

WEATHER Mostly cloudy today, high near 30; mostly cloudy tonight, low near 40; showers tomorrow, high near 60.

SPORTS The Cats take on SEC co-leader Mississippi State tonight in Rupp Arena. Story, matchups page 3.



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iN Classified: 5 Diversions: 2
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Crossword: 5 Viewpoint: 4

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LexTran's money woes could affect campus

By Stephen Trimble
Executive Editor

LexTran's expected financial crunch next year could be "tragic" for about 250,000 passengers who use the bus service on UK's campus each year, say LexTran and campus officials.

LexTran General Manager Stephen Rowland announced last week that his bus service needs nearly \$400,000 to stay in business and about \$2.5 million more to come up to par next year. Rowland is asking the city to pay about \$1.6 million of that total.

Today, he will present his case to the Lexington-Fayette Urban

County Council, which he said has responded skeptically to an increase so far.

Rowland said the expanded budget, which, if approved, would be more than \$6 million, would bring the bus service up to par and especially increase services for UK.

UK is a "tremendous market that we haven't really tapped yet," Rowland said.

Campus officials, however, fear that the budget problems of the city's only transit service could sharply decrease bus routes around UK.

"LexTran services are essential," said Don Thornton, director

of UK parking and transportation services. "We have no choice but to park folks out in Commonwealth Stadium," who need the buses every day to make classes.

LexTran runs one circular route across campus with seven buses. The route stretches from the stadium parking lot to near Kennedy Book Store and then back to the stadium.

Although Thornton said he expects LexTran will have

less than "tragic" for students.

to decrease services next year, he hopes UK will be left mostly unscathed.

"I would like to think that (UK) is very high on their priority list," Thornton said.

Russ Harper, a Student Government Association senator at large who has cooperated with a LexTran survey on campus in the past, said any cutbacks would be nothing but "tragic" for students.

Harper said most of the passengers leave their cars in the stadium parking lot and take the bus to Central Campus. If the buses were to be taken away, "that's some hike," Harper said.

Councilman Bobby Flynn said the council will be "open-minded" to LexTran's case today, but added he is doubtful that LexTran's request can be met by the city.

He said the council's current difficulty in paying off \$9 million it bought in 1988 of unusable land downtown may hurt LexTran's chances.

Campus officials, meanwhile, will be watching carefully, Thornton said.

ton said.

"At this point, we're certainly concerned about LexTran's situation," Thornton said. "However, we have no plans for alternatives."

Both Harper and Rowland said one option that has been considered has been to start charging fees for riding the bus. Texas A&M University, Harper said, charges a \$35 fee for students each year who use the bus.

While planners discuss all the alternatives, Rowland said, he will keep working for more money.

"Is it going to be tough? Yes, it is," Rowland said.

"But we're going to give it our best shot."

Would you be my Valentine?



FLOWER POWER Sherry Heston and John Young prepare bouquets at Oram Flowers Inc. on East High Street in preparation for Valentine's Day today. **JOSEPH REY AU Kannel staff**

Retailers offer wide variety of last-minute gifts

By Jennifer Smith and Kevin Cullen
Staff Writers

Whether you have been naughty or nice, or you're looking for a Valentine's Day gift that is naughty or nice, there are many Lexington retailers ready to help.

Jester's, a novelty gift store at 351 W. Short St., has a gift for every taste. Greg Stuart, a sales associate, said he has several "tasty" treats for less than \$10.

"Some people like adult things to give for gifts," Stuart said. "Ours are pretty traditional."

Some of Stuart's traditional items include Lick It and Love It flavored lubricants, which cost \$9 each and are available in a variety of flavors like chocolate, almond, raspberry and mocha. The store also has a selection of glow in the dark edible body paints and flavored condoms.

Other edible items include truffles and Sexy Stickers, candy shaped like a penis.

"I've sold all of the edible underwear,"

Stuart said regretfully. "Some people buy that kind of stuff."

However, for those with a real need to pick up some underwear, Jester's does sell Fundies, underwear built for two people.

For the cocoa enthusiast, the store offers a Rude Tube. The Rude Tube is a chocolate item shaped like a man and a woman in various lingerie. Various body parts of the man and woman are interchangeable. Inside their connected tube are small chocolate parts called wilbes, sperms, nipples and bums.

Jester's also has traditional items like cards, roses and heart-shaped soaps. It offers buttons with phrases like "You can buy me love" and "Hot property."

Edibility is a common trend in Valentine's Day gifts. Retail Hell at 345 S. Limestone St. has several items to add to the list.

"We do have edible orgy butter," said Aaron Klinglesmith, a sales associate. "It's a sexual cream. If you want to, you can spread it on toast."

To round off your holiday meal, Klin-

glesmith also said his store sells edible massage oil and body paint.

If you are looking for a gift that will leave quite an impression on your date, look no further than Tattoo Charlie's at 470 S. New Circle Road.

Although the store does not have any Valentine's Day specials, tattoo artist "Tattoo Kiven" said in the past people generally have gotten hearts with names in them.

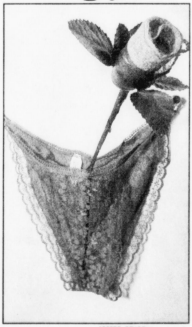
However, Kiven does not recommend that route. He claims it's better to just get a plain heart because "most of them come back in six months and want the name gone."

If you have confidence that your love is true, Madam Grace at 3022 Nicholasville Road does special holiday palm reading. She said she is about 98 percent accurate.

Madam Grace usually charges \$25 for a palm reading, but in Valentine's Day she is charging a special \$15.

"All palm readings are based on the

See GIFTS on Back Page yesterday at The Commons.



A ROSE made of red parties was sold yesterday at The Commons.

NEWSbytes

NATION 8 passengers die in Arizona airplane crash

TUSAYAN, Ariz. — A plane flying tourists to the Grand Canyon apparently lost an engine and crashed while trying to return to the airport yesterday, killing eight of 10 people aboard, authorities said.

Two other passengers were being treated for serious injuries at the scene 2 miles northeast of Grand Canyon Airport, said Coconino County Sheriff's Sgt. Raoul Osegueda. There was a fire when the plane crashed amid pine trees, Osegueda said.

The plane, a Piper Navajo, belongs to Las Vegas Airlines, a tour company that specializes in scenic flights over Grand Canyon National Park, Osegueda said.

Gingrich rules out presidential bid

SMYRNA, Ga. — House Speaker Newt Gingrich ended a brief flirtation with the 1996 presidential race yesterday, saying he had decided it was more important to concentrate on the ambitious GOP congressional agenda.

Few Republicans actually believed Gingrich would enter the race, given his longtime desire to be speaker, his often controversial views and pending ethics investigations.

But many activists had urged him to run, especially after other prominent conservatives, including former Vice President Dan Quayle and former HUD Secretary Jack Kemp, announced they would forgo the 1996 race.

Survey: Americans ignorant of risk

WASHINGTON — Americans don't know their risk for sexually transmitted diseases or their partners' sexual histories, and consequently don't protect themselves, a survey shows.

The survey, to be released today, found 75 percent of Americans don't believe they could catch a sexually transmitted disease, even though doctors diagnose 12 million new cases each year, including AIDS — every year. The survey marks the release of a new booklet, developed by a coalition of medical organizations, with explicit instructions for detecting the often hidden symptoms of sexual diseases. The government says one in four Americans may get a sexually transmitted disease, which left untreated can cause infertility or even death.

WORLD Serbs to stand trial

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Setting the stage for the first war-crimes trial since World War II, a tribunal yesterday accused 21 Serbs with committing atrocities against Croats and Muslims interned in a Bosnian prison camp. Only one suspect is in custody, a karate expert named Dusan Tadic, so the former Kozarac police officer may be the lone person to come to trial for crimes that include killings, torture, rape and beatings at the Omarska camp.

NAMEdropping

Goldberg says she had abortion

NEW YORK — Whoopi Goldberg says deciding to have an abortion was "a hard choice," and she has no use for people who take such decisions lightly. She offered few details, such as when she had the abortion or who else was involved, in an interview in the March issue of *McCall's* magazine.

"I was in a great relationship at the time, but we were barely getting by," the Oscar-winning actress said.

Goldberg grew up in New York City housing projects and has one child, a daughter she gave birth to at age 18. As for abortion in general, she says, "I have great anger toward people who cavalierly make these decisions, assuming some woman just decides, 'I'm going to get my hair done and then get an abortion.'"

Compiled from wire reports.



Goldberg

Application deadlines nearing for two student awards

Staff report

Aside from the new need-based scholarships offered by the Student Government Association, the application deadline is nearing for two other types of SGA awards.

The Robert G. Zumwinkle Student Rights Awards are presented to one student, one faculty member and one staff member who have protected, enforced or furthered student rights.

Nominations for the Zumwinkle awards, which bring a \$300 cash prize in the fall, must be received

by 4:30 p.m. on Friday.

Zumwinkle, the award's namesake, is a former vice chancellor for student affairs, he was a long-standing member of the American Civil Liberties Union and an ardent advocate of student rights.

The deadline for three \$1,000 Constitutional Scholarships also is Friday. These scholarships are funded by the annual SGA executive budget and are offered only to students who are involved in campus activities, excel in academics and demonstrate financial need.

A six-member selection committee will evaluate

all scholarship applicants and rank them on a weighted point system. Between five and 10 students will be called in for individual two-hour interviews. Following the interviews, the committee will vote, and the candidates who receive confirmation will receive the awards. The recipients of both the awards and the scholarships will be notified by March 28. To apply for a constitutional scholarship or to nominate a student, faculty or staff member for a Zumwinkle award, contact Matt Grunkenmeyer, chairman for awards and grants, at the SGA offices, 120 Old Student Center, or by calling 257-3191.

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February 16, 1995

Free concerts offer romance



ALEX DE GRAND Kernel staff

Staff report

Couples can say "the mine" to the sounds of romantic music tonight, and they can also hold each others' hands instead of using them to dig into their wallets.

The UK Jazz Ensemble with the UK Lab Band, the JazzCats and the MEGA-SAX I class, will hold the School of Music's Fifth Annual Valentine's Day Concert. The show, "An Evening of Jazz," will be in the Oris A. Singletary Center Concert Hall at 8. Admission is free.

"We do a lot of tunes that have love in the title," said Jazz Ensemble director and UK instructor Miles Osland.

The concert will feature classic and modern jazz. A special arrangement of the popular

lounge standard "My Funny Valentine" will be included in the Jazz Ensemble's repertoire. "My Funny Valentine" will always send chills up and down your spine," Osland said.

A free faculty concert will also be given at 8 in the Singletary Center Recital Hall. The performance features three professors: Benjamin Karp on cello, Phillip Miller on clarinet and Patricia Montgomery on piano. The concert will consist of works by Beethoven and Brahms as well as "Three Pieces for Cello and Piano," a cycle that was written by Danville composer Mimi McClellan.

"We're not going to be giving out free roses, but we have had great fun preparing it and I think the (Valentine's Day) spirit will be there," said Montgomery.

Togetheriness is important 'To Live'

By Matt DeFoor
Senior Staff Critic

There are many conflicts in this world: man against man, man against himself and man against nature. With "To Live," director Zhang Yimou presents a conflict of man against history, a battle that cannot be won.

The characters of this story are like many real people: They concede defeat and prepare for the next losing battle with the sweeping tide of history.

Against the historical backdrop of the Communist Revolution, "To Live" looks at the dramatic and sometimes comic reforms that irrevocably change the lives of this everyday family.

Even though the characters' lives are interwoven with the events of history, they are not so bold as to effect change. Just like the movie's title, the characters are content "to live."

The misfortunes of the Xu family are shaped by history, as the film stretches from the 1930s to the 1960s and Yimou shows how the "Cultural Revolution" affected every family.

In "To Live" are neither epically idealistic nor typically heroic. Their contribution to heroism is their desire simply to go on with their lives, no matter what the circumstances.

Even with the deaths of their children, Fugui and Jiazhen remain hopeful of the future that The Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution promised.

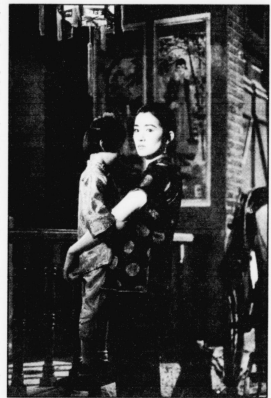
Gong Li (Jiazhen) plays the wife and mother of this family that is reduced to poverty by her husband Fugui's gambling. It is her strength that carries the family through the years of the revolution while Fugui (Ge You) is serving involuntarily in the army.

Yimou's film is minimalist in its scope of presenting China's majestic landscape as a backdrop to the struggle of the characters. Yimou doesn't fill the screen with picturesque images of China's countryside.

Instead, he keeps it simple, focusing on the emotional performances of Ge You and Gong Li.

The only majestic quality that Yimou is concerned with is the simplicity of the human spirit and its attempt to struggle on against powers that are uncompromising.

Yimou's approach to this tale of human sur-



GONG LI stars as Jiazhen in "To Live," an epic playing at the Kentucky Theatre.

vival among political upheavals is unlike one of the recent American movies that attempts to present the saga of a family on a grand scale, "Legends of the Fall."

Yimou's affecting story is humble in its ambition to present something very lifelike: the simple drive to stay alive. "To Live" is not overly dramatic, rather it is a beautiful portrait of the simple and often tragic events of how one family attempts to cope with the changes of history.

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SPORTS

Cats and Dogs getting defensive for wins

SEC's leaders meet tonight at Rupp Arena

By Brett Dawson
Sports Editor

Although they'll spend their evening dribbling and hooping rather than kissing and cuddling, no one could accuse fourth-ranked UK and No. 23 Mississippi State of not being in the Valentine's Day spirit.

The Wildcats (17-3, 9-1 Southeastern Conference) and Bulldogs (15-5, 7-3) have made reservations at Rupp Arena for tonight at 9:30.

Though UK and MSU won't have much privacy — a national television audience will be gazing at their every move via ESPN — the couple still is hoping for a hot date.

The fact of the matter is, though, that one of the two will go home heartbroken.

The other forfeits a box of chocolates in favor of what the NCAA Tournament committee calls a "quality win."

Yesterday, the Cats got in the mood by slipping compliments toward the Dogs like Billy Dee Williams drops pick up lines.

"They're a great team, one of the better teams in our league," UK's Tony Delk said of the Bulldogs.

"We're going to have to play really well to come out with a win against a team like this."

Mississippi State has had its share of rough times, despite being tied for first place in the SEC's Western Division.

Auburn took some of the wind out of the Bulldogs' sails with a 60-59 win in Starkville on Saturday.

Even with that setback, State is on a collision course with the NCAA Tournament after the

selection committee left the Dogs standing at the altar last season despite MSU's 18 wins, one of them over eventual champion Arkansas.

This season, the Bulldogs roasted the Hogs again and have a chance at picking up another big win when they hook up with UK.

Though the Cats and Dogs might seem the oddest of odd couples at first glance, Match-Maker International on its best day couldn't bring together a pair with so much in common.

UK and MSU both are particularly fond of defense. Among their common interests are holding opponents to icy shooting percentages. (State's foes shoot 37.4 percent, UK's 39.)

The Cats and Dogs' pet peeve? Opponents who shoot three-pointers well.

To avoid such nastiness, both teams put on the clamps outside the arc.

UK holds the opposition to 27.5 percent shooting from outside, while the Dogs' adversaries manage just 29.6 percent from downtown.

"They play defense like we do," Delk said. "They're one of the best defensive teams we'll play."

Offensively, Mississippi State's special someone is Erick Dampier. The 6-foot-11 sophomore center averages 12.5 points and 9 rebounds per game and is far from a perfect mate for UK centers

UK vs. Miss. State Tonight, 9:30 Rupp Arena

UK (17-3, 9-1 SEC)

| Probable Starters: | Pts: | Reb: |
|--------------------|------|------|
| G Tony Delk | 15.4 | 3.5 |
| G Jeff Sheppard | 9.2 | 2.2 |
| C Andre Riddick | 4.8 | 4.5 |
| F Rodrick Rhodes | 13.0 | 3.2 |
| F Walter McCarly | 10.1 | 5.4 |

Reserves: Antoine Walker, 7.7 ppg; Mark Pope, 7.4; Anthony Epps, 7.2; Jaed Pickett, 7.1; Cameron Mills, 2.0; Scott Padgett, 2.1; Chris Harrison, 1.8; Allen Edwards, 1.5.

Miss. State (15-5, 7-3)

| Probable Starters: | Pts: | Reb: |
|--------------------|------|------|
| G Darryl Wilson | 16.7 | 4.3 |
| G T.J. Honore | 10.5 | 2.6 |
| G Erick Dampier | 12.5 | 9.0 |
| F Russell Walters | 5.5 | 4.3 |
| F Damon Johnson | 11.3 | 4.2 |

Reserves: Vondale Thomas, 4.5 ppg; Marcus Burland, 4.2; Bubba Wilson, 3.6; Jack Young, 1.6; Jay Wallton, 1.5; Vince Embry, 1.6; Boo Ray, 1.5; Whit Hughes, 1.3; Mokie Edmonson, 1.3.

TV: ESPN, live

little bump and grind (the less romantic version) with Dampier tonight.

"I've never seen him in person, but supposedly he's huge," Pope said.

"There's a lot of big guys out there, but he's got a lot of talent, too — it's more than just size."

And it's more than Dampier. State also features a skilled backcourt, with starters T.J. Honore and Darryl Wilson combining to average more than 26 points per game.

"I guess with (Dampier) getting all the honors people overlook Wilson and those guys," Delk said.

"I think (the backcourt is) the focal point to their team. It's important that we contain their backcourt and not let them get off."

Pinino makes it sound as though doing that could pose the Cats' toughest challenge of the

year. "This is a team that, if you look at the power rankings based on statistical data, always shows up very high," he said. "This is as good a basketball team as there is in the country."

Notes: Pinino said yesterday that he couldn't complain with where UK wound up in this week's rankings. That was despite the fact that while the Cats moved up to No. 4 in the Associated Press poll, they stayed in the same spot (No. 3) in the USA Today/CNN coaches' poll.

UK had been third last week in the coaches' poll as well, and when North Carolina and Kansas lost, the Cats appeared to be in a position to claim the top spot, which went to Connecticut.

"I would say that's pretty accurate," Pinino said. "I think you have to make Connecticut number one — they only have one loss and they just beat Syracuse at Syracuse."

The UK coach added that he would prefer not being ranked No. 1 at all — at least not until after the season is over.

"Nobody ever rushes the court and says, 'We beat number four,'" Pinino said.

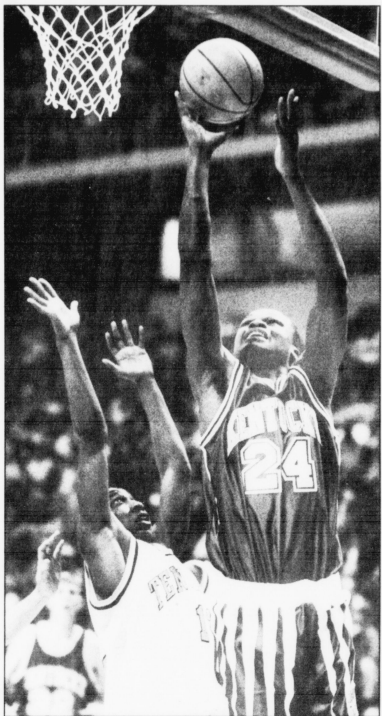
Stall on the subject of polls, Pinino said the AP rankings, the result of a weekly poll of 66 sportswriters, are more valuable than the coaches' poll.

"I think the media poll is more accurate than the coaches' poll," he said. "It's one of the few places where the media are brighter than the coaches. Not every coach follows every game. I think the media cover a little bit more extensively."

Pinino does, however, have a vote in the coaches' poll.

So where does the UK coach rank often-disrespected Mississippi State?

"Three or four in the country," he said, sarcastically.



WALKING TALL UK's Antoine Walker is coming off a 13-point, 9-rebound performance against Notre Dame on Sunday. Walker and the Cats play host to Mississippi State tonight at Rupp Arena.



UKstats

Team statistics

| UK | Opponents |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 456 Field Goal Percentage | .390 |
| 710 Free-Throw Percentage | .716 |
| 387 Three-Point Percentage | .275 |
| 86.6 Points Per Game | 67.0 |
| 41.1 Rebounds Per Game | 36.5 |
| 14.3 Off. Rebounds Per Game | 13.8 |
| 18.9 Assists Per Game | 11.4 |
| 16.1 Turnovers Per Game | 22.5 |
| 5.1 Blocks Per Game | 4.8 |
| 10.4 Steals Per Game | 7.0 |

SCOUTINGreport

BACKCOURT



Sheppard

Mississippi State's Darryl Wilson has matured into one of the Southeastern Conference's best guards. The junior shooting guard is hitting an incredible 48 percent of his three-point attempts. UK point guard Jeff Sheppard has hit only five three-point field goals in his past nine games.

FRONTCOURT



Epps

Mississippi State is strong up front, even with an injury to forward Brian Price. Center Erick Dampier is among the SEC's top young players, and swingman Marcus Grant is an all-around talent, ranking second on the team with 65 assists. The Cats' Rodrick Rhodes is struggling of late. The junior forward has scored just 11 points on 1-of-16 shooting during that stretch.

BENCH

UK's Anthony Epps has been effective as a backup at the point guard position. The sophomore has scored double figures in each of the past two games and is third in the SEC in assist-to-turnover ratio at 2.2:1. Even without Price, MSU's roster features eight players averaging at least 10 minutes per game.

ETC.

Rupp Arena has not been the friendliest place to visit for Mississippi State. The Bulldogs have never beaten UK at Rupp, going 0-16 all-time (3-7 overall) against UK in Lexington. The Cats lead the all-time series with MSU 72-14. Take note of which team gets tonight's first basket — UK is 11-2 this year when it nets the game's first points.



MSUstats

Team statistics

| MSU | Opponents |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| .459 Field Goal Percentage | .374 |
| .686 Free-Throw Percentage | .648 |
| .381 Three-Point Percentage | .296 |
| 76.0 Points Per Game | 64.2 |
| 40.3 Rebounds Per Game | 37.2 |
| 11.5 Off. Rebounds Per Game | 12.9 |
| 16.3 Assists Per Game | 10.0 |
| 16.5 Turnovers Per Game | 16.0 |
| 4.9 Blocks Per Game | 3.5 |
| 7.2 Steals Per Game | 7.8 |

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Viewpoint

St. Valentine's Day

Love like a box of chocolates

Life really is like a box of chocolates. Forrest Gump may be the king of ignorance when it comes to common sense, but in reality he may have been the smartest man ever created.

Often the only way to see complex things is to look at them in a simplified form.

It seems that Valentine's Day transforms people.

It reminds us of the many simple pleasures in our lives that we take for granted in the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

It brings to mind those things we usually feel or think at the most inappropriate times and forget as our day unfolds into nonstop chaos.

Valentine's Day is the one day of the year we have an excuse to just put our arms around someone and without saying a single word because the message is understood.

This is where Forrest Gump and his love for Jenny, the perfect girl, comes into play.

Love is like a box of chocolates that most people just hold and never deliver. Everyone knows what they want out of a relationship, just as we know what kind of chocolate we desire in a box where many look alike from the outside.

It's not until we pick over the selection and actually take a bite into the piece of candy that we find out what's hiding inside.

Sometimes we get lucky on the first try, other times we get a nasty orange creme — and spit it out.

Love is not much different. There are pieces of candy that you eat and others that you just know aren't

right for you. Others take a bad aftertaste to see the dislike.

If only love came with a list detailing its ingredients, like that for each piece of candy contained in many boxes of chocolate.

A boat that never leaves the harbor never encounters danger — but it also never gets anywhere. If we aren't willing to risk a little, we can only stare at that box of candy and wonder what lies inside.

To me, taking a risk at love is what Valentine's Day is all about — even if we don't know the ingredients.

Whether it's a reaffirmation of your love for someone else, or a first conversation about that girl who sits next to you, the one you know you want to marry before you ever speak a word to her.

In a warped sense, it's like a huge sorority crush party where you get to invite someone you would like to date without their knowing who it was that invited them.

In elementary school, love was pretty simple, especially on Valentine's Day. We used to bring Valentine's Day cards and exchange them with each member of the class. We had little brown bags we decorated with our names and a cut and paste heart.

We would drop the cards in the respective bags of each of our classmates.

There was always someone you

didn't necessarily want to give a card to, so you just signed your name, but on the card to that special someone you may add "Love, —" or another special greeting to make that one a little different than the others.

These cards were a way to share a part of ourselves with someone else under the guise of a class exchange. We were practicing love in its most primitive form. It was when students "went out with someone" and had nowhere to go since neither could drive and the only place you saw each other was at school.

Today, we pay a much higher price when we dabble in this thing called Love.

It's not as simple as it used to be. If only we could have those cute little bags again with the paper white doilies on them.

Imagine what you would write on the card today.

"I know that you don't know anything about me, but I'd like to go out sometime and, oh, by the way, I'd like to marry you." It's a daily thought in our minds until we talk with them.

Since I left my bag at home, and even Forrest Gump eventually realized utopias are broken every day faster than a young man's heart, I need to say that today I met the girl I'm going to marry. She was sitting in the same classroom as I, but I just don't know anything about her yet.

For now though, like Forrest Gump, I'm content just sitting on a bench and talking about her as I hold my box of chocolates in awe.

Staff Columnist Joe Braun is a political science senior.



Joe Braun Kernel Columnist



A day for lovers

Valentine's Day is big business. Greeting card companies, florists and candy manufacturers lick their collective greedy chops in anticipation of the holiday when they get to suck star-crossed lovers financially dry.

Anxious couples worry and fret over that perfect gift to show their true devotion to one another and make the holiday one to remember. A Valentine's Day gift can make or break a relationship for many.

Others attempt to work up the courage to approach the person they've had a crush on all semester.

And then there are those poor, pathetic ones without soulmates who often dread the day and dream of the perfect love that never was, and hope in earnest for a romantic future.

But where and how did the celebration of Valentine's Day begin?

Very few seem to really know the answer to that question.

Neither did we until our crack staff of

researchers searched the annals of history (the nearest World Book Encyclopedia) and set about uncovering the impetus behind the oft-celebrated holiday.

Valentine's Day was originally a day to feast in honor of St. Valentine, a Roman Christian martyr who is known as the patron saint of lovers. He was killed in 269 A.D. during a Christian persecution by a rather cruel and rude invader named Claudius the Goth.

Sometime during the Middle Ages, the holiday was turned into a time to send love notes to that special someone. Presumably, birds were said to have begun mating on that day, so many found it an appropriate time to exchange cheap tokens of affection. (That's right — the premiere celebration of love and devotion is based on when birds start getting horny.)

What more could you possibly ask from a holiday? Saints killed mercilessly by brutal barbarians, mating birds and heart-shaped boxes of candy. What a combination.

Happy Valentine's Day.

Kevin Bryant First-year law student

If Valentine's Day is a solo operation this year, enjoy it

Valentine's Day is a time for couples in love to celebrate the blessed bond they share, and for couples who are not in love, but are only going through the motions, to buy candy and flowers and other such nonsense and act all lovey-dovey in a sad attempt to convince each other that their sham of a relationship actually has worth, even though neither party would be tremendously upset if the other were run over by a tractor.

But what about those of us who, through bad luck, bad timing or unpleasant personal habits, are alone on Valentine's Day?

Should we be doomed to walking around moping, cursing He who let us be unattached on this wonderful day and constructing complex torture fantasies about every happy pair we see walking past us arm in arm and cooing sweet nothings at each other?

I'll go along with the part about torture because that's always fun, but it's silly to spend a portion of our brief stay on God's greenish Earth in such a miserable state of mind. We may not be in love, or even pretending to be in love, but there is a way we can celebrate the glorious concept of love.

Self-love. Masturbation — like marijuana, instant replay and Satan worship — is an essentially good thing that has, through no fault of its own, gotten a bad reputation. It's a fraternity every male belongs to, but no male wants to own up to, for fear of losing face with his peers. (I have no fear ... or no sense ... or no face. You make the call.)

It is unfathomable to me that people should treat such a joy as masturbation like a poisonous pit viper, but we do.

We should be no more embarrassed by it than we should by conversation, we'd have colonized Jupiter by now. Then the people who blush like beetles at the thought of talking about masturbation could have all of the people who don't care deported to Jupiter, where we wouldn't be able to bother you ever again.

But no, oh, no — you were too short-sighted. Didn't you think ahead,



John Abbott Kernel Columnist

did? We won't be hundreds of millions of miles away. We'll be right here, and you can't make us shut up.

What's so good about it? For starters, it's free. You don't have to shell out any cash for hookers or pay for expensive and time-consuming dates with people whose repulsive and/or completely uninteresting personalities are barely redeemed by the sexual payoff at the end of the evening (which may not even occur, depending on your skill as a seducer, meaning that you wasted all that effort). Masturbation is cost-effective fun. Efficient, too.

I have precious little sympathy for idiots who complain that they don't have any money for entertainment when masturbation is right under their noses. Your typical dirty magazine only costs a few bucks, cheaper still if you subscribe (like I do) or buy them in bulk at used bookstores (that, too). And those magazines, when taken care of, last forever.

I have always envied women for the sheer number of choices they have in their masturbatory pursuits. What are my options as a male? Right hand or left, basically. But women ... I think I'd go insane with the choices. I wouldn't spend every waking moment thinking up new possibilities.

Of course, (sigh) that's sort of what I do already.

I believe sex between two people is a sacred thing, and if you're going to sleep with someone, then that person ought to be the center of your universe, your eternal soulmate. You shouldn't sleep with people for sheer kicks.

If you haven't found your eternal soulmate yet, then don't go around screwing people, fooling them into thinking they're the least bit important to you. That's wrong.

Sex for one doesn't hurt anybody, and it's a damn good bit of fun, too. I'd tell you to check it out, but I have a feeling that you already know.

Staff Columnist John Abbott is a biology senior.

McINTZ/CKY Kerpel Editorial Board members: Brian Bennett, Trent Knuckles, Lance Williams, Mary Madden, Perry Brothers, Stephen Trimble, Ty Halpin, Matt Felice, Carrie Morrison, John Kelly.

READERS' forum

Puckett misses mark in column

To the editor:

Staff Columnist Don Puckett's column on Thursday missed its stated goal of deconstructing the mass media and, instead, served only to discredit the media.

Framed in the center of the article was the following quote: "The real lesson to be learned here is that Rush Limbaugh, on a daily basis, acts as a perceptual screen for millions of Americans."

So what? Can Mr. Puckett claim that the Kentucky Kernel,

the Lexington Herald-Leader, CNN or any other media source does something different?

Why is it that reading the New York Times or watching the network news makes me intelligent and enlightened, while getting input from Mr. Limbaugh makes me a "mindless ideologue with a dysfunctional perceptual screen"?

I would have thought that somewhere in Puckett's journalism studies he would have been warned against unfounded generalizations.

Puckett refers to the "silencer button" that awaits anyone who "begins to interject an ounce of truth into Limbaugh's world." Again referring to Puckett's journal-

ism major, I am sure he knows that the truth is a complete defense to slander. I would like to see his documentation of a single caller who has been cut off or his proof of the more serious statement that Mr. Limbaugh is a liar.

Since you are obviously a "truth-seeker," Mr. Puckett, put up or shut up.

In conclusion, let me paraphrase the Bard: "Me thinks the (columnist) doth protest too much."

If Rush Limbaugh is such a buffoon, why not encourage them to listen and make up their own minds? Why does Puckett want us to take his word for it? What are we, mindless ideologues with dysfunctional perceptual screens?

Kevin Bryant First-year law student

TALKback!

Readers may 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, 635 Enoch J. Grehan Journalism Building, 0042, Lexington, Ky. 40506-0042. Send electronic mail to KERNEL@ukcc.

Letters should be about 250 words; guest opinions should be about 850 words.

All material should be type-written and double-spaced. We reserve the right to edit all material.

Smokeless tobacco a health risk

Nicotine is a common drug on American campuses, second only to alcohol. Nicotine from both cigarettes and smokeless tobacco is one of the most addictive substances in common use.

Cigarette smoking over the past 10 years has shown a steady decline in the United States. However, there has been an alarming increase in the use of smokeless tobacco.

Some people use smokeless tobacco as a substitute for cigarettes, believing it is less addictive and harmless. In truth, smokeless tobacco has about three times as much nicotine as cigarette

tobacco and is, therefore, more addictive. Smokeless tobacco also releases about 10 times more cancer-causing substances into the blood stream than cigarette tobacco does.

The use of smokeless tobacco is certainly not safe. Seventy-five percent of mouth cancers are due to tobacco products. The first effect seen from using smokeless tobacco is receding gums. Some users also notice a whitish change on the inside cheek called leukoplakia, a pre-cancerous condition. This are due to tobacco products.

For the Health of It health risks, the use of smokeless tobacco continues to grow. One reason that smokeless tobacco is thought to be so appealing to young people is that tobacco companies use athletes to advertise their products, suggesting that it improves athletic performance.

This increases peer pressure for young males to try it.

Currently, the mean age that individuals start using smokeless tobacco is around 10, and some have become regular users by age 11. Kentucky currently ranks sixth in use of smokeless tobacco with about 13 percent of the males 16 or older using this product.

In 1988, 26 percent of young males and 2 percent of young females reported a history of using smokeless tobacco at least once in the previous month.

In the past several years, there has been an increase in use by women, especially softball, tennis and swimming athletes.

Dr. John D. Perrine is the director of medical services in the University Health Service.

CAMPUS

Gifts

Items range from nice to very naughty

From PAGE 1

love life," Madam Grace said. "That is why I lower my price close to Valentine's Day. People want to know their true love. Some people don't especially like what I see."

If you want something a bit more formal, another Lexington Valentine's Day option is jewelry. One place you can stop is Artique in the Civic Center Shops.

Tonya Sommer said the Kruskals line of 14-karat gold and pearl jewelry in abstract heart shapes has been "selling like hot cakes." Sommer said the pieces vary in price.

If you want some definite prices or you're on a budget, Lisa Jeter of USA Pawn at 2150

Nicholasville Road brags "all our gold is the cheapest in town." She said the shop has rings and pendants ranging from \$10 to \$15.

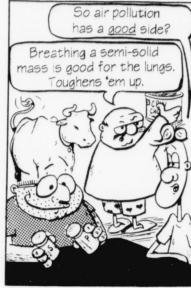
For the shoppers who are on their way to their Valentine's Day date and realize they have forgotten gifts, SuperAmerica at 513 E. Euclid Ave. is low on cards but has roses for \$2.49 each or \$6.99 for a half dozen.

Just down the street at 704 E. Euclid Ave., Kroger manager Van Hollinshead brags that he has the "lowest rose prices around." Also on Hollinshead's list of ideas are candies, cakes and colossal cookies.

The nice and/or naughty gifts for the holiday have been making appearances on campus as well. At several UK Food Service locations, students may purchase roses, cards, cookies and candies.

"It's more convenient for (students)," said Libby Allen, assistant production manager at the Commons Market on South Campus. "It's one-stop shopping here."

Sherman's Alley by Gibbs 'N' Voigt



Conversations With Hugo



Bike plan may be OK'd today

Staff report

The Student Bicycle Committee may approve a recommendation today for a three-phase process to encourage bicycle safety on campus. Dean of Students David Stockham said.

Stockham, the committee's chairman, outlined the proposal last week, noting it would not be implemented until it is given the committee's recommendation and Chancellor for the Lexington Campus Robert Hemenway's approval.

During the first phase, University officials will begin an educational campaign to make bicycle

riders on campus aware of basic safety rules.

If that step fails, Stockham said, the administration could consider the committee's second and third phases, which may include mandatory bicycle registration and prohibiting riding in the campus core. The committee was formed last semester in response to numerous complaints over several years about pedestrian safety with bicycles on campus.

After a listening to public opinion on campus and studying the methods other schools use to regulate bicycle safety, the committee began work on the current proposals, Stockham said.



eh ... sure, I'll be your Valentine, Carrie ... eh!
Love, GBB

Education commissioner Boysen steps down

Associated Press

FRANKFORT — Education Commissioner Thomas C. Boysen, hired as the point man in a campaign to reform Kentucky's public school system, said yesterday he was resigning.

"I'm satisfied I've accomplished the principal purpose that brought me here," Boysen said.

The resignation will be effective at the end of June.

He told Kentucky Board of Education Chairman Joseph Kelly of his decision earlier in the day, Boysen said. A letter of resignation would be sent to the board in a few weeks, he said. Boysen, who by law is an employee of the state board, was Kentucky's first appointed chief school officer.

The commissioner's position was created by the 1990 Kentucky Education Reform Act, a sweeping effort to lift a state school system that consistently was among the nation's lowest. Boysen said there was no single factor in his decision to resign — just a feeling that the reform effort was yielding tangible results, and "the time is right" for a leadership change.

HOW TO KEEP PEOPLE'S HANDS OFF YOUR MONEY.

- 1 Carry only enough cash to last the day. Anyone who tries to borrow your last five spots isn't a friend, anyway.
- 2 Label your spare-change jar "beetle farm." Then, put your beetle farm in a jar labeled "spare change."
- 3 Mark up every space on checks. Don't leave room for someone to fill in their name and extra zeros.
- 4 Keep your wallet in your front pocket. It discourages pickpockets. So does wearing really tight pants.
- 5 Put your picture on your credit card. A Citibank Photocard is tough for anyone else to use, unless they look just like you.

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From the Heart

- "Let's go buy some peanuts so we can ALL go to the circus." And then off to Hawaii to watch you do your thing in your new multi-colored speedo! Happy Valentine's Day to my best friend and my first true valentine! Love, Linda. MYTYLTT!
- NES-A, You have truly captured my attention, charmed me with beauty, and filled my shirt with rice. Ter-y.
- WILLIAM TO CHING LI, I LOVE YOU. I LOVE YOU. I LOVE YOU. I LOVE YOU.
- SARAH TO GWEN - Happy Valentine's day! Hope this year is as good as the first!
- HOOEY - My Love Forever. Love, ?
- YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE AND I LOVE YOU! HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
- I LOVE U TREVIN - CDP.
- HAPPY FIRST VALENTINE'S DAY TO BILL FROM HIS BABYDOLL.
- DANNY, Happy Valentine's Day. I've enjoyed the marker batter chocolate and tickle fights. Who would've guessed?
- RANDY, ever since the day we've met, my days have been filled with laughter and sunshine. Thank you for always being there for me. Love you, Budd.
- KIMBERLY, Happy Valentine's Day. Hope it's your best one ever. I love you, Travis.
- JENNIFER PUMPKIN URBAN - Someone in Groningen loves you very very very very much! Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Anniversary. See you in March. Stefan.
- AIMEE - You're one in a million! Happy Valentine's Day! Love, Dad and Trish.
- MOOSES, -CM, SM, CV, PH, - what would I do without you? I am glad we are friends! Lemonade slushie anyone? Ciger! I'll miss you when I leave! Long live the Moose! Happy V-Day! Love, Bob.
- GIZZ-SUE - You go to Krogers and get our food and my Ky Kernel - why don't you love me? I'm that word!
- KENDRA - I love you. Happy Valentine's Day. Jamus.
- SHAWNA - I can't believe we've made it 6 months...from Grateful-Clay to Widespread, Freddy, Cinni, Hinn, 4 many beers and blackout, and many good peanut butter and jellys. Thanks 4 loving me 4 me! Friends Always! Love, THE REAL MO.
- LADY JANE - We'll always have Paris - But why not now? Stop fretting about Jan start petting with me.
- TO MY BELOVED DICK, Roses are red, This sure is cheesy, Can't wait to get you All slick and greasy! Happy V-Day! Love, Lucy.
- MAC MAORI - I love you with every picometer in my body. Gogo Girl.
- DEAR SARAH - each day with you is better than the last. Love you. Gwen.
- MARK, Thanks for the last year and a half! It's been wonderful! I love you, Jennie.
- HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY SARAH! I love you. Love, your Babe.
- OH KE NALLI, When we see you on campus, we can't help but stare. We see you in clothes when we wish you were bare. We saw you last Thursday while skating at Champs, Hoping to get a nice peek in your pants. Whip cream or honey, whatever you desire - We'll go on strong until we all prespire. Be Ours, Phyllis D. and ShaNayNay.
- ASHLEY E. - I can't stand it! Please save me. Be my valentine forever. Love, Jeff S.
- BEAVER KATA, COFFEE. SAY ANYTHING: I'll listen. I love you, Michael and always will. BJ.
- JOSEPH, you make my life complete. I love you, My Angel. Jannette.
- KAREN S., KRISTA S., AND HEATHER S.- To the craziest, coolest and best rooms around! Who needs guys! Love, Jess.
- TIMMY: Happy Valentine's Day to my sweet baby grizzly bear. Love, Kitten.
- HEY BABE, Even though we're apart on Valentine's Day, your love is always in my heart. Don't forget to rub your nose. Love, Babs.
- HERBY, Even though you're away, you've got my heart this Valentine's Day. Wishing we could be together. I love you Gizmo.
- MASTRESS: This has been the best three months. I hope it never ends. Happy Valentine's Day. Woof! Love, master.
- MARCI- Wishing U the best Valentine ever! From your love Rajneel. U mean a lot 2 me.
- JD- Thinking of you. Love Always Your Cylde.
- MICHELLE- Gotta love those "elevators". Love your ex and future Roomie.
- TANNIM, My sweet, my eyes see with gladness the beauty of thy heart's magic. Love, your Kitsune.
- STEPHEN T.- You stole our hearts then you stole our breadstick.
- DEAR ISA, I love you. A.J.
- DEAR PAT, With your cute phrases and muscle shirts, your women just wanted to say we're outta here like girls in prom dresses. Happy Valentine's Day!
- PI PHI JESSICA S. I want you to know that you have an admirer. Look to be hearing from me soon.
- J.B. AND J.R. Sorry about your parakeet but I have class and a job. Happy Valentine's Day. Love, C.J.
- TO THOSE WHO HAVE LOVED AND LOST (lest we forget) and those who have never loved at all.
- AGIN, AGIN, AGIN, WE LOVE YOU BECAUSE WE HAVE TO, NOT BECAUSE WE CHOOSE TO.
- MIKE S., SHE ISN'T MARRIED YET, WORK ON IT.
- DEREK (ΣΠ) WE KNOW YOU'RE A SEXIST, BUT WE STILL LIKE YOU! KEEP YOUR DAMN OPINIONS TO YOURSELF! THE AD STAFF CHICKS.