

# Kentucky Kernel

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Wednesday, September 7, 1988

## VA head denies agency cutting its number of hospital beds

By CHARLES WOLFE  
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The head of the Veterans Administration denied yesterday that his agency was cutting back on hospital and nursing home beds for the nation's former military men and women.

He said the VA has more beds than patients. "If we had twice as many beds, we wouldn't have any more patients," Thomas K. Turnage said in an interview after a

speech to the American Legion's 70th annual convention.

The VA, which Turnage has directed for 2 1/2 years, has been increasingly criticized by some congressmen, editorialists and leaders of veterans' organizations.

Among the allegations was that the VA is reducing health-care beds.

The VA has 83,000 available beds, with about 71 percent occupancy, in its hospitals and nursing homes and in other facilities

where beds are contracted by the agency, Turnage said.

Another 5,000 to 6,000 beds are unavailable because of construction or renovation, he said.

Any indictment of the VA health-care system is an indictment of the national system because the two are so closely linked, Turnage said.

"The (VA) system is doing well. It has the mission of taking care of veterans, and it's doing it well," Turnage said.

Turnage took the offensive in his speech,

which brought polite applause from the Legionnaires.

He said the state of veterans' affairs since under President Reagan had improved dramatically from the previous four years under Jimmy Carter — years of high inflation and high interest rates that kept young veterans out of the housing market and ravaged their finances.

"The nation has improved under Reagan, and the veterans have done even better," Turnage said. "We have turned our economy and our defense posture around."

He said veterans' benefits have increased to the greatest extent since World War II.

The VA, the largest independent agency in the federal government, spends \$100 million a day on 27 million veteran constituents and has increased spending on health care by \$450 million this year, Turnage said.

He also said that the criticism of his agency was largely partisan and grows louder as the November presidential election draws near.



President Ronald Reagan spoke to a crowd of 7,500 members of the American Legion at their national convention last night at Louisville. Reagan said that he had restored America to the status of a world military power.

Restored America to the status of a world military power.

## President speaks to Legionnaires

By C.A. DUANE BONIFER  
Editorial Editor

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Proclaiming "mission accomplished" President Ronald Reagan told more than 7,500 members of the American Legion here last night that during his eight years in office his administration has restored America as a world military power.

"When I came to your convention more than eight years ago, I pledged to restore America's strength," he said. "Today, I stand before you to report mission accomplished."

Criticizing the defense programs of President Jimmy Carter's administration, Reagan told the enthusiastic crowd that "they had set aside their party's and our nation's faith in the future and put in its place a philosophy of malaise."

"Again and again around the world our predecessors had shown not the slightest grasp of the fundamentals of strategy and national interest," he said. Reagan credited all the major mili-

tary and foreign policy achievements of this decade to his administration's posture of a strong defense.

"I've been saying for eight years about strength being the only road to peace," he said. "And our reward is that from Afghanistan to the Persian Gulf to Southern Africa, we are bringing peace to long-raging conflicts, even as we frustrate Soviet aims."

In addition to beefing up the strength of the armed forces, Reagan said he is especially proud of the fact that members of the armed forces take pride in their jobs.

"The pledge I am proudest of keeping is the pledge I made to our young men and woman in the services. Today once again, Americans honor those who wear the uniforms of the United States of America," he said.

When he entered office in January, 1981, Reagan said almost two-thirds of the individuals in America's armed forces were dropping out at the end of the first tour, but "today almost half stay in when the first tour is up."

"Today we have the best darned bunch of young men and woman in uniform we've ever had," he said. "And we're proud of them."

See PRESIDENT, Page 6

## Trial date set for girl accused of abandoning newborn baby

MEREDITH LITTLE  
Contributing Writer

A trial date was set yesterday morning for the Centre College student charged with first degree wanton endangerment for leaving a baby in a dumpster outside of Kennedy's Bookstore last Wednesday.

Julia K. Byars, 19, was arraigned in Lex-

ington-Fayette Urban County District Court.

Byars, a graduate of Lexington Lafayette High School, was arrested last week after police found a baby abandoned in the dumpster behind the bookstore, located on South Limestone.

District Judge Julia Tackett ordered a

preliminary hearing of the case for at 9 a.m. Sept. 22.

The 8-pound, 2-ounce baby girl was found in the dumpster at the corner of Jersey and Euclid Ave. The infant had been in the dumpster 5 to 10 minutes before she was found, and had stopped breathing, police said.

The baby, named "Rebecca" by UK Med-

Center nurses, remains in critical condition in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Byars was not present at the arraignment.

Her attorney, Larry Roberts, entered a plea of not guilty to the charges. Roberts declined comment on the case.

First degree wanton endangerment is a

felony charge. If convicted, Byars could face a prison term of up to five years.

Byars was released from jail yesterday at 3 p.m. on judge's orders into the custody of a third party.

A third-party release does not require the posting of bail, but instead has the signature of a third party.

## SAB announces dates, plans for fall semester

By ELIZABETH WADE  
Staff Writer

The Student Activities Board announced its plans for Spotlight Jazz, special performers, Homecoming, and upcoming concerts at its meeting last night.

The Chick Corea Electric Band will open the Spotlight Jazz series Friday. The performance will be at 8 p.m. at The Singletary Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$14.

Stealin' Horses will perform on Sept. 21 during Alternative Music Week. The Lexington-based group is being co-sponsored with WRFL. Ticket information will be released at a later date.

"We're very excited about some of the bands we're going to be getting this year," said Michael Bowling, SAB President. "We're off to a good start."

Comedian Steven Wright will appear Sunday, Sept. 25, at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$15 for the public.

"Tickets are going very fast for the Steven Wright show," said Bowling. "It should be a good performance." Homecoming week begins Tuesday Sept. 20 and SAB has a full slate of events planned.

On Tuesday Sept. 20 the homecoming fashion show will be at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall. The 16 finalists for homecoming

queen will be escorted by various Presidents of student organizations. Door prizes will be given. UK President David Roselle's wife, Louise, will be the mistress of ceremonies.

• Royalty voting will be held Sept. 19-21.

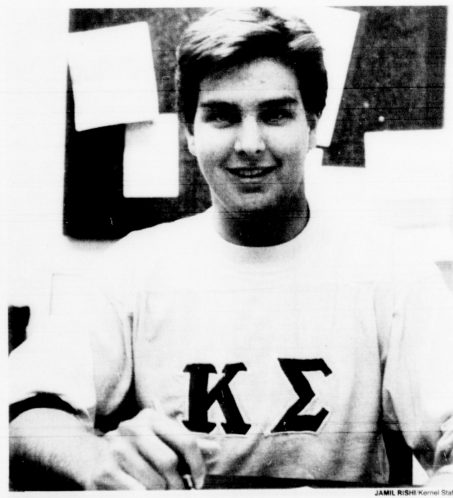
• The Wildcat Roar and parade will be Thursday Sept. 22. The parade will begin at Memorial Coliseum at 7:30 p.m. and will end at Commonwealth Stadium. The pep rally, Wildcat Roar, will begin at 8 p.m., immediately following the parade. Jerry Claiborne, coach of the UK football team, and the UK cheerleaders will appear at the pep rally.

• On Friday Sept. 23 the homecoming house displays will be judged. Each organization will decorate their house according to this year's theme, "It's a Wildcat World." The theme also will have an international touch.

"Each organization will draw a country at a meeting and they will gear their decorating towards that country and UK," said Elizabeth Bushong, homecoming chair.

• The Big Blue Boogie also will be Friday. It is sponsored in cooperation with Octoberfest 1988, WLAP 94 1/2, The Red Mile, Coca Cola, and Miller Beer. The 'Boogie' will be held at the Red Mile from 5 to 8:30 p.m.

• The Homecoming football game will be Saturday, Sept. 24. UK will host Kent State.



Student Activities Board President Michael Bowling announced a full slate of semester programs at a meeting last night.

## Opinion says police records are not open

Associated Press

FRANKFORT — Citations issued by local police departments for violations ranging from speeding to felony crimes are not open records subject to inspection by the public, according to an attorney general's opinion released yesterday.

The opinion, which carries the force of law, allows a whole new set of police department records to be kept secret that traditionally has been kept to the public.

Deputy Attorney General David Vest said yesterday that controversy over the opinion had prompted a decision to clarify it with another ruling. It will specify procedures for public inspection of citations.

Vest said questions raised by the opinion prompted the unusual decision to extend the matter.

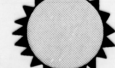
See OPINION, Page 6

## Correction

Due to a reporter's error, the wrong first name for political candidate Al Arboogast, was given in a story last Friday.

### TODAY'S WEATHER

75°-80°



Today: Sunny  
Tomorrow: Sunny & warm

## INSIDE

### DIVERSIONS

Spyro Gyra has a new album. For a review, See Page 3.



### SPORTS

Van Horn announces Lexington fight date. See Page 2.

# SPORTS

Tom Spalding  
Sports Editor

## UK's Van Horn to fight on campus

By ALEX MONTGOMERY  
Staff Writer

Professional boxing promoter Cedric Kushner made it official yesterday: UK student and undefeated junior middleweight Darrin Van Horn will fight on UK's campus Sept. 20th.

The 19-year-old Van Horn, 36-0, will fight Jake Torrence of Chicago at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Coliseum.

Torrence, 25, is 17-4 and described as a "journeyman" by Kushner.

Tickets for the fight will be only \$3 for students with a valid UK Student ID.

On Aug. 24 the Kentucky Kernel reported in a copyrighted story that Van Horn would fight a professional boxing match on campus.

Kushner said Van Horn could fight for the world title in December. And he wants that fight to be in Lexington. He used yesterday's press conference at the Hyatt Regency to emphasize that point.

Kushner said that after the September fight, Van Horn would fight once again in late October. Assuming Van Horn wins, Kushner

"Darrin really wants it (the fight) in Lexington but I've got to have butts on the seats."

G.L. Van Horn,  
boxing manager

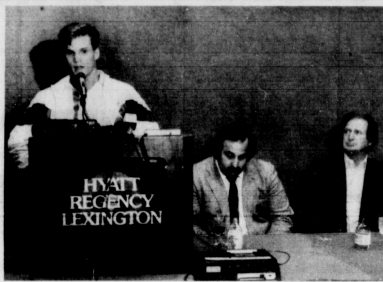
sees Dec. 3 as the preliminary date for the world title match.

He said Van Horn's opponent would be one of three boxers: WBA champion Julian Jackson, WBC champion Donald Curry or IBF champion Matthew Hilton.

Kushner also said he had an arrangement with NBC to televise the Dec. 3 bout nationally.

The Sept. 20 fight will determine if Lexington plays host to a world title fight, according to G.L. Van Horn, Darrin's father and trainer-manager.

"The attendance on Sept. 20 will go a long way in determining if a world championship fight comes to Lexington," said the elder Van Horn. "Darrin really wants it (the



UK junior and boxer Darrin Van Horn (right) said yesterday at the Hyatt hotel he will fight at Memorial Coliseum on Sept. 20th.

fight) in Lexington but I've got to have butts on the seats."

Van Horn, who is the No. 1 WBC contender, has won 23 of his professional fights by knockout. He hasn't fought since May 5 because of an injury to his leg, which he now says is 100 percent.

"I'm glad to be getting back in the ring," said Van Horn. "I was bored. I'm excited about fighting on campus."

During his layoff from boxing, Van Horn said his weight dropped to 148 and described himself as

looking "anorexic." He's now at 162 and will have to get down to the 154 limit by Sept. 20.

Kushner said the site and price of tickets are an incentive to lure UK students to come out and support Van Horn. The same students Van Horn said have been asking him to fight on campus.

"I expect nothing less than 3,500 to 4,000 people to show up," said Kushner.

"It makes it easy for the students," Van Horn said.

## UK's DeBoer finally getting some respect

By BARRY HEEVES  
Contributing Writer



DEBOER

UK volleyball coach Kathy DeBoer has taken the UK volleyball program from being a successful one into being one of the best programs in the nation in only four years. But few have realized what an accomplishment that is. Until now.

Just last season DeBoer established UK as a force to be reckoned with after years of effort.

The Lady Kats stayed in the Top 10 most of the year and won the Southeastern Conference regular season and tournament

championships. They also ended the year with a 31-2 record.

This season that success has carried over: UK swept its state rivals in last weekend's Kickoff Classic. It made UK 2-0 and was Kentucky's 20th-consecutive home victory.

"We are one of the up and coming programs in the South," DeBoer said. "We are just trying to improve from year to year."

Kathy DeBoer received the highest honor that a coach can receive when she was named National Coach of the Year, as voted on by nation's volleyball coaches.

But said she's prouder of what her athletes have accomplished than what she has done.

"I'd like to be remembered as a coach who made a difference in the life of the student-athlete," she said.

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### So you want to write ...

Maybe you think you can just walk in to the Kentucky Kernel office, sit down at a computer terminal and just get started. Or pick up a story assignment and that's it. Or maybe you have an idea for a story of your own. Something that matters. Something people will care about. And you think you can just come in here, walk up to an editor and say: "I want to write." Maybe you think it doesn't take years of experience. Just a good attitude and a bent for hard work. Well. You're right. And to prove it, we're personally inviting you to our staff meeting on Friday - this Friday - at 3 p.m. in Room 035 of the Journalism Bldg. (That's in the basement). The Kentucky Kernel - Your Future Begins Today

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ISP

# DIVERSIONS

Rob Seng  
Arts Editor

## Crossover blues

Alternative bands starting to have mainstream success

It happens to even the best bands. They get a little airplay, show up on Billboard's charts and the next thing you know, they're on sale at the local mall record store. Yes, the story is sad, but true.

1988 saw many alternative or progressive bands crossover into the "other side." The Cure's most recent album (if you call last year recent), *Kiss Me, Kiss Me, Kiss Me*, has probably outsold all of their other albums combined. A Top Forty radio station in Louisville, notorious for constantly plugging "artists" like Tiffany, started playing their songs. The Cure even had videos in heavy rotation on MTV.

But it didn't get quite that bad. Their singles "Hot, Hot, Hot" and "Why Can't I Be You" both bombed on the Billboard Hot 100. Their journey into commercialization began with their compilation album *Standing on a Beach*. Absent were such great songs such as "A Night Like This" and "Kyoto Song."

Another victim has been Depeche Mode. At a recent concert which I attended, there were more pre-teen mall queens than at the checkout lane waiting to buy Teen Beat. And now they're performing on the MTV Video Music Awards. Come

### Contributing COLUMNIST

At a recent concert which I attended, there were more pre-teen mall queens than at the checkout lane waiting to buy Teen Beat.

on guys, if you're that hard up for money...

I'm sure all of us die-hard INXS fans can relate to this. Of the hordes of people who bought *Kick*, their newest and worst album, and saw them in concert, in one of a billion cities, how many could actually name their first, second, or even third album? If you were to say *Shaboo*, *Shabaah* in front of

these people they probably would think you were taking a course in Intro to Swahili.

The Smiths and Echo and the Bunnymen broke up just in time. Had they not, they might have ended up as Columbia House Record Club's Selections of the Month.

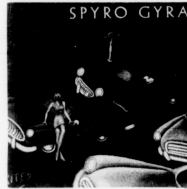
Those four Irish lads known as U2 probably have been a Selection of the Month. And now they have filled the world's largest concert arenas and even have a concert film being made. When I attended their concert at the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis, a guy sitting behind me stated, "I have liked them since their first album *The Unforgettable Fire*." If one must boast, one should at least take accuracy into account. What's next, *Bono wallpaper*? Other potential candidates are New Order, Erasure and The Church.

I'm just glad that my favorite bands Front 242 and the Jesus and Mary Chain are beyond the digestibility of most people's musical appetites.

Charlie McCue is a freshman Journalism major and a contributing Kernel writer.

## Redundancy is name of the game on Spyro's 'Rites of Summer' LP

By WILL RENSHAW  
Staff Critic



RITES OF SUMMER  
Spyro Gyra  
MCA Records

How do these guys do it? How does Spyro Gyra manage to produce album after album of the same commercial fusion they've been playing for years without progressing stylistically?

The group's latest effort, *Rites of Summer*, has, with the exception of about two tracks, the same standard backbeat, commercial feel, and plastic texture as the majority of Spyro Gyra's earlier efforts.

What emerged in the late 1970s as a talented young group of creative musicians has proven to be a calculated and formulated money-maker.



Spyro's formula seems to work like this — lay down a strong rock backbeat, move to an early crescendo, followed by sax player and leader of the group Jay Beckenstein playing the melody, and then wade through endless transitions with solos over the top.

On most occasions, this formula could produce a fresh energetic piece. Unfortunately, when it's used continuously, it fails. Tracks like "Claires Dream," "The Archer," and "Captain Karma," show the same earmarkings as about two-thirds of their previous material.

The most annoying thing about *Rites of Summer* is the production. Beckenstein is the executive producer of *Rites of Summer* and, while his musical skills are well developed, his production skills need a good deal of work.

Not only does each track have the same sound, but all of them end in the same style.

A song's ending is very important in that it is the last sound the audience hears. Whether it slowly tapers to an end or reaches strong

heights only to be suddenly halted makes a vivid impression on the audience and can make or break a composition.

Unfortunately, Beckenstein seems to ignore this fact and chooses to let each track slowly fade out. The key word here is boring.

As does almost any jazz album, *Rites of Summer* does have a few bright points. "Shanghai Gumbo," written by guitarist Junio Fernandez, is one of the first times this musician has had featured on a Spyro album. While it is still poorly produced, the arrangement and tonal quality shows at least a tinge of creativity.

"No Man's Land," written by assistant producer Jeremy Wall, represents a rough, abrasive texture and an ominous tonal quality which harbors itself in the best arrangement and, believe it or not, an original ending. It also sports persuasive and creative solos by both pianist Tom Shuman and vibes player Dave Samuels, who are probably the most imaginative soloists in the group.

The greatest surprise on *Rites of Summer* is a ballad written by Shuman called "Innocent Soul," which not only has a moving melody, but a soothing tonal structure and a sincere quality unusual for Spyro.

### BLOOM COUNTY



The Kernel —  
For students, by students, about students

### by Berke Breathed

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# VIEWPOINT

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## United Way drive needs support of everyone at UK

The 1988 United Way will begin its annual UK fundraiser Thursday with a luncheon in the Student Center Ballroom.

The thought of a kick off luncheon probably isn't turning too many heads at the breakfast table during the morning read of the newspaper.

After all, another fundraiser doesn't mean that a new arms treaty has been signed. And it certainly isn't as interesting the thought of impending allegations into the men's basketball program.

But in the large scheme of things, the United Way ranks pretty high on the list of important items.

The reason is simple.

The United Way helps people.

The theme for this year's drive is "What a Difference You Make — UK and United Way."

Making a difference places a heavy burden on all of us. It's something we can't say we get to do too often.

But when you contribute your time or money to the United Way, making a difference is exactly what you do.

The United Way helps people like the parents of Travis Dickson, United Way poster child two years ago, to pay for the cost of hearing implants and schooling.

But that's just the beginning.

Last year, the UK's United Way fund drive raised more than \$300,000. This year the goal for the campus drive is \$337,800. The campaign goal for the entire Bluegrass Area, which supports eight counties, is \$5,406,317.

That money goes a long way in helping a lot of people.

UK employees and students can help the United Way reach that goal by giving — and then giving again of your time and money.

Eighty to 90 percent of the funding comes from payroll deductions in which employees fill out a deduction form pledging a certain amount of money to the United Way from their paycheck each month.

Students also have gotten involved in the past through such events and the Boyd Hall haunted house, Vegas Night at Holmes Hall and sporting events.

A picture being for the United Way fund drive shows this year's poster child, Dustin Porter, touching hands with the UK mascot.

Whether the symbolism was intended or not, reaching out and touching presents a fitting portrait for the people involved with United Way.

It's something they've been doing for years.

## Everybody's one call: Do something, SGA!

The Student Government Association Senate will hold its first meeting tonight. And while expectations are not high for anything of substance to be accomplished, there always is hope.

But when you talk about the SGA Senate, hope is usually all your dealing with.

That's not to say student government doesn't accomplish anything on the behalf of students. They do.

Last year's student government executive branch headed by SGA President Cyndi Weaver provided several student services.

The executive branch, you know, the ones who are not elected, but who volunteer their time, sponsored a majority of the legislation.

That job is designed specifically for the Senate, the ones elected to represent students. However, they were spending most of their time bickering, and promoting themselves with internal legislation designed to bolster their election hopes.

But alas, it's a new year.

And with a new year comes new hope.

It would seem that student government is at an all-time high in terms of popularity. More than 100 freshmen reportedly signed up for the Freshman Representative Council. An equally high number signed up at the end of last school year for executive branch appointments.

And last year's SGA election had a record voter turnout — although much of that probably can be attributed to popular greek candidates, not excitement about SGA.

Nevertheless, SGA has found itself in a unique position. It has the opportunity to really do something for students. With a budget of more than \$100,000 and student support seemingly high, potential is there.

Student government pundits are likely to point out that the Kernel is overly negative to SGA. That's not the case at all. It's simply a matter of wanting an organization to live up to its potential.

SGA is entrusted with the responsibility of representing the students of UK. It's a responsibility that should be regarded highly.

Too often, though, it is a responsibility that is left on the campaign literature and posters and forgotten when it comes to the Senate floor.

It is our sincere hope that this year that's not the case.

## Letters Policy

Readers are encouraged to submit letters and opinions to the Kentucky Kernel.

Writers should address their comments to: Editorial Editor, Kentucky Kernel, 035 Journalism Building, Lexington, Ky. 40506-0042.

Letters should be 350 words or less, while guest opinions should be 850 words or less. All material must be typewritten and double-spaced.

Frequent writers may be limited so that we may publish letters from as many writers as possible.



## Multi-tasking

Computers make the world simpler and more efficient

Computers have become as necessary as oxygen. They're a life-support system not unlike the technology needed to travel inside a spacecraft.

On the other hand, computers are not comparable to hospital devices that enable terminally ill patients to live longer.

A fundamental question is whether we desire to keep our feet firmly planted in the 19th or earlier centuries, or if we long to discover the new worlds of the 21st or later centuries.

Part of the shepherd in me longs to be closely associated with Ewedawg, the Great Pyrenees puppy recently acquired at Plum Lick Farm.

Ewedawg is bite, not byte, and she won't ever need a spreadsheet to tell her when a coyote or wild dog needs to be sent down the road.

Yet, there's another side of the shepherd that yearns to be a part of the restless onward course of technology. There's no standing still on this one.

Just as Columbus went out to discover a new world, just as Neil Armstrong took one giant step for mankind, so shepherds can ill afford to be disinterested in the latest computerization.

The next wave of advanced computer technology will be "multi-tasking." Soon, the old adage about not being able to do two things at the same time will become as outdated as horse and buggy (we'll still be able to respect the Amish — we'll just have to decide how up-to-date we need and want to be).

Even though the jury is still out on multi-tasking, there's every reason to believe that the folks at Apple, IBM and other closed and locked rooms from Silicon Valley to the hidden recesses of Japan will figure out how to do it.



David DICK

That doesn't mean we'll all have to multi-task all the time. There are some things that are better left as they are.

For example, Ewedawg need not worry about protecting the shepherd as well as the sheep. That's asking too much. She's got one job to do, and as long as she does it well, there's no sense in piling on another expectation.

Bigamy, likewise, is against the law, and there's a fairly sound reason for it. How one man could please two women, or one woman please two men at the same time within a marital framework has always been a mystery to this shepherd.

Although the Mormons took a run at polygamy and may have found it to their advantage as well as their liking, the rest of the nation decided the better way was monogamy. Multi-spousing is out.

Then there's the problem of going forward and backward at the same time. Who needs it? One step forward and one step backward equals going nowhere. Doesn't make sense.

Might as well stand still in the first place. Hedging bets and stragling the issues is an indication of lack of resolve, and usually results in new worlds going undiscovered.

Two steps forward and one step backward sure beats on step forward and two steps backward, and that may be the healthy compromise on multi-tasking.

In fact, the art of compromise is



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID STERLING

Computers have freed our individual creativity and increased our productivity and excellence.

probably some of the most important work we'll ever do. To that end, this shepherd is going to keep one eye on Ewedawg and the other on what's presently out of sight on the other side of the hill.

It seems important to hold on to what we have and try to improve the quality, rather than the quantity of it. Computers and the new multi-tasking can help us do this.

Basically, we'll be able to do more of what we do best. We'll teach more skills, become more sensitive in marital relationships, pray more carefully, govern more wisely, serve our communities more generously and mind our own stores more kindly.

A world without computers may be simpler, but not necessarily more efficient or benevolent. The

word processor, for example, frees up individual creativity, increasing productivity and excellence.

Graphic art is available to all those poor souls not born with the ability to draw a straight line. Spreadsheets become the roadmaps for everybody from shepherds to chief executive officers.

Ewedawg is perfection in guard dog breeding for the flock, but the shepherd needs more than one kind of help. The Great Pyrenees is an ancient breed still serving well, but the shepherds of the 21st century have greater responsibilities and challenges.

The computer has become the new shepherd's rod and staff.

Syndicated columnist David Dick is director of the UK School of Journalism.

## Leaders need to harness area's growth

### Guest OPINION

A couple years ago I spent some time vacationing in San Antonio, Texas.

Tantalizing magazine ads had fired my imagination with beautiful, mesquite-scented sunsets, lazy afternoons sipping margaritas at a quiet cantina, spicy tacos for every meal, maybe even a reckless Hollywood gangfight in the shadow of the Alamo. I couldn't wait to go.

The only thing shot down, however, was my romantic image of the wild, wild West.

What I found were sunsets consisting of neon and gasoline fumes, 7-Elevens and Whataburgers crowded around every intersection, and the Alamo — that Gibraltar of unlanded Texas — burned beneath towering skyscrapers and traffic-jammed city streets.

Every historic place of interest had been so overdeveloped, the sprawling metropolis so deluged with modern, industrial and commercial interests, there was hardly a trace of the rugged frontier spirit and character that made the city famous. I came home very disappointed.

Lately, Lexington seems to be edging closer to this same kind of problem. The grand old horse farms and rolling bluegrass fields that give this town its international

reputation are rapidly succumbing to the developers' shovel.

Already, large sections of land adjacent to Versailles, Nicholasville, Man O' War and Harrodsburg roads have been turned into housing subdivisions, shopping malls and apartment complexes.

Although only one-fifth the size of San Antonio, our "Pride of the Bluegrass" has experienced unprecedented growth in recent years. Unfortunately, such unrestricted expansion is plowing up the surrounding countryside faster than a racing thoroughbred.

Areas around Nicholasville and Harrodsburg roads south of New Circle Road are being reshaped with ravenous intensity. Stunning horse farms outlined by hundred-year-old rock fences, wind-blown fields of corn and wheat and tobacco, and lush pastures filled with lowing cattle continue to be ripped up and paved over for even more car lots, fast-food restaurants and high-priced apartment buildings.

The growth has caused certain road construction projects, slated for the year 2000, to be dusted off and considered today. Lexington

Mayor Scotty Baesler has assured the public that this road, which would connect Interstates 75 and 64 by a route south and west of Lexington may never be necessary.

But observers need only consider Man O' War — a still unfinished "pressure release" for New Circle Road already at peak use — to realize more roads will soon be required.

Man O' War itself was just a thread of asphalt tracing through wide open fields a few short months ago. Now it is the fields that are in short supply and more fresh ground is broken every week.

I am certainly not suggesting Lexington or any other town stop growing. That would be ridiculous. I only want to caution city officials and the various planning committees to be selective in what they approve and reject.

It would take far more space than allowed in this column simply to list all the unoccupied sites found within the city limits. I understand Lexington has a "Comprehensive Plan" that controls building and zoning proposals. If this is being ignored, it should be followed, if outdated, revised.

If the smaller towns surrounding Lexington have not implemented similar comprehensive plans, maybe now is the time to start.

I once attended a local public hearing regarding a zoning change in which the committee was to decide whether a public road could be built through a horse farm.

A lawyer in the proceeding told the committee four points of law must be satisfied before the proposal could be OK'd. The plan was approved, even though the developer had satisfied only one of the four points.

Any afternoon drive to Paris or Versailles or Nicholasville will reveal mile after mile of pristine bluegrass. But once this unique land becomes a parking lot, it will be lost forever.

It took me more than an hour's drive from San Antonio to find the rugged splendor of south-central Texas known as the "Hill Country."

Is a search for the Bluegrass to become such a drive? Is Keeneland destined to become another Alamo, with condominiums shading the track and taxis racing the horses around the far turn?

Today's growth is indicative of Lexington's fiesta-like health and vitality, but really can be a hard ballet to swallow. I just hope we don't choke to death in the middle of the celebration.

Marty Bray is an English junior.



# President Reagan speaks to American Legion Convention

Continued from Page 1

Without mentioning the name of Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis, Reagan lashed out at the Massachusetts governor, accusing him of having a "hit list for cancellations and delays" of defense programs.

"We still hear the voice of the liberal ideology of decline and retreat," he said. "When it comes to defense, the liberal agenda hides behind heroic rhetoric. But this lib-

eral agenda is no Superman; it's no Clark Kent; it's Jimmy Olson trying to impress his date."

Drawing contrast between George Bush, Reagan said. "After eight hard years rebuilding America's strength, do we really want to return to a Disney Land defense policy — with Mickey Mouse treatment of our men and woman in

uniform; Goody strategic plans; and Donald Duck-like lectures telling that us whatever goes wrong is our blankety-blank fault?"

The president also appealed to the largely conservative pro-military organization to continue its support of the Nicaraguan rebels known as contras, his administration has rallied around for much of the decade.

"In the last few years we have

lacked the emotion and feeling common in many of Reagan's past speeches.

Although more than 20,000 legionnaires are attending the 70th annual convention here this week, the building President Reagan spoke in last night only held about 7,500 people. As a result, two hours before his speech a line stretching more than a block long had already formed outside the Louisville Convention Center.

Thomas Domino, a veteran of two wars from Collinsville, Ill., said he supports the administration's defense policies because "it keeps us safe."

"I think he's a very strong defender of our democracy," Domino said. "He's tamed the Russians and we're not weak under him. I

want to see a strong defense and I don't want any one of my family to go to war because I know what it is like."

Donald B. O'Loughlin, a veteran from East Port, N.Y., said during the Reagan years there has been a substantial increase in patriotism.

"He put pride back into the nation and the armed forces," he said. "The quality of the young men in the service is better and they are proud to wear the uniform."

Today, Bush will address the convention at 11 a.m. and Dukakis is scheduled to speak to the convention at 8:32 a.m. on Thursday.

Editorial Editor C.A. Duane Benifer covers politics for the Kentucky Kernel.

## Owner says festival caused bar to sink

Associated Press

COVINGTON, Ky. — The owner of a floating restaurant and bar that partly sank into the Ohio River yesterday said turbulence from heavy boat traffic during the annual Riverfest fireworks show might have caused the problem.

The barge that carries the Las Brisas bar, part of the Waterfront floating nightspot, took on water, listed and dumped chairs into the river yesterday morning.

Covington firefighters and emergency crews combined to stabilize

the barge by mid-morning to keep it from going completely under. Salvage crews were pumping water from the partly submerged barge.

"What happened here is the barge sprung a leak in some fashion. Within a half hour, it was listing and we had to get off it. We tried to pump water out of it," Assistant Fire Chief Gerald Callis said.

Restaurant owner Jeff Ruby told reporters that he brought in marine engineering consultants to direct the repair and salvage.

The Waterfront restaurant itself is on and adjacent barge and suffered some apparent damage including broken windows from the sinking of the connected barge.

Ruby did not say whether the barge would be closed any length of time. The leak's cause was not known.

"It could have been something to do with all the movement of the boats at the fireworks last night. That's just a guess, but that comes from all the people who know the river and had something to do with the construction of this thing,"

Ruby said, referring to Monday night's Riverfest event.

Repair crews saved a connected boat dock by cutting it loose from the Las Brisas barge. The boat dock had almost a dozen boats attached to it. Some boat owners rushed in to move their vessels away.

It is one of several floating restaurants anchored along the northern Kentucky shore of the Ohio River at Covington and neighboring Newport, to capitalize on the river view of Cincinnati's skyline.

## Takeover of Floyd schools being considered

Associated Press

The Kentucky Board of Education is considering taking over the Floyd County school system less than two months after it ordered the financial takeover of the school system in Pike County.

But Superintendent of Public Instruction John Brock said the Floyd County situation is different from the Pike County.

"Floyd County is more serious

because they (the state board) are looking at the possibility of invoking the academic bankruptcy law," Brock said.

The statute permits the state board to seize control of districts that repeatedly fail to correct problems within certain timetables. As a last resort, the law also authorizes the state to remove local board members, the superintendent or other school employees.

Under the law, school districts

with problems such as low achievement-test scores, poor attendance records and high dropout rates are required to come up with a plan to correct those deficiencies.

Thus far, the 1984 statute has not been tested in Kentucky, where any sweeping changes in school boards normally are the result of elections.

In July, however, some frustrated state school board members unexpectedly proposed declaring

the Floyd County system academically bankrupt because they were fed up with what they viewed as continued mismanagement.

They cited the county's failure to follow the board's recommendation to eliminate 23 unnecessary jobs.

Officials in the district, which has 23 schools, 9,500 students and a \$23.5 million budget, say they are mostly puzzled by what they hear from the state school board.

## Opinion says police records are not open

Continued from Page 1

"We will try to resolve the problem of when you have access to the work product of the police," Vest said.

Vest said he understood the problems raised by closing many police records and the need for confidentiality of some records.

The clarifying opinion will be

released as soon as possible, Vest said.

The opinion, written by Assistant Attorney General Thomas R. Emerson, noted that such citations must be written "for all felonies, misdemeanors and violations of traffic laws and state statutes."

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