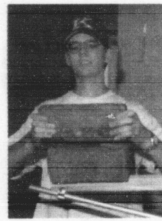


# KENTUCKY Kernel

## LAYING A FOUNDATION

UK Architecture workshop brings students to the craft. See pages 6-7.



# THU

July 17, 1997

**iN** Sports 4 Viewpoint 8  
Diversions 5 Classifieds 10

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INDEPENDENT SINCE 1971

# Midsummer night at UK Arboretum

## Shakespeare celebration returns

By Lisa Rippetoe  
Staff Writer

The Shakespeare Festival invaded the Arboretum at UK last night and will occupy it until Aug. 5.

Brian Larson, a UK theater junior, has been hard at work this summer practicing with participants in this year's festival.

Larson, who plays Agrippa in "Antony and Cleopatra," auditioned in March with a one minute monologue from "Much

Ado About Nothing."

With three main stage plays under his belt, Larson has been practicing rigorously since June 1.

"You can always count on probably three (hours daily), sometimes four," he said.

Practices are held at St. Michael's Episcopal Church and at The Arboretum.

Larson expects the Shakespeare Festival to be more of a challenge for him than regular semester theatrical productions.

"People are out there playing around," he said of the out-of-doors audience. "It becomes a real exercise in focus."

Outdoor theater is more challenging because of more distractions such as people throwing Frisbee, he said.

With three productions this summer, practices become intense, and time becomes precious.

Larson, who hopes to move away from theater and towards film, said that participating in the Festival has been a great experience.

The best perk of this experience, Larson said, is "the people I'm working with and how talented they are."

Larson said he has learned a lot by working with the other

See **SHAKESPEARE** on 3



Outdoor theater has a spirit all its own."

Becky Smith  
Artistic director of the Shakespeare Festival



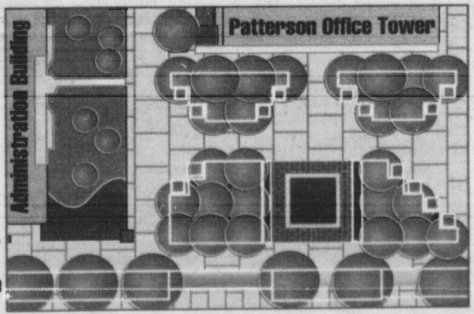
JAMES CRISP Kernel staff

**TO BE OR NOT TO BE** Lexington's Shakespeare in the Park festival began last night at the UK Arboretum and continues through Aug. 5.

# New look for Patterson plaza unveiled

## PATTERSON OFFICE TOWER PLAZA DESIGN

The area in front of the Patterson Office Tower will be home to 37 trees. Also, look for more grassy areas and improved landscaping. To South Limestone



CHRIS ROSENTHAL Kernel staff

## Central campus gets green, park atmosphere

By Joe Dobner  
Staff Writer

The newly remodeled Patterson Office Plaza is slated to open this fall.

"Acts of God would be our only enemy now," said Project Manager Jack Miller.

Excessive June rains set the work back two weeks, but the project is now back on schedule.

The plaza's surface will be exposed aggregate, the same material currently in front of White Hall Classroom

Building. It will feature four clusters of trees on slightly raised platters.

The renovation of the plaza will be an improvement over the previous design, said George Debin, UK vice president for administration.

"It was a safety hazard for people with disabilities," he said.

Debin also cited attractiveness as a consideration, as prospective students often see POT Plaza as the center of campus.

Consulting firm CMW,

Inc. studied foot traffic patterns in designing the new layout. There will be unobstructed walkways along the most heavily travelled areas and dead space for students to congregate and talk without getting in the way.

Currently, \$365,000 is slated for the project, but the final total could be slightly less.

Formerly, a fountain was the central object in the plaza. That fountain is now buried with other debris.

"It had a good life," Debin said.

Debin cited the fountain's expense as a reason to do away with it.

The new centerpiece, See **PLAZA** on 2

# Industrial hemp on Kentucky's horizon

## Actor leads movement to grow cousin of marijuana

"Make the most of the Indian Hemp seed and sow it everywhere"  
George Washington, 1794

By Manish Bhatia  
Staff Writer

It all started on a lazy afternoon in the town of Beattyville, Ky. on June 1, 1996.

In a carefully orchestrated sequence of events, Woody Har-

relson got himself arrested for planting four seeds of hemp by the Lee County police.

The broad wording of Kentucky's marijuana legislation helped Harrelson win his court case on July 3, and in the process, the state moved a step closer towards the legalization of the cash crop that can produce everything from paper to textiles.

"I think that (the victory) brought public attention to the matter. It's going to force the legislators to revisit the statute," said Joseph Hickey, executive director of the Kentucky Hemp Grower's Cooperative Association.

Harrelson's court victory resurfaced the possibility of industrial hemp as an economic substitute for several industries including tobacco.

In a letter to the Kentucky State Legislature, Alex Parker of the Parker Tobacco Company said, "Hemp was successfully grown in Kentucky previously and it can be processed in our present tobacco processing plant facilities."

Paul Kalisz, a UK faculty member and adviser for the Green Thumb club at UK, felt differently.

"Hemp is definitely not going to replace tobacco as a cash crop," he said. "(Hemp) is a field fiber crop, more like corn. Farming is a profit driven enterprise. It is hard to feed a family with a corn farm."

One of the chief opponents of industrial hemp has been the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The apparent likeness of industrial hemp to its illegal cousin, marijuana, has been one of their main concerns. Besides being the same species, both plants contain the inebriating ingredient THC. Marijuana has a THC content between 3 percent and 20 percent.

In a letter to the Kentucky House of Representatives, William M. Pierce Jr., a professor of pharmacology and toxicology at U of L, notes that "industrial hemp often contains as little as .05 percent by weight of THC."

Hickey believed that higher doses and unpleasant side effects would deter smoking of industrial hemp. In addition, factors such as cross pollination and differ-



File Photo

**INDUSTRIAL HEMP OR MARIJUANA?** Many opponents such as the Drug Enforcement Administration claim the legalization of industrial hemp would make it harder to police its cousin, the marijuana plant.

## Modern Uses for Hemp

Industrial hemp has many uses many people don't know about.

- ▼ **TEXTILES:** fabrics, diapers, denim, twine, carpets, nets
- ▼ **FOODS:** salad oil, flour, margarine, food supplements, granola, birdseed
- ▼ **PAPER:** newsprint, fine and specialty papers, cardboard and packaging
- ▼ **TECHNICAL PRODUCTS:** oil paints, varnishes, printing inks, fuel, solvents, chain-saw lubricants, putty, coatings
- ▼ **BUILDING MATERIALS:** fiberboard, insulation, fiberglass substitute, cement blocks, stucco and mortar
- ▼ **PERSONAL HYGIENE:** soap, shampoo, bath gels, cosmetics



ences in harvest time would make the illegal farming of marijuana among hemp fields difficult.

"It would be like mixing a fifth of gin with a fifth of water and doubling the price," Hickey said.

In a study done by the UK

Survey Research Center in September 1995, 77 percent of Kentucky residents either strongly favored or somewhat favored the legalization of hemp as a cash crop.

Several states such as Virginia and Colorado are in the process of reexamining the issue.

## The Graduate School Doctoral Dissertation Defenses

Name: Sandra Ann Sego  
Program: Psychology  
Dissertation Title: The Effects of Aging on Directed Forgetting  
Major Professor: Dr. Jonathan Golding  
Date: July 17, 1997  
Time: 9:30 - 11:50 a.m.  
Place: 216 Kaste Hall

Name: Hongao Guo  
Program: Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Dissertation Title: Pulmonary Artery Endothelial Cell Regulation of Oritnine Decarboxylase and Spermidine Uptake: The Effect of Monocrotaline and Dehydronocrotaline  
Major Professor: Dr. Jack Olson  
Date: July 21, 1997  
Time: 9:00 a.m. (Seminar) 10:00 a.m. (Defense)  
Place: 220 Pharmacy Bldg 407 Pharmacy Bldg

Name: Abdul Khan  
Program: Civil Engineering  
Dissertation Title: Development of a Conceptual Non-Horizontal Washed Model  
Major Professor: Dr. Lindell Ormsbee  
Date: July 24, 1997  
Time: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Place: 120 CE/RTC BUILDING

Name: Joyce Hall Wolf  
Program: Music  
Dissertation Title: A Performer's Guide to Selected Solo Songs by Joseph Barber  
Major Professor: Dr. Jonathan Gitson  
Date: July 21, 1997  
Time: 1:00 p.m.  
Place: PA 202

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## Plaza

Design adds green space to concrete

From PAGE 1

however, has not yet been determined. Something will eventual-

ly take the place of the central green space, but it will be decided on during the academic year and built next summer.

In addition to the centerpiece, there will be 37 trees in the plaza. Aside from those trees that The new trees won't be planted until late September or early October, due to the weather.

"No sense putting them in and killing them," Debin said.

The planting of the trees will not block the plaza. The trees will already be three inches in diameter, not to block the wind, but to withstand it.

"I don't think they're going to protect anybody's umbrella. That place is just a natural wind tunnel," Miller said.

# State athletes ready for games

## Bluegrass State Games start Friday

By Chad Preston  
Co-Features Editor

No, it's not the Olympics. But tell that to more than 20,000 amateur athletes across the Bluegrass State.

It is time for the 1997 Bluegrass State Games, which kicks off this weekend with opening ceremonies at Commonwealth Stadium.

The Bluegrass State Games is a statewide, Olympic-style sports festival featuring 27 sports with age and ability levels for all involved. Last year, nearly 20,000 athletes representing 116 counties participated.

The games are a joint project of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government and are led by a Board of Directors made up of sports and business leaders from across the state.

The United States Olympic Committee devised the concept of state games in the 1970s as a means to develop grass roots participation in Olympic-style sports.

In 1978, the Empire State Games in New York became the first state-wide sporting event.

Eventually, each state devised its own state games, and in 1985, Governor

Martha Layne Collins brought the first annual Bluegrass State Games to Kentucky with help from corporate sponsors such as Coca-Cola, CSX and Valvoline. Out of the three, Valvoline is the only one still involved and is a force in promoting the games.

Sponsors involved provide services, goods and funding to keep the games alive. Besides Valvoline, Fruit of the Loom, KU and the Lexington Herald-Leader help out.

This year, a few new events have been added to the list. In-line hockey and martial arts are two of them. There have been a couple of other changes as well.

"The opening ceremonies have been dressed up this year," said Eric Ward, Executive Director of the BGSF. From five until seven on Friday, Beatles cover band, BeatleMania Live! will perform their tribute to the Fab Four. Also, 10 different food vendors will be adding a variety of cuisine for diverse tastes.

"What's great about the games is that it is about 'grass roots' amateur sports," Ward said. "The games give the average person who strives to get better by working hard the chance to be recognized."

The program is designed to provide Kentuckians with wholesome development through sports, promote amateur athletics and foster a sense of state pride.

"It's about keeping active and being involved," said Ward. "It's an enjoyable experience for everybody."

The Bluegrass State Games is a member of the National Congress of State Games and is recognized by the United States Olympic Committee as an official USOC State Games Program participant.

## Shakespeare

### Festival brings comedy, drama to arboretum

From PAGE 1

actors and actresses in the Festival.

He commended Becky Smith, artistic director of the Lexington Shakespeare Festival, for what he called an enormous amount of hard work.

"She is doing a fantastic job," he said. "She is unbelievable."

Smith co-founded the Shakespeare festival 15 years ago and still works 10 to 12 hours daily, Larson said.

"Outdoor theater has a spirit all of its own," Smith said.

She described the Shakespeare Festival as "romantic."

In 1996, the festival changed locations from Woodland Park to the UK Arboretum.

The Arboretum has several advantages to Woodland Park, Smith said. Fewer distractions exist at the Arboretum and it "accommodates the audience better," Smith said.

Smith described the festival as a social event.

She said audience members will be pleased with all three productions — "The Lion in Winter," "As You Like It" and "Antony and Cleopatra."

The budget for the Festival has increased six times the amount of from when the plays started, Smith said.

According to Smith, a large number of college students attended the Shakespeare Festival last year.

A committee chooses which plays will be put on, and funding for the festival is provided by the sales of ads, sponsorship and private donations, she said.

Wednesday through Saturday, general admission costs \$2.

Tonight the festival features "As you like it." The gates open at 7:00 p.m. and the show starts at 8:15 p.m.

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# Kentucky football: Pump up the points

*Air raid will haunt defenses*

I was filled with skepticism when Hal Mumme was announced as Bill Curry's successor last year.

I mean, to go from Curry to an accomplished but unproven division II coach hardly seemed like a step in the right direction.



**Steven Scrivner**  
Sports Editor

After seven years of watching the Curry Cats take a beating only Rocky Balboa can relate to, I thought UK football could not go anywhere but up.

Then the name Hal Mumme surfaced and my immediate

thought was, I guess they can go sideways.

I have always enjoyed watching football teams that can score with the same frequency as Michael Jordan. (Which explains my devout following of the San Francisco 49ers.)

With Coach Curry running the show, scoring came almost as frequently as in a soccer game.

In 11 games last year, the Cats scored just 12 points a game while giving up 29.

Even UK's wins were boring. They averaged just 19 points per win and their average margin of victory was a little over nine points.

It was not uncommon for Curry to run on third-and-15 even though UK's offensive line couldn't create a hole for a mouse.

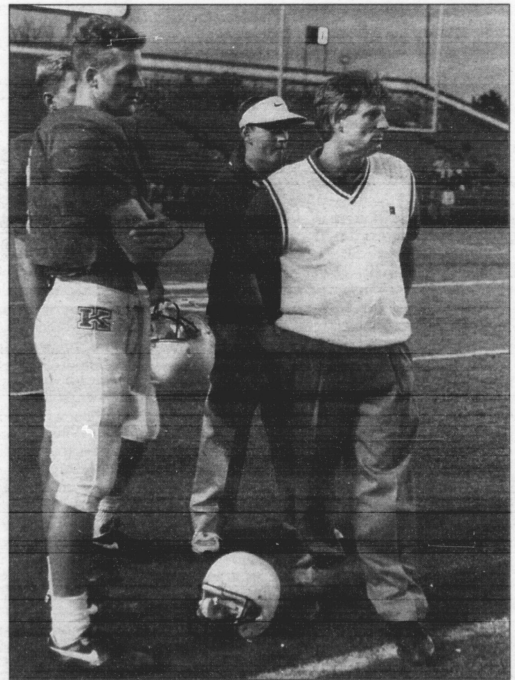
From the plays he ran to the way he combed his hair, everything Curry did was dull.

Now a new era is upon us. An era that promises excitement, fun and most of all, scoring.

That is why I find myself eagerly anticipating the kickoff to Hal's debut season - more scoring.

Mumme gives me something new to look forward to - something Curry never did.

I look forward to seeing a UK



JAMES CRISP Kernel staff

**THE AIR AFFAIR** Hal Mumme's new pass-oriented offense led by quarterback Tim Couch looks to excite Commonwealth Stadium crowds and make defensive coordinators sweat around the SEC.

team put the ball in the air on a consistent basis.

Whether or not the ball reaches the intended target is another story, but it will be a treat to see it thrown nonetheless.

I look forward to seeing a number higher than 7 next to UK on the scoreboard.

It's all about offense. And I look forward to seeing a line score that includes at least one UK player with at least 100 yards receiving (how many the opponent has is not important; again, it's all about the offense).

The reason it's all about the offense is because we've hired an offensive-minded coach who likes to fling the pigskin as often as possible. (His primary job is to tap the potential of a certain young quarterback who didn't come to UK to hand off 35 times a game.)

We didn't hire him to config-

ure a complicated defense that will stifle Peyton Manning, that would be asking too much. We'll take it slow; improve the offense first, then the defense. If the defense tsteps up this season, great, it's a bonus.

Don't expect Mumme to be a miracle-worker and lead UK to a bowl game in his first year. If UK is competitive in seven or eight games, the season can be termed a success.

Keep in mind he has to play Florida, Tennessee, Alabama and LSU this year - not exactly the types of teams he faced at Valdosta State last season.

Fans can expect fireworks to go off in Commonwealth Stadium this fall. Only this time, expect UK to be in on the fun.

*Sports Editor Steven Scrivner is a undeclared sophomore. His views do not necessarily represent the Kentucky Kernel*

# DiVeRSions



Photo furnished

**AMERICAN STANDARD EARNS ROCK CROWN** Seven Mary Three band members (from left) Casey Daniel, bass, Jason Pollock, lead guitar, Jason Ross, lead vocals, and Giti Khalsa, drums, have recently released their second album, *Rock Crown*, to follow-up their first, *American Standard*, which went platinum.

## 7 Mary 3 grows on road

*Louisville visit fills venue with moshing fans*

By Brian Dunn  
News Editor

The crowd was sweating. It, a mob of about 1,600 sardines, was packed into the Thunderdome in Louisville last Friday, and it, a glob of heated, human emotion, was sweating on the band.

And the band, Seven Mary Three, was sweating on the fans.

"We didn't take it lightly," said Jason Ross, lead singer and songwriter, about the band's fourth stop at the venue.

"We went in, and we played the show," he said.

"That's how you find out who your audience is. You can actually see them—you can hear them, you can feel them," he said.

"They're sweating on you, you're sweating on them."

The band's current tour has stops at mostly venues that hold between 500 and 1,000 fans in such cities as Cincinnati, Louisville and Milwaukee.

Night after night, the band discovers and entertains its audience of moshing and screaming fans.

Probably hundreds have been hoisted above the madness this summer and thrown about (and many women have had their shirts ripped from their bodies).

"There's always a little bit of havoc that can be turned into some kind of positive energy if

you can get everybody to get along," Ross, 24, said.

The band's tour, which started on June 4 and ends in the middle of August, celebrates the release of Seven Mary Three's second album, "Rock Crown," which follows the platinum-selling "American Standard."

Ross said much of the inspiration for "Rock Crown" came from a maturation of the band and crew members, most of whom are best friends from high school or college, experienced by being on the road the last two years.

"Being out on the road is the best and worst," he said.

"Being able to go out and search and search for a new experience, but then there's an emptiness left behind as you push ahead into a new territory," he said.

"Whatever moderate success we've achieved has been due to the fact that it's more than one person who believes, who has faith in something that they can't put in a bag or touch," he said.

"They believe that together the music means something," he said.

And Seven Mary Three wants its fans to experience the music as something with meaning instead of trying to scrutinize the lyrics.

"I want there to be people that walk away from the songs understanding the lyrics simply because of the feeling the music brought out in them," Ross said.

Critics have said "Rock Crown" has songs that are harder and songs that are softer than those off "American Standard," which sprung such hits as "Cumbersome," "Water's Edge,"

"Devil's Boy" and "My, My."

"I think so much of our first album was in the middle," Ross said. "I didn't like it in the middle."

So the songs on "Rock Crown" match more what the words mean, he said.

Among the softer songs, Ross likes most "I could be wrong" and "Oven," because he can tap back into when the song was written.

"(Oven) evokes for me," he said.

"I can almost smell the place where it was written."

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Photos by James Crisp

# BUILDING INTEREST

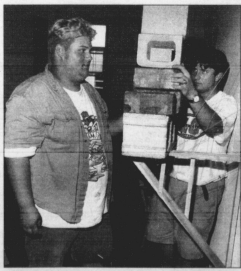
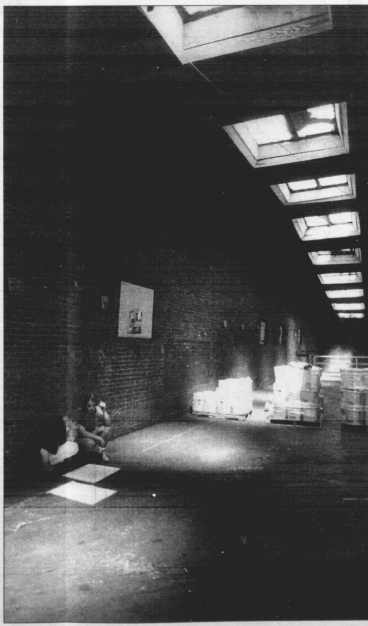
Summer is a time of rest and relaxation for many students, but some use the time to catch up or get ahead. Several students from many different levels of education are at the UK College of Architecture attending a summer workshop that started July 3 to do just that — get ahead.

The summer workshop has 19 students from seven states. It is being taught by UK architecture students. With projects ranging from life-drawing to constructing dwellings the group hopes to gain an understanding of the architectural process and explore whether or not the field is for them.

—James Crisp



**PEOPLE AT WORK**  
 Beckony Pritchett works at Pence Hall (left), and students eye the work of UK alumnus Jim Small (right).

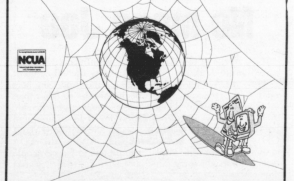


**STEADY AS SHE GOES**  
 Drew Lewis helps steady Keith Mustain's anticlineer project.

**LEARNING THE CRAFT**  
 Drew Lewis receives a drawing critique from Associate Professor of Architecture Keith Mustain, the director of the workshop.

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# ViewPOINT

## Open your eyes

We're glad to see that some Americans are opening their eyes.

This week, the Centers for Disease Control released numbers showing that 19 percent fewer people in the United States died from AIDS last year.

This means that more Americans are heeding the warnings about unsafe sex and drug use, as well as safety measures when dealing with bodily fluids.

More people are listening, but some are still ignoring the message.

AIDS isn't a disease that only affects homosexuals and drug users. In fact, the epidemic has slowed significantly

within high-risk groups.

Apparently it's the heterosexuals who aren't listening. For women and minorities the number of deaths from AIDS has not dropped nearly as significantly as it has for the high-risk groups.

Americans are still fighting the misconception that AIDS "can't happen to me."

It can happen to you, and it will if you don't pay attention and protect yourself.

AIDS isn't particular. It doesn't care who it kills. And right now, it is killing thousands of Americans every year.

Pay attention people, you could be next.

**IN OUR OPINION**

## No more Joe

Joe Camel and the Marlboro Man are dead.

The FDA regulation against the cigarette and tobacco campaign killed them both. Now, instead of Joe Camel, it will be Old Joe and who knows what for the Marlboro Man, maybe some random cowboy.

This is absurd.

How many young people honestly start smoking because of cool Joe Camel and his camel friends? Who really starts smoking in order to obtain the rugged, cowboy lifestyle of the Marlboro Man?

While it is possible that some of those who begin smoking at an early age

might be influenced by these characters, the majority of young and old smokers begin for reasons other than being influenced by the chic lifestyles of Joe Camel and the Marlboro Man.

Maybe the FDA should talk to young people and ask them why they start smoking.

They might learn that peer pressure and trying to appear older could actually be what leads to the decision to smoke.

Characters in ads don't make people smoke.

Before the government goes after cartoon camels and rugged cowboys, they need to look for more realistic influences.



## READERresponse

### Nike abuses human rights

To the Editor:

Well, well here goes Nike again. They not only have the University of Kentucky under their dictatorship now but also the University of North Carolina. Another multi-million contract that pretty much controls the athletes and coaches to what they can wear. But this is only half the problem. According to "Global Business," a San Francisco Report agency, the corporation known as Nike hires thousands of workers in Vietnam, China and Indonesia to work for a wage ranging between \$0.20 and \$1.60 a day. And Nike — the king of shoes — can feel good about this. Is this really a living wage? To make matters worse, the CEO of Nike brings in \$5 million a year while allowing a continuation of human rights abuse.

This reign of power must come to an end. We cannot allow such corporations to run our society to their own wellbeing.

Thus, I ask both the University of Kentucky as well as the University of North Carolina to reconsider what kind of agreement they have signed to.

Is it worth wearing fancy shoes to allow human rights violations?

Christopher J. Clements  
graduate student

### Student loss UK's fault

To the Editor:

The point in question is: Why does UK lose students? I cannot completely answer that, but as an International Student, I can make a few points that may assist the decision makers to update their strategies.

First, most of UK's colleges barely make it into the second or third tier in the national college ranking.

Second, The university studies program and college requirements are increasingly difficult to pass, therefore, several students either drop out, are suspended, or move to other colleges.

Third, I did not really want to point this out, but the general student body at UK is racist towards non-whites in general. This attitude becomes even more aggressive towards international students because they have problems with their English comprehension and elocution.

There has been no effort by the University to promote union, and understanding between races.

Make the UK community more hospitable at large by introducing race friendly workshops. Improve the standing of the UK colleges by generating a better pass rate.

Don't try to flush out the brainiacs from the normal students in the pre-major classes, instead help and encourage them to learn and prosper.

Matt Schiros  
Lexington

### Baptist tactics not new

To the Editor:

Those who support the Southern Baptist boycott of Disney have come up with a novel argument to silence critics. They say that people who express disapproval of the Baptists' intolerance are intolerant. And people who disagree with bigotry are bigoted.

Come on, now. This is a ridiculous argument and a pathetically weak attempt to defend meanness. The Baptist boycott of Disney is a bigoted action in every sense of the word. It is hatred disguised as dedication to religion. Yes, they have a right to boycott whomever they want, but let's not call it noble. The Southern Baptists aren't boycotting on behalf of greater liberty, equality or fairness for humankind, they are boycotting in an attempt to withhold those things from gay people. I remember how the Southern Baptists used to use the same tactics against blacks as they now use against gay people. I remember how white women were cautioned that black men would rape them. I remember how the Baptists used Leviticus to justify their pro-slavery positions and advocacy of discrimination against black Americans.

I am proud to plead guilty to being intolerant of intolerance, of being bigoted against bigotry, of hating hatred. Do I hate Baptists? No. I hate the sin, but not the sinners.

Alan L. Light  
Iowa City, Iowa

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# Bad advising way of life at UK

**W**hile it's been fun over the years to occasionally take a stab or two at easily-targeted, prototypical head-in-the-ozone-layer academics at this fine institution, the summer time is the one time that they can all be cut a little slack.

Summer time around here is budget time. It's also construction time, office moving time, and worst of all, department restructuring time.

Especially in fast-changing departments like Journalism and Telecommunications where the progress of information technology guarantees that if your program this year matches your program last year, you're way behind.

So it is with the utmost sensitivity that I offer the student perspective on advising and curriculum. The views presented here originate within the ivory and cinder-block walls of the Grehan Journalism Building, but hopefully they will resonate with

those of students and even faculty in other departments.

The bottom line is that paying tuition does not guarantee you access to the best education possible at UK. There are not enough resources and not enough space for everyone to enroll, for example, in computer science courses. I know people who are obsessive-compulsive planners who play all the cards right and milk their advisers for all they're worth and can't even get into required courses in time to graduate, let alone computer science courses. This, ladies and gentlemen, is a failure of the system. And a costly one for the individuals who get snagged in it.

The solution must be much more than the incremental "improvements" boasted in annual bulletins and newsletters. Doing something radical like



**Matt Felice**  
Staff Columnist

adding CS 101 as a University Studies requirement, for example, would force a policy shift and a major resource-allocation overhaul on the part of University planners. The move would likely be one of the most expensive curricular adjustments in UK history, and knowing that they couldn't expect Frankfort to fork over the cash, administrators, faculty and staff would

have to slaughter a few sacred cows and take a couple tiers out of the totem pole to make room for something that would actually benefit professional-minded students. Independent of the direct benefit to students, such a decision itself would be a painful but effective vaccine for the incompetency that plagues our advising system.

That incompetency is not the fault of individual advisers, who are usually over-worked instruc-

tors expected to fill multiple roles. I suspect it's partially the fault of inefficiencies in the university's information infrastructure that ultimately stem from bureaucracy and policy problems.

Getting you out in four years is simply not priority number one, everyone knows it, and naturally the result is little attention on the part of the University to coordinating a better system of student data (with advanced cross-referencing and analysis capabilities), class scheduling and curricular planning.

My adviser for the last year or so, on the contrary, has been a great help—but not without some gnawing and gnashing of teeth on his part and mine. He has enough discretion to never complain about the system itself, but the problems we run into are, oh, I'd say, 86.4 percent red tape.

I've heard that it's not like that at other schools. I've heard that

Indiana University offers to pay your extra tuition if you're not out in four. It just depends on where the institution's priorities lie.

So I don't always blame everything on stuffy, liberal academics. Some of them really are trying — incorporating skills and real-life applications into otherwise theory-saturated courses, and providing job connections, advice and guidance to obviously distraught seniors, even when that's not in the job description and may require after-hours work.

What they need is a system that supports those priorities.

What they've got is a system that sometimes seems deliberately designed to make life as difficult as possible.

*Kernel columnist Matt Felice is a telecommunications senior. His views do not necessarily reflect those of the Kentucky Kernel.*

# Academic value of internet overstated

**I**t was going to connect the world. It was going to give a voice to everyone who never had a voice before. It was going to make information easier than ever to locate and access. Research was going to become a breeze. Conventional "book" libraries were going to become obsolete. Normal phones were going to be replaced by audio-visual teleconferencing programs. It was going to do everything short of curing world hunger and washing your dishes, and given a chance, you never know.

Unfortunately, the internet has to the one of the most eagerly awaited letdowns since 1492, when Columbus DIDN'T fall off the edge of the world.

The internet has achieved exactly what it was supposed to do. It connected the world. The problem is that there is neither order nor reliability to information made available by that connection. Webercrawler, Yahoo,

Lycos, Excite, and Magellan, just to name a few, all attempt to semi-comprehensively index the internet, and through no fault of their own, they all fail miserably. The internet is simply too malleable to be systematically indexed.

Finding something useful and reliable on the internet is like finding a needle in a haystack. You have to just dive in and hope you latch onto something solid. If anything, the internet has slowed down the research process. It is the easiest thing in the world to sit down at a computer with purely scholastic intentions, and before you know it, you've just spent two hours reading Dilbert Online comic strips. It's simply astounding.

The internet, in one foul swoop, has brought the academic growth of the world to a screeching halt.

It seems like every time you start "surfing," you can't even

find a steady wave to ride. You paddle out there, then just sit, and wait, and sit, and wait.

One minute goes by, then two. You tell it to stop and try it again. Another two minutes go by. Finally, you give up on that page and try another. The process gets repeated. Maybe the next page actually comes up, but after ten minutes of reading, you decide that this page is about Russian widgets (you're researching Japanese widgets), and you can't use it.

You spend three minutes waiting for a page that isn't there, then five more reading yet another off-topic page, this one on English widgets. You waste two more minutes waiting for another non-existent page, then finally find a page that you can use. Unfortunately, it turns out it was written by a high school student in Cleveland, and you doubt your Widgetology profes-

sor would appreciate your inclusion of his opinion in your final project.

So far we're up to a full half hour, and we haven't even gotten to the part when you spend another full hour discovering how Acme's brand new battery-powered, anatomically correct, speech-enabled, shock resistant, waterproof, glow-in-the-dark widgets are going to revolutionize the world of widgetry.

Multiply this by the millions of people who use the internet every day and the information superhighway has just become the largest traffic jam in history.

Just think of how much we could accomplish if we could somehow harness all that wasted time just spent waiting for web pages to pull up.

It would be phenomenal. We could harness cold fusion, colonize Mars, reverse global warming, house the homeless, master time-travel, and finally solve the JFK assassination mys-

tery once and for all. Why, we could probably even get UK's construction projects done on time. Wait, you're right. That last was a bit of a stretch.

My point is that while the internet definitely has its place in our society, that place is not (primarily) an academic one. It is a wonderful means of communication, but until a better method of sorting and maintaining it is devised, it will remain little more than a loose jumbled mess, like a messy, disorganized room. To find anything, you have to sort through so many useless, extraneous things it's very often simply pointless.

So, for now, the next time your professor assigns a paper, head to the shelves of the library, not the computer lab.

*David Hicks is a computer science sophomore. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Kentucky Kernel.*

## WRITE US

We have always encouraged readers of the Kernel to inform us of your thoughts and comments.

## LETTERS

Address your comments to "Letters to the Editor", Kentucky Kernel Editorial Editor, 035 Enoch J. Grehan Journalism Building, UK, Lexington, Ky. 40506-0042.

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# Professor gets mission from NASA

*Students help build inflatable space craft*

By Kristy Clifford  
Staff Writer

John Main, assistant professor of mechanical engineering at UK, was given a grant of \$250,000 from NASA to design a way to increase the power of space-based telescopes.

Main received the two year research grant in January after submitting a proposal during a competitive research contest.

Through the use of Main's creations, the space program will be able to transport a more powerful telescope without compromising room inside the space craft.

"(The creations) will help scientists do better science," Main said.

Main's idea was to create a structure that can be inflated once in space. A larger mirror

has been impossible in the past, because space limitations within space crafts.

"You just can't put a telescope 60 meters in diameter on a space craft," Main said.

According to Main, the inflatable mirror will look similar to a regular telescope mirror, but will be different in structure.

At this time, Main has a completed model of the inflatable structure that will support the mirror completed.

The structure resembles a concaved star, with long, inflatable tubes extending from its center. The mirror will be made of kapton, which resembles Saran Wrap.

Main, along with his students, is currently working on ways to inject urethane foam into the sleeves to make it a stable, permanent structure in space.

According to Main, urethane is used instead of gas because, while the telescope is in space, it has the possibility of being hit by debris. If that occurred, gas could leak into space, deflating it. When urethane is injected, it

is in liquid form, but quickly hardens into a solid, making the structure more stable.

Todd Griffith, a mechanical engineering senior, is assisting Main with the project by making sleeves for the urethane to be injected into.

"The sleeves are really small for transporting," Griffith said.

"The more something weighs, the more it costs to propel it into space. The sleeves are small and lightweight, and can be inflated and filled once in space," he said.

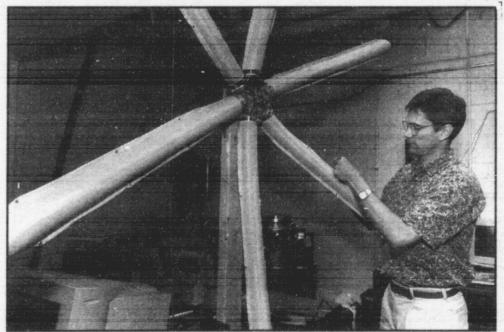
Griffith uses kapton, a specially formulated lightweight material for use in space, to create the sleeves.

After injection into the tubes, the urethane hardens in two to three minutes.

Griffith explains their ultimate goal is to use kapton to create more complex structure to be used in space.

"Any structure (brought into space) could use kapton and save a lot in weight," Griffith said.

Main has worked with NASA before. He spent two summers working at a faculty research



JAMES CRISP Kernel staff

**NASA'S MAIN MAN** Assistant professor John Main shows off the deployable mirror array for enhancing space-based telescopes. He received a \$250,000 grant from NASA to pursue the research.

program at the Marshall Space Center in Huntsville, Alabama, and served as an adviser last April with a student team working on the KC-135 aircraft.

Main is enthusiastic about the possibilities inflatable structures have in the space program.

"Through the use of inflatables, extremely heavy rigid structures are going to the opposite extreme," Main said.

"The structures that were once heavy, can now be (engineered) to be very lightweight," he said.

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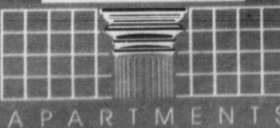
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