



**WEATHER** Cloudy today, chance of rain, high 40. Cloudy tonight with flurries likely, low 25. Cloudy tomorrow, high 40.



**KIDS' PLAY** UK hosts Florida on Saturday — marking Billy 'The Kid' Donovan's first SEC game at Rupp. Sports, page 4.

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ESTABLISHED 1894 UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY INDEPENDENT SINCE 1971

## More green for plaza planned

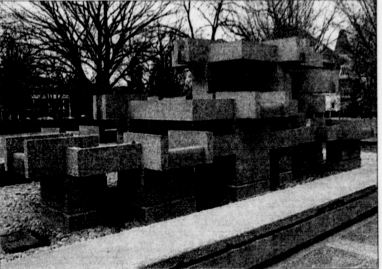
By James Ritchie  
Senior Staff Writer

The fountain area next to Patterson Office Tower may receive a makeover this summer. The University has hired a consultant to look at options for renovating the area, which has been in disrepair for years and poses safety and liability concerns, said University architect Warren Denny. "The condition of the surface there is pretty bad," Denny said. Stonework around the fountain is also falling away. No actual plans have been proposed so far, Denny said. But the consulting company, CMW Inc. of Lexington, is supposed to present its ideas to President Charles T. Wehington next week.

Any changes to the plaza should reduce the amount of "hardscape" created by concrete, Denny said. He said preserving mature trees is an important consideration. The new plaza design will feature more greenspace and plants, said Ken Clevidence, director of the Capital Construction Division. "We want to make it as attractive an area as possible," Clevidence said. Originally the area was meant to accommodate another building, Denny said, and now it has an empty look. He also said the suburban look of the fountain area competes with the older style of Miller Hall. Repairing the plaza is not only expensive but also limited by the lack of availability of the reddish material used for the tiles. Any

patches are highly visible because the original material can no longer be found, Denny said. The project has a budget of \$395,000 to cover all aspects including consulting, design, construction and advertising, Clevidence said. Any construction plans for Central Campus must take into consideration the possibility that a new mechanical engineering building will be built nearby. A mechanical engineering facility is a high priority for the University, Clevidence said, and it should be an issue in the January 1998 General Assembly. He said while nothing is finalized, most of the work should be complete before school starts next fall, creating as little inconvenience for students as possible. The Capital Construction Division began seeking a consult-

ing firm in July 1996. It hired CMW last November. The University's contract with CMW, obtained by the Kentucky Kernel through an open records request, sets payment to the consulting company at \$32,000. Bidding on construction of the project is scheduled to begin on March 1. Not everyone thinks greenspace is what Central Campus needs. Toxicology graduate student Michael Tomblin, who is Student Government Association's Graduate School senator, said he finds the timing of the project curious. After last year's silent protests in the plaza following the attack of a girl on campus, the change seems like a deliberate attempt to send students from gathering in the area, which is near the Administration Building.



STEPHANIE CORLE Kernel staff

**HARDSHIPS** The area around the Patterson Office Tower may be repaired to include more greenspace on Central Campus. Tomblin said. A grassy area would be an especially difficult place for disabled students to gather, he said. And while Tomblin said he

## Knowledge of diseases reduces risk



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE CORLE Kernel staff

**VALUE YOUR VALENTINE** Above, Art education sophomore Amy Harmon looks through Valentine's Day care packages yesterday at the Student Center. Right, Condom-filled hearts were part of free holiday gifts given out by Peer Health Advocates for Sex Education.

By Jennifer Smith  
Staff Writer

Knowing the facts about sexually transmitted diseases and being aware of your own body could save your life. Millions of people have STDs in the United States, yet thousands of them don't even know it. A plethora of new diseases are popping up all over the country, but STDs are far from new. They have been around for hundreds of years, with little decline in the number of cases. "We don't see that many (more) people practicing safer sex than (we) used to," said Pam Woodrum, health educator at the Kentucky Clinic University Health Service. Woodrum said an "awful lot of people still aren't using condoms." STDs in this day and age have become much more than an annoyance. "They can cause infertility in women, increase cancer risk and cause several other complications.

Many can be fatal. Common stereotypes about STDs still exist and could be dangerous to the student population, Woodrum said. STDs can affect anyone, regardless of race, sex or origin. If a student is sexually active, he or she is at risk for contracting a disease, Woodrum said. The most common STD in the country is chlamydia. Often infected people show no symptoms of the disease, but they are still carrying it and are capable of spreading it. Because of this lack of obvious symptoms, 75 percent of women who have chlamydia or gonorrhea don't know they have it. Twenty-five percent of men can carry the disease without symptoms as well. The most common sexually transmitted virus is the human papillomavirus infection, also known as the wart virus. HIV, said Woodrum, is "common among college (students)." According to Woodrum, the

most important thing for college students to do is to think about what is acceptable when it comes to sex, before forced to make a decision. Aside from abstinence, protecting yourself and limiting your sexual partners are the most vital aspects of practicing safe sex, Woodrum said. Julie Isaacs, a registered nurse at Planned Parenthood, said 12 million STDs are diagnosed each year in people under 25 years of age. Three million are diagnosed every year in teenagers. The largest age group seeking Planned Parenthood's services are between 20-24 years of age, according to Jan Harman, director of Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood offers some STD screening but focuses more on "women's annual exam, Pap smears, birth control and pregnancy counseling," Isaacs said. The University Health Service

### Spectrum of Risk

Receptive anal intercourse	High Risk
Receptive vaginal intercourse	
Insertive anal intercourse	
Insertive vaginal intercourse	
Oral sex on a man with ejaculation	
Oral sex on a man without ejaculation	
Oral sex on a woman	
Oral-anal contact	
Intimate kissing	Low Risk
Touching, massage	
Masturbation	
Talking, Fantasy	No Risk

ERIC SCHOENBORN Kernel staff

## UK group working to PHASE out STDs

By James Ritchie  
Senior Staff Writer

A campus organization took steps yesterday to help students have a safer Valentine's Day. At a table in the Student Center, Peer Health Advocates for Sex Education (PHASE) handed out bags containing Valentine's commodities: chocolate candies, pizza coupons, a condom, a tube of personal lubricant and pamphlets containing information on safer sex.

group with an interest. The only real requirement for joining PHASE is a 2.5 grade point average, said Woodrum, who is also an obstetrics and gynecology nurse. Students are then interviewed to determine their interests, goals and motivation. Some students who join are pursuing careers in health fields and seeking health education experience. Others just want to be involved. "They feel like this is something they can do to spread the word about safer sex," Condrum said.

The group's goal with the "Value Your Valentine" table was to promote abstinence, said biology junior Dara Jurich, a PHASE member who worked at the table. But for students who choose to have sex, the group wants to make sure information is available on preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. "We want to make sure people are aware of their choices," Jurich said. Jurich is currently earning experiential education credit for her work with the group, but she participated last semester without receiving credit and will continue to be involved next semester without earning credit. She said it is a good way to educate other students. "You're coming to them as a peer, on the same level," she said. The two-and-a-half year old organization, which is a part of University Health Service, is designed to address an array of sexual health issues, including pap smears and breast exams for women and testicular exams for men, said health educator Pam Condrum. PHASE holds programs for residence halls, fraternities and sororities, and any student

▼ Learn to communicate effectively with your partner.  
▼ Don't mix alcohol or drugs with sexual activity.  
▼ Choose lower-risk sexual activities.  
▼ Use condoms, diaphragms or cervical caps to protect against STDs.  
▼ Remember that many contraceptives (including birth control pills, sustained release injections or implants, and intrauterine devices) do not protect against STDs.

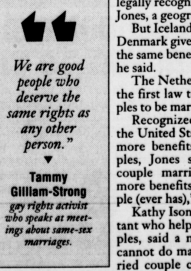
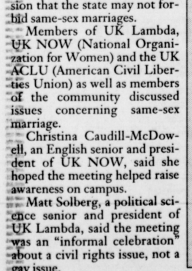
## NOW, Lambda celebrate decision

By Brian Dunn  
Staff Writer

About 35 people gathered last night to celebrate a Hawaii judge's decision that the state may not forbid same-sex marriages. Members of UK Lambda, UK NOW (National Organization for Women) and the UK ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) as well as members of the community discussed issues concerning same-sex marriage. Christina Caudill-McDowell, an English senior and president of UK NOW, said she hoped the meeting held raise awareness on campus. Matt Solberg, a political science senior and president of UK Lambda, said the meeting was an "informal celebration" about a civil rights issue, not a gay issue. "It's not a new battle," Solberg said. "It's not an old battle; it's just a different one." UK ACLU President Elizabeth Donnelly,

a first-year law student, said, "It's an old story with new names in it. We have to change the attitudes of people." Currently, no state or country allows same-sex couples to be united in a legally recognized marriage, said Jeff Jones, a geography graduate student. But Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark give same-sex partnerships the same benefits as married couples, he said. The Netherlands is about to pass the first law to allow same-sex couples to be married. Recognized married couples in the United States receive nearly 100 more benefits than same-sex couples, Jones said. "A heterosexual couple married five minutes has more benefits than a same-sex couple (ever has)," he added. Kathy Ison, a Lexington accountant who helps non-traditional couples, said a non-traditional couple cannot do many things that a married couple can, such as filing for a joint tax return. The decision in Hawaii is being appealed to the state Supreme Court. If the appeal

fails, then marriage licenses will be granted to same-sex couples. In Lexington some churches and groups will marry same-sex couples, Jones said. But those marriages are not legally recognized. A lesbian couple, Elizabeth and Tammy Gilliam-Strong, married in holy union by the Unitarian Universalist Church in May 1995, attended the meeting. "We are very good people who deserve the same rights as any other person," Tammy said. "What we do with each other doesn't affect anyone else." The couple said they speak at meetings and in classrooms to knock away some of the myths of gays and lesbians and same-sex marriages. UK NOW decided to have the meeting with UK Lambda and the UK ACLU to celebrate NOW's National Day of Action today. Others attending the meeting were Gretchen Grossart of Bluegrass NOW and Sarah Glenn of Rainbow Wind. Gwen Mayo, a member of Rainbow Wind, a group for Lesbians Pagans and their friends, said, "There will always be civil rights fights. It takes a lot of effort to fight something that doesn't directly affect you. We've got to keep fighting."



# SPORTS

## Wildcats down to two opportunities for SEC win

By Rob Herbst  
Weekend Sports Editor

Two chances and counting down. That's the number of chances the UK women's basketball team has of getting a conference victory after last night's 77-53 debacle against No. 10 Florida.

If the Cats (6-17, 0-10 in the Southeastern Conference) can somehow pull off a winless conference record, they would have the honor of being the first UK women's hoops team in history to earn that distinction.

At the outset of Thursday's game there was actually some reason to believe that UK might pull off the upset.

UK opened up the game with four straight points. That's when the real Florida and the real Wildcats showed up.

With the help of three treys by little-known Gator Chanda Stebbins, Florida

(18-5, 8-1) dominated the first half en route to a 46-23 lead at intermission.

Stebbins came into the game averaging only nine minutes and 1.9 points per game. She finished the game by shooting a blistering 6-of-7 from long distance for 20 points.

"You always try to go to your strengths and Chanda's our best shooter no question," said Florida head coach Carol Ross. "Chanda's been working on this for a couple weeks, and I don't think anybody on our end is too surprised by what she did because she's been doing it in practice for about a week or so."

While Stebbins' shooting clinic speared the Cats, UK helped the Gators find a good spot for the dagger. They committed 17 first half turnovers and shot a none-too-impressive 30 percent from the field.

UK head coach Bernadette Mattox

also was not a fan of the officiating.

"I'm not going to beleagueer the point on officiating but early on I really felt we got hammered on the inside," Mattox said. "That made us tentative going back in there because (they were) offensive fouls (the officials) were calling, the pushing and shoving while they were going over our back."

The second half resembled a funeral-like atmosphere in Memorial Coliseum. The official attendance was listed at 225, although that probably included the band, university officials, media and other non-ticket buyers.

The only semblance of life came from forward Vonda Jackson who scored 11 straight points for UK. She led the Cats with a career-high 15 points.

"What was the score at the half? I had no other choice to play hard or just get annihilated," Jackson said.

### Florida 77, UK 63

UF (18-5, 8-1): Bingham 1-4, 0-0-3; Page 5-8, 6-6-16; Milton 4-11, 2-2-10; Hudson 3-8, 3-3-9; Smith 0-2, 0-0-0; Stebbins 7-8, 0-0-2; Travis 4-11, 3-4-11; Wright 1-4, 0-0-2; Freeman 2-4, 0-0-4; O'Neil 1-5, 0-1-2; Jacobs 0-0, 0-0-0. Totals 28-63, 14-16-77.

UK (6-17, 0-10): Vieth 0-5, 2-6-2; Wall 4-10, 1-2-9; Denkins 1-7, 2-2-4; Martinez 3-8, 0-0-8; Hay 2-7, 0-0-5; Boyd 3-10, 2-2-10; Jackson 6-13, 3-3-15. Totals 19-60, 10-15-53.

Halftime: UF 46, UK 23. Rebounds: UK 47 (Vieth 10), UF 32 (Page, Travis 6). Three-point FG: UK 5-11 (Martinez 2-4, Hay 1-3, Boyd 2-4) UF 7-16 (Bingham 1-4, Smith 0-2, Stebbins 6-7, Travis 0-2, Freeman 0-1). Assists: UK 12 (Wall 5) UF 18 (Smith 5). Blocks: UK 0 UF 1 (Milton). Turnovers: UK 29 (Vieth 7) UF 16 (Milton 4). Points off turnovers: UK 15, UF 25. Steals: UK 7 (Boyd), UF 2 (UF 15 (Smith 4), Fouts: UK 17, UF 15). Fouled out: None. Technicals: None.

Officials: J. Moringstar, Wesley Dean, Bobby Giles. A. 225.



RICK COOK/Kentucky.com  
FIRE IT UP: Sophomore Tiffany Wait cases just behind the three-point line for a score.

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**HAROLD'S**  
Mall St. Matthews, Louisville

## Underdog Gym Kats prepare for SEC battle with No. 1 UGA; Marinik back

By O. Jason Stapleton  
Assistant Sports Editor

The No. 18 UK Gym Kats are looking to make history while taking on the top-ranked University of Georgia Bulldogs tonight at 7:30 in Memorial Coliseum.

"The largest crowd we ever had at Kentucky was when Georgia was ranked No. 1 two years ago," UK Coach Leah Little said. "So we're hoping that we will have the largest crowd ever here at the University of Kentucky."

Besides having the highest

ranking team in the country coming to town, Kat fans have another reason to come out in support of the team.

The Kats will need all the support they can get tonight, too—they are 0-35 lifetime against UGA.

"We always compete to their level," Little said.

"Some of the best meets we've had have been against the top teams in the country."

### GAMEinfo

The Gym Kats face off against Georgia tonight at 7:30 in Memorial Coliseum.



Photo furnished  
BACK TO LIFE: Junior Mistry Marinik will return to action tonight after an injury held her out of this season's meets. The Gym Kats will be looking for their first SEC win.

Last week the Kats played a tough meet against Alabama, losing 196.525 to 193.525.

"It was our second best meet of the season," Little said. "We performed well, and I was especially pleased with our three freshmen: Mila (Chitwood), Kristen (Hoferlin) and Lori (Freeman)."

Despite Georgia being heavily favored, UK's gymnasts said they think an upset is in the works.

"We are going to go out there and we're going to

beat Georgia," Freeman said. "We're going to do all we can as a team (to win)."

UK's confidence stems from a good performance against the Dawgs in UGA's last visit to UK.

"The last time they came up here they kind of watered down because they thought that we weren't a threat and we almost just hoping that we will be up and they'll have a couple of falls, and we can upset the No. 1 team in the nation."

One good thing for the Gym Kats is that for the first time this season, Mistry Marinik, one of their top talents, rejoins the lineup.

Marinik suffered a shoulder injury in practice before the season began and has since been unable to compete in a single event this season.

"It's been very miserable just sitting on the sidelines watching," Marinik said. "I don't mind yelling for my team, but I'd rather be in there doing it with them."

Today marks one month since Marinik had her surgery, so it is quite a feat that she will compete tonight.

"She has overcome a lot this year," Hoferlin said. "She's been coming back strong and we need her on beam especially. When she gets back in there she's going to help us a lot."

Marinik will compete only on the balance beam, but she hopes to be back to full strength and competing in the all-around for the meet against LSU.



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# Donovan returns to Rupp as Cats try to catch Carolina

## Gators' three-point attack keeps Florida's upset hopes alive in SEC

By Price Atkinson  
Staff Writer

"Billy the Kid" will be in Lexington this weekend for the first time since joining the Southeastern Conference.

Florida's first-year head man Billy Donovan, the youngest head coach in Division I basketball, will face mentor and former Coach Rick Pitino in Rupp Arena as an SEC foe.

The Gators bring their up-tempo, fun-and-gun style of basketball to Rupp tomorrow afternoon, where the closest an SEC team has come to defeating the Cats this season is 24 points.

The fourth-ranked Wildcats (23-3 overall, 9-2 in SEC) have not lost a conference game in Rupp since Mississippi State's upset in the 1994-95 season.

### Florida at Kentucky Tomorrow, 4 p.m. Rupp Arena

Kentucky (23-3)		
National ranking: No. 4		
Probable Starters:	Pts:	Reb:
F Ron Mercer	17.4	5.3
F Scott Padgett	9.4	5.4
C Jamal Magloire	5.5	4.7
G Allen Edwards	9.9	4.0
G Anthony Epps	8.1	*4.7

Reserves: C Nazr Mohammed, 8.7 ppg; F Jared Prickett, 8.2; G Wayne Turner, 5.0; G Cameron Mills, 3.4; G Steve Maschio, 1.1.

### Florida (17-5)

National ranking: None		
Probable Starters:	Pts:	Reb:
F Greg Stolt	13.8	6.4
C Damon Maddux	7.0	4.6
G Dan Williams	5.6	2.8
G Greg Williams	11.4	*4.0
G Eddie Shannon	12.6	*4.3

Reserves: G Kevan Weeks, 9.3 ppg; F Jason Anderson, 7.1; F Kendrick Spivey, 6.6; F Joel Reebart, 3.7; C Greg Cristell, 3.4; G Mike McFarland, 2.9; F Erton Kinney, 2.8; G Eddie Nunez, 0.3; G Mark Timinski, 0.0.

\* assists per game

TV: WKYT (Channel 27) — Live

The game will be the second meeting between the two teams this year. UK handled the Gators with relative ease on Jan. 28, defeating them 92-65 in Gainesville. Florida will have to overcome UK's pressure defense tomorrow in order to have any chance of pulling off an upset. The Cats defense suffocated both Villanova and LSU, leading them to 30-point wins in both games.

In the last meeting, the UK defense forced 23 Gator turnovers, something Donovan said hurt his team at both ends of the court.

"Certainly their defensive pressure really caused us problems," Donovan said. "Even when we didn't turn it over, they took us out of a lot of things that we were trying to do."

Donovan, a former player and assistant to Pitino, has Florida playing bombs-away basketball, similar to the way UK played in Pitino's first few years.

Florida leads the SEC in every three-point category. In conference games, the Gators average nine treys per game while shooting 41.3 percent from behind the arc.

Overall they are fourth in scoring with 70.8 points a game while UK leads the SEC with 79 a game.

The Gators are led by sophomore center Greg Stolt who is averaging 13.7 points a game but in conference games just 12.6 a game.

Coming off Wednesday's 72-69 win at Mississippi State, Donovan says he is pleased with his team's execution at the offensive end of the ball.

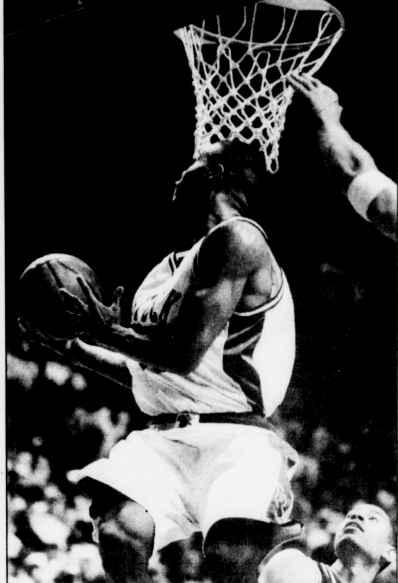
"From an offensive standpoint we're really pushing the ball as hard as we possibly can to try and get some easy baskets," Donovan said.

On Saturday, Pitino will be looking for another big game from sophomore center Nazr Mohammed, who had 18 points and eight boards against Villanova. He also will ask post players Jared Prickett and Jamal Magloire to keep up their gritty play against the rebuilding Gators.

"Florida is like we were seven years ago, starting out with perimeter people trying to shoot well in order to win and trying to cause some confusion," Pitino said.

A UK win Saturday would give the Cats a four-game winning

SOUTHEASTERN SEC CONFERENCE		
STANDINGS		
WEEK 11		
Eastern Division		
teams	sec	overall
South Carolina	11-1	17-6
Kentucky	9-2	23-3
Georgia	7-4	18-5
Vanderbilt	6-5	15-8
Florida	4-7	12-12
Tennessee	3-8	10-11
Western Division		
teams	sec	overall
Ole Miss	7-5	15-7
Arkansas	6-5	13-8
Mississippi St.	5-6	11-13
Auburn	5-7	14-11
Alabama	3-8	13-11
Louisiana St.	2-10	9-16



HOUDINI IN FLIGHT UK's Ron Mercer finds a way to get the ball through a board of defenders. The Cats look to continue their winning ways at home against Florida this weekend.

**UKstats**

Team statistics

UK	Opponents
.477 Field Goal Percentage	.396
.695 Free-Throw Percentage	.651
.363 Three-Point Percentage	.315
84.2 Points Per Game	61.1
40.5 Rebounds Per Game	32.7
15.4 Off. Rebounds Per Game	12.3
20.2 Assists Per Game	12.6
15.5 Turnovers Per Game	23.2
5.0 Blocks Per Game	2.7
12.2 Steals Per Game	6.8

### SCOUTINGreport

**BACKCOURT**

Eddie Shannon and Greg Williams form a solid tandem in the backcourt for the Gators. Both guards are averaging in double figures. According to recruiting guru Bob Gibbons, Shannon was one of the nation's top prospects coming out of high school. The Cats are led by the solid Anthony Epps who has had an unimpressive yet solid season; however, he lit up LSU for 18 points on Wednesday.

**FRONTCOURT**

Florida has enjoyed a solid season from sophomore Greg Stolt. The Gator forward leads the squad in both points and rebounds. For UK, nothing more needs to be said about Ron Mercer. Through the loss of Derek Anderson hurts dearly, Mercer has done everything possible to keep UK in the upper-echelon of college hoops.

**BENCH**

Because of transfers and injury problems, the Cats' bench is less potent than in recent years. But what is on the bench is solid. Jared Prickett and Nazr Mohammed come off the bench to give the Cats a formidable frontcourt duo. Unlike UK, the Gator bench is deep. UF has seven "bench warmers" who see significant minutes.

**ETC.**

Florida head coach Billy Donovan makes his second trip back to Rupp Arena since leaving the program in 1994 for a head coaching position at Marshall. Donovan brought his Thundering Herd into Rupp in Dec. '94, walking out with a 116-75 loss. The last Florida victory in Lexington was a 59-53 win during the 1988-89 season.

Mercer

Donovan

Epps

Stolt

**FLORIDAstats**

Team statistics

UF	Opponents
.449 Field Goal Percentage	.429
.696 Free-Throw Percentage	.676
.378 Three-Point Percentage	.313
75.4 Points Per Game	72.0
35.8 Rebounds Per Game	35.7
9.8 Off. Rebounds Per Game	13.2
14.0 Assists Per Game	14.1
15.2 Turnovers Per Game	15.6
3.8 Blocks Per Game	2.8
7.4 Steals Per Game	8.3

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## Offspring punks out another 'smash' hit

By Raymond Burns  
Contributing Critic

The Los Angeles band that helped bring punk to suburbia is back with its fourth release, *Ixnay on the Hombre*. Ixnay is The Offspring's follow-up to 1994's *Smash*, which along with Green Day's *Dookie* pushed punk into the mainstream.

Most punk purists could do without this mainstream appeal, but The Offspring seem to have handled its success differently than Green Day. What was it, two, maybe three months between the release of *Dookie* and *Insomniac*? I don't see how Green Day had the time to record another album because every time I turned on the television I saw those three clowns trying to act rebellious or whatever it is that punks do.

Meanwhile The Offspring released a couple of videos and sold some albums, but what the band didn't do is jump in front of every MTV camera it could find until we all wanted to puke at the

sight of the group.

The first couple of songs on *Ixnay* pick up right where *Smash* left off. "The Meaning of Life" and "Mota" falsely lead the listener to think that this album is headed in the exact same direction as the last one. On the third track, lead vocalist, Dexter Holland sounds a lot like Perry Farrell (Jane's Addiction, Porno for Pyros). That in itself is not what makes the song good. It also has a funky rhythm that almost made me want to get up and dance. Almost.

Right in the middle of *Ixnay* can be a groovy little intermission that gives the listener a break from all blast straight into "All I Want," a short but very aggressive and catchy tune that is also the first video from the album.

The band continues to flex its versatility. Sounds from "Gone



MUSICreview  
★★★★  
(out of five)  
"Ixnay on the Hombre"  
The Offspring  
(Sony/Columbia)



Away" includes hard rock influences, while "Don't Pick It Up" has a ska-like beat. What really makes this album work is The Offspring's ability to seem at home with each of these different styles. Another reason the album works is the obvious sense of humor displayed in the lyrics of some of the songs. "Don't Pick It Up," a more humorous tune, is about things you shouldn't pick up, like dog feces, transvestites

and venereal diseases. This album offers a nice blend of ska, surf-punk and hard rock. The lyrics not only provide social commentary but also convey a sense of humor, which many alternative acts today lack. As for whether or not the band sold out, you can be the judge of that. If moving to a larger label and making videos is selling out, then I guess it did. This album works, and this band is not nearly as over-exposed as it could be if it were really concerned with cashing in. So, take the advice of The Offspring, and if you see any dog feces out there, please, "don't pick it up."

But do pick up this album.

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# Bowie's latest nothing short of genius

By Tom Owens  
Senior Staff Critic

Ashes to ashes, funk to funky, we know Major Tom's a junky ... for Bowie's music. So let's get that bias out in the open before I begin ranting rabidly about David B's turn to rave.

Bowie's new album is amazing. It's the best record he's made since 1980's *Scary Monsters* and it takes into account the rise of excellence DB's displayed since he ditched that horrid mid-to-late '80s cheese-pop. A statement of this sort might be expected from a fervent follower of the thin, white duke, but from the opening strains of "Little Wonder" to the final thumps of "Law (Earthlings on Fire)," little doubt remained that the master of reinvention had done it again.

The latest thematic set for the new record is a wild fusion of the underground techno-trance drum 'n' bass electronica of London with squalling, raging space-rock reminiscent of Bowie's best in the '70s. The result comes off successful, edgy and intense.

"Little Wonder," the first single, soars with sampled guitar yowls courtesy of Reeves Gabrels and hip jungle-ragga rhythms. Bowie's voice sings cut and paste words (intergalactic, seeming to be you) in an infectiously melodic refrain before the tune breaks off into foot-stomping and steam whistles. He then takes a complete 180 from the snappy rhythmic

groove of the tech and literally freaks out in a moon-age daydream.

The other songs on *Earthling* are equally interesting. "Looking For Satellites" chops up phrases and lays them on top of a funky bass-anchored shuffle for a tune that maintains the pinnacle of pop catchiness without toppling toward annoyance. "Seven Years in Tibet" harkens back to 1977's *Lodger* with slow machine beats and violent lyrics like, "Are you okay? You've been shot in the head/and I'm holding your brains." And "Dead Man Walking" could be the next big hit for Bowie, powered by a big beat and a glorious chorus.

But the music shows only part of Bowie's artistry. *Earthling* carries commentary packed away in the intense music. Two songs obviously touch on political themes — "The Battle for Britain," and "I'm Afraid of Americans." The former discusses how pathetic DB finds his homeland: "And a loser I will be, for I've never been a winner in my life," sings Bowie's character in a moany, heartless tone.

"I'm Afraid of Americans" rages in powerful, tech-fuzz tones against materialism, pulling no punches with chanted lines such as "Johnny's in America/I'm afraid of Americans/I'm afraid of the world/I'm afraid I can't help it," and "Johnny combs his hair/Johnny wants pussy and cars." The nail finally gets hammered in during a quiet interlude, giving the revelation, "God is an American."



Photo furnished

**PLANET BOWIE** David Bowie's latest album shows he can still get funky at age 50.

And there you have one person's glowing opinion of a 50-year-old rock god. Others will lambaste him for aging, but how many other rock stars are still innovative and producing incredible new music? The answer: pitifully few. The earthling at 50 beats all the young dudes in their 20s.

**MUSICreview**  
★★★★★  
(out of five)  
"Earthling"  
David Bowie  
(Virgin)

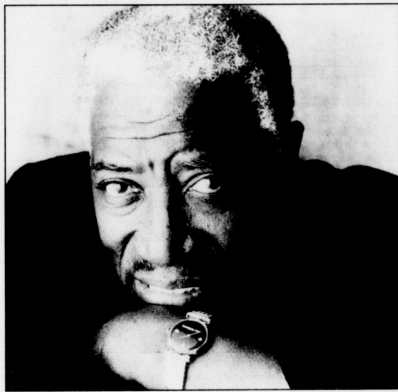


Photo furnished

### Weekend music at the Singletary Center

Legendary blues and jazz vocalist Joe Williams (right) takes his seemingly ageless 78-year-old figure to the Singletary Center for the Arts tonight at 8. Tickets are \$19.50 for general admission, \$15 for staff and faculty, and \$10 for students. Tomorrow morning through afternoon, the 12th annual Day of Percussion will also be held at Singletary. John Mellencamp's drummer Kenny Aronoff, John Beck, Arthur Lipner (above) and Mark Tate will perform. The event begins at 10; Registration fee is \$10.

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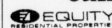
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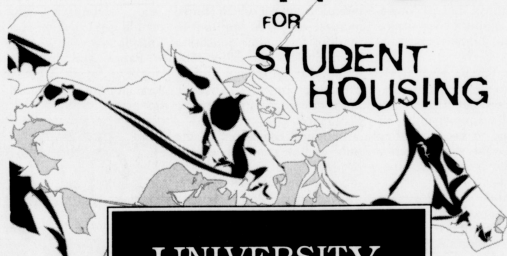
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Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-60 indicating starting positions for words.

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# Piercers may be regulated

By Jessica Hays  
Contributing Writer

"Yeah ... I got it pierced during spring break, but now it's infected!"

Greg Dinkens, owner of The Hole Thing, has heard this since he became a professional piercer.

Dinkens and Kelli West, a psychology sophomore, are two of the people trying to pass legislation to regulate businesses that offer piercing.

The popularity of body piercing has increased at a phenomenal rate over the last few years. It's not just a punk fad anymore; people from every demographic are getting pierced. This sudden rise in the market, along with the rise of hepatitis and HIV viruses, has brought a new awareness among professional piercers to problems caused by unsafe piercing methods. It's taking longer, though, for legislators to realize the potential dangers.

"A lot of politicians don't want anything to do with body piercing because it's associated with the grunge look; they think that it's taboo," West said.

Dinkens said he sees the ramifications of irresponsible piercers every day. The major problems, he said, involve piercing guns and second-rate pierce shops. He is pushing for legislation to ban piercing guns and to require piercers to be licensed by Kentucky. He also wants regular, unannounced health inspections.

"Piercing guns are unsafe because there is always cross-contamination," Dinkens said. "People think that if they wipe off the gun with alcohol, the gun is safe. This is totally wrong. Alcohol doesn't kill viruses, it just provides them with more liquid to swim around in."

Piercing guns can't be autoclaved — the only way

to sterilize equipment — and they damage skin tissue, he said.

"Guns just slam a hole into your skin, whereas needles make an incision," Dinkens said. "Incisions are much less damaging to surrounding skin tissue." But piercing guns aren't the only thing that makes Dinkens cringe. Numerous problems arise from "hack-jobs," which can be anything from your friend's homemade piercing kit to a mall station that offers piercing.

"Shops often do piercing as a side business," Dinkens said. "These places often have poor quality jewelry. It may say stainless steel, but it must be of a certain grade to be safe."

The sterilization of instruments also concern piercers.

"Even if they have an autoclave, it has to be tested every month," he said. "If they aren't doing that, then their instruments may not be getting sterilized."

Piercings done during Spring Break trips are unsafe for many reasons. Most are "fly-by-night" operations, Dinkens said.

"Shop owners pay guys in vans to set up a pierce station in a back room, Dinkens said. "They tell you to use Neosporin, which is incorrect care."

He said follow-up care is an integral part of piercing safety.

"When you start having problems with your Spring Break pierce job, the piercer can't be reached."

"Some of my friends wanted to get body piercings done during Spring Break because it was a little cheaper," West said.

"After they got infections, they had to go to Legg and spend a lot of money to fix those problems. It all could have been prevented."

## STD

### Students should look for warning signs

From PAGE 1

at the Kentucky Clinic offers STD screening and counseling. Woodrum holds a sexual health session every weekday, by

appointment, for those students with questions or concerns. Oodrum said she would like to remind students that "abstinence is OK, even if you've had sex before."

If any symptoms like rashes, bumps, warts or abnormal discharge from the genital area occur, it could be a warning sign of an STD.

Other symptoms include bleeding between menstrual peri-

ods or after intercourse, as well as symptoms of a bladder infection.

While the rest of the country is focusing on AIDS and HIV, Isaacs said college students might want to direct their attention to the more common STDs.

"People need to watch out for HPV, which affects one-fourth of women and herpes, which affects one-fifth of women. Just because they can't see it doesn't mean it's not there," Isaacs said.

## Patton calls May session on higher education

Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Gov. Paul Patton has set a tentative date of May 5 for a special legislative session on higher-education reform.

For months, Patton has said he hoped to call a session in the spring for the General Assembly

to consider a plan to revamp post-secondary education.

But the letter he mailed to lawmakers on Tuesday was the first time the governor offered a specific date.

Patton has not given legislators any details of his reform plan.

His letter repeated his intention to propose an annual increase

of \$100 million in funding for higher education beginning in the 1999-2000 fiscal year, provided fundamental reform can be enacted, but it offered no other clues to his agenda.

"Higher education is the only way we can increase the productivity of our people and increase the standard of living in Kentucky," Patton said in his letter.

Lobo. You'll always be my one and only Porn Star. Thanks for two great years. I Love You, Poobie

2 DIVB U R the most exciting, beautiful, sensitive, caring, compassionate, sweet, gentle, considerate sexy woman I've ever met. Please B Mine. Love, JAD

Brandon, Surprise! Happy Valentine's Day Sweetie! I love you, Ashley

DG Love - So sisterly and true! Happy Valentine's Day from me to you! ITB, Carrie Sterling

Chewbacca, You are my favorite thing! Love, The Purple Fish

I'll start the bidding out at 8 years - Do I hear 10? - I have 10, do I hear 15? - FAIR WARNING (lap - lap) Happy Valentine's Day Sue! I love you! - Willie

To my Sweetheart Kris Rob: I love you forever and you'll always be my baby. Ricka

Michelle, The sun rises and sets by the beat of my heart for you. I LOVE YOU!!!

Bryan and Winston, Happy Valentine's Day! Love, Penny

Sometimes you meet an angel and sometimes, just sometimes, that angel becomes your Best Friend. I guess I was lucky! Happy Valentines Day Karen! Love, Mary Jo

Target Price: Why birds suddenly appear everytime French graduate students and landscape architect teachers appear?

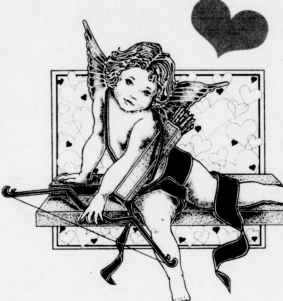
Dearest Mira: When I look into your eyes, I see my world evolve around you. Love you, Karamanj

Curtis, the past 8 months have been great! Happy Valentine's Day! Love, Joellen

V-NO, It began the eve of the last New Year. With a kiss at midnight and a celebration cheer. Twelve months later, again the year is new. Please always be my sweetheart, because I LOVE YOU, ESPERANZA

Lisa W., I can't wait to start our new life together. I love you. Eric

Kristi Jo, I hope you have a Happy Valentine's Day! I love you! Sparks



# HEART Warmers

Sweetpea - I love you more than it's humanly possible. You complete me. Love, Little Jessy

Happy Valentine's Day Carson. I love you! Love, Becky

Bear, Nestled in the woods, Together we will be. Fun-filled and adventurous. Our hearts will surely see - Just how much I love you and you love me! Happy Valentine's Day! Love, Sugar

Wanted! Daughter - Seeking college freshman in I.D. Great family guarantees. Know anyone? C.T.W.

Happy V-Day to my favorite princesses: Kelly-U, Beth-T, Andrea-T, Laura-H, Heather-J, Laura-E, Melissa-M, and K-T-Floor 2 girls!!! (Woo!!!) From: Joshua-D, (Maine-boy)

Loveleest Larisa, Take this printed read thread. To remember my love once your twin flames have read. - Uncle (ENF) P

Karen - You're very special to me. I'm the cat. Happy Valentine's Day - Brad

Rob - Roses are red, violets are blue, as I have said, "I love you" Love, Donna

Dearest MINGLI I Love You...with all my heart. Alex

Spaghett Drawers (Nall), we must see you again! We miss your noodle and special sauce. Please meet us at our rendezvous: The dumpster behind Waite House. Anxiously Awaiting, Phil Mee and Mona Lott.

I know my life will never be the same since I met you. Meeting you at the woman that will sail me into the voyage of the worst and the most glorious moment of life. You are my strength, my faith and my courage. With your love, I can conquer the fiercest beast, swim through the river of hell. My feeling to you is so intense that, I can't deny that I have fell in love with you. I'll love you till the moon drops. Your Man, Johnny

Angela, our love has passed the test for a year. There's nothing that could separate us. Maybe this is a good time to tell you - I'm pregnant. Wade

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