



In history

Origins of peanut butter

In 1890, an unknown St. Louis physician supposedly encouraged the owner of a food products company, George A. Bayle Jr., to process and package ground peanut paste as a nutritious protein substitute for people with poor teeth who couldn't chew meat. The physician apparently had experimented by grinding peanuts in his hand-cranked meat grinder. Bayle mechanized the process and began selling peanut butter out of barrels for about 66 per pound.

— Source: <http://www.peanutbutterlovers.com/history/index.html>

Transportation

Need a car?

You know you need a car when:

10. Your passenger seat is on the National Register of Historic Places.
9. Instead of an air bag, there is a whoopee cushion taped to your steering wheel.
8. You lose the stoplight challenge to a 14-year-old on a moped.
7. 15 minute Jiffy Lube needs to keep your car for three days.
6. When you gas up, the attendant asks "Can I re-duct tape that windshield for you?"
5. Thieves repeatedly break in your car just to steal the "Club."
4. While sitting at a stop light, people keep running up to you and asking if anyone was hurt.
3. For the last five years, you've had to settle for making "vroom, vroom" noises while in the driveway.
2. You keep losing dates on left turns.
1. Traffic reporters start referring to you by name when discussing morning tie-ups.

— Source: <http://members.aol.com/funnyfirm/bits.htm>

— RON NORTON

THE 411

Tomorrow's weather



51 36
Hi Lo

After today's continuing rain showers, we should expect to see some sunshine tomorrow.

Kentucky Kernel

VOL. #104 ISSUE #122
ESTABLISHED IN 1892
INDEPENDENT SINCE 1971

News tips?

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

KERNEL

March 24, 1999

Big time

Chesney now begins life as a major country music star! 6



<http://www.kykernel.com>

LIVING HOPE

Cart delivers gift of hope

Jarrett Myneer's desire to fight cancer and aid other kids do the same has Children's Hospital pitching in to help cause

By Pat Clem
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

One special 10-year-old kid is bringing hope and joy to others at the UK Children's Hospital. He is doing it through a program that began yesterday at 11 a.m. at the Children's Hospital.

His name is Jarrett Myneer, and he has myelodysplasia cancer, an early stage of leukemia. It is this kid's goodwill and brainstorming that has brought about Jarrett's Joy Cart.

Jarrett's Joy Cart is a program that brings toys to sick children in the hospital. Each sick child gets to pick one toy off Jarrett's wagon.

"It feels great to be able to help these kids because I have been in that situation," Jarrett said. "It can get awfully lonely."

Jarrett has been fighting cancer all of his life.

"He got wings cancer at the ages of 2-and-a-half, 5-and-a-half, and 7-and-a-half," said Jennifer Myneer, Jarrett's mom. "He

got this last cancer at the age of 9."

The program relies on donations in order to keep the toy cart stocked. The values of the toys are to be kept under \$10 in order to provide each kid an equal gift to keep.

Jarrett got the idea from being treated in a Seattle hospital where they had a similar program.

"He looked at me one day and said, 'Mom I want to do that' (have a toy cart)," Jennifer said. "He missed not having that cart come around while he was here at the UK Children's Hospital."

But it wasn't about the material possession, Jarrett said, it was about loneliness.

"It wasn't about getting the toys," he said. "It was something to look forward to each week, some kids don't get a lot of visitors."

The sick children at the hospital were glad to receive a gift from the wagon.

"I think it's a cool cause," said Danielle Brinkman, a 13-year-old who is sick with encephalitis, a viral infection. "I chose this Beanie Baby because it looks

like my dog, Buddy."

Jarrett had a bone marrow transplant last summer. The marrow was donated by his then-6-year-old sister.

"It was rough," Jennifer said. "If we didn't do it there was no hope, and if we did then there was very little."

But Jarrett is doing well and returned to school two weeks ago. He is in the 5th grade.

"He loves it, he loves school," Jennifer said. "He just doesn't like the homework." Jarrett doesn't have any problems with his classmates due to his partially bald head and small body.

"It's funny," Jennifer said. "Me and him will stand in the hall and if someone says something to him about his hair, the rest of the kids will jump in and take up for him."

The program will run once every two weeks, provided donations are adequate.

"The key is that Jarrett is really committed to this, and he has to be to keep it running," said Ame Sweetall, director of Fund Development for the Children's Hospital. "He's quite a kid."

Donations can be made by calling Jennifer Myneer at 223-5879 or Ame Sweetall at 257-1121.



ROBIE HILGER | KERNEL STAFF

Fun in the rain

Tim Byland (right), a women's studies senior, tried to make a move past Brian Dixon yesterday. Dixon, a first-year graduate student in social work, and Byland played basketball outside on the courts near Blazer Hall on one of the cold and rainy days that have begun to sweep the Ohio Valley area this week. Today's weather forecast calls for more rain and thunderstorms, with a high of 57 and a low tonight of 42.

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

Keeneland going Sadie

Resistance hall will hold a Sadie Hawkins dance this Friday to give UK students an alternative way of partying this weekend

Jennifer Caldwell
STAFF WRITER

The Sadie Hawkins Dance may sound like any other dance, but this American tradition is anything but normal, and it has come to UK.

Sponsored by Keeneland Hall, the Sadie Hawkins Dance allows girls to ask the beau of their choice to go to a party, instead of the more traditional fashion.

Lisa Duff, a family studies senior and resident adviser at Keeneland Hall, said the idea for a Sadie Hawkins Dance was brought up earlier this year by April Proctor, a fellow RA at Keeneland, during one

of their programming meetings.

"A teacher told me there used to be a little comic strip with a little girl called Sadie Hawkins," said Proctor, a family studies junior. "In it the girls asked the guys to the dance."

Held in the Keeneland Hall basement, which will be transformed into a country setting with balloons and lights, the Sadie Hawkins Dance will give students a chance to party without worrying about dressing up.

"Traditionally, at a Sadie Hawkins Dance, you wear country attire," said Doug Broecker, Keeneland's assis-

tant hall director and an accounting and management senior.

Broecker said that coveralls and jeans were going to be the expected clothes of choice, but that some may come in more formal attire since the dance is being held on a Friday night.

Broecker said the staff at Keeneland Hall wants to start having two dances a year, the formal Snowball and informal Sadie Hawkins.

"Two UK police officers will be on hand to provide security to keep everything running smoothly."

"Just in case anything happens, we have to have them there," Proctor said.

Music will be provided by DJ Keith Brockman, who also supplied the music for the Second Time Around Dance, sponsored earlier this

year by the Honor's Program, Patterson Hall and Boyd Hall.

Food will be supplied by Billy's Barbecue, and Slone's Market will also be providing other refreshments such as potato salad, chips and soda.

There is a \$1 admission fee required at the door the night of the dance.

No tickets will be sold in advance.

The admission cost will help pay for the food provided at the dance.

"It will help cover it and the rest of the money is coming from our programming account, which each resident pays into from their housing fee," Broecker said.

The dance will be held on Friday in the Keeneland Hall basement from 8 p.m. until 12 a.m.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Schuler: Only one election this year

SGA taking steps to prevent repeating last year's mistakes

Richard Cook and
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Lisa Gentry
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Joe Schuler only plans to supervise one Student Government Association election this year.

Schuler, chair of the Elections Board of Supervisors and social work senior, and other SGA members have taken steps to make sure students only have to vote one time for their favorite candidate, unlike last year.

"Last year the elections were held one week after Spring Break, which didn't give us much time to prepare," Schuler said.

In last year's election three claims were filed by candidates requesting re-elections.

"Several allegations were investigated last year," said Nate Brown, SGA president.

"Last year, they had to shut down three voting booths (around campus)," Brown said. "They did not have enough poll workers at all the locations."

Immediately after last year's re-election, which was held at the end of April, a committee was formed to make clarifications about the proper dates and procedures for SGA elections.

This year's elections will be held March 31 and April 1, giving candidates and election board members time to prepare for the elections. There are now nine members on the board instead of the five members that were on last year's board.

"This gives us a few more people to monitor things and to fill in at booths in case people don't show," Schuler said.

Brown said he is confident in Schuler's abilities as election supervisor. He said Schuler has lots of SGA experience that will help prevent a recurrence of last year's problems.

Schuler has also taken steps to make sure there are enough people to run each booth at the 11 voting sites.

"Last year we didn't have people assigned to some of the sites, so we had to shut the booths down," Schuler said.

This year the list of registered campus organizations for booth supervision is full and some organizations have been turned away.

"We just have to make sure that the people who signed up follow through," Brown said.

But Schuler said there will be backup organizations on hand to cover a poll if there is a problem with the assigned organization.

"We have had a lot more time this year to prepare and we are ready," Schuler said.

HONORS

6 to be inducted into Hall of Fame

STAFF REPORT

Six Kentucky journalists have been named to the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame. An induction ceremony will be held on Monday, April 5 at the UK School of Journalism and Telecommunications, home of the Hall of Fame.

The journalists honored are:

• L. Willis Cole, owner and publisher of The Louisville Leader, an African-American newspaper launched in 1917, also a member of the National Black Press Hall of Fame at Howard University.

• Earl Cox, a sports columnist for The Voice-Tribune and former executive sports editor for The Courier-Journal and Louisville Times, helped form the Associated Press Sports Editor group.

• Walt Dear, former publisher of The Gleaner in Henderson;

• Joe Dorris, former editor, columnist and publisher of Kentucky New Era in Hopkinsville;

See HALL on 2 >>>

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS

The Low-down

Just for you ...

For expanded Kosovo coverage, please turn to page 4.



I learned to hate my own body from having people around me who hated theirs."

Molly Jong-Fast, aspiring writer and daughter of feminist author Erica Jong, about how she used to consider herself ugly and was obsessed with beauty treatments as a child.



STRICKLAND FOUND DEAD: Actor David Strickland, who played the childish rock critic on the NBC sitcom "Suddenly Susan," has died in Las Vegas, the show's producer said Monday. Strickland, 28, appeared to have hanged himself, news reports said.



SADDLE UP: James Van Der Beek and Dylan McDermott are saddling up to star in *Texas Rangers*, a long-delayed project that was expected to be the last film directed by Sam Peckinpah. The drama is about how a ragtag group of youngsters banded together after the Civil War to form the Texas Rangers, a group charged with the dangerous and ruthless duty of cleaning up the West.

Nato approves bombing campaign

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — Saying all efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement had failed, NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana ordered airstrikes against Yugoslavia yesterday, but it was not known when the operations would begin.

More than 400 aircraft from allied nations stood ready for bombings that officials indicated were likely within days or hours. Half a dozen U.S. Navy ships were ready to launch cruise missiles. U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke declared peace talks with Yugoslavia's president on Kosovo a failure, and Yugoslav officials declared a state of emergency — one step below a state of war.

Attack to target radar, missiles

WASHINGTON — An initial bombing campaign against Yugoslavia would be an attempt to blind the country's extensive network of air defense radars and missiles, officials said yesterday. American forces would lead the bombing, bringing a barrage of cruise missiles from Navy ships and submarines and Air Force jets. Once the Yugoslavian air defenses had been damaged, a variety of manned aircraft, including U.S. and allied F-16s and American F-15s, would have a less risky opportunity to target weapon depots and Serb troop concentrations.

Russia stays firm on Kosovo

MOSCOW — Russia's Defense Minister Igor Sergeev said yesterday that Russia would step up its combat readiness if NATO attacked Yugoslavia, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported. But the Russian military, short of everything from weapons to food, is thought to be close to collapse. After years of decline, Russia's economy is in tatters, unable to sustain any kind of meaningful tactical military operation.

Poll: U.S. split over Kosovo attack

WASHINGTON — Less than half of Americans in a Gallup survey say they favor the United States being part of a military action against Serb targets, and four out of five believe the president should get approval from Congress before sending troops to Kosovo. Americans felt similarly about ordering troops into Bosnia in October 1995. A survey conducted then showed that 79

percent believed the president first needed the approval of Congress.

2000 race unlikely to see Jackson

WASHINGTON — Two-time Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson apparently will announce tomorrow that he will not make a bid for the White House in 2000. Jackson this weekend said he was "not very motivated to at this point" to challenge Vice President Al Gore for the Democratic nomination. Former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley is the only announced candidate for the Democratic nomination.

McDougal takes witness stand

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Former Clinton business partner Susan McDougal, facing obstruction of justice and contempt charges for refusing to answer questions about Whitewater, yesterday agreed to answer queries from Kenneth Starr's prosecutors. Mrs. McDougal said Clinton's testimony in her 1996 fraud trial was truthful. She also said she never discussed with Clinton a fraudulent \$300,000 loan in her name.

States, feds create 'Cyberforce'

WASHINGTON — To fight Internet investment scams, state regulators are going undercover online and federal authorities have a "Cyberforce" that does electronic surveillance. Both sides, however, face a daunting task with limited resources in combating growing instances of Internet fraud, top officials said yesterday at a Senate hearing. The mushrooming use of the Internet by financial con artists has forced the SEC to take resources away from other fraud areas, officials said.

Dow ends down 218.69 points

NEW YORK — Stocks fell sharply yesterday, with the Dow tumbling toward 9,600 just days after rising above 10,000, as investors grew uneasy about technology company earnings and the outlook for interest rates. The Dow fell 218.69 points to close at 9,671.83. It was the 11th biggest point drop ever for the Dow, but wasn't close to a record in terms of a percentage decline. On the NYSE, losers led gainers 2,341-688. The NASDAQ was down 73.18 at 2,822.76.

Converse wants to dump Rodman

BOSTON — Unpredictable NBA star Dennis Rodman said he can be counted on to fight a shoe manufacturer's termination of his \$15 million endorsement contract. Converse is ending its contract with Rodman about one year before it was to expire, according to a source familiar with the situation. Analysts say Converse's decision has to do with the declining popularity of expensive athletic shoes. "Dennis has a contract with Converse," Rodman's spokesman, Matt Labov, said. "Dennis has not breached any terms of the contract and we expect Converse to honor the contract."

Compiled from wire reports.

ACADEMICS

Gaines Center announces 12 new fellows

STAFF REPORT

The UK Gaines Center for the Humanities announced 12 new Gaines Fellows. Each will receive a \$5000 fellowship.

The 12 sophomores will participate in humanities seminars throughout their junior and senior years. They will also write a senior thesis.

The recipients are:
●George Haviland Argo III, undeclared from Cynthiana;

●Amanda Diane Chiles, a psychology major from Lexington;
●Jonathan D. Daugherty, a classics major from Central City;

●John Eifler, a physics major from Louisville;

●Rebecca D. Green, a linguistics and French major from Sandy Hook;
●Laura Marschner, a

classics major from Villa Hills;

●Glenn Rudolph, a Spanish and international economics major from Georgetown;

●Amy Elizabeth Shelton, an English, Spanish and economics major from Louisville;

●Kelley Ann Shields, a communications and economics major from Owensboro;

●Brittany Annette Strobel, an anthropology and English major from Louisville;

●Kristina Talbert, an agricultural biotechnology, Russian and eastern studies major from Henderson;

●James J. Varellas III, a history major from Lexington.

The Gaines Fellowship program was started in 1964 by John and Joan Gaines as a place to foster the undergraduate study of the humanities.

HALL

Continued from page 1

●Richard "Dick" Wilson, Lexington bureau chief for The Courier-Journal, spent four decades with The Courier-Journal;

●Sue Wylie, moderator on "Your Government," a public-issues program on

WLEX-TV for three decades. WLEX-TV noon news anchor.

The ceremony is being held in conjunction with the 22nd annual Joe Creason Lecture in the UK Singletary Center for the Arts.

GOOFS

Corrections

Monday's edition should have said UK guard Wayne Turner would have been in his fourth Final Four in his four years at UK had the Cats advanced.

To report an error call The Kentucky Kernel at 257-1915.

WIDESPREAD PANIC

SPRING TOUR 1999

Friday April 23rd, 1999.
Memorial Coliseum 8 pm.

UK Student ticket lottery starts 8:30 am Sat. March 27th, @ the Student Center.

Must have valid UKID, \$17 per seat, limit four.

General Public Sale, March 29th, 10:30 am.

For more info. call: 257-TICS

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WORLD

Strikes against Kosovo OK'd

Green light: NATO ends speculation by approving airstrikes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Clinton prepared the American people on Tuesday for an imminent attack on Serb targets, acknowledging U.S. forces would be put at risk. Congress fell in behind him, shelving a move to keep the American troops away from Yugoslavia.

"I want to level with you," Clinton said in a speech to a union group and the American public at large. "This is like any other military action. There are risks in it."

But he said that patient American diplomacy had reached a dead end and that Serb troops were terrorizing and murdering civilians in Kosovo. "We have to take a stand now," Clinton said. "If we don't do it now, we will have to do it later."

NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana gave the go-ahead Tuesday for the airstrikes, saying all efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement had failed. But it remained uncertain when the bombardment would occur.

Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov dramatically registered Moscow's opposition to the attack by canceling a visit to Washington even while his plane was in the air.

The Senate had been scheduled to take a key procedural vote Tuesday on legislation by Republican leaders designed to keep Clinton from using U.S. military power in the Balkans crisis without support from Congress first.

But after Clinton called senior members of the Senate and House to the White House to receive a report on envoy Richard Holbrooke's failure to budge Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic on Kosovo, Senate leaders shifted gears.

"That is a debate for another time. We are at a critical hour," Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a potential presidential candidate in 2000, told the Senate after the meeting. He said

with a bombing campaign imminent, it was no time to undermine Clinton's role as commander in chief. At the White House meeting and later at a Democratic Senate meeting with members of Clinton's national security team, lawmakers were told to expect the strikes, Tuesday evening or Wednesday, depending on the weather, according to participants who spoke on condition of anonymity.

House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., invited Clinton to appear before a joint House-Senate session after the attack to explain his decisions on Kosovo. Clinton said he would consider it, said House Republican officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Later, Clinton sent a letter to Congress expressly asking for congressional support for the upcoming airstrikes. "Mr. Milosevic should have no doubt about our resolve," Clinton wrote. "Therefore, without regard to our differing views on the Constitution about the use of force, I ask for your legislative support as we address the crisis in Kosovo."

In Belgrade, Yugoslav officials declared a state of emergency — one step below a state of war — mobilizing troops and putting the army on a high state of alert. It was the first such nationwide declaration since World War II.

Foreign airlines were halting flights to Belgrade, and the U.S. Embassy, along with most European Union embassies and the U.N. humanitarian agency, prepared to close Wednesday.

"A great tragedy is unfolding here," Richard Miles, the ranking American diplomat in Belgrade, cabled Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, referring to the shuttering of the embassy. "This does not make any of us happy," Miles said as the 22 remaining American diplomats prepared to evacuate.

Sweden took on a caretaker role, promising to look after any urgent needs of any re-

maining Americans.

Earlier Tuesday, with the airstrikes all but inevitable, Primakov abruptly called off a long-scheduled meeting with Vice President Al Gore. According to White House accounts, Gore called Primakov to inform him of the "worsening situation" in Yugoslavia and the prime minister had the plane turn around over the Atlantic and head back to Moscow.

Russia, with historical and cultural ties to the Serbs, has long opposed any attack on the Serbs even while joining with the United States and four European nations to formulate the self-rule plan for Kosovo that Milosevic rejected.

In an effort to patch up differences with Moscow, Albright spoke by telephone for more than a half-hour with her Russian counterpart, Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, according to Albright's spokesman, James P. Rubin. Albright told him she hoped the United States and Russia could find a way "to deal with the situation and continue to work in other ways," Rubin said.

Albright also conferred twice by telephone with Solana, the NATO chief, and talked separately with Foreign Ministers Hubert Vedrine of France, Robert Cook of Britain and Joschka Fischer of Germany.

Solana's orders directed Gen. Wesley Clark, supreme allied commander in Europe, to initiate action with the more than 400 allied aircraft and a half-dozen missiles carrying ships at sea.

Solana, speaking at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, said the attacks would be directed at weakening the Serb army and special police forces and reducing their ability to cause humanitarian catastrophe.

More than 2,000 people have died and hundreds of thousands have been driven from their homes in nearly 13 months of conflict in Kosovo, the southern province of Serbia.



President Clinton yesterday addressed the nation about the airstrikes aimed at Kosovo.

UK

Priority Registration
Summer and Fall 1999

March 29 - April 20

See the *Schedule of Classes* for details.

<http://www.uky.edu/Registrar/schedule.html>

HOME TEXTILE OUTLETS

Home Textile Outlets, Inc. has part-time employment opportunities at their new Lexington store at 814 Cluett Ave. (Next to Charlie Browns).

If you have retail experience or design knowledge and are interested in working in this home specialty store, please call 502-893-6277 and speak to Linda Rowley or mail a resume to: Linda Rowley, Home Textiles Outlet 2724 Frankfort Ave. Louisville, KY 40206 Your resume may also be faxed to 502-899-5979

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Wednesday 3/24

The Campus Calendar is produced weekly by the Office of Student Activities. Postings in the calendar are free to all registered student organizations and UK Departments. Information can be submitted in Rm. 203, Student Center or by completing a request form on line at <http://www.uky.edu/StudentCenter>. Posting requests are due ONE WEEK PRIOR to the Monday information is to appear in the calendar. For more information call 257-8866

ACADEMIC
• Internship and Shadowing Orientation, 2-4pm, Rm 111 Student Center

MEETINGS
• Fellowship of Christian Athletes meeting, 9pm, CSF Bldg. (corner of Woodland & Columbia)

STUDENT MEAL AND DISCUSSION 5pm, Newman Center
• French Conversation Table 4:30-6pm, Divd's Cafe
• Holy Eucharist at St. Augustine's Episcopal Chapel, 12:05pm & 6pm
• Lambda Sigma Interest Meeting, 8:30-9:30pm, 205 Student Center, call Marlene at 3-3265 for info

INTRAMURALS/RECREATION
• Aikido Classes/UK Aikido Club, 6:30-8:30pm, Alumni Gym Loft, call Chris at 245-5887 for info

Thursday 3/25

• Lifeguarding Classes (3/24-3/31), cost is \$100, call Tish at 7-7946 for info

• Spring Guarding Classes (3/24-3/31), cost is \$100, call Tish at 7-7946 for info

• UK Crusade For Christ weekly meeting, 7:30pm, Worsham Theatre

• UK Lambda meeting for Lesbians/gays people, 7:30pm, Room 221 Student Center

• Thursday Night Live, 7pm, Christian Student Fellowship, call 223-0313 for info

• UK College Republicans meeting, 8pm, 205 Student Center

SPORTS
• UK Ultimate Frisbee Practice, 6-8pm, Band Field, call Nick at 281-1256 for info

Friday 3/26

• Spring Gathering sponsored by the UK Appalachian Student Council, 11-2pm, Free Speech Area

SPECIAL EVENTS
• French Poetry Reading, 5pm, Blanding 1 Basement

• SAB Applications Available in Room 203 Student Center - Apply Now for President, Vice President, Communication Director, and Committee Chair Positions

Saturday 3/27

ARTS/MOVIES
• Senior Percussion Recital: John Best, 8pm, Singletary Center

ACADEMIC
• Master Student Program, Sign up in advance, seating is limited! call 257-6959 for info

RELIGIOUS
• Catholic Mass 6pm, Newman Center

INTRAMURALS
• Soccer Tournament thru 3/28

ARTS/MOVIES
• Senior Saxophone Recital: Jeremy Long, 3pm, Singletary

Sunday 3/28

Center
• Senior Euphonium Recital: Matt Hemenway, 7pm, Singletary Center

ACADEMIC
• Master Student Program, Sign up in advance, seating is limited! call 257-6959 for info

RELIGIOUS
• Catholic Mass 9am, 11:30am, 5pm, 8:30pm, Newman Center

• Sunday Morning Worship, 11am, Christian Student Fellowship

• Holy Eucharist at St. Augustine's Episcopal Chapel, 10:30am & 6pm

MEETINGS
• Phi Sigma Pi meeting, 7pm, 230 Student Center

ARTS
• UK Orchestra Concert, 3pm, Singletary Center, FREE

• Five-Orchestra Concert Lecture, 2pm, Fine Arts Room 17

INTRAMURALS/RECREATION
• Aikido Classes/UK Aikido Club, 1-3pm, Alumni Gym Loft, call Chris at 245-5887 for info

WIDESPREAD PANIC

Tickets on sale March 27. Lottery at 8:30 am Student Center. Limit 4 tickets per student with UKID. \$17

Concert dates: April 23 8:00 pm. Memorial Coliseum, call 257-7163 for info. Sponsored by SAB

kykernel.com

Be A Leader

JOIN SAB

11 Executive and Committee Chair Positions Available. Applications in 203 Student Center Deadline: March 31

jsjo

Celebrate Passover with the Jewish Student Organization /Hillel Foundation

First Seder on Wednesday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m.

Reservations required by Friday, March 26

Call 278-2530 or 257-7531 for reservations and information

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See Us at the Job Fair March 24!



JAMES CRISP | KERNEL STAFF

Freshman Jules Camara will help lead a young UK men's squad next year as the Cats will have just one regular senior, Jamaal Magloire, in the lineup. UK's big men will play a big role.

BASKETBALL BLURBS

Cats' future is bright



Matt May
SPORTSDAILY EDITOR

Wishing I was in St. Pete notes: All was not lost for UK's men's basketball program with Sunday's 73-66 loss to Michigan State. Despite not making the Final Four for the first time in four years, the Cats may have found the future to be a little brighter.

Once again, UK will be losing a great deal with the departures of seniors Heshimu Evans, Scott Padgett and Wayne Turner. Those three players, UK's top three scorers, were the last of the old regime that started UK's run to the top in 1996.

But if the past is any indication, UK doesn't rebuild, it reloads, and with the stable of talent returning and on the way, it won't be long before the Cats are back on top.

This year's freshmen started off shaky, but proved in the tournament that they are the key to UK's future. Desmond Allison, who started the last 17 games of the season, showed a defensive prowess and athleticism

that rivals that of any other freshman in the country. Allison can also fill it up on the offensive end, even though that wasn't seen this season because he was asked to play the role of a defensive stopper.

Tayshaun Prince, the highly-touted McDonald's All-American from Compton, Calif., started at shooting guard early in the year, then was relegated to the bench after a slow start. Prince, who looked like he lacked the intensity level necessary in college early on, came on strong towards the end of the season, earning quality minutes at small forward and shooting guard.

Prince opened eyes against Michigan State with a perfect shooting day (3-for-3 from the field, 2-for-2 from three-point range and 4-for-4 from the line), and should be the Cats starter at small forward next year.

You heard it here first, Jules Camara will be great. He has an athleticism and leaping ability that very few athletes possess, and he's 6-foot-11. Camara can shoot, rebound, block shots, defend and put on a dizzying array of post moves. All he needs is some strength and he will dominate games.

So, UK fans, don't fret, the Cats will be back and they will return to the Final Four in the next several years.

● In another sign that the apocalypse is near, Tennessee's women's basketball team was upset Monday night in the Elite Eight, thus thwarting its effort to win a fourth-straight National Championship, something never done before in women's basketball.

First UK, then Tennessee. What's the world coming to? Much like UK's loss to Michigan State, where the three seniors had a difficult time getting off shots and scoring, Tennessee's All-World senior, Chamique Holdscaw, tallied only 8 points. She was a shocking 2-for-18 shooting the ball, and turned it over five times, something unheard of for the only collegiate player selected for the 2000 Olympic Summer Games.

● I'm glad Dennis Rodman has returned from his leave of absence from the Los Angeles Lakers. Rodman was said to be working out "personal problems," which he described as "deciding if he wanted to play basketball anymore."

I bet Rodman had a lot of quiet time to reflect and come to a decision while he was playing the slot machines in Las Vegas.

Matt May is a journalism junior and can be reached at mmay0@pop.uky.edu

MONEY TALKS

Jury, athletic commission looking into fight fix

Soaring fight odds just before the Holyfield-Lewis championship bout have many wondering about the authenticity of the outcome

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gambling regulators are looking into a flurry of late betting on Evander Holyfield that sent odds soaring just before he stepped into the ring with Lennox Lewis.

A million dollars or more may have been bet on Holyfield in the hours before the March 13 fight at Madison Square Garden. The bets not only changed the fight odds, but drew the attention of the Nevada Gaming Control Board because of the way they were placed.

Almost all of the money ended up being re-funded to bettors when the fight was ruled a draw, even though Holyfield appeared to have lost.

The probe by gambling regulators comes on top of investigations by a Manhattan grand jury, a state Senate committee and the New York State Athletic Commission.

Nevada investigators are primarily concerned with whether the money was bet on behalf of one individual or group by so-called "messenger" bettors, which is against Nevada law.

But a source close to the probe told The Associated Press that the agency was also working with out-of-state agencies investigating the fight.

More than \$1 million might have been bet just before the fight in Las Vegas sports books and those run out of the Caribbean, causing the odds favoring Holyfield to jump.

One longtime Las Vegas bettor said the betting pattern was so unusual that he suspected the money was bet with inside knowledge of what the outcome might be.

"This was a real scam, except it didn't work," said Lem Banker, a well respected sports bettor in the industry. "There was a lot of what I call 'unnatural money' wagered on Holyfield."

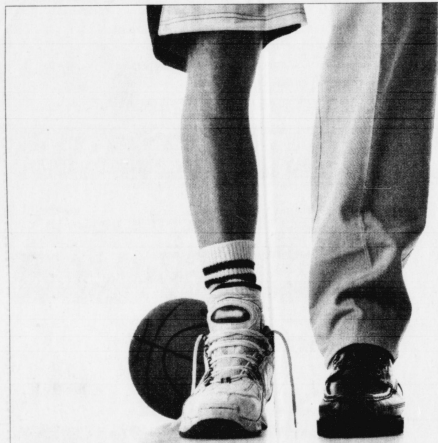
Then just before the fight began, a rush of

money pushed odds to as much as 8-5 and 9-5 on Holyfield, said Pete Korner of Las Vegas Sports Consultants.

"Obviously somebody or some group was playing Holyfield very late," Korner said. "They did their homework well waiting for the price to come down before they bet it."

Joe Lupo, sports book director at the Stardust hotel, said the late Holyfield money caused the line to move from minus 130 to minus 160 (8-5) just before the fight. But Lupo said he believes the bets were not out of the ordinary.

"I didn't see any unusual betting," Lupo said. "It was all small money, no real large wagers." The Mirage had no comment, according to spokeswoman Jenn Michels.



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SOFTBALL

Cats get their cuts in over marathon break

By Jonathan Dobson
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

While many UK students were scattered across Daytona Beach, San Diego and all points in between over the past week, the UK softball Wildcats were busy barnstorming through three Spring Break tournaments.

The Cats went 1-2 in the rain-shortened Frost Cutlery Tournament at UT Chattanooga and posted a 1-4 record in the Winthrop Invitational.

Sandwiched between those tournaments was the highlight of the trip, a second-place showing at the Coastal Carolina Invitational.

UK won three of five, losing in the final to nationally ranked Illinois-Chicago.

"The trip was a learning experience, more than anything," said junior catcher Sarah Snider.

"We're getting ready to go into conference play, and we're using all these games to get ready for that."

UK was led over the break by sophomores Leslie Kwiatkowski and Tiffany Kruse.

Over her last nine games, Kwiatkowski went 11-for-26 at the plate with three doubles, two home runs and seven runs scored.

Kruse leads the ballclub at .402 and holds team highs in hits and RBIs. She knocked her first collegiate home run in the Winthrop tournament, a grand slam to right-center in the Cats' 9-0 win over

Samford. Kwiatkowski feels that, while still not as consistent as they could be, the team is playing well and has improved over the last few weeks.

"We kind of go up and down, but our hitting has been a lot better lately. We've been scoring a lot more runs," she said.

"We'll come out and score six or seven runs a game where before we would only score one or two. It comes and goes, but we've been getting a lot better."

Snider said that as the conference portion of the Cats' schedule nears, the team needs to "buckle down and do things correctly, like playing as a team."

"We've been working on that up to this point, and now everything needs to

come together. Confidence games always have extra pressure," Snider said. "If we play like we can play, making the plays we know how to make, playing clean defense and hitting the ball, then we'll do really well."

The Wildcats will play the Eastern Kentucky Colonels in a double-header this afternoon at the Soccer/Softball Complex, with the first game beginning at 4 p.m.

Kwiatkowski said the team is ready for revenge after last year's battle.

"We played them three times last year, and the beat us all three times. They talk a lot of junk, and I'm ready to go get them," she said.

"I think we're at their level, definitely, or above. I think we'll get them."



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SPORTS BYTES

The Low-down

Baseball travels rocky road

The UK baseball squad had its ups and downs over the week, with the 'downs' occurring more often than the 'ups.'

This past weekend, for instance, against Ole Miss produced three 'downs,' otherwise known as losses.

Saturday produced an ugly outcome, with the Cats falling 9-1 to the Rebels, but only one run separated the teams in the other two games. UK gave up crucial runs in the late innings, including four in the bottom of the ninth on Friday to lose 7-6. UK came from behind on Sunday to tie the score at two, only to see the Rebels score the deciding third run in the eighth thanks to two doubles.

Juniors Breck Price and Ben Shaffer continued their heroic ways, with Price extending his hitting streak to 11 games and Shaffer recording eight strikeouts in the 9-1 defeat. Sophomore Brandon Webb also had a big night on Friday, notching 12 K's.

The Rebel's rout, though, dropped the Cats to 5-13 on the season and 1-5 in the South-

eastern Conference.

Before their trip to Oxford, Miss., the Cats enjoyed a 13-2 lambasting of Miami of Ohio at home on March 16.

The game was tied at two heading into the fifth, and nearly into the sixth, but with two outs, UK posted 11 runs. Junior Nathan Kent notched his first win by hurling six strikeouts in five innings and Price drove in a career-high four RBIs.

In their first conference series against Vanderbilt on March 13, UK won the second game of the double-header, 4-1. Webb earned his first win and recorded 10 strikeouts and a complete game in the process.

UK will travel to Morehead today for a 3 p.m. show-down and will host Mississippi State at home this weekend.

Men score upset

The UK men's tennis team may not have hit the beach over the break, but they hit balls past South Carolina.

The 21st-ranked Cats downed the 11th-ranked Gamecocks 4-3 in South Carolina last Wednesday.

The singles matches were tight, with UK (8-4, 1-1 South-

eastern Conference) and USC (9-5, 2-2 SEC) splitting the singles 3-3.

Doubles team John Hessoum and Patrick Johansson and tandem Tomas Smid and Edo Bawono picked up wins for the deciding doubles point.

On the downside, the Cats didn't fare as well against 4th-ranked Duke on Sunday. The Blue Devils (9-4) beat the Cats 4-3. UK will try to rebound this afternoon at home against No. 28 Alabama.

GymKats notch first SEC win

Over the break, the UK gymnastics squad managed to break some records on their way to their first Southeastern Conference win.

UK (9-8, 1-4 SEC) scored 195.25 to hand Auburn (193.30) and Pennsylvania (189.325) defeats.

Freshman Jennifer Simmons won the all-around competition thanks to a score of 39.375, and she posted a season-high 9.85 on the floor exercise.

Her run didn't end there. Simmons earned a perfect 10 from one judge in the vault, on her way to a first-place score of 9.975 in the event. The Cats also wrapped up second and third place in the vault, with Krissy Hoefler finishing second and Shawnte Hall grabbing third.

Compiled from staff reports.

Geometry 101: Ratios

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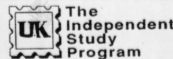


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KERNEL

Court TV

6 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1999 KENTUCKY KERNEL

Go home, children

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday allowed a city to continue imposing a nighttime curfew. The justices left intact a Charlottesville, Va., curfew for children under 17.

A nighttime curfew for minors, now employed by many American communities, has never been fully reviewed by the nation's highest court. The curfew controversy from Charlottesville stemmed from the city council's 1996 vote to impose curfew hours — midnight to 5 a.m. weekdays and 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays — for anyone under 17.

The curfew, which took effect in early 1997, contains exceptions for minors accompanied by a parent or on an errand for a parent and in possession of an explanatory note, or attending various school, religious or civic activities.

Testing their patience

WASHINGTON — The court's denial of review in an Indiana drug-testing case, meanwhile, is likely only to confuse the already murky legal status of student drug-testing.

Lawyers for the Anderson (Ind.) Community School Corp. had sought to revive at two Anderson high schools a drug-testing policy they called vital to "detering drug and alcohol use among students."

Test results had been disclosed only to parents and a designated school official, and had not been used for additional punishment.

The Supreme Court in 1995 ruled in an Oregon case that random drug tests for student athletes do not violate the Constitution's Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable searches, thus opening the door for policies like the Anderson school board's.

Compiled from wire reports.

Chain reaction

Readers are encouraged to submit letters to the editor and guest opinions to the Dialogue page.

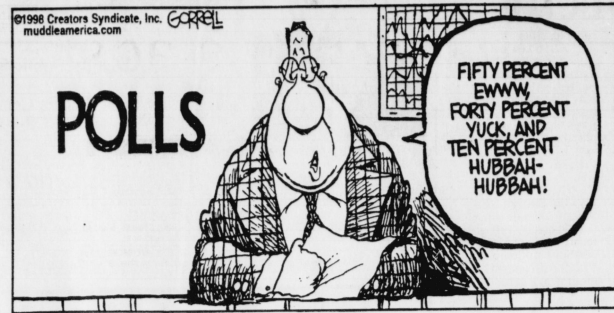
Address comments to: "Letters to the Editor," Kentucky Kernel 35 E. J. Grehan Journalism Building University of Kentucky Lexington, Ky. 40506-0042

Send electronic mail to kernel@pop.uky.edu.

Letters should be about 200 words; guest opinions should be no longer than 600 words. All material should be typewritten and double-spaced.

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

The Kernel reserves the right to edit all material received.



READERS' FORUM

Expressions

Thanks for your patience, Big Blue fans

To the editor:

My family operates two Burger King restaurants on Interstate 64. They are located in Mount Vernon and Okaville, Ill.

We were incredibly impressed with the kind and understanding nature of the Kentucky fans. They apparently have experience in taking over a restaurant with their sheer numbers, given the number of recent tournament locations they have visited. This, of course, is due to the success of the Kentucky basketball program.

What I am about to describe is actually a true story. There were a large number of fans that stopped at our store for dinner on the way back to Kentucky after the heart-wrenching loss to Michigan State. We were overwhelmed, considering Sunday nights at our store are rather mild for sales. Sensing that our employees were struggling to keep up, the Kentucky fans started cheering on the employees in an effort to motivate them as well as raise their spirits. We will never forget the experience, and we have been converted to fans of the Big Blue.

Our company is very grateful

for the unexpected increase in sales on Friday and Sunday. We will be better prepared to provide our friends from Kentucky with more "Southern Hospitality" the next time the Wildcats are on the road to the national championship! We are now loyal to the Blue and White!

DOUG KRUEP, DRK ENTERPRISES
 MOUNT VERNON, ILL.

The truth about Kurds and Kosovo

To the editor:

The United States has forced the Serbian government and Albanian separatists to negotiate the independence of Kosovo, under the threat of airstrikes. This may be the first time in history where the air force of a superpower has been used to support a guerrilla army.

At the same time, the United States has been supplying helicopter gunships and F-16s to Turkey, which have been used in attacks on Kurdish villages. Thousands of villages have been destroyed, resulting in hundreds of thousands of refugees. Kurdish spokespeople say that U.S. and Israeli intelligence was used in the recent capture of Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of their guerrilla army.

the PKK.

The U.S. media has given extensive coverage to massacres and refugees in Kosovo and almost no coverage to the much worse problem of massacres and refugees in Southeastern Turkey.

Why is the United States supporting one guerrilla army and attempting to defeat another guerrilla army? Why are the Kurds terrorists and the Albanian separatists freedom fighters? Why is an independent Kosovo good and an independent Kurdistan bad? Why is the U.S. media outraged over massacres in Kosovo and ignorant of the slaughter of Kurds?

There are logical answers. After the Soviet Union and the rest of Eastern Europe went capitalist, the breakup of Yugoslavia (the last socialist state in Europe) was very important to U.S. policymakers. This explains support for the Albanian guerrillas, but does not excuse the massacres committed by Serbs in Bosnia and Kosovo.

Turkey has long been an important anti-communist ally of the United States. It is located on the border of the former Soviet Union and has U.S. military bases. Behind all the fine rhetoric about freedom, democracy and human rights, the prime motivating factor of U.S. foreign policy has always been the preservation of capitalism and the opening up of foreign markets to U.S. capital investment. Notice how warm and fuzzy our relations with China became once the Chinese government let American corporations exploit the extremely cheap labor in China.

GARY SUDBOROUGH
 BELLFLOWER, CALIF.

Check out www.kykernel.com for more letters to the editor.

Gregg Casillo

GUEST OPINION

Tiny sizes and big appetites don't mix

Who devised the system used to label nutritional facts on food products? The Lilliputians? Calista Flockhart? When did a quarter-cup of rice qualify as one serving? That's barely enough rice to stick to the side of the pot. That's garnish territory, not a meal. Six grains of rice does not extinguish an appetite.

It gets worse. A 12-ounce can of soda has one-and-a-half servings. You are not expected to finish the can, according to the nutrition label. They don't think you have what it takes to finish a can. How does that make you feel?

Attempt to eat healthy, and you will notice this culinary paradox. You will also strengthen your multiplication tables figuring out how many calories you are really consuming. That's probably why they made the serving sizes so small. People have trouble with long division.

Let's go back to the rice and take a closer look. One serving sticks to the pot, two servings approaches the appetizer zone, and three or four servings makes a serving appropriate for anyone with a modest level of activity (i.e., getting out of bed).

Another favorite beverage, coffee, also has a miserly serving size: six ounces. Six ounces does not make a person shake and sweat, and we all know that is the level of awareness we look for in a cup of coffee.

Now we know why we go back for that second (or third or fourth) cup of coffee. This also explains why espresso in its many forms has gained such a following. Espresso is to coffee what uncut cocaine is to baking soda. Try it if you have not already. That is, the espresso, not the cocaine!

If we ate meals according to a 2,000 calorie diet and the recommended serving sizes on nutritional labels, we would be a lean, homicidal nation.

This could explain why our soldiers are made to rely on food stamps. You would be triger-tappy too if you had to ration your Tang and Spam.

Perhaps the wacky nutrition labels explain why we like to go out to eat. Eating out alleviates the need to calculate serving sizes and calories out the seventh significant digit. No scientific notation necessary when ordering from a menu. The bizarre serving sizes probably explain why we have trouble finishing meals when we eat out as well.

We're so used to those stingy nutritional serving sizes. Next thing you know Cowboy Jack slams down 26 serving sizes of sirloin or Giovanni slides 39 serving sizes of fettuccine in front of you. Being game, you pack away eight servings before throwing in the white napkin.

And you thought you were tough eating four servings of rice, didn't you?

Those cigarette ads are blowing smoke



Dave Gorman
 KERNEL COLUMNIST

tried their best to get a look at her without getting caught in a long gazing stare. And then it happened: She looked at me. She started walking toward me with those sexy brown eyes, only to have a cigarette held up to her lips. Then she asked me, "Do you have a light?"

It was like she went from the "girl of any man's dreams" to a mere "crack fiend." The music stopped, everyone went back to what they were doing and my mental fantasy of "La-La Land" went to a waste land. Her beautiful body dried up into an ashy skeleton; like a juicy grape to raisin. Needless to say, her need for a cigarette was a huge turnoff.

So I could only tell her that I didn't have a light, and then I walked on because she made me nauseous. What a shame it was.

Now, this scenario goes for guys too, not just girls. I use this example because I look at girls, not guys.

That's got to be the biggest turn-off in the world, I mean, there's a reason I sit in the non-smoking section: I don't want to smell your smoke! Why would I want to have a conversation with someone who

IN OUR OPINION

Grade A policy

Grade inflation should be remedied

It's been a year since UK undergraduates put plus/minus grading behind them. After a year of being used by the College of Arts and Sciences, the University Senate voted to disband the system.

But nationally, the issue is far from being resolved. Plus minus grading is only one method used to control a much larger issue: grade inflation.

Over the past few years, grade inflation has been an increasing trend in higher education. From private ivy-league schools to public universities to community colleges, an "A" no longer marks the level of excellence it once did.

As evidence, a July 1997 article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* revealed that the mean grade-point average at prestigious Duke University rose from 2.7 in 1969 to 3.3 in fall 1996.

Shocked by reports such as this, Eastern Kentucky University this fall will put into effect a plan designed to combat grade inflation. The plan has three parts: plus/minus grading, semester reports on average grades and the distribution of grades for each course, and an index on transcripts that will tell how students compared with their classmates.

Of course, this change is meeting opposition. Nevertheless, administrators feel this change is for the best. An EKU committee found that 13 years ago, one out of every 10 students made straight A's in a semester. Now the figures have jumped to one out of every three.

So why the increase? Maybe students are just working harder. Perhaps, but those in the know say probably not.

Instead, students who desire high grades pressure professors to give them those grades. Research has found that students equate grades with effort, not product. That's not the way it should be.

If a lesser-qualified student can get a letter grade as easily as a more intelligent, hard-working student, then grades can lose their meaning. In addition, professors are likely to be evaluated poorly by students who didn't feel their grades were properly inflated.

So in a time when competition is fierce and hard work is a must, more accurate grading seems to be a step in the right direction. Therefore, if the issue of plus/minus grading resurfaces again at UK, its implementation is not necessarily a problem. Just make sure the grading from A- all the way down the scale is fair.

was spitting out fumes like that? Try sitting in front of your car's exhaust pipe and hitting on it, that's how I would feel.

Smoking causes so many problems, and it's not even that satisfying from what I have tried and heard. It's just an addictive, useless product that sells because stupid people buy it. These advertisements in magazines make it look like if you're happy, you're smoking cigarettes. Wrong!

These ads show men and women that are in perfect shape with a tan at the beach simply enjoying life with a cigarette. They should show pictures of these people 10 years later. They would have saggy, wrinkled-up bodies with their bones showing through their skin.

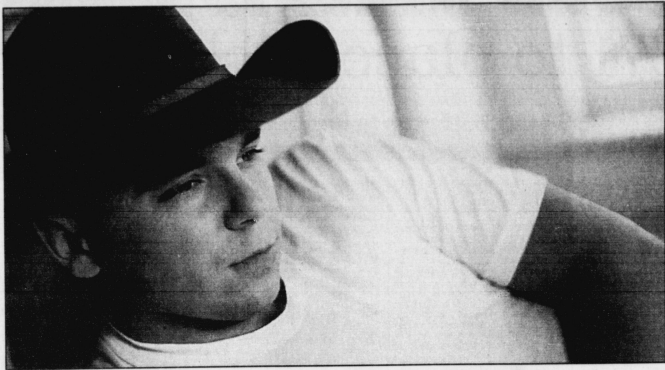
People take breaks from work to have a cigarette to relieve stress. They're really relieving themselves of an extra day of their lives. If that's how you want to live, then enjoy it while you can, because life is short, so you better smoke hard.

We see a glamorous picture of living a smoke-filled life. Cigarette companies have given us the idea that we become attractive to the opposite sex if we smoke cigarettes.

Well, I'm here to tell you that the opposite is true for me. I'm sure there are girls out there who feel the same way I do. Smoking is unhealthy, addictive, expensive and most of all, unattractive.

Now, put that in your pipe and smoke it!

MUSIC MUSINGS



Kenny Chesney amounted several hits on his first three albums, yet he has continued to wallow in obscurity. He hopes to change that with his new album, *Everywhere We Go*.

PHOTO FURNISHED

Chesney not so cheesy

Country music star Kenny Chesney takes the long road to stardom but finally hits big time

By Gary McCollum
STAFF WRITER

Sometimes superstardom in the music business can take longer than you would like. Just ask Kenny Chesney.

Since 1993 he had charted nine top 20-hits from his three previous BNA records, yet probably only die-hard country fans would probably be able to recognize him.

That's all starting to change, though. Last year, the Academy of Country Music named Chesney the New Artist of the Year, and since that time things have really started to pick up for Kenny. This summer he will begin to headline his own tour, but not until he finishes touring with the

"George Strait Country Music Festival."

In addition, Chesney has just released his fourth BNA record, *Everywhere We Go*. The album's first released single, "How Forever Feels," is still climbing both the singles and video country charts.

"How Forever Feels" is also a great example of how broad this album gets.

Chesney has become known for ballads like "Me and You" and "That's Why I'm Here," but "How Forever Feels" is a great up-tempo song that shows how wide this artist's talent can stretch.

"This album is a lot gutsier. It's much more tempo oriented than anything I've ever done before. As far as I'm concerned,

there are 11 different songs on here and 11 different themes," said Chesney in a news release.

Still, the album does have some great new ballads, leading off with "What I Need to Do." This is the opening track on the album and it's a good one. The constantly moving pace works well with the lyrics, and gives off a similar feel to Lee Ann Womack's hit "A Little Past Little Rock."

"You Had Me From Hello" is another strong track that will undoubtedly be released as a single.

The song is inspired from the classic line in *Jerry Maguire* and was written by Chesney and songwriter Skip Ewing.

The song does have some weaker moments, such as the entertaining, but somewhat annoying song, "She Thinks My Tractor's Sexy."

But even the songs that

aren't that great are pulled through by the ones that are.

Possibly the best song on the album is one that will never get played on country radio these days. The duet with Randy Travis, "Baptism," is way too country, not to mention way too religious, to get played on a radio station these days.

For those of you who enjoy country music, it is reason enough to buy the album.

But that song is not the only reason to buy the record. Chesney's latest release gives a wide range of songs to the country fan, and distinguishes him from many of the newer male country artists.

His sound has become one of the more notable ones in country music and on *Everywhere We Go* he proves why.

Grade: B

FILM THOUGHTS

'Commander' a cinematic crash

New film starring Christopher Blair makes for unoriginal and annoying entertainment

By Christopher Emmick
STAFF CRITIC

What does public access television shows and the movie *Wing Commander* have in common? Both happen to be funny only when you sit back and make fun of the stupidity that you are watching.

Granted one does not expect Oscar-winning material from a sci-fi action flick like *Wing Commander*. But the complete badness of this film was outstanding.

It's too bad that the film started out very well. The opening title screens had images of

a map of star systems, with various sound clips describing events leading from the Apollo landings in the 1960s to the setting of the movie in the 2100s. This opening scene was an innovative way to inform the viewers about the fictional events leading up to the movie's setting.

Despite the original opening scene, the movie quickly goes downhill from there. During the film viewers sense that they've seen the same characters before.

Christopher Blair (played by pretty-boy Freddie Prinze Jr.) is a troubled young man

who doesn't know his parents or his heritage, but is gifted with a special gift for piloting. Blair becomes the moral figure of the film and carries religious feelings stemming from his heritage. Hmmm... give the boy a lightsabre and you might as well call him Luke Skywalker.

But character types are not the only thing that are unoriginal in the film. Most science fiction films take pride in their futuristic technology (spaceships, laser guns, etc.) that prods the viewer's imagination of things to come. The look of the futuristic technology in the film was clearly designed from old World War II movies. The fighters looked exactly like P51 Mustangs and the larger ships were designed like the destroyers and battleships of today.

Watching the movie becomes painfully worse as it moves along because the horrible writing takes over. The plot moves along at a snail's crawl and all the plot twists become blatantly obvious.

For example, Todd 'Maniac' Marshall (played by Matthew Lillard), the crazy pilot friend of Blair, accidentally kills a fellow co-pilot while goofing off during battle. Unfortunately, the way Marshall and the other pilot's relationship is set up, the viewer can predict the other pilot's death not 10 minutes before it happens.

Wing Commander is so bad that the guys at "Mystery Science Theater 3000" could have a field day with this movie.

Rating: D-

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