duped in to paying six bucks to see an overblown episode of a TV show. This summer, millions of people are plunking down their hard-earned cash for a two-hour episode of a TV show that's on at least three times a day in reruns.

There's got to be some kind of cover-up there.

Well folks, that's all I can tell you or I'd have to kill you. And then what kind of circulation would the Kernel have? So just remember, the truth really is out there — way out there.

Kernel Columnist Greg Laber is a psychology graduate and Gillian Anderson's love slave.



Greg Laber
Kernel Columnist

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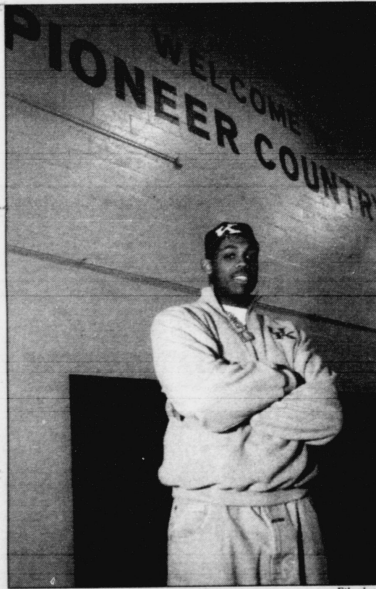
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SPORTS

Johnson a thoughtful choice

Cynicism surrounding new hire unwarranted



THE PIONEER Harrodsburg native Dennis Johnson (above), USA Today's National Defensive Player of the Year, signed with UK in January. His father, Alvis, was awarded an administrative position at UK last month.

What a bunch of hypocrites you are!

First you bitch and moan about how bad UK's football team is, then, when UK finally starts moving in the right direction by playing the recruiting game the way other programs do, you bitch and moan some more about how they're doing it.

Hiring Dennis Johnson's dad, Alvis, as an assistant athletic director is not about ethics. It's about doing what it takes to improve the program and satisfy win-hungry fans that will expect the Cats to notch at least six "Ws" this fall.

It remains to be seen whether giving Alvis a job is worth it, but, at the very least, it shows Kentucky's commitment to going the extra mile to ensure the success of its football teams.

And while everyone from Paducah to Pikeville is throwing penalty flags at Director of Athletics C.M. Newton, ask yourself: "Did I care this much about ethics when the basketball team pulled a similar stunt a few years ago?"

Nary a peep was heard when Simeon

Mars, Jamaal Magloire's high school coach, was hired as an administrative assistant under Rick Pitino. Surely you don't think a high school basketball coach from Canada was the best choice to fill an administrative role in the basketball office. But then again, maybe you are from the school of thought where the basketball team is never guilty.

Also remember how Mars' job was dangled in front of him like candy in front of a baby when Magloire debated whether to return to UK for his sophomore season. Had Magloire switched schools, you would have been more likely to see Mars at the unemployment office than on UK's bench.

The difference in the two situations: the ability to look the other way when it comes to the prized basketball team.

You see, UK Recruiting Coordinator Claude Bassett does not have the luxury of waltzing into a recruit's home and saying, "Hey kid, you wanna play for Notre Dame," or "Son, you would look great in a Crimson Tide uniform."

These are major selling points that UK simply can't offer. So the more conventional approach is required: "Dennis,

I bet your dad would make a fine assistant athletic director, the same way you would make a fine linebacker — at UK, of course."

I say give the athletics department a round of applause for doing what it takes (legally I might add) to get the job done.

The bottom line is that Alvis Johnson has his job because of his son, plain and simple. The search for a person to fill that newly-created position began and ended with him. One would have to be extremely gullible to think that a nationwide search to fill an assistant AD position at UK turned up no one more qualified than good ol' Alvis, a high school football coach in good ol' Kentucky and, coincidentally, the father of a star football that just signed with, you guessed it, UK.

Personally, I think it's a fair price to pay. After all, the increased attendance and interest generated by Dennis' signing will easily pay for pops' salary.

And I'll lay dollars to pennies that when Dennis blindsides his first quarterback for a 10-yard sack, no one in the stadium will care about what job his dad has.



Steven Scribner
Sports columnist

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