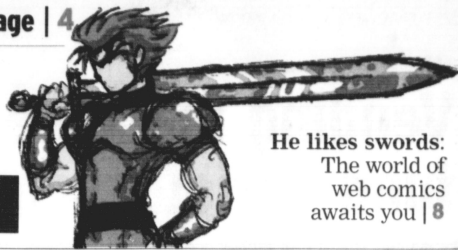


FRIDAY KENTUCKY KERNEL



He likes swords:
The world of
web comics
awaits you | 8

April 19, 2002

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HOUSING

First co-ed floor opening

'Suite' living situation: French Floor Program will occupy part of Keeneland Hall's first level

By John Wampler
NEWS EDITOR

For the first time ever, UK will have a co-ed floor in one of its residence halls next year. Students participating in La Residence Française, an all-

French living experience on UK's campus, will be sharing the west wing of Keeneland Hall's first floor.

LRF also referred to as the French Floor Program, first started in Blanding I in 1998 and then later moved to

Keeneland Hall. In past years, men have lived on one floor and women on another.

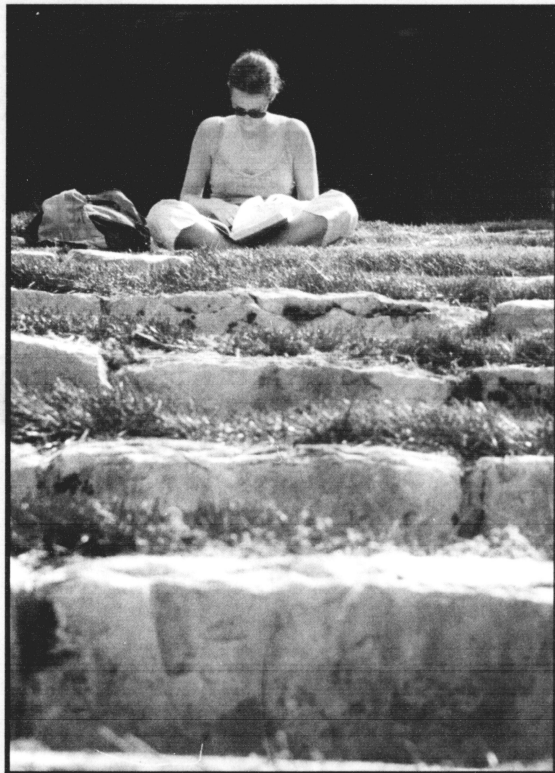
Tony Ralph, associate director for Residence Life, said there has been trouble recruiting enough students to fill two floors, so the decision was made to consolidate the living arrangements into one wing of one floor.

"We wanted to support the French Floor Program,"

he said.

Ralph said the hallway in the west wing zigzags in a way that divides the area into two sections. Men will live in one and women in the other. Keeneland is composed of suites and has no community bathrooms. Therefore, the matter of bathroom privacy will not be an issue, Ralph said.

See DORM on 2



The countdown begins

Jaime Wilson, a hospitality management senior, studies for a final in the amphitheater behind Memorial Hall Wednesday afternoon. "I'm glad it's (almost) over!" she said.

Next week is dead week. The policies regarding tests and homework assignments during this week can be found in the student rights and regulations handbook. To file a complaint, call the ombud at 257-3737.

Finals begin Monday, April 29 and the first summer session begins May 7.

HOLLY DAVIS | KERNEL STAFF

RECALL

National retailer offends Asian Americans

Upset: Abercrombie & Fitch pulls line of T-shirts following protests from Asian American Students' Association at Stanford University

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Clothier Abercrombie & Fitch is pulling a line of T-shirts that triggered protests from Asian groups who said the shirts reinforced negative stereotypes.

The T-shirts, some of which show smiling men with slanted eyes and conical hats, will be pulled from all of the company's 311 stores in 50 states, company spokesman Hampton Carney said Thursday.

"We're very, very, very sorry," Carney said. "It's never been our intention to offend anyone."

Carney could not say how many of the T-shirts were al-

ready in stores, or how much the recall would cost the New Albany, Ohio-based casual sportswear company.

The T-shirts, which went on sale in some stores Friday for \$24.50, also will be removed from sale on the company's Web site, Carney said.

"These graphic T-shirts were designed with the sole purpose of adding humor and levity to our fashion line," Carney said.

"Since some of our customers have been offended by their content, we are pulling these shirts from our stores."

One of the company's T-shirts reads "Wong Brothers Laundry Service - Two Wongs

Can Make It White."

The T-shirts prompted a late-night meeting of Stanford University students Wednesday.

The Asian American Students' Association encouraged calls to the company and said Abercrombie & Fitch should apologize.

"It's really misleading as to what Asian people are," Michael Chang, vice chairman of the student organization, told the San Jose Mercury News.

"The stereotypes they depict are more than a century old," Chang said. "You're seeing laundry service. You're seeing basically an entire religion and philosophy being

trivialized."

One shirt features a smiling Buddha figure with the slogan "Abercrombie and Fitch Buddha Bash - Get Your Buddha on the Floor." Another reads "Wok-N-Bowl - Let the Good Times Roll - Chinese Food & Bowling."

Carney said the company received about 60 phone calls Wednesday about the shirts.

The company makes fun of everyone, Carney said, noting its previous clothing designs have included foreign waitresses, taxi drivers and Britons. Abercrombie & Fitch's advertising campaigns have come under fire before. Last year, women's organizations and conservative politicians rallied against the company for its ads featuring young, barely clad models in sexually suggestive poses.

MARIJUANA SERIES

Questions & Answers

This week, reporter Andrea Uhde has taken a look at the prevalence of marijuana among UK students. Today, she interviews a UK nurse about the drug's effects.

By Andrea Uhde
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Marijuana may be a popular drug at UK, but more and more students are trying to ease off of it, according to members of UK's health department.

Marijuana may bring a "high" and make students feel good, but experts say that not everything is good about the drug.

And red eyes and munchies are just the start.

The Kernel asked Ruth "Topsy" Staten just what it is that is leading an increasing number of students to want to quit habitually smoking marijuana. Staten is an associate professor in the College of Nursing and a substance abuse nurse in health services. Yesterday, Staten explained the short and long-term consequences of the drug, from the effects of marijuana on the brain of college students to fertility repercussions. Here's what she had to say:

Q: It's commonly known that smoking marijuana produces red eyes and hunger. What are some other immediate effects from the drug?

A: The immediate effects are slowed reflexes, a little improvement in mood and paranoia. It does affect short-term memory, so it does have consequences as far as doing well in school. Some people get relaxed.

Q: Where do the munchies come from? Do a lot of people who smoke marijuana end up gaining weight because of the munchies?

A: I don't really know the physiological explanation for that. It's the same mechanism that makes marijuana useful for people going through chemotherapy. I've not seen studies that address (weight gain).

Q: Is driving while high just as bad as driving while drunk?

A: A lot of people say, "Oh, it's not a big deal," but in reality it is. With slowed reflexes and depth perception, it can and does affect the way people drive. It does cause a degree of impairment.

Q: Are more or less people seeking treatment for marijuana related problems?

A: The level of potency of marijuana today is much more significant than it's been in the past. There was a study indicating that the number of people seeking treatment for marijuana dependence has increased two fold over the last ten years. We're seeing more people trying to quit. We have students who recognize the detrimental effects. More people are coming in because they simply can't do it (quit). They've struggled with giving it up, and it's been a battle working through the dependence issues.

Q: How do you help wean them off of the drug?

A: Depending on their level and what other things they've tried, basically, we attempt to reduce the amount that they're smoking over time until it's none.

Q: What kinds of side effects result from quitting smoking marijuana?

A: When people stop reducing their intake, they have

See Q & A on 2

DEBATE

Board denies request for new SG election

By John Wampler
NEWS EDITOR

The fight for a new Student Government Election continues. The Election Board of Claims unanimously ruled last night that none of the three claims brought before them warranted a new election.

Ben Hayes, runner-up in the SG election, said he and the other individuals involved with the claims will appeal the ruling to the SG Supreme Court. A hearing has already been scheduled for this afternoon.

Hayes said he was not surprised at the ruling.

"We'd have better luck arguing to a brick wall," he said. Before proceedings began, Hayes' representatives, law students Mike McDonner and Doug Mory, asked E-Board chairman Tony Stoeppel to not rule on the claims. They argued that Stoeppel had a long-standing friendship with SG president Tim Robinson and could be secretly cooperating with him.

Stoeppel refused to recuse himself, saying this

See SG on 2

FOOD SERVICES

Vending machine profits fund various scholarships

Snacking: Where your money goes

By Drew Duncan
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In 1911, when students got hungry and didn't feel like going to the cafeteria, they went to a guy named Phil who went around campus with a cart full of food. Now, they can stop by their nearest vending machine.

"I think vending is a frequently overlooked service on campus," said Roger Sidney, who has been manager of Vending Food Services for 12 years.

"We treat every location like its own business."

Each year, vending machines bring in roughly \$2 million. Fifty percent of this money goes back to pay for merchandise costs.

After costs of supplies, labor, utilities, maintenance and depreciation of equipment, Food Services typically receives a 9 to 18 percent profit.

This amount, between \$180,000 and \$360,000, is given to various departments at UK and is most often used for scholarship funding.

"Auxiliary Services has always been really proud that we're able to do this," Sidney said. "It's (our) link to

academics; it's important that we are able to do this."

Vending machines have been at UK for a long time, but the university didn't start self-running the vending services until 1989. In that first year, they were able to raise sales from \$1.6 million to \$2.1 million.

"The reason (for the recent drop in sales compared to 1989 figures) is that vending machines sold tobacco products then," Sidney said.

Sidney said one change made in recent years to increase sales was the addition of card readers to the vending machines in the dorms.

Using these card readers, students can pay for snacks using their PLUS and dining ac-

counts.

Sidney said Vending Services tries to make use as easy as possible. Many students appreciate the convenience.

"For something like a sandwich, I'd have to walk all the way down to the student center," said Japanese junior Daniel Hulker.

"Honestly, I don't feel like walking that far."

English education freshman Jake Crafon agreed that the availability is helpful.

"I usually just get a drink. I can take this to class, whereas as the water fountain [I can't]," said Crafon, as he twisted off the top to his soda.

"Plus, I just won a free Pepsi."

Q & A

Continued from page 1

some physiological and emotional withdrawal effects. They can have trouble sleeping, trouble with the digestive system and sometimes become irritable.

Q: Is marijuana smoke just as harmful to the lungs as cigarette smoke?

A: It's as bad. If people smoke marijuana like they smoke cigarettes, it would be a lot worse.

Q: What are some other long-term effects?

A: It has some long-term detrimental effects on memory and cognitive ability. There is some evidence that marijuana does have an impact on sperm

and in sperm's ability to fertilize. There are some studies that have looked at the long-term use of marijuana and increase of risk in some kinds of head and neck cancers.

Q: Does the memory or cognitive ability ever improve after it has been affected by the drug?

A: I read one study that said that over a short period of time, cognition would improve.

Q: How much does a person have to smoke to experience the long-term effects?

A: That's one of the difficult questions. We've not looked in clear terms of how much is too much.

Q: What happens to marijuana after it enters the lungs?

A: Marijuana is stored in the fat, so basically when someone smokes it they use 30 per-

cent. The other 50 percent gets stored and used over the course of about 35 to 40 days.

Q: What are some of the worst problems you've seen students face because of marijuana?

A: I have seen students who have screwed themselves up academically long enough that they have to leave school. If they smoke long enough and often enough, it pretty much makes it difficult to get their goals met.

Q: Why would it be worse for college students to smoke pot, as opposed to adults?

A: We have evidence now that there is another surge of growth in the brain during adolescence. There's this other big growth spurt of the brain, and we are not completely clear what it's going to mean for people to use marijuana and alcohol on this developing brain.

Pot's mental effects

Marijuana can cause perceptual disturbances such as hallucinations the person may or may not realize are caused by the drug. Other symptoms include:

- Euphoria with inappropriate laughter and grandiosity
- Sedation, lethargy, impairment in short-term memory
- Difficulty carrying out complex mental processes, impaired judgement, distorted sensory perceptions, impaired motor performances
- The sensation that time is passing slowly
- Withdrawal may include irritable mood accompanied by tremor, perspiration, nausea and sleep disturbances.

SOURCE: MARY BOLIN-REED, DIRECTOR OF THE COUNSELING AND TESTING CENTER

DORM

Continued from page 1

The idea of a co-ed floor on UK's campus sounded like a practical idea to finance senior Nick Greene.

"It's a reflection of off-campus life," he said, using the example of apartment complexes, where a person's next-door neighbors could very well be members of the opposite sex.

Camille Blanchett, assistant director of Residence Life, works as the liaison between Res-Life and LRF and will be working with UK Housing to coordinate placing people on the LRF floor.

Blanchett said the decision to have LRF students share a wing in a residence hall would help the program.

"This allows better opportunities for interaction and communication among the students participating in the French Residence," she said.

Yet some UK students said the new arrangement amounts to special treatment.

"It's unfair to other students," said English sophomore Darrin Pollock. Pollock said he didn't support the idea of a co-ed floor in the first place.

Telecommunications senior Brook Phelps said she understood the reasoning behind the change, but agrees it's unfair.

"I think it will cause a lot of controversy among other students," she said.

Although LRF students will be able to live with the opposite sex, this does not mean that they have the luxury of 24-hour visitation.

Students still have to abide by UK's visitation policy, which states a member of the opposite sex may not be in a resident's room after midnight Sunday - Thursday and 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Ray said after-hours visitation will not be permitted.

"We take the same stance as the rest of the residence halls in terms of the visitation policy," he said.

SG

Continued from page 1

was not the case.

The first two claims dealt with the polls at Lexington Community College, which were closed the majority of the two-day election, and the throwing out of 47 votes at the Law School polling site. The last claim addressed the issue of erratic operation of the voting booths campus-wide.

McDonner and Mory argued that Kentucky Supreme Court rulings supported a new election.

SG Senate Chairman Edwin Orange represented Robinson, contending that the rulings were not applied properly.

"Was it a free and fair election?" Orange asked. "Yes it was."

In its ruling, the E-board said any irregularities did not violate the election's integrity. The matter could go further

than the SG Supreme Court.

"We're prepared to go court if we don't receive a partial and unbiased hearing," Hayes said.

McDonner said the SG Supreme Court ruling on Monday against the first group of claims presented conflicted with Kentucky Supreme Court rulings.

"We think they've ignored precedent before and we're afraid they'll do it again."

Hayes said he has been talking with the American Civil Liberties Union, and they are considering providing legal representation on behalf of UK's students, should the matter go to court.

In addition, Hayes and the rest of the petitioners involved in the claims sent a letter to President Lee Todd requesting to appear before the Board of Trustees at its April 30 meeting concerning the SG election.

"It's ridiculous that all these UK students were disenfranchised. All these election violations occurred and still the election stands," Hayes said.

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Void where prohibited by law. A purchase is not necessary to enter and will not improve your chances of winning.

www.kykernel.com

ROOTS Fest info and schedule of events

The ROOTS Festival continues in Lexington this weekend with events to promote a gathering of artists as well as the general public. The first workshop begins each day at the Carnegie Center and other events will follow throughout the day in various venues around Lexington. The festival will try to include something for everyone, offering workshops and performances. The festival's purpose is to showcase and demonstrate the power and impact of art and activism. The festival will include the works of local as well as national artists.

The ROOTS Festival costs \$50 per day and is open to the general public. Registration can be done online or at a particular event. The festival began Wednesday and will continue through Sunday.

Friday:

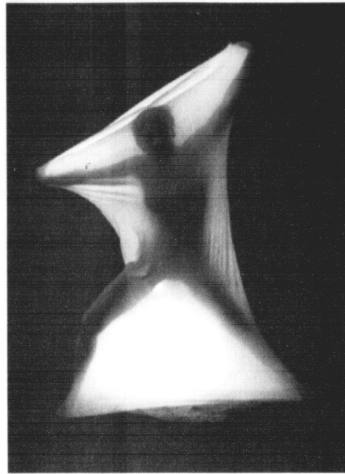
Community-based art: the national perspective. What's happening across the country in community arts? What resources do artists and activists bring to their communities post 9/11? This session will look at the big picture of the community arts movement with panelists Sandra Gibson of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters, A.B. Spellman of the National Endowment for the Arts and Mik Wegmann of the National Performance Network and moderator Judi Jennings of the Kentucky Foundation for Women. Session will be at 9 a.m. Friday at the Carnegie Center.

Saturday:

Does a social change agenda limit visionary art making? Does having a social change goal increase the power and impact of art-making? This session will look at the challenges and successes facing artists who are activists, with panelists Dudley Cocke, director of Roadside Theater, performer and word wizard Alice Lovelace, visual artist and AIDS activist Robert Morgan and writer and visual artist Frank X. Walker. Session will be Friday 10 a.m. at the Carnegie Center. www.alternateroots.org.



Roots Festival design allows art to shine



What is Roots?

Alternate ROOTS is a 250-voice membership organization run by and for Southeastern performing artists who are creating original work in the region. Founded in 1976, the membership includes theater, dance and mime companies, musicians, vaudevillians, storytellers, playwrights and individual artists from all disciplines.

A few artists involved

Barking Legs Theater

Evolution/Retribution - "Runway into Racism", by Barking Legs Theater, is an exploration of racism in the United States, which will zoom from America at the time of the so-called Declaration of Independence to the "civil rights era". It was created and performed by Ann Law, Ric Morris and Juanita Tumelare. Performance is 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Artspace.

Jo Carson

Jo Carson is an award-winning author of plays and books for adults and children. Her work for the last 10 years has been with communities doing performance pieces from oral histories. She has 27 of those plays under her belt. She lives with two dogs and a horse in Johnson City, Tennessee. Here is a bit about *If God Came Down...* After a bite from a brown recluse spider, Carson began skeptically exploring the non-traditional ways we heal and heal ourselves. The result is a touch with mystery that includes hands on work onstage by two energy healers, Roe Bear and Penny Robinson. Performance is 4:30 p.m. Saturday at the Carnegie Center.

Unlodged Ink

Unlodged Ink is a small, diverse collection of poets from in and around Lexington, Kentucky. Their shared goal and commitment is to promote the spoken and written word in nontraditional venues. "We are passionate about writing, striving to transform and inspire audiences who might not otherwise seek out the literary world," members said. Performance is 10 p.m. Friday at Detour.

FOCAS Location Guide



OUR STUDENTS VOTE OUR PROPERTIES #1

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UK Softball vs. LSU

Saturday, April 20th @ 1:00/3:00p.m. (Doubleheader)

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Come out and enjoy some softball action before the spring football game.

Always tons of cool prizes and give-aways from our season sponsors at every game so come out and catch some great softball action.

All games are free to the public and are played at the UK Softball Complex off Alumni Drive, next to Commonwealth Stadium.



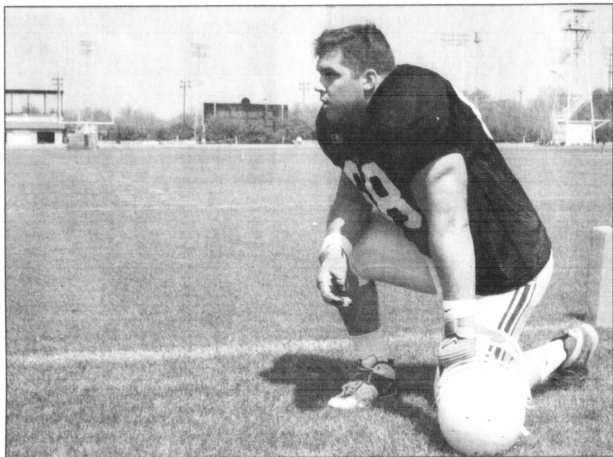
The UK Softball team would like to thank its season long sponsors: Max & Erma's, Mr. Goodcent's, Jeff's Car Wash, Atlanta Bread Co., UK, Kennedy's Bookstore, Betty's Petrie, Wing Zone, Entertainment Express, Wildcat Textbooks, Magee's Bakery, Goli's Gym, and Comfort Inn.

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SPRING FOOTBALL

Players, coaches eager to meet head-to-head



Choosing sides: Assistants hold mock draft to pick teams for Saturday's Blue/White game

By Tom Soper
STAFF WRITER

The UK football team Thursday held its final practice before Saturday's Blue/White game and held a pre-scrimmage draft to divvy up players for the scrimmage.

This year's game will have a little more flavor than in past years. Rather than play first team vs. second team, the coaches had a mock draft to combine players from both units.

Assistant coaches Gerald Carr and John Goodner will head the Blue team, while assistant coaches Brent Pease and Larry Hofer will run the White team. Head Coach Guy Morriss will be on the field as an observer. The coaches and players de-

cided to do the draft in order to make the game more interesting and competitive.

"We campaigned for this," said senior cornerback Derrick Tatum. "The spring game hasn't been very competitive the last three or four years. This will make it more competitive and fun."

Fun is something Morriss is hoping to see on Saturday, along with the younger guys stepping up.

"We want to have fun and compete," he said. "They're looking forward to this, it's what they wanted to do."

"We hope the whole team plays well, but especially the younger guys. The older guys we know can play, but we're look-

ing for some of those redshirt guys to play, and play hard."

One of the older guys that can definitely play, is junior quarterback Jared Lorenzen. Lorenzen has played well in practice this spring, but thinks there are a couple things the team can improve on and hopes it will on Saturday.

"Just consistency with everything we're doing," he said. "We've come out here and had two or three straight, great practices and then we'll come out and have one that wasn't so great. Hopefully in the spring game everything will come together for us."

On defense it's more of the same. Coach Goodner said he's looking to see how the players react to what they've learned.

"This (spring) game is invaluable experience to us," he said. "It's a real game situation. We'll have to deal with personnel changes and all of that."

Winning ways

Junior defensive tackle **Jeremy Caudill** takes a break at Thursday's UK football practice. **Caudill will suit up with the Blue team in the Blue/White scrimmage at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Commonwealth Stadium. Assistant coaches held a mock draft to divide up the two teams more evenly than in past seasons. Defensive Coordinator John Goodner and Assistant Coach Gerald Carr will coach the Blue team and Offensive Coordinator Brent Pease and Assistant Coach Larry Hofer will coach the White squad.**

JESSE LEBUS | KERNEL STAFF

IN BRIEF

Sportsbytes

Women's tennis routs LSU; Florida next

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The No. 16 UK women's tennis team cruised to a 4-1 victory against the LSU Tigers Thursday in the opening round of the Southeastern Conference Women's Tennis Championships.

The No. 7 doubles team in the nation, UK's Carolina Mayorga and Sarah Witten, defeated 19th-ranked Bruna Colosio and Rocío Tantillí. The Cats claimed the doubles point and three singles matches to clinch the victory with two matches still in progress.

The SEC has six teams ranked in the nation's top 20, including the No. 3 Florida Gators, who the Cats will challenge at 2 p.m. today at South Carolina.

The Gators are the No. 2 seed in the tournament and have a 24-3 overall record this season. The Gators defeated UK 5-2 earlier this season.



Mayorga

Men's tennis team avenges loss to MSU

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — The No. 9 UK men's tennis team got sweet revenge against No. 29 Mississippi State in the opening round of the Southeastern Conference Men's Tennis Championship Thursday.

MSU had beaten the Cats in an upset in Lexington on March 24, 4-3, in the regular season. The 4-2 defeat of the Bulldogs brings the Cats, seeded seventh in the tournament, to 19-8 on the season, while 10th-seeded MSU falls to 10-11 overall.

The Cats will face second-seeded Ole Miss. at 11 a.m. Friday at the Varsity Courts on the University of Tennessee campus.

UK will look to repeat victories over the Rebels since defeating them 5-2 during the regular season.

Witten named SEC Freshman of Year

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Jesse Witten, a freshman on the UK men's tennis team, received the third-ever Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Year Award at the SEC Tournament banquet.

The banquet is held prior to the start of the SEC Men's Tennis Tournament each season.

Witten is the first Cat tennis player to be named the SEC Freshman of the Year, an award that was first given in 2000.

Okiyama aces UGA's 13th hole at SECs

ATHENS, Ga. — The UK women's golf team will participate in the 2002 Southeastern Conference Championships today. The tournament takes place at the University of Georgia Golf Course and will be hosted by the reigning SEC Champion Georgia Bulldogs.

In Thursday's practice round UK's senior leader, Towa Okiyama, scored a hole-in-one on the par-three 13th hole. The Tummung, Guam, native aced the 145-yard hole with a 6-iron.

The SEC Championship will begin today and run through Sunday with one round played each day. Each round of the three-day tournament will begin at 8:30 a.m.



Okiyama

Compiled from wire reports

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Denzel Washington
John Q (PG-13)
1:20 3:50 7:20 9:45

Halle Berry
Monster's Ball (R)
1:35 4:00 7:40 10:00

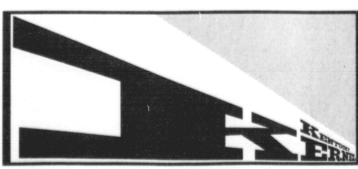
We Were Soldiers (R)
2:00 7:30

Monsters Inc. (G)
2:10 4:25 7:00 9:30

40 Days/40 Nights (R)
5:05 10:05

Click Stoppers (PG)
1:40 4:15 7:05 9:05




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Friday, 4/26 7:30-10 pm: Multimedia presentation to explain current global events
Saturday, 4/27 10 am-1 pm: Follow-up discussion group led by above presenters

 Saturday, 4/27 2-6 pm: JOHN MAJOR JENKINS on Mayan teaching and prophecy; DAVID WILCOCK on New Physics and Earth's dimensional shift; Q&A	 Saturday, 4/27 7:30-10 pm: CARLA RUECKERT and JIM MCCARTY on the <i>RA Material</i> and the <i>Law of One</i> ; guidance for channels & ET contact; meditation
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Sunday 4/28 10 am-1 pm: Panel discussion by all six speakers on humanity and the cosmic plan; advice for Wanderers and lightworkers; world service and meditation
Sunday 4/28 2-5 pm: All six speakers; incarnational healing and service; Buddhist enlightenment; personal & planetary ascension; group meditation

Cost for entire weekend is only \$50 if paid in advance; otherwise \$10 per session, paid at the door

Project Coordinator Dr. Scott Mandelker, Director (415) 567-2190 fax (415) 567-2976 smandelker@hotmail.com www.timeofglobalshift.com	Pre-Registration Mailing The Time of Global Shift Attn: Scott Mandelker 2130 Fillmore Street #201 San Francisco, CA 94115 VISA & MasterCard accepted	Local Contact Ms. Rosi Buchanan, coordinator (859) 335-9427 or 433-4792 rosibuchanan@yahoo.com www.timeofglobalshift.com
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Top 10

A pothead countdown

If you read the Kernel this week, you should have noticed the trend of articles about marijuana use among college students. If you didn't notice this, but you did read the paper, this article might just be about you. Most of you, at least once during your stay at UK, have experienced living with a roommate who knew nothing about. If you're normal, you stay out of their business and they stay out of yours, but that doesn't mean that you're not suspicious of their activities. Nobody wants to live with roommates who harbor marijuana in their room, because if they get caught, they can easily blame it on you. The following article might help deciding if you're at risk.

Top 10 signs your roommate is a pothead

10. Your roommate insists that the original 8-bit Nintendo is still the best game system and tries to prove it by playing non-stop.

9. Your roommate wears brown leather sandals and circular sunglasses everyday, even in the winter.

8. If some guy is sleeping on your couch and hasn't seemed to move in two or three months. Don't bother asking your roommate about him, because he won't know either.

7. If your roommate has some kind of obsession with Ultimate Frisbee, but you've never seen him get past spinning the disc on his finger.

6. Your stereo and CD collection are missing, and your roommate is thumbing a small wad of cash. This could mean drug use of any kind, actually.

5. You hate to tell them that love lamps are out of style, but they seem so in love with their own.

4. If your roommates have an excessive amount of Glade Sprays and Clear Eyes. They might just have bad allergies, but that still doesn't mean you can't have them busted.

3. If your roommate lives off pizza rolls, Twinkies and Snapple but doesn't noticeably gain weight.

2. You're pretty sure they passed English, but they insist on finishing every sentence by calling you "B."

1. You walk in to find them curled up in the corner with the one of my rails, laughing and giggling uncontrollably.

Jonathan Ray
Rail Editor
jonath@kernel.com



IN OUR OPINION

A lost war on drugs needs a better way

One does not necessarily promote the use of marijuana by supporting its legalization, just as one does not necessarily promote the use of alcohol by favoring similar policies. One simply recognizes reality.

Sure, many who support legalization do so to justify their own habitual use, and many students do so to look radical without actually being a radical. The problem with both is that they usually disregard the seriousness of drug use, no matter the form of drug.

One of the main arguments against decriminalization is that marijuana is a gateway drug that leads to harder drugs such as acid and cocaine. Yet, the evidence in support of this theory is based solely on anecdotal reasoning — because someone uses two separate drugs doesn't inherently imply one led to the other.

And while the majority of, say, cocaine users once smoked marijuana, most of those same people used alcohol or tobacco products even before that. A report by the Institute of Medicine says, "Because underage smoking and alcohol use typically precede marijuana use, marijuana is not the most common, and is rarely the first, 'gateway' to illicit drug use."

Of course, even if marijuana were to be decriminalized, use by minors should still be actively discouraged, and stiff penalties should result from selling such products to children.

No, legalization is not a utopian answer for drug use. In fact, marijuana use might actually rise. But it has continued to rise over the past 20 years, despite billions of dollars spent to the contrary. And just as prohibition and subsequent repeal brought about a surge and drop in hard liquor sales, so too might the legalization of marijuana reduce the demand for other, more illicit substances.

But the overriding concern with the war on drugs has been the government's goal to eradicate drug use altogether, which itself is impossible. Instead, limited resources would be better spent protecting rights, namely arresting people who hurt other people. Government should legalize marijuana and ensure that those who abuse the substance to the detriment of others suffer the consequences of their actions.

It is not an ideal solution, but we would certainly be better off.

READERS' FORUM

Expressions

Mission of Planned Parenthood not tied to founder

I'm writing in response to Judith Jaminet's emotionally charged letter to the editor dated April 10th, 2002.

If Jaminet had done her research on Margaret Sanger's 1939 "Negro Project," which provided family planning services to African Americans in the rural South, she would have discerned that Sanger was conscious of and committed to African American concerns.

During the 1930s, African American leader Marcus Garvey argued that birth control was a threat to the survival of the black race. Sanger, acknowledging such African American concerns and fears, thought of ways to assuage such apprehensions.

As a result, Sanger recruited and empowered African American leaders such as W.E.B. Dubois to provide health and reproductive services so that the African American community would not mistakenly think that whites wanted to exterminate the population. It's obvious that Jaminet fails to provide historical accuracy in her claim, and instead distorts Sanger's history for political gain.

It's absurd that Jaminet uses Planned Parenthood's early 20th-century founder to undermine their contemporary work. Attempts to discredit the family planning movement because its founder does not perfectly mirror 21st-century values is like repudiating the Declaration of Independence because its author, Thomas Jefferson, bought and sold slaves. I implore Jaminet to practice what she preaches, to think and research.

Jaminet claims that I should "begin to take facts more seriously" before I speak for those who have lost relatives to the Nazis. I have taken facts seriously. David Barkey, of the National Jewish Anti-Defamation League, finds that "any

comparison between abortion and genocide profoundly offensive."

Abortion is not a systematic or deliberate destruction of a cultural, political or racial group as was the Nazi Holocaust. Even if one is strongly anti-choice, the notion that a woman who has an abortion or a doctor who performs such an abortion is analogous to Nazis is abominable.

This demonizes women and doctors, creating an environment that breeds violence and terror. The Nazis systematically destroyed individuals, communities and cultures. To say that abortion is no different simply trivializes the suffering of Jews. I propose that Jaminet take history more seriously and to look at the Genocide Awareness Project's pictures with a critical eye.

SARA SAHNI
ENGLISH SENIOR

Mayoral question and answer session a waste of time

After a brief search of the web, I concluded that I'd wait to see what the local papers did to compare candidates for the upcoming mayoral election. Obviously, I was pleased to see that the Kernel was on the ball with a Q&A of Jim Gray. I could not have been happier with your coverage. You hit the big issues: keeping bars open later, under 21 clubs, the party plan, a new mascot for UK. What really helped me in my decision was the question about Gray's favorite beer.

Now if I can only find out what he thinks about Tubby and the Student Center's cheese pizza. I will be an informed student voter.

Give me a break.

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Nut in Congress harms country with allegations

Most people don't need convincing that there are complete nuts in Washington. We see evidence of that every day.

For those who need further proof, here you go: Last week, the Washington Post reported that Cynthia McKinney (D-Ga.) claimed the Bush administration had prior knowledge of the Sept. 11 attacks and did nothing to stop them. Apparently, she believes that Bush's corporate buddies had a lot to gain from the attacks — defense contractors, construction firms rebuilding New York, etc. — and Bush was more than willing to allow the tragedy to occur so that his friends could profit. Fittingly, McKinney was not able to produce one piece of evidence to support her claims.

Aren't there bylaws somewhere that require mental competency in order to serve in Congress?

McKinney's claims are just absurd. The suggestion that the President of the United States allowed over three thousand civilians to be killed to enhance profits for his corporate allies deserves no argumentative response. One would think the American people are smart enough to dismiss McKinney's remarks as utter idiocy. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

The fact that a major newspaper would publish the McKinney story implies that there are actually some nutcases out there who buy this crap.

I am also somewhat guilty in lending merit to her claims simply based on the fact that I choose to write about them. The sheer lunacy of what she said makes her statements impossible to ignore.

Conspiracy theories have been around since the beginning of time. Everybody has heard the theories concerning the assassination of John Kennedy and the alleged government cover-up of alien landings at Roswell, New Mexico. Now it seems that the latest conspiracy theorist is Cynthia McKinney. Frankly, I would give her more credit if she said that Elvis and Jimmy Hoffa killed JFK with a commandeered spaceship from Roswell.

The fact that certain groups of people in certain industries have profited from the aftermath of Sept. 11 is not headline-grabbing news. In times of military conflict, defense contractors profit. This has occurred in every conflict in the past century. To link Bush to these profits as a result of the attacks requires not only audacity, but also stupidity.

McKinney saw fit to preface her remarks by saying that Bush has slowly taken over the country, starting with the Florida mess in the 2000 election. Please. It would be sad if she and other Democrats had only this ammunition to use against Bush and other Republicans in 2002 and 2004.

I will offer the Democrats some credit. They have thus far distanced themselves from McKinney's claims. I guess I could say that they might actually realize that espousing the same views would not be in the country's best interests. But I am more inclined to believe that they realize it would not be in their own best interests.

The White House obviously dismissed McKinney's remarks as pure fabrication, but it's fair to say that was clear long before the White House commented.

When people say things like this, the best thing to do is ignore it. In this case, I have ignored my own advice, not because McKinney's statements deserve merit, but because they are potentially dangerous.

It is clear that McKinney does not value national unity in the war on terrorism. Her statements are very divisive, and, without evidence, they should be seen as what they truly are: ludicrous and absurd.

Unless McKinney presents evidence of a White House conspiracy to allow the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, her claims will lie where they truly belong: the now infamous unmarked grave of discarded lies.

Wes Blevins is a political science junior. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel.



Wes Blevins
KERNEL COLUMNIST

CLASSIFIEDS

Continued from page 6

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CAMPUS REEFER
Week of April 15-21, 2002

The Campus Calendar is produced by the Office of Student Activities. Registered Student Orgs. and UK Depts. can submit information for FREE online ONE WEEK PRIOR to the MONDAY information to appear at <http://www.uky.edu/CampusCalendar>. Call 257-8867 for more information

MEETINGS
April 22 to last day
International Christian Fellowship: Friday Fellowship, 7:00pm-8:00pm, Room 301
ACADEMIC
"Math Tutoring for Math 100-level Courses," 1:00pm-4:00pm, CSE 618
"Math Tutoring 2:30-4:00pm," 085 Classroom Bldg
SPECIAL EVENTS
"Rocky Horror Show," 8:00pm, Student Center
"Creation of the Sand Mandala," 11:00pm, FREE
"UK Karaoke by Club," 3:30-10:00pm, Alumni Gym
INTRAMURAL/RECREATION
"UK Tae Kwon Do Club," 5:30pm-7:00pm, Alumni Gym Lot

MEETINGS
"Catholic Mass," 9:00pm, 220 Rose Ln
SPORTS
"Catholic Soft Defense," 3:00pm, Alumni Gym Lot
INTRAMURAL/RECREATION
"UK Tae Kwon Do Club," 11:00-12:30pm, Alumni Gym Lot

MEETINGS
"Catholic Mass," 9:00am, 11:30am, 6:00pm, 8:30pm, 320 Rose Ln
"University Worship Service," 8:12pm, Southside Church of Christ, Alumni Auditorium
ACADEMIC
"Math Tutoring 100/100," 6:00-8:00pm, Kivett Tower
"Math Tutoring 120," 8:00-10:00pm, Kivett Tower
"History Tutoring 194/195/197," 8:00-10:00pm, Holmes Hall
"History Tutoring 197/198/199," 8:00-10:00pm, Holmes Hall
"English Tutoring," 8:00-10:00pm, Holmes Hall
INTRAMURAL/RECREATION
"UK Judo Club," 5:7pm, Alumni Gym Lot

Fri 19

Sat 20

Sun 21

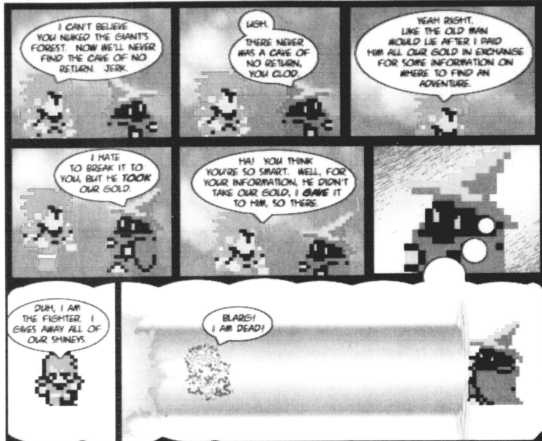
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WEBCOMICS

Quirky comics find an online home



Throwing their two cents in
The animated antics of gamer buddies Gabe and Tycho are seen three times a week at Penny Arcade. They even throw in interesting social commentary - something you won't get from Beete Bailey or Garfield.



Not quite heroes

Old-school video game adventurers are brought back to life for such comics as Brian Clevinger's *8-Bit Theater*. Here you see an example of classic banter between the eternally angry Black Mage and his dimwitted counterpart, Fighter.

COMIC FURNISHED

Bringin' the funny: Clever strips you'll find on the Internet, but not in any stores

By Lucas Thomas

KERNEL TECHNOLOGY WRITER

There's a place of wonder to be found. A place where God speaks through hand puppets and Satan gives advice in a roadside booth. A place where bands of uninitiated adventurers set out on a quest to achieve their destiny. A place where retired video game characters all get together and have a couple of drinks.

The online world of webcomics. It's a growing Internet subculture — comic book artists without the notoriety or experience to get published circumvent the classic printed pages for the free-to-all world wide web. And with no higher authority to answer to, their comics' content knows no bounds.

Sharpened pencils

All you need is a scanner. Or a really steady hand with a mouse. But probably a scanner. That's the equipment sheet for the Internet's traditional artists who put pen to pad, crafting entire worlds at their whim. And craft they do — the nature of the Internet allows more talented pen and pencil artists an almost boundless venue in which to create. One artist who takes advantage of that freedom is Mike Krahulik, a.k.a. Gabe of *Penny Arcade*.

Gabe and Tycho are the cool-sounding code names for a couple of normal guys in Washington who like to play a lot of video games. Overlay with the gaming world is the norm for webcomics, and *Penny Arcade* makes it its job to poke fun at that connection. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, new *PA* strips point the finger of funny at Nintendo nerds, pencil and paper roleplayers, or guys that whine in online combat missions.

But it's all in good fun, as both Tycho and Gabe are just as nerdy as those they taunt. And it's all beautifully drawn and orchestrated by the dynamic duo — with a little help from Photoshop.

Sharpened pixels

Once upon a time, a fellow by the name of David Anez decided to join the online comic community. He started a comic called *Bob and George*, but he soon ran into a terrible technical problem.

"I didn't have a scanner," Anez said. "I was hoping to use my friend's scanner, but he was never around." Unable to scan his drawings, Anez resorted to some clever delegation of responsibility to make his projected Web site launch date. He had Mega Man take care of the first strip. "But Mega Man's a video game character," you say. Well, Anez slyly posted a graphic of Mega Man from a Super Nintendo game, drew in some words bubbles, and a comic was born. At the same time, he'd inadvertently created an entirely new genre — the sprite comic.

"As we all know, it's only a comic if it uses art, and it can only be art if it's hand drawn," said Brian Clevinger, a sprite comic artist. "David didn't know it then, but he'd be the pioneer in shattering this stereotype." Sprite comics are original artistic creations, minus some of the originality. The graphics used to make these comics are drawn out of old video games, and all are highly pixelated in style. *Bob and George* paved the way with the use of *Mega Man* graphics, and others soon followed.

Brian Clevinger was one of the first to jump on board the sprite comic train. His *8-Bit Theater* features the

cast of characters from *Final Fantasy* on the NES. One of the main issues he and other sprite artists deal with is criticism of their chosen style.

"Apparently more than a few people feel that sprite comics are little more than taking credit for someone else's hard work. For those of you who agree with that, I invite you to consider the fact that you don't know what you're talking about."

The comic-reading Internet community agrees that the sprite style isn't sub-par by consistently rating *8-Bit*, *B&G*, and others as the top online comics at such dedicated ranking sites as Topwebcomics.com.

Join the family

It's not difficult to get your foot in the door of the webcomics world. The hardest part is probably deciding between art styles. But all you really need is a Web site, some courage, and maybe, as I've mentioned, a scanner.

Who knows, you may create the next Dilbert or Garfield. Some webcomic artists have found that type of success and have moved on to more traditional media. But others would never leave their Internet home — they'd never give up their freedom.

Make sure you're clicking here

So where do you go to check out these artistic achievements? Many comic Web sites cross-link to one another, but a good starting point is the portal www.webcomics.com.

Other sites mentioned in the article:

Penny Arcade: www.penny-arcade.com
8-Bit Theater: www.nuklearpower.com/comic
Bob and George: www.bobandgeorge.com

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