

KENTUCKY Kannel



WEATHER Partly sunny this afternoon, high near 70. Cloudy tonight, low of 50. Mild tomorrow, high near 75.

NEW DIMENSION 'My Giant,' starring Billy Crystal and Gheorge Muresan big on cast, not plot. See Diversions, page 4.



Tue

April 14, 1998

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INDEPENDENT SINCE 1971

New bill may give families tax cut

By Manish Bhatia
Staff Writer

March is usually marked by frenzied people breaking their piggy banks, hoping to avoid an audit by the dreaded Internal Revenue Service.

Families across the Commonwealth, however, can place their trust in an attractive savings plan that helps promote higher education in the state.

A new state bill passed on March 26 gives Kentucky families savings for college a break in federal taxes.

"The new federal law allows participants to defer federal taxes on earnings

until the student uses the money," said Jo Carole Ellis, assistant program administrator of the Kentucky Educational Savings Plan Trust.

Ellis said the trust has been in existence since 1990 and offers several advantages to participants. For instance, families are exempted from state tax on their earnings and enjoy a competitive rate of return.

The trust offers a means to save for the cost of attending college. In order to be eligible, at least one individual in the family must have state ties such as employment and residence or have family members who do.

However, a penalty may be assessed for cancellation of the account depending on the length of participation of the individual. In addition, the trust does not guarantee the beneficiary acceptance to a higher education institution.

"Last year there was a federal law passed towards state sponsored college savings program," Ellis said. "We approached the state assembly to make changes in state law to qualify under a federal law. This enabled us to become a qualified federal program."

State Sen. Fred Bradley was responsible for the changes that led to an amend-

ed state law. "It was necessary to make these changes to allow the Kentucky program to be a qualified program under the Internal Revenue Service code," said Paul P. Borden, executive director of the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority.

"The state legislative assembly helped conform the program to federal guidelines so that individuals participating in the program will get the maximum advantage," he said.

According to the trust guidelines, a person needs to file a participation agreement along with a photocopy of the bene-

ficiary's birth certificate. The person is required to name a beneficiary at the time of opening an account, the minimum contribution for which could be as low as \$25.

Other features of the program include the ability of the beneficiary to have multiple accounts with the funds being available for attending any school as described in Section 481 of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

In order to find out more about the Kentucky Educational Savings Plan Trust, you can call 1-800-338-0318 or visit the group's web site at www.khea.com.

A Dry Idea?

Members of FarmHouse find comfort in tradition

By Aaron Sanderford
Campus Editor

Student speculation on the future of Greek life at UK took a negative turn in the wake of last week's Board of Trustees decision to eliminate alcohol in chapter houses.

Much discussion hinges on the loss of alcohol and the measure's potentially sobering effect on the Greek community. It's as if all hope is lost.

That simply is not the case. One need look no further than the South Campus Six Pack to find a century-old experiment that gives Greeks and independents a clearer picture of what's to come.

That experiment is FarmHouse. FarmHouse fraternity has maintained dry chapter houses since its national inception in 1906. The FarmHouse chapter at UK was founded in 1951, and the policy has been a recruiting tool for years.

Junior Active Brad Hopperton, a biology freshman, said the policy is a big part of the reason he chose FarmHouse.

"I went over to different houses (during rush), and they didn't mention a lot of things that were very important to me," Hopperton said. "All they talked about was how much they partied, and I just wanted close friends you could rely on."

Hopperton said he was hooked when he compared the living conditions of other Six Pack chapter houses to FarmHouse. He said FarmHouse offered a clean, study-friendly place to live as

opposed to the other houses he visited.

Chapter Secretary Garry Weston said the physical appearance of the FarmHouse chapter house and the study environment the facility offers opened doors for the fraternity.

"I think it's opened our recruiting to those individuals that wouldn't be considering a fraternity," Weston said. "I'm sure their parents are much more willing to let their children participate in this fraternity, because of the stereotype of drinking."

The fraternity's emphasis on scholastics pays off, said Tony Blanton, assistant dean of students. FarmHouse members have achieved better grades than the male average at UK for all but one semester in the past two years.

He said the self-enforced alcohol-free environment is exactly the type of monitoring system the University hopes the Greek community will eventually be able to use. Last week's measure called for a live-in University employee, much like a resident adviser, to be placed in each fraternity house and enforce the policy.

"I think they can be a really good role model for the Greek community, because they have maintained their alcohol-free environment without the University having to place someone in the house," Blanton said. "We don't want to be in a situation where the University has to check up on them all the time; we want the members to do that themselves."

FarmHouse President Charlie

See FARMHOUSE on 2



HOBIE HILGER/Staff

HOOPIN IT UP Members of FarmHouse Fraternity say that the house's alcohol-free policy was a major recruiting tool. The University, which passed a complete ban on alcohol in all fraternity houses last week, is encouraging other fraternities to look at FarmHouse for guidance.

Some fraternity members think policy is stifling

By Mark Fister
Staff Writer

Members of UK's fraternities could see it coming. All on-campus houses must go dry by next semester, as mandated by the University's Board of Trustees.

Dave Lanham, house manager for Phi Gamma Delta social fraternity, said it was inevitable. "Attitudes were changing," said Lanham, a civil engineering

senior. "It was going to hit here eventually."

Kevin Joynt, chaplain and former president of Alpha Tau Omega social fraternity, expressed his fraternity's disapproval of the ban.

"The general consensus in our house is a dislike of the new rule," said Joynt, an accounting senior. Joynt said he opposes it mainly because it restricts the right of fraternities to take care of their own

business. "We govern ourselves very well," he said.

Joynt said ATO's party rules include checking IDs and making sure all alcoholic beverages are controlled by a central bartender.

He said the new rule shows how UK's administration views the fraternities' ability to control themselves.

"In an implicit way, they're saying, 'We don't think you've han-

dled yourselves well in the past,'" Joynt said.

The ban also includes fraternities members who are legally old enough to purchase and drink alcohol. Those people are not allowed to bring alcoholic beverages into the houses.

Joynt believes this is a suppression of one's rights.

See FRATERNITIES on 2

U. Senate allows for plus/minus exemptions

Professional programs add to argument

By Jessica Coy
Assistant News Editor

Here we go again. The University Senate voted today to allow the College of

Architecture and the landscape architecture program in the College of Agriculture keep their plus/minus grading systems.

The College of Architecture applied for the exemption on the basis that they should be considered a professional college because they have high level courses that only students with the college can take.

"The approved proposal only affects the 800 and 900 level courses that can only be taken by

people who are in the colleges, so I don't feel that the decision to let them keep the plus/minus system is not that big of a deal," said Jim Applegate, chair of the University Senate Council.

Melanie Cruz, president of the UK Student Government Association, did not agree.

"I think the fact that one college got an exemption will prompt others to try and get professional status so they may do the same," Cruz said. "I feel like this puts us back at square one in the

fight for a uniform University grading system."

The only thing separating the College of Architecture from other colleges is the fact that they have 800 and 900 level courses, but with this precedent, other colleges may petition to get their course numbers changed so that they will be eligible for the same type of exemption, said George Myers, a social work senior and senator for the College of Social Work, who voted against the exemption.

Myers said that despite the fact that the SGA passed a resolution last year which said that all the senators would agree to vote together against plus/minus grading, several senators voted for the proposal to allow the College of Architecture and the landscape architecture program to keep their plus/minus grading systems.

"We did research that proved that 75 percent of students opposed the plus/minus system. We approved that resolution

because we wanted to vote for what the students wanted, and that was an end to the plus/minus system throughout the university," Myers said.

Nate Brown, senator for the College of Communications said he voted for the proposal because students and faculty in the College of Architecture wanted it.

"Over ninety percent of the students in the college wanted to keep the system, and I didn't see why they shouldn't be able to," Brown said.

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In a positive light

National study encouraging for UK Greek System

By Mat Herron
News Editor

Men and women involved in fraternities and sororities are less likely to drop out of school, more likely to give more money as alumni and alumnae, and more likely to participate in more extracurricular activities than non-Greeks.

That's what a new study released by the National Panhellenic Conference reveals, and it speaks volumes for being Greek, fraternity and sorority officials said.

Conducted by the Center for Advanced Social Research at the University of Missouri-Columbia, the findings are the second part of a three-part study driven by officials at the National Panhellenic Conference and its counterpart, the National Interfraternity Conference.

Researchers interviewed 1,511 Greek and non-Greek alumni and alumnae from November 1997 until February 1998.

Among the other results, researchers also found that Greeks felt better about the social aspect of college life.

"To a lot of people that's not a big surprise, but it's good to have solid research to support that claim," said Steve Zizzo, associate executive vice president at the National Interfraternity

Conference, which, along with the National Panhellenic Conference, is based in Indianapolis.

To a lot of fraternity and sorority leaders, the study also puts the proof in the pledging.

"I think it provides independent concrete data verifying some of the claims that are being made," said Lissa Bradford, chairwoman of the NPC. "This is the first time there's been any empirical data to back it up."

Bradford, who also serves as co-chairwoman of the conferences' task force on alcohol-free housing, said this new report bolsters the initiative to make all fraternities adopt the dry housing policy.

"It doesn't mean abstinence," she said. "It just means having an atmosphere that's more conducive to study."

"What we're hoping it is going to say to the young men and women who join the Greek organizations is that there are very positive things that happen that affect their future lives."

Bradford said the study is important to colleges and universities because it tells the campus administrators and faculty the Greek community is important to their campuses.

The results came as no surprise to Holly Harris.

"Any time you surround yourself with a large group of people

who are very ambitious and very active, you get swept up in that activism," said Harris, UK's Panhellenic President and a broadcast journalism sophomore. "The peer pressure is positive peer pressure. Sororities and fraternities are notorious for putting pressure on their members to make their organizations look good on campus."

As far as college life, the immediate contact with large groups like fraternities and sororities gives students a good base when they start college.

"It's so much easier to adjust to a college campus when you start out in a large network," Harris said. "When you're involved in an organization, you're expected to be active. You start to believe in the ideas that they push here at the University."

Peer support resulting from upperclassmen mentoring, as well as solid educational programs are some of the reasons that contribute to higher retention and more alumni and alumnae participation, said Susan West, Dean of Sororities at UK.

The study "shows nationally that they're doing things right to enhance their academic success here," West said.

Bradford said the conference is looking into what the third component of the study will be. She speculated that the conference will follow-up on some of the existing data, rather than start with a new objective.

The first study, which took the better part of the 1996-97 school year to complete, showed that fraternity members were less satisfied with their college experience than non-Greeks.

"This study is asking them what they would've done differently," Bradford said. "And they would have spent less time drinking and partying and more time taking advantage of the educational opportunities."

The study will be sent to all colleges and universities that have fraternities, sororities or both, all told more than 800 schools, Bradford said, and also will be sent to presidents and vice presidents for student affairs, Greek advisers, and Panhellenic and IPC presidents.



Any time you surround yourself with a large group of people who are very ambitious and very active, you get swept up in that activism.

Holly Harris
Panhellenic president

Fraternities

Some members find new policy stifling

From PAGE 1

"People pay rent for their rooms and can't drink in them," Jojnt said.

While UK can do this because of a stipulation in its lease with

the fraternity houses, he said it is still awkward that a 21-year-old member can go to a local bar and drink but is not permitted to drink in his own room.

FJI and FarmHouse were dry before the passage of this new rule and fraternity houses that aren't owned by the school, such as Delta Tau Delta and Sigma Pi, are not affected by it.

Delta Sigma Phi doesn't have its own house but does hold functions at sorority houses,

which have been dry for several years.

Michael McLain, of Delta Sigma Phi, said responsible people should be allowed to make their own decisions.

"I'll be 21 soon," said McLain, a sports management junior. "Knowing that I'd be responsible, I'd be pretty upset."

McLain doesn't believe the ban will affect fraternity rush next fall.

"People who won't join because their prospective fraterni-

ty is dry wouldn't make good fraternity material anyway," McLain said. "There's more to it than drinking."

He said a fraternity is a place where people can develop good leadership and social skills.

Jojnt concurred with McLain. "We don't look for a recruit that is just here to party," Jojnt said. "If that's their reason for not wanting to accept a bid here, we don't want them here anyway."

FarmHouse

Others encouraged to mimic FH policies

From PAGE 1

Tichenor said the lifestyle at FarmHouse is completely different than at other campus chapter houses.

"When you recruit somebody for FarmHouse, (the policy) is told to them from the beginning," Tichenor said. "It is a completely different environment, because there is no alcohol on the premises."

Weston said there is still a huge hurdle for other fraternities to clear. He said recruitment at many houses will take a dip, but that doesn't mean all is lost.

"This may just make the focus

shift back to community service and shift it away from the negative drinking stereotype," Weston said.

Blanton agreed. "In the short term, you will lose some marginal members, and we aren't going to be drawing as many of those people in the system," Blanton said.

In the long term, campus leaders will turn to the Greek System because the emphasis will shift to

helping members become better people, Blanton said.

"FarmHouse has typically been what a fraternity is supposed to be, concerned about the academics of their members, concerned about teaching their members about the realities of life," Blanton said.

"I think FarmHouse proves that an alcohol-free facility is not going to cause the downfall of the Greek community."

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Class helps transitions

Non-traditional students aided in return to UK

By Erin McMoraw
Contributing Writer

If you squint hard you will see a faint glow in the distance. The light at the end of the tunnel is almost here — summer. But what if something happened to you this summer and you couldn't return in the fall? Would you ever come back?

For non-traditional students the light is visible once again thanks to the Back to School Workshop for Adults sponsored by Central Advising.

The free, one-evening workshop, offered in fall and spring, provides advice from faculty and current non-traditional students on successfully re-entering college life.

The workshop attracts adults who have never attended college, have previously attended but not completed college, are seeking to further their career opportunities or looking for

personal enrichment in education. As part of the workshop, a short presentation is given by non-traditional students who are close to graduation.

The presentation is a testimonial where the students discuss juggling school, a full-time job and a family. A faculty member also discusses the value adult students bring to the classroom.

This spring's presentation will be given by human environmental sciences professor Sandra Miller and social work major Carol Nelson.

After the presentation, a group from Lexington Community College will discuss the advantages of community college.

LCC also administers academic assessments to determine whether a student requires remedial courses.

Amy Luchsinger, adviser and co-coordinator of the Back to

School Workshops, said LCC is a "very important" stepping stone for non-traditional students.

Ann Mullins, a journalism junior and non-traditional student, began classes at LCC before transferring to UK.

"I was scared of coming back to school. LCC had smaller classes and a smaller campus," Mullins said.

"If I had started at UK the size would have overwhelmed me. I was less intimidated at LCC."

To better address the needs of each student, the participants are broken down into three groups: those who have never attended college before, those who have attended UK before and those who have attended a college other than UK.

Luchsinger said the largest group is those who have never attended college before.

The program closes with a financial aid representative dis-

cussing independent study courses and courses on the web.

"Some (students) live in remote areas, (for them) I recommend courses on television," Luchsinger said. "But others truly need the stimulating, interactive learning of a classroom environment."

The advice repeated throughout the workshop and by Luchsinger is to take it slow. Luchsinger recommends "getting their feet wet" by starting with one course that interests them, instead of plunging in with 15 hours.

Central Advising offers refresher courses and a program called Study Skills: The Master Student as ways to rediscover long-buried study skills.

The next Back to School workshop will be held April 30, in 230 Student Center.

Please call Central Advising if you plan to attend at 257-3383 or 1-800-432-0963 for those outside Lexington.

Greeks continue debate

By Emily Fink
Brown Daily Herald

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — In Robert Miller's dream world, college students would fight to change the national drinking age from 21 to 18, and they would act responsibly when consuming alcohol consumption. In this world, however, he'll have to be content with banning alcohol from fraternity chapter houses.

As National Director of Phi Kappa Sigma, Miller has been concerned for a long time about the phenomenon of binge drinking— defined as heavy drinking done solely for inebriation — on college campuses. While Miller believes binge drinking is a campus-wide problem, he said he felt that it is important for fraternities to help reduce the liabilities associated with underage alcohol consumption.

Phi Kappa Sigma, like several other national fraternities, has adopted an "alcohol-free" policy which will prohibit alcohol at

chapter houses by July 2000.

Phi Delta Theta Spokesperson Rob Pasquinn said that the fraternity's alcohol-free policy, passed in March 1997, is essentially a "return to our roots."

"The resolution isn't anything new, but it focuses on what we were founded on — friendship, camaraderie, higher learning and support networks," said Pasquinn. "Fraternities were never meant to be drinking clubs."

Miller said it is only in the past two decades that binge drinking has become a problem. "I really think it was different 20 or 30 years ago. Today, the minute you mention the word 'social,' college students think 'alcohol,'" he said.

Miller illustrated his point with the example of Louisiana State University student Benjamin Wynne, who died last fall from alcohol poisoning.

"That kid drank the equivalent of 24 shots in the space of an hour," said Miller. "If he had done that alone in his dorm room, we could have called it suicide. But

what do you call it when he's out with his frat brothers who are all watching him?"

In addition to physical and financial liabilities, binge drinking has caused fraternities to lose popularity with incoming students, said Miller. According to the National Fraternity Conference, only 14 percent of incoming freshmen pledge to fraternities, compared to 30 percent in 1967.

"Right now, we're marketing a four-year alcohol experience," Miller said. "People are saying, 'I don't have to join your frat to drink alcohol, I can do that on my own. If all we're doing now is going out and drinking every night, how often do you think I'll call you when I'm 35?'"

Although some fraternities prohibit alcohol at chapter houses, members are still free to go out to drink. "It's a gross misconception that these fraternities have banned alcohol altogether," said Jacques Vauclain, the executive director at the headquarters of the 264-member Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Grant gives Tan shot at cancer cure

By Jill Erwin
Senior Staff Writer

Kevin Sarge isn't surprised Emily Tan received the Pfizer fellowship.

Sarge, an assistant professor of biochemistry and Tan's adviser, has seen her work come together while working in his lab. Two weeks ago, Pfizer Pharmaceutical Company awarded Tan, a biotechnology junior in the College of Agriculture, one of only seven \$5,000 fellowships in the field of biochemistry.

Tan's research is titled, "Regulation of Proto-Oncogene Expression by Heat Shock Transcription Factors."

Translation: She is studying the proteins that regulate cell division. This helps scientists understand the normal processes so they can then understand how cancer arises.

"Emily is very goal-oriented. She knows what she wants out of her career, and she will do whatever it takes to get it," Sarge said. "She learns quickly in lab and is conscientious about her work."

Tan heard of the award from the School of Medicine, of which Sarge is affiliated. She worked on the required project as part of her major, but wanted to do more research and applied for the program. The main part of the application was her research proposal.

Her work this summer will

focus on testing heat shock factor (HSF) 1 and seeing if it interacts with the c-fos proto-oncogene. That will be the basis of the study of cell growth under normal conditions and the abnormal conditions under which cancer can be formed.

Her daily duties will include many small tasks, such as gel electrophoresis showing whether proteins are bound to DNA.

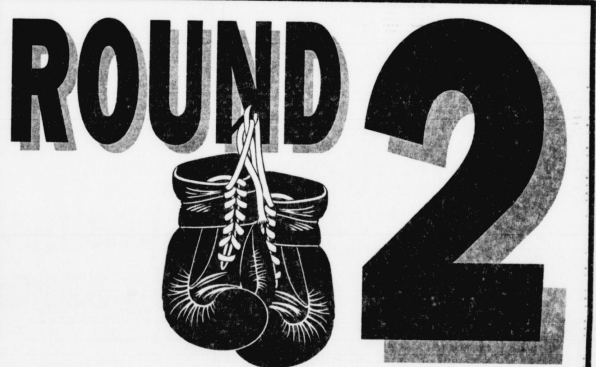
"I chose this project because of the length of time it would take," Tan said. "It's something I could do over the summer. Also, it has to do with cancer, which I think is an interesting part of biology and chemistry."

Pfizer will finance Tan's research throughout the summer as she works here on campus in Sarge's lab.

In the fall, after she has completed the summer research, she and Sarge will travel to Pfizer's international headquarters in Groton, Conn., to participate in a research symposium. At that time, Tan will reveal the results of her work.

As of right now, she really has no clue of what the research might reveal. She said she hasn't dedicated enough time to it yet and doesn't want to make any predictions, but at the end of the summer, she plans to have some noteworthy numbers.

"I think we should have enough results to show a definite conclusion," Tan said.



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ANGEL OF MERCY
Nicolas Cage and Meg Ryan star in a poor adaptation of the German film 'Wings of Desire.' 'City of Angels' plays at Lexington Green and Man-O-War.

Photo furnished

'City of Angels' doesn't live up to predecessor

By Dan O'Neill
Associate Editor

Call the EPA. Hollywood is polluting again. In all of its glorious decadence, Tinsel Town has unleashed its latest contaminant on Wim Wenders' enchanting film of 11 years ago, *Wings of Desire*.

They call the resulting bastard adaptation *City of Angels*, and it stars the cute and cuter tandem of Nicolas Cage and Meg Ryan.

Wenders' picture (which is one of the best imports in the last two decades) takes a poignant look at the human condition through the eyes of two angels who yearn to experience life's simple idiosyncrasies. They spend their days listening to the random daydreams of individuals who live humble lives and think subtle thoughts.

In *City of Angels*, however, nothing is humble or subtle or even worth watching. Rather than finding insight through the unadorned nature of everyday life, the film opts for glossy high-drama and sappy romance. It tells the story of Seth (Cage),

an angel who sits in on human life while accompanying the dead to their divine second life. He, too, is fascinated with the simple idiosyncrasies of everyday life, but enjoys grief, drama and sentimentality just a little more.

The first three scenes portray him witnessing dire situations: a frantic mother loses her daughter to a vengeful fever, a doctor loses her first patient after heart surgery, and finally, a store clerk gets robbed at gunpoint. Seth just stands by with a puzzled stare to evoke sympathy.

Things get rolling when Maggie (Ryan), the aforementioned doctor, "sees" Seth during the failed surgery. But Seth is invisible to the human eye. How can that be?

Apparently Seth can be seen when he wants to be seen and apparently likes to be seen in Maggie's presence. When the two meet they fall in love and ultimately face the pesky situation regarding Seth's status as a non-human. In order to become human he must relinquish his angelic powers to become a fallen angel. Thus the paradox begins and

all of its engaging qualities end. Apart from any comparisons with its superior predecessor, *City of Angels* falls in more ways than its adaptation.

Fans of Demi Moore's buckets-o'-tears performance in *Ghost* or the bargain melodrama in TV's "Touched By An Angel" will find some similarities to their liking.

Director Brad Silberling's extensive experience in films of the spiritual or supernatural nature (he directed *Casper*) doesn't quite show ... or perhaps it does.

But he shouldn't shoulder all the blame. For that, look to screenwriter Dana Stevens and her steady diet of ham and cheese with a side order of corn. Her script torments viewers as Cage and his angel buddy Cassiel (Andre Braugher) talk of how great it must be to taste a pear. This, of course, happens between episodes of some-

body dying. *City of Angels* also comes replete with formulaic plot maneuvers to support Maggie's slow discovery of Seth's celestial side. The traditional cues include Seth magically knowing her name before she tells him, and the proverbial Polaroid picture where Seth's image comes out as a beam of light rather than a human.

The film is full of these annoying Hollywood conventions while noticeably void of any thought-provoking observation. Although it's a mistake to re-make a gem like *Wings of Desire*, it becomes even more of one when it's changed with such foolish liberty.

One last quip: for some reason only children and dogs can see the angels in *City of Angels*. Unfortunately, children and dogs are also the only groups who might find *City of Angels* worth seeing.



MOVIEreview
★ 1/2
(out of five)
'City of Angels'
Warner Brothers

Gheorghe makes big screen debut

By Matt Mulcahey
Staff Critic

Based on an idea Billy Crystal conceived while working with André the Giant in *The Princess Bride*, *My Giant* attempts to breathe new life into the standard "fish-out-of-water" formula.

In this case, the "fish-out-of-water" takes the form of 7-foot-7 Washington Wizards basketball player Gheorghe Muresan. Ostracized by his Romanian countrymen, Muresan takes solace in a monastery where he quietly reads and tends to his flock of sheep.

Enter down-on-his-luck agent Billy Crystal. After being fired by his only promising client, Crystal has a car accident and is saved from certain death by Muresan. Convinced he can turn the giant into a movie star, Crystal cons him into traveling to America with the false promise of reuniting him with a long lost love.

Although Billy Crystal is not as funny as he usually is, *My Giant* successfully relies on sentiment to make up for the lack of laughs. Crystal once again proves he's underrated as an actor with a convincing transformation from a money-hungry leech seeking to exploit Muresan to his caring protector.

Sure, there probably aren't any other 7-foot-7 actors around, but

to say Muresan is a bad actor would be kind. His garbled dialogue detracts from many of the film's tender scenes, and Muresan's attempts to recite Shakespeare make André the Giant look like Laurence Olivier.

Many of the better moments in *My Giant* lie in its comments about the movie industry. The hot-headed director of Muresan's first movie, a *Braveheart*-esque battle scene, and others steal all his scenes, but perhaps the most surprising performance comes from Steven Seagal. Instead of being laughed at for his terrible movies, Seagal proves he has a sense of humor by parodying himself.

Unfortunately, the movie's script can't match the level of the performances. Basically, *My Giant* is an idea in search of a story, and it's never found in this movie. After adequately balancing humor and sentiment for most of the movie, director David Selzer eventually over-indulges in the latter, resulting in a lengthy, ineffective conclusion that takes away from an otherwise well-paced movie.

Instead of a decent story, *My Giant* depends almost solely on the talent and charisma of Crystal. His winning performance and good casting in secondary roles overshadow the shortcomings, making *My Giant* an enjoyable little movie.



GIANT SIZED Billy Crystal stars in the enjoyable 'My Giant.'

Photo furnished

GymKat earns national prestige

By Gary McCollum
Staff Writer

At first glance, no one would take Ashley Burkholder as the type to stand out in a crowd. As the 1998 GymKat season progressed, Burkholder slowly saw her dedication bring her into the spotlight — a position she really hasn't seemed to grow accustomed to yet.

Burkholder is still getting used to the idea of giving interviews and signing autographs for kids. But as the attention she receives continues to grow, her desire to give her best in competition is constant.

"It all started when I was younger," she said. "I was always flipping on the couches at home. So my parents got me into gymnastics so that I wouldn't get hurt."

The Houston native will be competing for an All-Around NCAA Championship on Thursday, quite a step up from flipping on the couch in the den.

Burkholder pointed to her coaches as a big factor in her development as a gymnast. One of Burkholder's former coaches was re-united with her this year, when Hajile "Mo" Muhammad joined the team's staff. Muhammad was quick to point out how far Burkholder has come as an athlete.

"She doesn't say much (about herself) ... she's learned so much since she's come into the program," Muhammad said. "She's always been a hard worker, even in eighth grade. That's how she's succeeded, because she's willing to work harder than a lot of athletes."

Head coach Leah Little agreed. "We had no idea that she'd have this initial impact," she said. "We



Photo furnished

STRIKE A POSE UK freshman Ashley Burkholder is the lone GymKat who will participate in the NCAA championships this weekend in Los Angeles.

knew that she had some talent on floor and vault, but beam surprised us and she was consistent enough on bars that she worked herself into an all-around competitor."

But will competing in the all-around competition without the rest of the team translate into more or less pressure at the Championships in Los Angeles later this week?

Burkholder sees the answer as a little bit of both.

"I'd rather be competing with the team, because the moral support is there," Burkholder said. "But knowing that I don't have to contribute to a team score and that I'm out there trying to do my best individually, I think I can go out there and not worry about it."

Burkholder is the first GymKat

to qualify for the National Championship since All-Americans Jenny Hansen and Robin Ewing competed in 1996. Coach Little said she's hopeful of Burkholder's chances of reaching similar status as the former All-Americans.

"What's great about Ashley is how she's done since she's arrived here," Little said. "Karoly's Gym (Burkholder's training facility before UK) is very competitive and there are a lot of great kids who get lost in the environment of a place like that."

Muhammad summed up Burkholder's chances enthusiastically, saying, "I think she's going to do great. Ashley is a competitor and has always saved her best performances for the biggest meets."

Cats seek to topple Western

By Mike Heppermann
Staff Writer

The Western Kentucky Hilltoppers roll into Lexington today to try to pick up their 19th win of the year. That won't come easy considering UK is coming off a two-game winning streak after beating Southeastern Conference rival Mississippi State, and a 4-11 road record plagues the Hilltoppers.

The Cats look to pick up their third win in a row for their first win streak since March 22-March 25. Before meeting the Bulldogs last weekend, their March 22 win against Tennessee was their last SEC victory.

Today's game also marks the first home game for the Cats (15-22) since head coach Keith Madison earned his 600th win at Dudley Noble Field on Saturday.

Western Kentucky's momentum is soaring as well, as it wrapped up a three-game winning streak at home against

Arkansas-Little Rock over the weekend. The Hilltopper's pitching staff has a collective 6.52 earned-run average. Only two pitchers, sophomore Josh Novotney and freshman Ryan Hutchinson, have ERAs under five.

They plan to start Hutchinson (0-1), whose ERA is 4.57.

What WKU (18-18) lacks in pitching they make up for in hitting.

The Hilltoppers have a total of 27 home runs, 203 runs-batted-in and a .308 batting average. Junior T.J. Freeman leads the team with six homers, 41 RBIs, a .408 average and a .675 slugging percentage.

UK sophomore Ben Shaffar will try to cool WKU's bats, but he'll likely have his hands full. Shaffar has made 17 appearances on the mound this season, but is just 1-1 and carries a 9.00 ERA.

The team's overall ERA is 8.07, but over the last five games the Cat starters have dropped that figure to 4.30. During that span, Matt Borne, Brandon Webb and Josh Paxton all have recorded ERAs under three. Paxton's 1.29 ERA is the lowest on the team.

If they can't, the UK bats will likely back them up.

The Cats only managed five runs over the first two games against the Bulldogs, but exploded for 12 runs on Sunday. UK has scored more than five runs in 21 of their games this year, including notching double digit runs in 11 of those games.

Today's 6 p.m. game at Cliff Hagan Stadium will have a familiar feel for the Cats.

Their three game stance in Mississippi was the first time UK had to play visitor after 12 straight home games.

The Cats can't get too comfortable, because they hit the road on Wednesday to play Eastern Kentucky at 3 p.m.

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"My dog ate it" stopped working somewhere around seventh grade.



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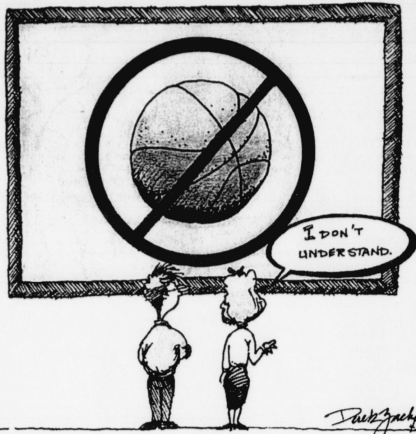
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Let's party



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It's about time. This campus will finally have an opportunity for everyone to come together and not just pay lip service to the concept of a united campus. Even if it is only for a day.

The Student Government Association and the Student Activities Board have planned "Rock the Foundation 1998," an all-afternoon party set for this Friday on Stoll Field.

There will be booths for any student organization that wants one, and all proceeds will go to Habitat for Humanity.

An event that gives money to charity? This gets better all the time.

The four bands listed to perform are all either acoustic or rock bands, but variety will be the flavor of the day after performances from various international students.

The all-day event depends on only one thing now. Participation.

This is an open call to every student organization on campus. GET INVOLVED!

The letter each organization got in its mailbox just needs to be turned in to SGA tomorrow. With

that small movement, you can make a strong dedication to improving the state of campus activities. After all the bitching and moaning we've all been doing, now is the time to offer congratulations and support for when something actually gets done to serve the students.

Reserve a booth. Share one if you have to. We'll be there, and you'd better be too.

Set up some information or just have a wacky pie-throwing festival at your table. Make it noticeable. Get your organization out there for everyone to see.

IN OUR OPINION

Don't give the student body an opportunity to say there's nothing out there for it.

Show them you're fun. Show them you're wacky. Show them what you stand for and why they should join you in that stance.

And you students don't get off easy either. If you wonder why nothing ever happens on campus, maybe it's because no one ever shows up when things are planned.

Come out, have some fun, support your school and help Jimmy Carter build some houses. It doesn't get any easier.

COM 181 four up sends message to its students

Our opinions don't matter when they clash with college's

A little kicking and screaming is good for the soul.

I don't know how many times I've encountered stupidity and headlessness on this campus, but it's really getting to me.

I am so sick of self-righteous professors, administrators, etc., who speak of a need to build bridges with students yet act as if their own opinions and agendas are superior to student opinions.

I'm not alone. Similar feelings were expressed in last fall's much heralded Student Satisfaction Report by students who felt they weren't taken seriously by the University.

So, I'll say it again: Students are not at the bottom of the food chain on this campus.

Student opinions are as worthy of respect as those of professors and administrators! Admittedly, we may not stand up for ourselves all the time, but when we do, someone should do more than pay lip service to our concerns.

Take last Friday for example. I ran head-first into the thick skull we call Basic Public Speaking and it hurts like heck!

It seems the people who oversee this University Studies Course have decided they can make and change rules at whim, regardless of the impact on students.

As many of you know, COM 181 students must write a lengthy critique of a speech in place of a final exam.

No problem here, for such a requirement gives students the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the properties that make for an excellent, or in this case, poor public speech.

It further gives students a chance to improve their writing skills, a benefit that final exams simply lack.

Unfortunately, the rules for this little assignment (12.5 percent of our grade) were changed AFTER the April 6 speech by Holding Carter, III.

You see, we were told a week BEFORE that a videotape of Carter's speech would be available so that we could review it as we write the paper.

With this in mind, myself and others marched into the Singletary Center for the 21st Annual Joe Creason Lecture.

Heck, with a tape available, we could kick back, soak in the evening's atmosphere and enjoy a prominent national speaker without frantically trying to scribble every last word he spoke.

Of course, if one wanted to save time, he/she could simply attend the speech, take notes and write the paper from them. In any case, you had a number of approaches to consider in completing the assignment.

Silly me, I trusted the department to stand by its instructors, so I planned to sit down with the tape for a few hours one afternoon to prepare my paper in excruciating detail.

Well folks, that ain't gonna

happen now! You see, four days AFTER the speech, our instructor informed us that his superiors refused to release the tape for our use.

Those superiors gave him, and then us, this little song and dance about why it was so important to critique the speech without the aid of the tape.

However, that little song and dance, along with the department's wishes, are entirely irrelevant to the situation and this assignment.

It doesn't matter how eloquent or strong its argument, because it doesn't change the fact that students were informed of this change AFTER the speech.

Those students who attended the Carter speech, like myself, and planned on using the videotape are just out of luck.

We can't turn back time to see the speech again and take those oh-so-important notes, nor can the department go back in time and correct our professor's instructions to the class BEFORE the speech.

That leaves only one option: Make the tape available to students as promised.

Now the school might argue that prohibiting the use of a tape levels the playing field because every student gets to see exactly one viewing of Carter's speech.

To that I say — bullshit! As most students are aware, when one sits down to hear a speaker, the skills involved in listening, note taking and observation differ when one expects to be able to refer back to a tape rather than rely solely on notes.

So those students who planned to use the tape are significantly penalized while those who were going without it can cruise right along with no disruption to their plans.

Admittedly, I'm no legal scholar, but a lawyer friend suggested that such an "ex post facto" decision by a representative of a public university flies in the face of our Constitution.

I'll also admit this was an unfortunate misunderstanding that occurred between our professor and the department, and I can't begrudge them on that count because mistakes happen.

However, I brought this to the attention of the person responsible for the course and my concerns were quickly dismissed, despite her knowledge that the instructor and department were at fault and not the student.

The assignment aside, the true tragedy is that a student with a serious and compelling complaint, was simply swatted away like a pesky fly.

I hope that my former classmates will take this complaint to the Academic Ombudsman — a sympathetic ear — as I did because it appears the department would prefer to screw its students rather than own up to its mistakes.

With treatment like this, it's no wonder students feel subhuman on this campus.

Editorial Editor Todd Hash is a journalism senior. He can be reached at mthash1@pop.uky.edu.



Todd Hash
Editorial Editor

READERS' forum

Easter shouldn't be just another day to students

To the editor:

While I wholeheartedly agree with the sentiment of Jeff Zurcher's April 9 editorial lamenting loss of touch with the meaning of our holidays, particularly Easter, I think you are building your house on sand when you make bold claims about the "original" meaning of the day.

The Christian Easter is indeed a celebration of the resurrection of Christ as you describe, but it is not true that the familiar "eggs and bunnies" are a modern commercial afterthought to sell greeting cards and candy baskets.

Rabbits and eggs as symbols of this spring holiday predate the Christian interpretation of the day, which has its origin in pagan European fertility rituals. Even the name Easter comes from the

pagan goddess Ostara, with whom both hares and baskets of eggs were associated.

The Christian calendar is deliberately constructed to overshadow and occlude the seasonal holidays that already existed when Christians first came to convert the Europeans.

We also have evidence of this in the decidedly non-Christian trappings of Halloween and Christmas.

I do not bring this up to debate the meaning of Easter. Holidays do not have meaning in themselves, but are given meaning by their celebrants.

To you and I, Easter is a celebration of the ultimate gift of our religion.

To others it is a day to mark the turn of the seasons from harsh winter to rejuvenant spring. For all of us, it should be a potent symbol of new life. The only people I feel sorry for are those who see it as just another day.

A.L. Borchers
computer science graduate student

Dry campus raises questions

To the editor:

The dry campus policy is likely to transfer student drinking from the campus to the city streets, where it will endanger members of the community as well as students.

When I was 16, completely sober, I nearly killed myself with a car. When I was a 17-year-old freshman — at MIT — my friends and I sometimes drank, but we were never in much danger because we were in the dormitories and fraternity houses and not on the road.

This was illegal but tolerated by the university and city because they knew that behavior can only be legislated to a limited extent. It would be a good idea to lower the drinking age to 16 and raise the driving age to 21 so that people would have five years to learn how to deal with a relatively simple beer before taking on a vastly more complicated car.

Professor Henry R. Hirsch
department of physiology

TALKBACK!

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

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

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

All material should be type-written and double-spaced, but hand-written will be accepted if it is legible. Include your name and major classification (for publication), as well as your address and telephone number for verification.

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

Ships and saints find common ground on Easter Day

What a weekend! As many of you know, I am not the most religious person, so the majority of you probably thought I spent Easter weekend sitting in a dark hole, leaving only to bully small children or harass the homeless. Well, you'd be wrong! This weekend, I went back to the bright lights of the not-so-big city of Louisville, to celebrate Easter. The weekend was very interesting to say the least.

Everyone knows that the Belle of Louisville was sabotaged last August, but last week, the police arrested their one and only suspect: a 31-year-old student who still lives at home with his parents. By the way, that house of horrors is exactly three houses down from where I live. Gulp! In the newspaper reports, they call him a slacker. At one point he was even kicked

out of the Eagle Scouts for some unnamed activity with some unnamed minor.

Shocking isn't it? It just goes to show you never know about people. Who would believe they live next to a lunatic, so disgruntled that he would sink the finest riverboat this side of the Ohio? The former Belle employee now spends his spare time navigating the river in a canoe looking for lost treasure and sunken riverboats.

Well, it's doubtful he'll find any lost riches, but he has certainly lost one thing that he'll never find and that's his mind. The rest of the Louisville media won't say he's nuts, but they certainly allude to that fact. I'll let you Lexington folk into the loop on this one. He is wacko and sooner or later, that will be the headline in the Courier-Journal.



Ben Rich
Kernel Columnist

I can see it now, "Wacko found guilty," followed by "Wacko gets the chair." Good grief!

If all this stuff about the Belle wasn't enough for one weekend, I succumbed to the powers that be and went with my grandmother to church. She is Baptist. Exactly which type of Baptist, I really don't know, nor do I care because she doesn't even go to a Baptist church.

She used to, but that was before the crooked preacher took the money and ran, forcing the small congregation to sell the church. So now, on Gage Avenue in Louisville, on the corner where Grace Baptist once stood, is the new and improved Grace, Praise and Worship Church — a Pentecostal Church. It sounds a little too much like Sex, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll, but that is to be expected.

For those of you who don't know, a Pentecostal church is REALLY different from the rest of the religious sects. When

the Pentecostals go to church, they have a good time. They had electric guitars, a drum set, tambourines. All that was missing were a few roadies and some teenyboppers for groups.

Pentecostals love to save souls. And they love to save them with the help of props. Snakes, chickens, trained monkeys, etc. Whatever they used, it was all for the glory of the God. Ozzy Osbourne, eat your heart out. Never mind, he might just do it.

The minister/singer/whatever you want to call him, was a pretty wild guy. Decked out in an expensive suit with a rock on every finger, he jumped up, screaming, whoopin' and a hollerin' all over the place.

He even warned the members that he felt a "fit" coming on. I don't know what exactly a "fit" is, but I think I can safely say he didn't have one. I probably wouldn't be alive to write this if he did.

The ring-leader had the place rocking. All of the old women in the audience were up on their feet, buckin' and a-jivin', to the beat of the funky bassline that was bumping from the speakers. I swear for a minute or two I thought the elderly lady in front of me was going to raise the roof on that sucker. The band played hymns and such that I vaguely remembered, but they were more or less remixes, in the Puff Daddy style. Same tune, adjusted lyrics and lots of shiny outfits.

I'm sure you're asking, "What does a Pentecostal church have to do with sunken ships?" When I think of the two similar, yet different, occurrences I'm reminded of the chocolate Easter Bunny. When you take a bite out of its head, often times that it is solid on the outside, but hollow in the middle.

Kernel Columnist Ben Rich is a journalism junior. He can be reached at barich0@pop.uky.edu.

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PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

Across: 1 Made an effort 2 Ship's body 3 Active volcano 7 Type of light 73 Extend (a subscription) 74 Course file 2 Female sandpipers 3 Pistols slung 4 Writing-class assignments 5 W. Hemisphere alliance 6 Mongol rulers 7 Gripes 8 Mongol rulers 10 Crackles 11 Out of work 12 Endure 13 Final 21 Snow boredom 22 Pries 25 Route 28 Object on radar 29 Fable writer 30 River through Paris 31 Perry Mason's actor 34 Table-sport item 37 Shelf 38 Schoolbook 41 Temporary platform 43 Chaining clothes 46 Hosiery cloth 51 Spring holiday 53 Martin - King, Jr. 55 Boldness 57 Rake 58 Miss Cinders, of the comics 59 Singer Coltrane 61 Tiny amount 62 Sisters 63 Capture 46 Hosiery cloth 66 - out, stretch 67 Molecule

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