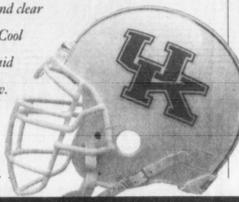




WEATHER Cold and clear today, high near 55. Cool tonight, lows in the mid 30s. Cloudy tomorrow.



FRi

October 24, 1997

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FEELING THE HEAT Experts agree that the college environment is one of the many factors that can contribute to future problems with alcohol.

Students feel pressure to drink

By Ginny Talum
Staff Writer

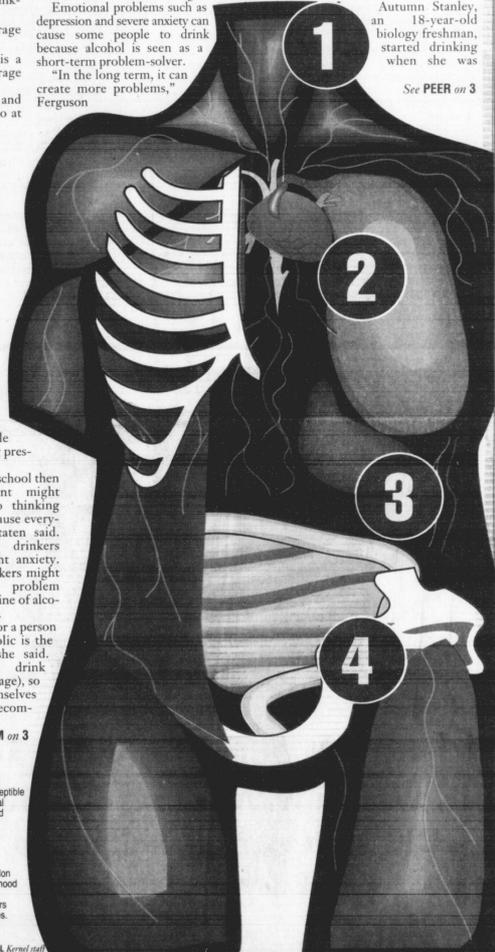
Some do it because it's an addiction, others do it in strictly social settings. A combination of factors can cause drinking, said Carl Leukefeld, director of the Center on Drug and Alcohol Research. They include biological factors, personal taste, access to alcohol, psychology, social factors and environment. People have different reasons for drinking. Drinking to feel better, because it tastes good, to get away from stress and to have a good time are all valid reasons people have for drinking, he said. But what is the cause of underage drinking? Leukefeld said peer pressure is a major factor in initiating underage drinking or other drug use. "Lots of people come to college and want to do things they couldn't do at home," Leukefeld said.

Almost all teens and young adults feel pressure to drink in today's society, said Rob Ferguson, a psychologist at the UK Counseling and Testing Center. "Some people are under more pressure than others," Ferguson said. "Some people are more likely to succumb to that pressure than others." Teen-agers, especially younger teen-agers, don't want to stand out as different from their peers. That is very threatening. Young people are nervous about dating, sex and the future, among other things, he said. They feel alcohol will alleviate their anxious feelings. Emotional problems such as depression and severe anxiety can cause some people to drink because alcohol is seen as a short-term problem-solver. In the long term, it can create more problems," Ferguson said.

Another factor in underage drinking is family-related. "If you grow up seeing adults solve their problems with alcohol, or if you just see a lot of consumption of alcohol," Ferguson said, "you're going to think 'Oh, this is one way to solve problems.'" Another way families can have an influence on drinking is if the family has a history of alcoholism. Ferguson said there is a genetic relationship between families and alcoholism. Many students drink to have a good time while also using it as a stress reliever.

Autumn Stanley, an 18-year-old biology freshman, started drinking when she was

See PEER on 3



A vein of Tragedy

Drinking now can mean trouble later

By Brian Dunn
Assistant News Editor

Ruth Staten hears the tragedy unfold every day. She hears about the students who drink heavily and often because they think all other students drink heavily and often. She hears about the students who constantly miss class and forget friends. She hears about the students who drink to get drunk, who black out, wake, drink and black out again. She hears because she counsels students with alcohol problems at UK Student Health. "We know that underage drinkers are drinking more frequently (than people over 21) and in greater amounts," she says. And drinking more often and more heavily puts the person at greater risk of becoming

an alcoholic, she says. But that's not the only factor. College environment, family genetics and anxiety can also lead to the disease known as alcoholism, Staten said, a psychiatric nurse who teaches in the College of Nursing. Theories abound as to why alcoholism exists, but for any person to become an alcoholic, he or she must first take a drink. And binge drinking doesn't help matters. American college students spend \$5.5 billion dollars on alcohol each year, more than they spend on soft drinks, tea,

milk, juice, coffee and books combined, according to the *Journal of American College Health*. The journal reports 62.2 percent of students attending four-year colleges or universities said they drank at least one alcoholic drink a week. "College students are drinking in ways that may put them at tremendous risk," Staten said. Alcoholics usually start drinking at an early age, according to Alcoholics Anonymous, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Depen-

dence, and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Thereafter, people might feel increasing pressure to drink. Perhaps the high school then college environment might force students into thinking they must drink because everyone else drinks, Staten said. Perhaps underage drinkers might drink to fight anxiety. Perhaps young drinkers might form a drinking problem because they have a line of alcoholics in their family. "One risk factor for a person becoming an alcoholic is the person's parent," she said. "People underage drink more (than those of age), so they're putting themselves at greater risk (of becom-

See ALCOHOLISM on 3

The effects of alcohol on the body

Alcoholism is a primary, chronic disease with genetic, psychological and environmental factors influencing its development and manifestations. The disease is often progressive and fatal. It is characterized by continuous or periodic:

- ▼ Impaired control over drinking
- ▼ Use of alcohol despite adverse consequences
- ▼ Distortions in thinking, most notably denial

- 1** Heavy and chronic drinking can harm virtually every organ in the body. Also drinking can lead to an increased risk of cancer in the upper digestive tract (mouth and esophagus).
- 2** The immune system is weakened increasing the likelihood of contracting infectious diseases such as pneumonia and tuberculosis.
- 3** The liver is the organ most susceptible to damage from alcohol. Habitual drinking can lead to hepatitis and cirrhosis.
- 4** The liver, the breasts and the colon are all subject to increased likelihood of cancer. In addition to cancer, chronic drinking can lead to ulcers and other digestive tract maladies.

CHRIS ROSENTHAL, Kannel staff

Circle of Imani gets SGA funds

Group receives \$750 for trip to Philadelphia

By Gary Wulf
Senior Staff Writer

Fighting off comparisons to UK Promise Keepers, the Circle of Imani received money Wednesday night for its trip to Philadelphia in a Student Government Association meeting. In a tie-breaking vote, SGA Vice President Alizha Rice voted to support the Circle of Imani's

request for \$750 to send 14 people to attend the Million Woman March in Philadelphia on Saturday. Rice broke the 18-18 vote and said the group showed perseverance in its fundraising, continuing to raise funds while waiting to meet the Senate. Circle of Imani had raised \$690 within three weeks of the final vote. Rice also pointed to a report from the Student Satisfaction Committee that said blacks feel excluded on campus. She said the workshop the Circle of Imani will co-sponsor with Portia Weatherall, a Cleveland radio

See CIRCLE on 2

Council proposes tuition increase

By Mat Herron
Campus Editor
and Brian Dunn
Assistant News Editor

The news hit Cliff Sepulveda. Hard. "Oh, please no," said the elementary education freshman from Nashville. "They're already killing me with out-of-state tuition." But if a tuition increase is approved, Sepulveda and other UK students may have more than registration to worry about next fall. The Council on Postsecondary Education will vote in the next few weeks on a 6-12 percent tuition increase for 1998-2000, an increase that would raise tuition by about \$140 next year, and negatively affect the 82 percent of UK students who get

financial aid. The proposal is one of three on the table for the council, who will vote Nov. 3. The another calls for a 3 percent cap on tuition for in-state students, the other a 3 percent cap across the board. Sepulveda, who like some students depends on financial aid to go to college, said the \$1,000 of aid he gets won't mean as much next year if tuition goes up. "I don't see any reason they need to raise it," he said. "Universities around the country already have millions of dollars in their coffers." Tuition increases, like inflation, come with the territory, student government officials say, pumping more money into bolstering academic programs and indicate a strong economy. But an increase — more than the 5 percent national average for

universities — is a little steep, said Melanie Cruz, president of the Student Government Association. "I understand the reasoning," Cruz said, "I understand the value of a dollar, but I don't think the entire state is doing well enough to exceed the national average." Although he vehemently opposes tuition hikes, hospitality management junior Cliff Mullins sees the benefit to students, in terms of new buildings and computers. Should the increase gain approval, though, students could also get new headaches. "It's still money. Most college students have to juggle a job while going to school," said Cruz, who stressed that the students are UK's greatest asset. "It's not about how many patents we get, it's not how many

grants we get, it's about the students." One hope for those on financial aid is the Student Financial Aid and Advancement Trust Fund. Set up as a result of the Postsecondary Education Improvement Act 1997, Gov. Paul Patton created the fund to allot \$120 million to be used for student aid. This could offset the tuition increase for UK and the University of Louisville, but how much of that money students get is still in question. The Council is fast approaching its Nov. 15 deadline to decide on how much is allocated to students, said John Cary, SGA president at U of L. "My question is, what have (the members) done?" said Cary, who said it's highly probable the 6-12 percent increase will pass. "If we

See TUITION on 2

University making easy registration a priority

UK VIP system improving daily, registrar's office says

By Ellen Lord
Staff Writer

From primitive to cutting edge,

The new VIP registration system has replaced hours of waiting in line under the old method with a telephone call from your room.

Before VIP registration, Shirley Rose, director of Undergraduate Studies in the College of Communications and Information Studies, said advisers "had to be computer operators. Other departments (had to) hire temporary operators" to help with computer scheduling and had little time to help students with class selection.

"Under the new system, students have more control over when they want to register," said Mary Sue Hoskins, director of Central Advising.

"It's much faster; students don't have to stand in line, ... and you have three days to get your schedule in," Rose said.

"Now advisers actually have time to advise."

"As an adviser ... the advantage that I like is that advising is truly mandatory," Hoskins said, although she admits levels of adviser involvement with the student range "from hardly at all ... to some very complex interactions."

"The VIP system hasn't been completely faultless."

"The first year was pretty much a disaster," Rose said. "The system had never been tested on a campus

this size before; it couldn't handle the volume."

But UK added computer power to make scheduling more efficient.

"It's gotten better every year. I think all would appreciate how the system is set up now," Rose said.

"When I first got here, you had to wait around a lot. I actually have missed classes to register," said Tony Hopkins, a library and information sciences graduate student.

"I prefer the VIP system because it's easy and over the phone and you can do it from your house," undeclared senior Bill Lacoix said.

"Dialing up from home and scheduling is much easier," Hopkins said.

Biology senior Penny Orr preferred VIP registration to her former school's system at Austin Peay State University in Tennessee.

"It's a lot more organized; I think it's a lot less confusing. ... Every time I go to register I've gotten every class I wanted," she said.

Hopkins said, despite the scheduling improvements, he has "noticed a real lack of getting the students involved with an adviser ... especially being in Arts and Sciences."

"I think a drawback is (that) you don't get a printed copy right away," Rose said. "Another drawback is having to wait because all lines are busy."

Journalism junior Cheddi Acham, like many athletes, has

Changes in UK VIP

Since its beginning in 1993, the Voice Information Processing network has undergone numerous changes.

▼**Fall 1993:** VIP began. Students complained of busy signals, getting cut off during mid-registration and long delays.

▼**Spring 1994:** UK systems programmers installed a "software patch" to eliminate delays, also set 20-minute limit on calls.

▼**Spring 1995:** Registrar monitors number of callers to VIP during certain windows and changes window openings to accommodate more students. Plans under way to make student registration available over the Internet.

"to have a certain grade level (and) sometimes dropping a class can help," he said. But the system "is only open during certain times of the day, and it might be busy."

An answer to some complaints might be to listen.

"(Students) need to listen to the message when they register all the way through. (They) often hang up too soon and something awful happens, (like they) thought they were registered for math and they aren't," Hoskins said.

Overall, students and staff have welcomed the change.

As a former undergraduate and current graduate student, Hopkins said, "I've seen the development of the system, and it's really changed and improved."

Students find process getting much easier

By Vanessa Daffron
Contributing Writer

With priority registration nearing, students gave favorable reactions to UK's VIP registration system. Few students said they have problems registering over the phone.

Freshmen through graduate students believe the system works well and serves its purpose of registering students quickly and easily.

Before the VIP system began in the fall of 1993, students waited in long lines at the registrar's office to add and drop classes. Most said avoiding such lines is the biggest advantage to VIP.

Matthew Adams, a biology senior, transferred from Morehead State University last spring and said using VIP is more convenient than other registration methods. He said Morehead's system took much longer and was much more of a hassle.

Nikki Strange, a music sophomore, takes courses at UK and Lexington Community College. She said she would prefer to register over the phone for all of her courses if she could.

"I'd rather use VIP than stand in line for three hours," she said.

Even though VIP is quicker than standing in add-drop lines, some students still have to wait to get through.

"If you try to call right when your registration window opens, the lines are busy a lot of the time," said Jennifer Kane, a hospi-

tal management senior. "When you're a senior who just needs a few classes, that can get annoying."

Students who attended UK before the VIP system worked properly said the system is much better than before. Shelby Hicklin, a physical therapy graduate student, remembers having to dial numerous times before getting an open line when she first entered UK in 1993.

"When VIP first started, students often complained of getting constant busy signals and getting cut off when they finally got through to the system. Students also experienced extremely long delays between registration options."

Since then, UK systems programmers and officials at the registrar's office have worked out most of the kinks in the system.

Programmers fixed a flaw in the software to eliminate delays. They also put a 20-minute time limit on calls made to VIP to allow more students to access the system.

"We never had to add any more phone lines. We just updated the software to let more students register at the same time," said UK Senior Systems Programmer Leonard Lauria.

Assistant Registrar Michelle Nordin said the registrar's office continues to improve the system by monitoring the number of students who access VIP during certain times and changing registration windows accordingly.

Even with the improvements to the system, some students said VIP makes them feel unimportant at UK. They said talking to a computer over the phone makes them feel like numbers, not students.

"I think it's a bit impersonal,"

said Melissa Johnson, a psychology freshman. Johnson prefers a registration system that would give more one-on-one help when students cannot add the classes they want over VIP.

Most students agree that a degree of impersonality is expected at a school as large as UK. The system works the best it can, given the number of students registering for classes at the same time.

Jennifer Spickler, an elementary education sophomore, said she expected to use a registration system similar to VIP when she chose to attend a large university.

Other students said rearranging their schedules around closed courses is difficult over the phone.

"The system's great if you get all the classes you want, but that doesn't always happen," said Joshua McCollister, a journalism junior.

Shawn O'Connor, an electrical engineering senior, said the system can get complicated when courses are closed. He said it would be easier to register over the Internet than over the phone.

Lauria said plans are underway to make student registration available over the Internet. Students can already access course listings over the web.

Most students said the VIP system functions well as it is, however.

Psychology graduate student Jason Rinaldo said VIP is somewhat impersonal, but it works well. He used systems similar to VIP at other universities before he attended UK.

"It can be a pain sometimes, but it works. It's effective," Rinaldo said.

Priority registration over VIP begins Nov. 3 and runs through Nov. 21. The registrar's office encourages students to make appointments with their advisers.

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Circle

Senate OKs funding for group's Million Woman March trip

From PAGE 1

host on Oct. 28 focusing on self-esteem, is a great way for students to share ideas.

Latonya Ford, a Circle of Imani member, said without the funding many members would not be able to go.

"This is our last alternative," Ford said.

This was different from UK Promise Keepers, whose SGA funding was vetoed by Melanie Cruz. Members had said they planned on going whether or not they had the funding.

But funding was not the only issue to be compared by senators. The discrimination issue was raised, but Circle of Imani fended it off.

Although UK Promise Keepers did not discriminate against members in its group, only males could attend the national event in Washington, D.C. Circle of Imani, however, posted flyers and invited other people to join its group.

The national event also invites people of both sexes and of all ages and races to attend, Ford said.

Senator at Large Luke Riddle, one of the senators who said it would be hypocritical to support Circle of Imani but not Promise Keepers.

"I feel déjà vu here," said Riddle, who voted for UK Promise Keepers. "I need to see more points brought forth to see the difference."

Senator at Large Phil Feigel was initially impressed with Circle of Imani's preparation and fundraising events, but his mind was changed when Circle of Imani President Crystal Spruill wrote a letter to the Kentucky Kernel editorial page on Oct. 10 accusing Feigel of devising a scheme, "which he admitted he had been planning for a week, to kill (the) proposal by tabling it using Robert's Rules of Orders."

"If they're going to lie to the Kernel, they're going to lie to the students," Feigel said. "If any senator has a conscience they will not vote for this bill."

Social Work Senator George Myers supported the bill referring back to the UK Promise Keepers.

"I do not feel Promise Keepers is discriminatory, and I don't feel this bill is discriminatory," Myers said.

At the last full Senate meeting, Circle of Imani presented a bill requesting \$840 from the SGA.

On Oct. 8, with two weeks until the march, Feigel made a motion to table the bill. He made the

motion because of the group's substantial fundraising before the meeting.

When the Circle of Imani originally presented the bill before the Appropriations and Revenue Committee on Oct. 1, it asked for \$1,510. But between then and the Oct. 8 Senate meeting, Million Woman March State Coordinator Kathy Williams raised \$600 from the Lexington community for the group.

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 Area Director Asia and Pacific
 4-6 p.m. - Tuesday, October 28
 Room 230, Student Center

International Framework of Kurdish Nationalism
 ★ **MICHAEL GUNTER**
 Department of Political Science
 Tennessee Tech
 7-9 p.m. - Thursday, October 30
 Student Center Theatre

Recent Developments in Russia
 ★ **LUDMILLA SELZNEVA**
 Professor of History
 Rowan University
 11 am - Friday, October 31
 Room 130, Patterson Office Tower

Tuition

New council proposes 6-12 percent increase

From PAGE 1

have money to offset it, then (the increase) is an advantage."

Tuition can be set three ways: through legislation, individual college or university, and by groups like the council, Cary said. The only other state that mirrors Kentucky's system is Oklahoma, which has a group that determines tuition rates for its universities.

While he doesn't like paying more to go to school, Cary said, "an increase is a good thing in moderation. You get what you pay for."

For Sepulveda it isn't a question of paying, it's how much.

"Six percent is more reasonable. Twelve percent is a little too much I think."

'I was as low as you can get'

Time, strength keys to fighting the addiction

By Ellen Lord
Staff Writer

For alcoholics, recovery is more than saying "no" to a drink or finding alternative modes of entertainment.

Recovering alcoholics struggle daily while learning to cope with life's realities minus the help of alcohol.

Alcoholics in recovery must relearn coping skills which most people already know, said Ruth "Topsy" Staten, an associate professor in the College of Nursing and a substance abuse counselor in University Health Services.

"These skills can be taught in a

relatively short period of time, but they have to be practiced and reinforced for a lifetime," Staten said.

Alcoholics can learn to cope with the help of support groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous.

"Recovering was really hard because I didn't have any living skills," said Kim, a 23 year old recovering alcoholic and AA member. "That's what AA taught me really."

"When your alarm clock goes off in the morning and you don't want to go to work, you go to work. Before I would have just called in sick or not shown up. It started with really little, simple things," she said.

Kim used the support that AA gave her to learn how defeat her alcoholism.

"At first it was just listening to the people in AA who had been sober longer than me," she said. "They knew how to get a whole

day without taking a drink and that was something I didn't know how to do, and I was willing to do whatever it took to learn that."

But alcoholics must want to change before the recovery process can begin. Alcoholics sometimes hit bottom before they become willing.

Jane, a 23 year-old recovering alcoholic and AA member, became sober after a long childhood of alcohol and drugs.

"My bottom in my mind was to die," Jane said. "I was as low as you could get if not wanting to go lower."

"At 19 my life was over. I had done a lot of drinking and had a lot of drugs and lost my family. The idea of going to college and all that stuff was out the window."

"I just wanted to go to sleep for a very, very long time and not wake up, or to wake up and every-

thing be beautiful again," Jane said.

Jane, originally from Lexington, went through many treatment centers, a relapse, and near death before she decided to become sober.

"I went to a lot of AA meetings, and I started hanging out with a lot of people that were sober," Jane said. "I did a lot of work on myself. It's a daily work thing."

"My life is completely different. Why it happened for me, I don't know. Why I'm here today, I don't know."

"Alcoholism is not the end of the world," said Alan Barger, a prevention consultant at the Prevention Research Institute.

"There are many people who do recover and are able to put their lives back together again," he said, "but they have to be careful and work it for the rest of their lives."

SOUNDbytes

Do you feel pressure to drink and why?



"No, not really. (It's) my own decision. I really don't feel pressured."

Aaron Simmons
mathematics sophomore, 18



"No. No pressure. My friends aren't big drinkers and I have never felt much pressure from them to drink."

Lisa Gish
telecommunications sophomore, 20



"No. I don't feel pressure to drink. There's no peer pressure at all. I drink because I want to."

Ruben Cortes
marketing, management sophomore, 19



"I just was brought up not to take up just to break pressure from anybody. None of my friends really drink, so I don't feel like I am pressured."

Jordan Bivens
merchandising sophomore, 19



"I don't but I know a lot of people around here do. I don't pay attention to it because it's just something that I don't want to do."

Ben Hopper
English senior, 21

Alcoholism

College drinking can cause future problems

From PAGE 1

ing an alcoholic.)"

Mladen Brkic, a 19-year-old business and management freshman from Bosnia, has witnessed the effects of alcohol in European countries such as Italy, Greece and Bosnia, in the American high school environment, Henry Clay High School in Lexington, and in the college environment, UK. Most European countries including Bosnia don't have a minimum drinking age.

He also drinks and has a family history of alcoholism.

He said he mostly believed environmental factors led to alcohol dependency. People who enjoy drinking in social situations such as a party probably aren't going to become alcoholics, he said.

But people who drink because they are depressed have a higher risk of becoming alcoholic. In war-torn Bosnia, more people drink to escape, therefore more people become alcoholics, he added.

Brkic said the pressures of high

school and college might cause people to start drinking at an early or premature age, therefore increasing their chances of alcohol dependency.

"You can never say if something will contribute to alcoholism or not," he said. "But (the environment) makes your chances higher. And your chances of becoming an alcoholic increase by drinking early."

He said American teens tend to want to prove themselves. Perhaps they do so because they are told they can't, he added. At college, he said, American students want to prove they can drink heavy and often because they perceive other students do the same. From there they might try to prove they can drive while they're drunk, he said.

At any rate, American college students who succumb to this increase their tolerance level, a sign that alcoholism is on the horizon, he said. What starts as four drinks in a night might grow to eight or nine.

"You need to learn to control yourself," he said.

Seth Clark, a 21-year-old mechanical engineering sophomore, said he doesn't think underage drinkers will become alcoholics.

"I think it takes a certain person to become an alcoholic," he said. "Just because you drink

underage doesn't mean you're going to become an alcoholic."

Clark said he started drinking when he was 15 and he has an uncle who is alcoholic, but he said he doesn't think he'll become one.

"My definition of an alcoholic is someone who craves alcohol," said Clark, who said he doesn't drink as often as he used to.

People who drink to escape problems are more at danger, he said.

Whether students are drinking to escape or to fit in socially, they need to ask themselves, "When is too much, too much?" Staten said.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism lists the following signs that someone has a drinking problem:

▼ They are unable to control their drinking, regardless of what they decide, they wind up drunk.

▼ They use alcohol to escape problems.

▼ They develop a change in personality.

▼ They develop a high tolerance and start to drink everyone else under the table.

▼ They black out and sometimes do not remember what happened while they were drinking.

▼ They have problems at work or in school as a result of drinking.

▼ Their family and friends show concern about his drinking.

Two kinds of alcohol problems exist: alcohol abuse and alcohol dependency, commonly called alcoholism, Staten said.

Alcohol dependency differs from abuse in that tolerance increases drastically over time and withdrawal symptoms occur, such as morning shakes, hallucinations and seizures.

Otherwise, dependency and abuse are similar, Staten said. Both interfere with daily life as they hurt health and social functions.

Also, withdrawal symptoms increase as alcoholics age. Fatigue, then sweating, restlessness, irritability, the shakes, muscle instability, hallucinations, seizures and delirium tremens (DTs) set in when a person stops drinking after any duration.

"Alcoholics who quit drinking can have seizures and die," he said.

Staten, however, said alcoholism isn't the only or the most urgent problem of underage drinking. Problems such as date-rape, violence, drunken driving and alcohol poisoning, which leads to lung failure, are predominant dangers to college students.

"I guess we've made it easy (to binge drink in college) — no big deal," she says. "But that's lent itself to the problems we're having today."

"Culturally, we've become comfortable with being drunk."

Options available for those in dark

By Ellen Lord
Staff Writer

If you or someone you know has a problem with alcohol, get help off campus.

Historically, UK has paid varying degrees of attention to drinking on campus, said Ruth Staten, a nursing professor, who spends 30 percent of her time counseling at the University Health Service.

She and Rob Ferguson, of the Counseling and Testing Center, are the only resources available for students who need help with alcohol abuse.

On the other hand, Alcoholics Anonymous has 50,000 groups across the country, with more than 100 meetings a week in Lexington, said "Don," a member of the Bluegrass Area Chapter of AA.

Their programs are not targeted at specific ages, Don said.

"Age is not the problem; it's booze."

The AA Bluegrass Area central offices, where Don works, arrange for problem drinkers to talk with current members. Members encourage those interested in the program to get involved immediately in their 12-step recovery process, Don said.

Part of that involves finding a sponsor.

"Generally ... someone will act as a temporary sponsor ... (and) will help them find a permanent one, he said.

As sponsors help members work through the 12 steps, they attend group meetings with other alcoholics. Group sizes range from eight or nine people to more than 100, Don said.

"We encourage them to find a home group," a group they are comfortable with and will attend regularly, he said. Smaller groups help foster more discussion.

"From my observations in the Lexington area, we have around 1200 people active in the program," he said. "Over the last 10 or 12 years we've really grown leaps and bounds."

Part of the growth stems from the expansion of programs, like Charter Ridge and St. Joseph

Hospital, that recommend follow-up care.

"One of the things that is important to understand is that (alcohol-related problems) occur on a continuum," Staten said. "There needs to be a wide range of responses."

Some of these programs are mandated by the government for drinkers who drive under the influence. To get his or her license back after a DUI, the judge may order a drinker to attend a drug treatment and education center.

James Robert Ross, director and owner of Anchor Counseling, said his DUI program curriculum is established by government regulation.

The program "explores the extent of alcohol and drug use through a written test and clinical interview, Ross said. Then, the patient is assigned to a class or treatment based on the results and the patient's past history."

First-time offenders would probably be assigned to a nine or 20 hour class, while multiple offenders may participate in weekly 90 minute sessions for 52 weeks, Ross said. Anchor Counseling also offers a relapse prevention program for patients, who have been alcohol and drug free for at least six weeks.

"The real risks involved in students' drinking ... (is that) people are drinking in ways that really put them at risk," Staten said, referring to the recent deaths at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Louisiana State University. Those deaths "have heightened our awareness of what's involved," she said.

Indicators of problem drinking range from changes in behavior and study habits to habitual intoxication and blackouts, Staten said.

Heavy drinking is considered having five drinks in a night for men and four drinks for women, she said.

"Often (heavy drinker's) perception is that everybody's drinking this much too," Staten said. "They're surprised to find out that the majority of students aren't."

Peer

College environment a cause of drinking

From PAGE 1

16. One reason she likes to drink is because of how alcoholic beverages taste, she said.

Although she drinks several times a week, Stanley said sometimes it's for different reasons.

"During the weekends it's to have fun," she said. "During the week, it's a stress reliever."

Max Mattord, a 20-year-old finance junior, said he only drinks about once a month.

"Everyone has an agenda," Mattord said. "I think people that drink for stress are drinking for the wrong reasons, and people that drink because of peer pressure, it's probably for the wrong reason."

However, Mattord said, drinking for fun is acceptable.

Another student who said he drinks for fun is business junior Dan Smith. Smith, who recently turned 21, said he drank when he was a minor.

"It was more of a social thing, he said. "If you go to parties and don't drink, you look

like a dumb-ass."

Smith said he did not drink often as a minor, only about once every week or two.

While many students, both underage and legal, do drink, some don't.

One of those students is 20-year-old Kathryn Mullins. Mullins, a mechanical engineering junior, said alcohol's effects are why she chooses not to drink.

Mullins said she believes mirrors drink because they feel pressured into it. "I think it's peer pressure, mostly, and (people) think it loses them up, so they do it."

Leukfeld said programs designed to keep people from drinking may work for some but not others.

Wanting to belong to a group is normal, Ferguson said, but belonging to a group should not mean feeling obligated to drink.

Seeing other students who do not drink can be a form of support for those who are not sure what direction to take.

"Being public about alternatives to drinking is probably the best thing college students themselves can do," Ferguson said.

"To make statements that there are alternatives, and to hold people responsible for their behavior."

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SPORTS

The UK football team has a chance this weekend to extend its season record to 5-3, which would place the Cats just one win from bowl eligibility. Standing in their way is a Georgia team which guards its home turf, well, like a Bulldog. UGA faces the Cats at home with only one SEC loss — leaving Bulldog fans confident about their team's chances Saturday afternoon.

The Truth about

Cats and Dawgs

Couch entertaining, but of no real concern

The Georgia Bulldogs will pound Kentucky on Saturday not because they have more talent, better coaches, a deeper football tradition, a superior record, and not because they will have more than 80,000 screaming fans by their side.

The Bulldogs will rip the Wildcats simply because they are a superior football team. But, I have to hand it to Kentucky, the Wildcats are a unique Southeastern Conference football team. Unlike most SEC football programs, the Wildcats have no true conference rivals and not only fail to put fear in even the weakest of opponents, but they also couldn't startle a pee-wee league team.

Speaking of fear, at home against SEC opponents this season, the Bulldogs are 2-0 while outsourcing their opponents by an average score of 39-8. Meanwhile, the Wildcats, on the road in the SEC this season are 0-2 and have been torn apart by SEC doormats.

OK, so maybe the Wildcats are in for some trouble Saturday. But I am guessing that Wildcat fans are hopeful that sophomore quarterback Tim Couch will save the day.

Yeah, right. He's not Mighty Mouse, he's not Superman, he's just a talented quarterback who can't win. Couch is by far the best quarterback in the country that hasn't even come close to winning a big game (are

any of the Wildcat games considered big?) Couch is liked around the SEC primarily because he's fun to watch and opposing fans have no worries that he might upset their squad.

It's the perfect combination: entertainment and a win. How can anyone be considered a player great if they never win? Couch doesn't win. And how can Couch remain sane when his defense gets lit up so often that they keep local power companies in business? Couch led the Wildcats to the highest point total (28) surrendered by the Florida Gators this season when the Cats lost to them in September.

The only problem: A Wildcat defense that resembled something short of a welcome mat. You might overhear a Wildcat defender mumble, "Hi, we're the Kentucky defense, would you mind if we escorted you into the end zone for the seventh time this afternoon?"

Game a break. Shifting gears, let's take a minute to take a humorous glance at the Wildcats season thus far. After losing to Mississippi State, Florida and South Carolina, the Cats only SEC win is against Alabama.

When Kentucky upended the Crimson Tide on Oct. 4, Wildcat fans went crazy, storming the field and tearing down goal posts in celebration.

What? While I'm all for such fan interaction, I couldn't believe that such a celebration occurred after a win over, of all SEC teams, the Crimson Tide? The only surprising aspect of the Wildcats' six-point win over the Tide is that it actually took them overtime to do so.

Come on, Alabama was coming off a loss to Arkansas in its previous SEC game. Has any team beside the Wildcats actually stormed the field after beating a team that lost its previous SEC game to Arkansas?

The Wildcat celebration just proves that a mediocre football program can celebrate after a mediocre win. This year, the Wildcats have used Couch as a confidence booster. Couch now celebrates after three touchdowns at all times and just when you think they are going to lose by more than three touchdowns, here comes Couch with a late game touchdown to pad his stats and feed the illusion that the Wildcats are respectable.

On Saturday at Sanford Stadium, Couch will stare intensely into the eyes of Georgia's defenders late in the game and drive the Wildcats into the end zone for a meaningless late-game touchdown — to pad his stats.

Georgia 41, Kentucky 24.

Guest Columnist Brandon Zimmerman is a sports staff writer for the University of Georgia's Red & Black student newspaper.

Omnipotent UK offense keeps even the best defenses reeling

People were stunned when Kentucky Athletics Director C.M. Newton brought Valdosta State's Hal Mumme from Georgia to the Bluegrass.

How could Newton be so bold? Bringing a Division II coach to UK and the Southeastern Conference was like bringing UGA to a Vietnamese restaurant.

But seven games into the 1997 season, a program is back from the dead.

Throw out anything you've seen or heard about UK football. The days of three yards and a cloud of dust are gone.

Mumme's Wildcats throw the ball in every situation. First down, quickout. Second down, sounds like a slant. Third down and short, how about a long bomb? Fourth down, why not?

I can hear Vince Dooley crying.

Before you Georgia fans get too excited about your tough defense pinning its ears back and coming after UK quarterback Tim Couch, understand. This offense is unlike any you've seen.

You know the pass is coming. You might even know where it's going, but it won't matter.

Couch leads the nation's top passing offense into Athens this weekend.

The sophomore is enjoying a breakout year. He leads the NCAA in touchdown passes and leads the SEC in passing yardage.

And contrary to popular belief, the Heisman candidate has a lot of help.

His stable of receivers is full. Florida coach Steve Spurrier called UK's receiving corps one of the best-kept secrets in America.

Craig Yeast is one of the best wide-outs in the SEC.

He is double-teamed every possession but still hurts opponents. Jacques Green of Florida and your own Hines Ward might be better, but neither offense allows for as many chances to make plays.

His Stanford is spectacular when healthy, and his injured ankle is almost healed. He is faster than Yeast, and his experience is invaluable.

Kevin Coleman and Jimmy Robinson are solid.

But the most deceptive part of UK's offense is its ground attack. Football traditionalists will tell you that running sets up the pass, but in the 'Air Raid' offense, the opposite is true.

Just when your defense begins to close in on Couch, a blue blur will be gaining key yards on the ground.

Derek Homer is a shifty playmaker, and Anthony White is a north-south runner with a great burst of speed at the line of scrimmage.

On the other side of the ball, Kentucky has some issues.

The Wildcat defense is giving up points almost as fast as the offense can score them.

South Carolina exposed UK's lack of quickness to the corners, and Mississippi State ran the ball down UK's throat.

Injuries at linebacker and a genuine lack of depth plague the Wildcat defense.

They will not have an answer for Georgia's ground game.

Be prepared for a shoot-out. UK will put a lot of points on the board and force Georgia to do the same.

Mike Bobo vs. Tim Couch? There is no question.

Georgia's 24-17 loss at Commonwealth Stadium last season cost the Bulldogs a bowl, so revenge will be on the minds of the red and black.

But this is a different breed of Wildcat. You won't believe your eyes. I still don't believe mine.

Kentucky 35, Georgia 31.

Sports Columnist Aaron Sanderford is a journalism junior. He can be reached via e-mail at sanderford@aol.com.



Brandon Zimmerman
Guest Columnist



UK hopes big-game recipe turns UGA 'D' to chowder

By Price Atkinson
Senior Staff Writer

Boy, what a win would do. Especially a victory on the road, in the Southeastern Conference, and on national TV. All the ingredients are present to help provide immediate help to UK's shot at a postseason birth.

The Cats travel to Athens, Ga., Saturday to face the Georgia Bulldogs (5-1, 3-1) in a 3:30 p.m. showdown at Sanford Stadium. A game UK (4-3, 1-3) could use, needing two more wins to qualify for a bowl birth, the Cats' 1997 team goal.

"This is a game we need to win," wide receiver Craig Yeast said. "If we win this, it puts us at 5-3. It's a huge game for us."

"One more win, then we'll be in a bowl game."

UK fullback Anthony White agreed with Yeast on the possible

impact of a Big Blue win.

"Beating a team with their record and all the hype Georgia's been getting, that'll only help us," White said. "That'll show the people from the bowl committees that we can beat a ranked team like Alabama."

At 5-3, UK will have three games remaining, two of the three at home against ranked opponents.

The Cats have not captured an SEC win on the road this season, and a win at UGA is easier said than done.

"They're ranked 16th in the nation and it's a huge challenge for us," Mumme said in preparing for his first trip to Sanford Stadium. "We're looking forward to going 'between the hedges.' I know they'll have a great crowd."

According to the Dogs' head coach Jim Donnan, defense is the name of the game.

"The key in this game will be defense," Donnan said. "Which defense can stop the other's offense."

A huge challenge will be the prospect of UK's defense stopping a big-play UGA offense.

Under center, UGA quarterback Mike Bobo will trigger the Red and Black attack with a stellar supporting cast in skilled players Robert Edwards and Hines Ward.

Edwards and Ward helped take some of the heat off of Bobo, who played through a disappointing

junior campaign in 1996. Except Bobo hasn't needed it this season.

Bobo is the SEC's leader in passing efficiency with a 166.9 rating, good for third nationally.

Impressive is his touchdown to interception ratio. Bobo has thrown 12 TD passes with just two INTs.

Both Edwards and Ward have been slowed by injuries this season but will be in action for the Dogs' Homecoming.

Edwards is the SEC's sixth leading rusher at 57.6 yards per game and 6.1 yards per carry along including four TD's.

Maybe the most versatile athlete in the NCAA is Ward, a senior who has played three different positions on offense during his four-year career at UGA.

In 1994, Ward started at tailback for the Dogs and then moved to run the show as QB the following season. Last year, he moved to his third spot on the field, wide receiver, where Ward now resides.

At the completion of the 1997 season, Ward could become the first player in the history of the SEC to record over 1,000 yards in three different categories.

"The guy is a phenomenal athlete," Donnan said. "He can do things a lot of people can't do. He just gives us a chance to win."

After playing four cupcakes at home to begin the season, UGA's one tough game came against Tennessee Oct. 11. The Vols moved the ball at will on a so-called "top

ranked" defense, 232 yards rushing by freshman Jamal Lewis and Peyton Manning's season best 31 of 40 for 343 passing yards.

White said after watching the UGA-UT game film, UK has built even more confidence in their high-powered offense going into Athens.

"Tennessee rushed Georgia pretty good in shipping," White said.

"I know our offensive line is better than Tennessee's, so I think we should have more success running than Tennessee did, even though they had 250 yards (total rushing yards)."

A quick start by the Cats would take the crowd of 80,000 plus out of the game and make for a more quiet afternoon down South.

"It's certainly a problem but we'll try and come up with some ways to avoid that," Mumme said.

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Power struggle: UK fights for position

MAC's top spot on line versus Herd

By Jill Erwin
Senior Staff Writer

"This is the biggest weekend in this program's history, no question."

That's how UK men's head coach Ian Collins refers to this weekend's matchups against Mid-American Conference co-leader Marshall and third-place Akron. The Thundering Herd invades the UK Soccer Complex tonight at 8, fighting for the top spot in their first year in the MAC.

Sunday's game against the Zips is at 2 p.m.

The Cats (10-3-2 overall, 4-0 MAC) have not lost since a 9-0 thrashing in Bloomington at the hands of the top-ranked Hoosiers. However, the team is coming off a negative performance against Wisconsin-Green Bay last Sunday.

"Sunday was a very traumatic experience for everybody," Collins said.

"Everybody expected to win. A few of the players said it felt like we had lost 4-0."

But UK isn't looking backwards; they're looking forward. Marshall (12-3, 4-0) comes into the game undefeated in the conference, but has yet to play a road game against a conference foe.

Norman Dotch, a senior forward, leads the team with 26 points and has five game-winning goals. The Herd has four players who have contributed game-winners.

This balanced attack also features Hugo La Reserve, a member of the Bluegrass Bandits. He has 12 points on four goals and four assists.

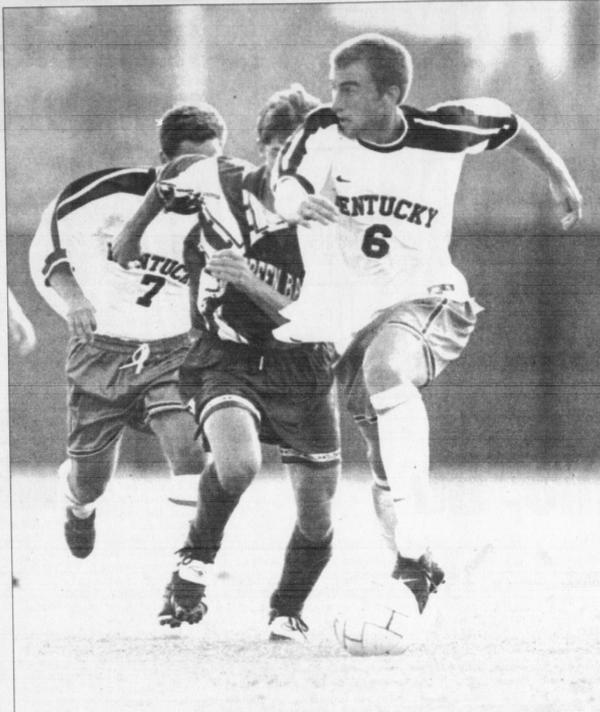
"They've got some experienced players," Collins said.

"They're a tough team. I have no question our players will be ready to play."

The Cats have developed a tendency this season to play well in the first game of a weekend set, and in the second half of the Sunday game.

It's the first half of the second game that serves as a problem.

"It's something we need to get



MATT BARTON Kernel staff

HEARING THE FOOTSTEPS UK's Matt Wilkerson (6) accelerates away from a Wisconsin-Green Bay defender in action from last week. The top spot in the MAC is on the line tonight against conference co-leader Marshall.

over, something we will get over," Collins said. "I have a lot of faith in our players and I know they understand the importance of both these games. I know they're not going to let this opportunity pass them by."

UK last played Akron (10-4-1, 3-1) in the second round of last year's MAC Tournament, but these are not the same Zips.

"They're more experienced, they're bigger, they're stronger," Collins said.

"They've made a concerted effort to 'beef up' their team, to

make them physically stronger. This is a different Akron team, and probably a better Akron team."

The Zips have a very strong junior class, but also have a good infusion of freshmen and sophomores.

They are led in scoring by Michael Apple and Allen Eller, each with 21 points.

Akron likes to shoot, and shoot often. They have more than twice as many shots as their opponents this season, and have only been outshot twice all year.

Despite average record, women in SEC hunt

By Rob Herbst
Sports Editor

Despite the fact the UK women's soccer team has a below .500 record (7-8-1), two wins for the Wildcats this weekend will give the Cats a share of the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division title.

The Wildcats (5-1 SEC) take on Arkansas tonight at 5:30 p.m. at the UK Soccer Complex and SEC leader Vanderbilt on Sunday afternoon in Nashville.

"I'm just happy that we have put ourselves in a position to even play for something at this point of the year," said UK head coach Warren Lipka. "Being 7-8-1 you wouldn't think we would have anything to play for."

To say the Wildcats are the favored team tonight would be fair. Arkansas won the SEC West last season but 1997 is a different year for the Lady Razorbacks. Arkansas is 3-10-1 overall with a paltry 1-5 mark in the SEC. And Arkansas is in the SEC West, a division in which some would call the minor league of the SEC.

If there ever was a case where the Cats can't overlook an opponent, it's tonight.

"It's a classic example of where you can't overlook a team," said junior forward Carrie Staber. "We've overlooked some teams this year and we know what can happen. We need a win and we all know that. It's been grounded into our heads that we need to win this game."

If the Lady Razorbacks ruin the Wildcats' opportunity for a share of the SEC crown, Sunday's trip to No. 23 Vanderbilt won't seem to have much importance for the Cats.

"If we don't do the job on Friday against Arkansas, that game against Vandy is just gonna be 'another game,'" Lipka said. "I don't want to make it another game. I want to make it a championship game. We should treat this as if the semifinals of a tournament are on Friday and the finals are on

Sunday."

Assuming the Wildcats can defeat Arkansas tonight, they'll put themselves in an opportunity to share for the SEC East title. Both Vandy and UK have one conference loss, along with Florida. Unless Vandy and UK tie on Sunday, one of them will have two losses.

Florida's two remaining SEC games are against South Carolina and Auburn. Is a loss likely for Florida? Nope.

To add to the possible intrigue on Sunday, add the fact that Vanderbilt is UK's fiercest rival in women's soccer. The foes have met 10 times in just five years, including six games in the last two years.

"It's always a huge rivalry when we play Vanderbilt," Staber said. "They're a big-time program and it's always nice to beat a big-time team like them."

The Wildcats have seen success against Vanderbilt in the regular season. UK split the regular season

series against Vandy in 1995 and the Wildcats beat the Commodores 2-1 in the regular season last year.

It's the NCAA Tournament that haunts the Wildcats.

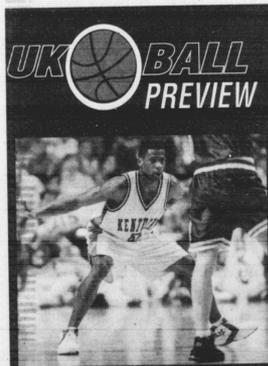
In the last two years, the Wildcats earned a spot in the NCAA Tournament. The Cats took on Vanderbilt both times in the first round in Lexington. Vanderbilt has ended UK's season two years running.

The most recent meeting for UK was the most painful. Last season in the NCAA Tournament, UK outshot Vandy by a 2-to-1 margin but the Cats walked away with a 2-1 sudden death overtime loss.

"That game will always be in the back of our heads," Staber said. "We had a whole season to forget that game but it's always in the back of our heads because there was no reason we should have lost that game. A lot of people have some frustrations to take out on Vandy for last year."



The UK women's and men's soccer teams play at the Soccer Complex tonight at 5:30 and 8, respectively. The men play at home again on Sunday at 2 p.m.



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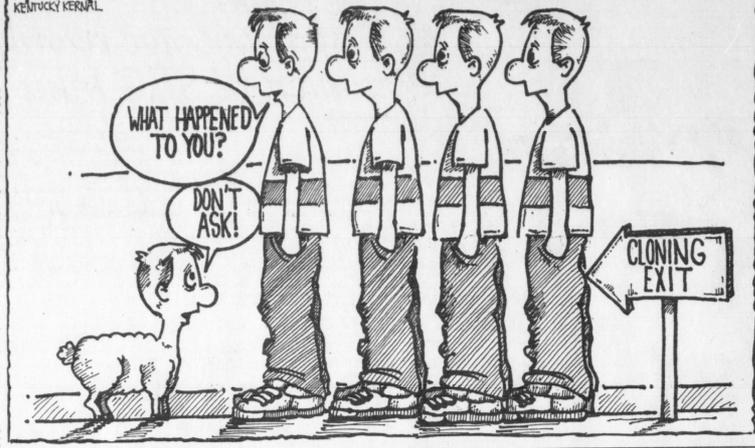
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Oh, Melanie Cruz. We're still watching. No, we're not stalkers, we're just concerned, because, once again, you have the opportunity to veto a travel bill.

She has the option to stamp that gigantic VETO on the Circle of Imani trip to the Million Woman March that the SGA Senate barely passed this week. It's not that we have anything against a million women getting together to reaffirm themselves. As a matter of fact, we applaud it. It's not that we had anything against the Promise Keepers either. Its rally in Washington, D.C., was probably important, too.

It's the leg with which we've been standing on our soap box all year. You should not be funding trips. You should not be sending a small group of students to a conference or an event. The dollars you were elected to spend, oh mighty student government, are the students' dollars. We (or our parents) are paying top dollar for us to be at this school. We don't want our dollars paying for some group's travel expenses.

Stop top the madness, Melanie. And while your reasoning for the Promise Keepers' veto was less

than sound, you have set a precedent of not funding groups that only represent one gender or class or race. The Circle of Imani will do that. You must veto this bill to save face. But more importantly you must veto this because it affects only a small number of students.

And while we're standing atop this soap box, there are a few things you, the student Senate, need to do. Set some rules. Make some spending guidelines. We won't accept the excuse that you're still young — you'll make some spending mistakes. Unacceptable now. You've been doing this long enough. No more travel spending. You are not a travel agency. You should never be one. But the Kernel's been saying this for years (far longer than most of us have been alive). Alas, you haven't fully listened.

We were prepared for this, so here are the Kernel edit board's guidelines: Limit spending to groups that can *concretely* affect at least two-thirds of the students. Limit trip spending to no more than \$20 per person. If you're going, you should pay most of it. Of course, you can always save yourselves the trouble of setting criteria and just say no!

IN OUR OPINION

Best Copy Available

Lifetime lesson learned from a night of drinking

Youth and alcohol can mix to create a deadly combination

Being a college student is not always easy. You begin as a teen-ager and in a span of four years, you are expected to be a fully-fledged adult that is grown up and responsible.

My college career has been a mixture of wise decisions and stupid mistakes. It is only now that I can look back on one of my stupid mistakes to see the positive effect it's had on my life.

As the first person in my family to attend college, I was extremely naive about the atmosphere of a major university. I could barely figure out how I was going to finance college let alone master the intricacies of registration.

am I supposed to eat? Someone took my ID!"

After I passed out for the final time, I awoke next to a police officer. I realized what I had done because I was no longer at E.S. Goodborn Field. I asked the officer how long I was out and he said I was out for over three hours. They watched me the whole time to make sure I was safe from others and to provide medical attention if needed. I cannot remember a time that I had cried harder and had been so remorseful in my life.

I don't know what was more embarrassing. Maybe it was calling my mom to tell her what happened. It might have been the fact that my RAs had to pick me up since my friends were still at the game. It could have been the taunts of my friends who are considered to be alcoholics because they had never been in trouble. Even more than the humiliation was the sense of disappointment. Everyone who had worked so hard to make it possible for me to come to college, had been let down. The good intentions of my grandma who couldn't even attend school because she is blind and my mom who gave up her dreams to raise a family, were jeopardized.



Melanie Cruz
Guest Columnist

Once, I eagerly attended a UK-UL game and added a new word to my vocabulary: TAILGATING! It became a regular function for me at every football game.

I enjoyed hanging out with friends, listening to music, meeting new people from the opposing team's school and, of course, the old-time tradition of consuming alcoholic beverages. No, I was not old enough to drink. No, I did not drink responsibly. I thought that since I was a petite female, I could impress everyone with an ability to handle my liquor.

OK, so my rational behind drinking wasn't the wisest. It was not until I nearly was rushed to the hospital for alcohol poisoning and when the police cited me for my drinking that I realized how stupid I had been. I find nothing attractive about someone being so drunk that an individual cannot speak without a slur. Of course, the smell of vomit is always a great way to lure a date! In general, I didn't like the person I saw that day at the tailgate party.

When a concerned Auburn fan called the Fayette County Police and the Emergency Medical team to help me, I was unconscious.

I vaguely remember the medical technicians taking my vital signs. I remember trying to talk my way out being questioned by the police. Friends said I tried to tell them I was 21, but I gave my real birthday. Apparently I gave my ID to the police officer and when I was talking to the him, I tried again to get my ID, which the officer already had. I broke into tears because I thought someone had taken my ID which was my meal card. I cried, "How

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Now that I am 21 and a senior, I can look back on my mistakes and appreciate them. I honestly believe the college motto, "In order to be old and wise, you must be young and stupid," pertains to my college career. Being human makes a person vulnerable to their own actions and the actions of others. I have come to terms with my mistake. I know what I did was irresponsible. I only hope that my irresponsibility will help others to bypass a similar experience and learn from mine.

Guest Columnist Melanie Cruz is a political science senior and Student Government Association president.

READERS' forum

Issue of genetics and homosexuality is still up in the air

To the editor:

As the coordinator for the "Every Student's Choice" ads that appeared during the National Coming Out Week, I would like to respond to those who condemned the ads.

First, let me say that I think the ads are a good reflection of how Jesus would approach this subject. Jesus always had a two-handed approach when dealing with people. With one hand He would caution restraint (there are activities you can be involved in that are harmful, don't do them) and with the other hand He would offer hope (entrusting your life to Me will empower you to be different).

Secondly, each editorial implied that homosexuality was something a person is born with

and even suggested that there was scientific evidence to back up such a claim.

Just what do we know about the causes of homosexuality? The public often isn't aware that there is a major difference in the subtleties of "behavioral genetics" and the much simpler "Mendelian genetics" that deal with things such as eye color.

Two words can help clear up the confusion. They are "heritable" and "inherited." Have recent studies shown that homosexuality is "heritable"? Well, yes they have. But so is almost every other behavior. What is the major component in our behavior? It appears to be our environment.

One of the leading authorities on societal behavior at the University of Florida says there is about a 30 percent behavioral genetic linkage for schizophrenia, about 10 percent for alcoholism and less than 5 percent for homosexuality. So what does it mean when the activists say that homosexuality is "genetic"? It means nothing, at least related to deter-

mining if people are "born that way."

Well, is homosexuality "inherited"? Absolutely not. Dean Hamer, who wrote an article on homosexuality and genetics in *Science* in 1993 was asked about his findings by another scientist. He said, "the question of the appropriate significance level to apply to a non-Mendelian trait such as sexual orientation is problematic." In plain English: "It is not possible to know the truth about genetics and sexual orientation cannot possibly be inherited the way eye-color is." This is a pro-gay scientist talking.

But homosexual activists would prefer people to believe their orientation is the same as having blue eyes or black skin. If you would like to know the truth about genetics and sexual orientation, check out our World Wide Web site at www.stonewallrevisited.com.

Mark Jacus
Christian Leadership Ministries

TALKback!

Readers are encouraged to submit letters to the editor and guest opinions to the Viewpoint page in person or by mail.

Address your comments to "Letters to the Editor"; Kentucky Kernel Editorial Editor; 35 Enoch J. Grehan Journalism Building; UK; Lexington, Ky. 40506-0042. Send electronic mail to kernel@pop.uky.edu.

Letters should be approximately 250 words. Guest opinions should be no longer than 850 words.

All material should be type-written and double-spaced, but hand-written will be accepted if it is legible.

Include your name and major classification (for publication), as well as your address and telephone number for verification.

Check out the Kentucky Kernel on-line at www.kykernel.com for more letters to the editor.

INFORMED SOURCES

"HALLOWEEN SEEMS to be the most appropriate day for such a strange and bizarre case as this."

Ray Witten, on the alleged biting of his son's nose by Judge Joseph Troisi. Apparently the judge was upset that Witten's son, Bill Witten, 29, cursed at the judge in the courtroom.

There's a curse that stalks us all and it isn't old age

When parents drop their children off for college they always say, "Study hard, don't do drugs and eat your vegetables."

The fact is that we eat everything but those disgusting little booger snots. And the vegetables always lay untouched next to the fried chicken that is greater than a hot California babe at the beach rubbed down with sun tan lotion.

Wow, doesn't that sound tasty? If it's not the fried chicken at Mama's Kitchen, it's the Long John Silver's, Fourth Quarter or Little Italy. This mouth-watering but physically devastating cuisine is disfiguring our young, physically fit freshmen.

College food all over the nation is taking our outstanding Kathy Irelands and Eddie Murphys and slowly transforming them into the Roseannes and Notty Pro-

fessors of tomorrow.

It's not our fault, we have nothing else to eat. The University gives us our meal cards and we end up flocking to the cafeterias at every spare moment we have.

The lines at the cafeterias are longer than the lines for football tickets and Midnight Madness.

We have placed food on a higher level than UK Athletics. I never thought I would see the day.

The result, college is full of fat people. Although there are a select few PHAT women — pretty hot and tempting — the majority of our students have succumbed to the legendary "Freshman 15." Which in turn makes us FAT — flabby alcohol tummies.

This is another reason why so many people wear baggy pants nowadays.



Dave Gorman
Kernel Columnist

Nobody wants to see someone with a beer belly walking around in tight pants, unless you are from Hazard County.

This explains why you can tell the difference between high schoolers and college students when you see them at the mall.

High schoolers actually wear clothes that fit because they don't have meal cards and have not yet reached the legal drinking age.

High schoolers also have the latest in fashion design. College students are always bumming around with the last few clean articles of clothing that fit, whether it's because they have outgrown everything or are behind on laundry.

I know all about this "Freshman 15" myth because when I came to UK, I was a slim jim with a buzz cut and after a few months I gained 10 pounds. I had put on so much weight that a hobo at McDonald's confused me — of all people — with

a UK football player.

He thought I was Derrick Logan. This was odd, because I am white and correct me if I'm wrong but Logan is black and slightly quicker on his feet.

The very short man also told me and my friend, as we were busy eating Big Macs, that he was Larry Bird's brother. We wanted to know why on earth would The Bird leave his brother out in the cold like that but that's another story.

The only good news for those of you who have rapidly put on so much weight is the closing of Hardees' on the corner of Rose and Euclid.

Now the good people of Lexington and UK will no longer face the daily temptation of stuffing their faces with Texas Toast breakfast sandwiches and bacon cheeseburgers.

We can all thank THE MAN for taking that beautiful place down. However, we still have a huge problem with pre-

venting freshmen from falling prey to the "Freshman 15."

Despite all efforts to avoid a cliché, you are what you eat. And most appropriate would not want to be what they eat. For instance, no one wants to be a fat cow pun intended.

If the great Chris Farley was in my shoes, well, he probably wouldn't be able to fit his enormous ass behind this puny desk to even type this column.

But he would advise you all to stop feeding your face 24 hours a day, or else all your buttons will spontaneously pop off your shirt.

You will not be able to make a good impression in a job interview with a rump the size of your pants. And you will end up flat broke, with no clothes that fit. "Livin' in a blue van down by the river!"

Kernel Columnist Dave Gorman is a journalism sophomore.

