

## Colleges mixed over U. Senate grading plan

By ANDREW OPPMANN  
Editor-in-Chief

The proposed grading scale before the University Senate received thumbs down from the Graduate School Council earlier this month, however, some other colleges and departments expressed no opinion.

The Senate will meet tomorrow to consider whether to create a plus and minus range to grades "A" through "D." The scale does not include an "A plus."

"The Graduate Council discussed it, and we obviously had differences in opinion over it. We would prefer to stay with the present system," Wimberly Royster,

Graduate School dean and vice chancellor for research, said yesterday.

Royster said some council members — consisting primarily of faculty members with two student representatives — think the new system would work, but most believe professors would be prone to giving minuses rather than straight grades.

"There is a feeling that the accuracy in graduate courses are not down to pluses and minuses," he said. "Another is a number of our rules and regulations require a 3.0 grade point average and a lot wondered what a B-minus would do."

"The fine gradation of GPAs were of concern," he said.

Michael Baer, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences,

said he knows of no planned action or response to the proposed grading scale from the college.

"I have no strong personal feelings one way or the other," Baer said. "I do not know of any actions being taken in the college. I think there are both advantages and disadvantages."

"Some will be more confident in placing grades in a narrow range others feel that grades are subjective and narrow ranges are not needed. I think it probably deals with a person's concept on what grades are and how they are to be used."

Baer said the new scale would create additional administrative burdens, but he did not feel the extra work was justification for opposing the idea.

Ray M. Bowen, dean of the College of Engineering,

said faculty members he has worked with have not expressed any reservations about the idea.

"The ones I interacted with have no problems with it," he said. "I'm sure that they have considered all aspects of it. I would be surprised if there is any opposition for it (in the faculty)."

Robert Guthrie, chairman of the chemistry department and member of the Senate, said he may poll members of the chemistry faculty before the Senate meeting.

"I've only heard one opinion expressed," he said. "The one individual said that he thought the finer gradations that accompany the pluses and minuses would create more borderline cases and more disputes between the grades."

## Senate passes bill checking amendments

By DOUGLASE PITTENGER  
Staff Writer

In an organizational meeting of the 1984-85 Student Senate last night, three bills were passed, including one that would send all amendments to Student Government Association's constitution and bylaws to the Internal Affairs Committee.

According to John Cain, senior vice president-elect and one of the sponsors of the bill, it was brought up in order to make sure all aspects of a bill were looked at instead of just the monetary aspects.

Previously, all programs over \$200 were sent to the Appropriations and Revenue Committee. "The function of A&R is to look at the monetary aspects of a bill," he said. "Many times the aspects and merits of the bill are lost in the money aspects."

"It the bill makes another committee look at the other aspects and merits of the bill regarding its effect on campus," Cain said. "This would allow both committees to consider a bill equally and also consider all aspects of the bill."

Cain said: "We had a bill this year about an escort service. It went through Appropriations and Revenue because it allocated \$500, but it should have went through Campus Relations because it dealt with a campus bill."

A second bill that passed states that the student population must be informed of all meetings of the full Senate one day in advance.

Kathy Ashcraft, Arts & Sciences senator, added an amendment which made the bill include meetings of the full and Interim Senate.

Another bill that passed would give each college one student senator instead of proportional representation, Cain said.

He said that three years ago the University senate had the idea for a bill that would gradually require each college to have one senator. "And we are at that point now," Cain said.

The Senate also added two new ad-hoc committees: Student Printing Service and the Freshman Aid Program committees. Tim Freudenberg, SGA president-elect, took time to welcome all the new senators, explaining the roles of a senator and changes that would occur because of the addition of the office of executive vice president.



Against the wind

Ronnie Gilbert, an agriculture sophomore, and Fran Simms, a journalism and political science freshman, try to protect themselves

from the strong wind gusts and rain as they walk in front of Patterson Tower yesterday afternoon.

## Finals this week violate University Senate rules

By FRANK STEWART  
Staff Writer

University Senate rules and policies have established a "dead week" of sorts.

According to University Senate Rules, "If a final examination is to be given, it will be administered during the examination period as scheduled by the registrar for the semesters of the regular school year."

"These examination periods will utilize the last five days of each semester and will be preceded by a study day or weekend on which no classes or examinations will be scheduled."

In other words, no finals are to be administered the week before April 30 to May 4, the officially scheduled period for finals.

*"The faculty can give exams during the last week (of classes) but by the policy statement it's fairly clear that the Senate Council is trying to prevent it."*

Charles W. Ellinger,  
academic ombudsman

But students may still find themselves taking quizzes or tests during the last week of classes.

Although some students do not have problems with this type of situation, others find themselves under unnecessary stress and strain.

To ease the situation, the University has a policy. The University

Senate Council has issued a statement recommending that no examinations be scheduled for the last week of classes.

Charles W. Ellinger, academic ombudsman, said, however, "this statement is a policy, not a law, meaning it is highly recommended but not enforceable."

"The faculty can give exams during the last week of classes but by the policy statement it's fairly clear that the Senate Council is trying to prevent it," he said.

According to Ellinger, the rule against finals during the last week of classes is an enforceable University law. Although administering finals before finals week is "very clearly a violation of the rule," he said, some professors "just give last tests."

"If that's not hard on the students, it's theoretically nonenforceable," Ellinger said.

Any student who has a problem with a test or has a question of legality should call the Office of the Academic Ombudsman. "The thing this office is trying to do is not cause hardship but we seek to make

See FINALS, page 5

## The poet's wheel

Creative writing teacher compares her art to pottery making — both need comfortable 'center'

By MICKY MEECE  
Staff Writer

Poetry in motion can be beautiful.



DAVID PIERCE: Kernel Graphics

Until it comes to a screeching halt on a publisher's desk.

Then, said George Ella Lyon, UK English teacher and poet: "I get

discouraged, but that's the way it is. You get tough. You can't put the poem away when it's sent back."

Lyon was born in Harlan, Ky. She received her bachelor of arts degree from Centre College. From there she attended the University of Arkansas and received her master's degree. She went to Indiana University and received her doctorate, writing about Virginia Wolfe. Lyon teaches freshmen English at Transylvania University and creative writing at UK.

Married, with one 7-year-old boy, Lyon spends a majority of her time juggling the various facets of her life: teaching, parenting, writing and marriage. In this respect, she said she is not unique.

What is unique about Lyon is her philosophy of writing. "You do some things to make a living, and then you write to make a life."

Much of her poetry illustrates life in the Eastern Kentucky mountains. She is proud of her roots and grew up in an environment conducive to writing. Both parents read to her as a child, she said, and her father sang.

"For me the music is the word, and that's why I go toward poetry more than music," she said. Although at one time, Lyon said, "My dream was to grow up and be a folk singer in Greenwold Village."

Lyon published her first collection of poems in a chap book, a short book with a small press run, titled Mountain and all 500 copies available were sold. A larger book she wrote had three sections, but only the Mountain section was published, after a 10-year wait.

The poems are primarily family stories and memories. They include stories her grandparents told, poems about land and stripmining and even one about poetry.

Of the poetry directed toward the mountains, Lyon said she hopes it reaches the people from there rather than an academic audience. To do so, she gives readings in various places. "I've given readings in other settings — nursing homes, mental hospitals and restaurants."

To Lyon, poetry is a part of life, not something separated from it. "Poetry is not secret or locked away that only a few people can get to."

Writing serves a function in Lyon's life. "If I don't write for a week or so, I feel that I'm missing something essential."

"I think people tend to be squeaked in their own ability to create, and, likewise, in their ability to lend themselves to enjoy or appreciate music or art or poetry," she said.

She compared writing to working with clay on a wheel. Writing is similar in that, until a "center" is found that is comfortable, life can be unsettled, she said.

"Writing is healing in the sense of finding a center and things taking form. It's participation in a mystery to me, the fundamental kind of mystery of 'Where do things come from?'"

She writes because of the joy derived from it.

"That is the thing that makes the rejection finally not all that significant, because I don't do it to publish. I want to publish because I want to get the words out."

"The writing itself is so nourishing to me," she said.

## Strict policies may upgrade English classes

By JOHN VOSKULH  
Special Projects Editor

The English department unanimously decided to propose stricter writing requirements for freshmen at a departmental meeting yesterday.

"These proposals we hope will make freshman comp composition courses more helpful to the student as a student," Thomas Blues, director of the Freshman Composition Program, said at yesterday's meeting.

Blues said two many students are exempted from the University's freshman composition requirement without sufficient writing ability which hurts them in later courses.

The proposal would require entering freshmen to have a score of 25 or higher on the English portion of the American College Testing program examination before bypassing the freshman writing requirement.

In addition, those students would have to pass a writing proficiency examination to be exempt from the required classes.

"It's an examination that's designed to see whether that ACT score reflects an ability that really exists," Blues said. "The exam is not designed to weed them out, but to see how accurate a measure the scores really are."

Under the current program, students fulfill the freshman composition requirement by taking English 101 plus one of the following: 102, 103, 104 or 105. If students have an ACT score of 22 or higher, they may be exempt from English 101, while they still have to take one of the follow-up courses. The students must make an "A" or "B" in the follow-up courses.

The proposal would change the freshman composition requirement to a University writing requirement. Entering freshmen would be required to take English 101 and 102. If students have an ACT score of 25 or higher and a passing grade on the proficiency examination, they would be exempted from both classes. These students would take English 105, an accelerated course that would combine elements of 101 and 102.

"We don't want to hold really good students hostage," Blues said.

The proposal will be instituted only if it passes the University Senate.

"Those forces in the University that are not as committed to writing as we are will oppose this change," Robert Hemenway, chairman of the English department, said. The Senate probably will review the proposal next Fall, he said.

### INSIDE

"Danton," a French film playing at the Kentucky Theater, provides intrigue and technical brilliance. For more information, see FANFARE, page 5.

Time passes slowly in "The Room" tucked away in McVey Hall. See VIEWPOINT, page 4.

### WEATHER

Today should produce a few sprinkles, with partial clearing by afternoon and highs in the mid 50s. Tonight and tomorrow will be partly cloudy. Low tonight will be in the low 40s and high tomorrow will reach the low to mid 60s.

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# FANFARE

Barry J. Williams  
Arts Editor  
Gary W. Pierce  
Assistant Arts Editor

## Technical brilliance is displayed in 'Danton'

KERNEL RATING: 7

The Kentucky Theater brings another intriguing movie to Lexington with the showing of "Danton."

"Danton" is a French-made film by Polish director Andrej Wajda about the immediate post-French revolution. It unveils the plotting and backstabbing among various people of power.

The film is dominated by two characters and the performers who play them — the early Georges Danton, the popular revolutionary who is seen as a threat to the power of some of the more insecure leaders, and Maximilien Robespierre, his more aristocratic nemesis.

The two were friends and strong allies during the revolution but each is surrounded by scheming advisers and are compelled to oppose each other. Both want a better, more free France but each wants to go about it differently.

Robespierre serves on the Committee for Public Safety and other agencies such as the Revolutionary Tribunal. Their functions are to act as watchdogs over the remaining aristocrats and troublemakers and sentence them to death. Robespierre believes in keeping the revolution alive for the good of France.

Georges Danton is played by Gerard Depardieu. He is the grass roots man of the masses, crowds break into frantic cheers everytime he appears in public. The movie is much more sympathetic to him than Robespierre and Danton is more aware of the trappings of power and consequences of his action. The latter is more aware of how law and order will collapse without a popular figurehead to inspire the people. He wants the revolution to end so that peace and prosperity may return.

Neither Robespierre nor his cohorts possess enough charisma to fill that role. Unfortunately, none seem to realize it until the very end.

As Danton, French actor Gerard Depardieu is perfect for his role. He has the look of a self-made, commoner-turned-leader and comes off with the right blend of dignity and unrestraint to add convincing realism to his role. American viewers may remember him from "The Return of Martin Guerre" in 1981.

As Maximilien Robespierre, Polish actor Wojciech Pszoniak adds so much depth to his character. He could easily have made the role an unsympathetic and cardboard character but instead, we see him as a man driven not by his own wishes and beliefs, but by incompetents around him. Robespierre is intelligent yet paranoid and insecure, pale and weak, yet he possesses a strong presence in front of crowds.

With casting where the Robespierre party members are portrayed by Polish actors and the Danton followers are portrayed by French actors, inuendoes to present-day Poland are inevitable. There are long breadlines, masses of starving people, street wanderers and examples of injustice all through the film. Needless to say, the film is banned in Poland.

Furthermore, it can be said the two principal characters look physically like two high-profile men in Poland today: General Jaruzelski and Lech Walesa. Danton is of course the Walesa figure and Robespierre the more-distant General Jaruzelski.

Of course, another compelling reason to view the film, is the fact that it is technically brilliant.


The background music is so haunting and eerie that it makes the soundtrack to "2001, A Space Odyssey," which it resembles, sound like elevator music.

For costumes, background layout and hairstyles, the creators of the spic-n-span "George Washington" miniseries could learn a thing or two from Director Andrej Wajda. This movie really looks like the French revolution. Everyone except Robespierre is soiled and grimy. The backgrounds don't really look like cleaned up historical residences, they look more like the best that location shooting can be.

Finally, the guillotine scenes, a big part of this era to France, are very real and shocking. Although violence may not always add substance to a film, it further serves to remind the viewer that he or she is looking at another era.

DARRICK MCCALLY


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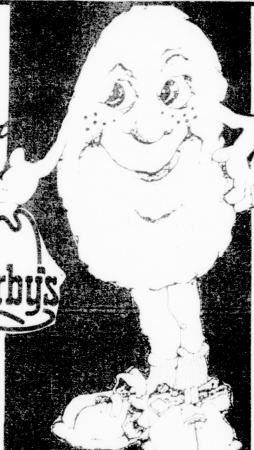


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## New grading plan will place students in 'murky' waters

If the University Senate approves a recent Senate Council proposal to institute a plus-minus grading scale, students may find themselves in murkier academic hot waters than ever before.

Under the proposed scale, quality points would be assigned not only for the standard letter grades, but for pluses and minuses, as well. Only the "A" grade is partially exempt and would be assigned points only for "A minuses."

The problems are obvious. The coveted 4.0 will become virtually impossible to attain, and students who normally would have reached that pinnacle will have to settle for a tarnished academic record.

The perennially cloudy business of grading policies will become even more mysterious to the student body. Under the current grading system, for example, students with an 83 point average can reasonably expect a "B" in most classes.

Under the proposed system, that 83 average may translate into either a "B minus," "B" or a "C plus," at the discretion of the instructor.

The problem will be even more aggravated in many humanities courses, where number grades are rarely used. In their largely letter-grade situation, teachers will find themselves on shaky ground indeed as they try to establish guidelines for incorporating the new point system.

The proposed scale is optional, and no machinery exists to enforce it across the University, further increasing students' confusion as to grading policies.

A recent survey conducted at 26 universities using the proposed scale suggests the system tends to increase grade point averages.

Ironically enough, one of the Senate Council's justifications for their mysterious refusal to include "A pluses" in their proposal was that they did not want to raise the quality-point ceiling from 4.0 to 4.3, for fear that grade point averages would become inflated.

The survey also suggested that institutions using the plus-minus system saw an increase in grade-changing. Teachers were more willing to change a "B" to a "B plus" than to change a "B" to an "A," but the results are the same: increased uncertainty about grades, with the added possibility of getting the grade changed after the fact making the teacher-student relationship shakier than ever.

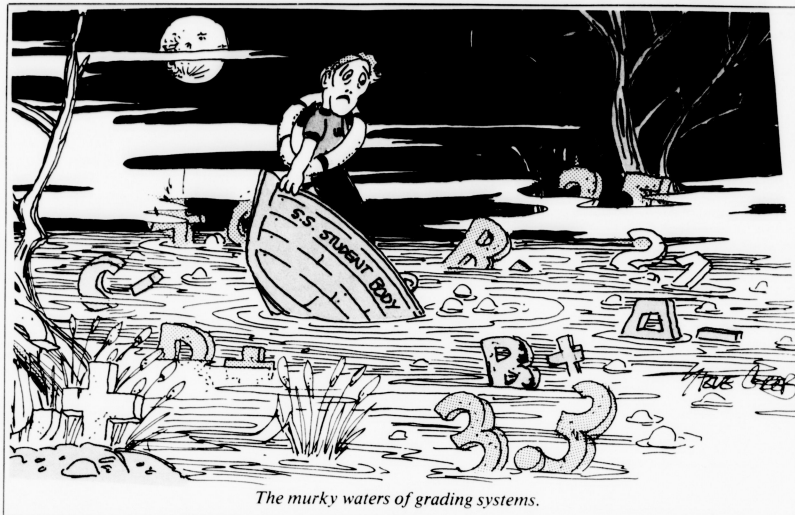
As it stands, the proposed grading scale is unacceptable. Clearer University-wide guidelines are needed to standardize cut-off points between pluses and minuses.

Even this solution is problematic. There are currently no strict guidelines governing assignment of the standard letter grades. While there may be a traditional guideline which suggests 90 to 100 is "A" level, the guideline is by no means iron-clad, but rather is up to individual instructors' discretion.

It may also be feasible to either add the "A-plus" grade to the scale or drop the more negative "A minus."

Unfortunately, the former might result in unwanted grade inflation. The latter might exempt excellent students from the intensive grade scrutiny to which others would be subjected, or else make the 4.0 average a virtually impossible dream for even the best students, since under the new system instructors may feel obliged to set standards for "A's" even higher.

The plus-minus proposal requires more careful study before it is passed in any form. Let us hope the University Senate agrees.



The murky waters of grading systems.

## Time can become endless in The Room

**Darrick McCALLY**

There are times when being a waiter for a lifetime does not sound so bad. There is a place where it seems quite palatable. That place is The Room. Everyone knows The Room; it is 111 McVey Hall.

It is now a couple of hours after midnight and still no end is in sight to the groundwork that is being painstakingly laid for the semester's last term paper. Perhaps someday, a law against term papers will be on the books.

The other marathon students in The Room all look like characters out of a Dostoevsky novel. Each has messy hair from hands combing through, one time too many, in futile efforts at rejuvenation. On every face, is a dark-circled pair of eyes from a prolonged staring-match into computer terminals. This looks like one staring-match where neither party is very likely to break into a laugh.

On the other hand, through slapping and fatigue, there is also an increasing tendency to giggle. There remain 200 data cards in front of this jaded waiter student that need to be typed up. All other term papers are done but this is the last, and most difficult one in terms of actual labor.

This undertaking is for a marketing class that requires poll taking, a

major headache in itself. Since the students in most marketing classes must work in groups, the work can be divided up and guess who volunteered to do the keypunching. What a silly move that was.

During times of duress, such as this, the mind tends to involuntarily wander. Trivial events from years back take on a new quality of amusement.

This feels like the Twilight Zone. A young student tries to do his homework as fast as he can, yet the harder he goes, the more behind he gets, more mistakes are made to be redone.

Back to the project, now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my grades to keep. If I should die before my finals, please send a corner's excuse to the professor so that I'll receive an "L" instead of an "E."

Of course, the worst part of term paper week is the fact that it is followed by finals week, which is always fun. (The mind becomes very cynical at 2 a.m.) Finals week features a generous entree of retard

chapters, chapters read for the first time and futile attempts to decipher abbreviated class notes. This cuisine is not a la carte, an after-dinner cocktail of lost sleep, blurred vision and numb-mindedness will be served up for dessert.

The last two weeks of every semester are the foundation for future ulcers, headaches, nervous breakdowns and alcoholism. Here's a vote to give college credit for those last two weeks and call it Burnout 300. After all, this is supposed to be what it's like out in the real world, with deadlines, time pressures, etc.

All that comes to mind right now are numbers and names. The numbers include: 803 and 2001. Some of the names are: Brass A, Surf City and Two Keys. These names and numbers never sound better than in times like this.

Now about this homework, it sure gets hard to remember reasons for self-imposed exposure to this sort of thing, seems like it had something to do with an education or a good job. These delights must tie in with stalking the good life and rewarding careers in the future.

It is at times like this when caffeine takes on an added value. Of course, this goes along with the ulcers and hypertension later on. Fortunately, there isn't much to do

at this hour. There are few diversions, the aforementioned names and numbers included. For if there were, willpower being what it is, this would be put off until late Sunday night, not now (4/20/84).

This makes one wonder why people ever look fondly back on times like this. There may be a certain novelty about staying up late to work on a non-emergency project like this. Combined with that is the comical look of the other barriers-of-the-midnight oil in here. After a prolonged exposure to caffeine, lack of sleep and boredom, a certain tendency arises toward laughter with little or no cause.

The one good thing about times like this is that for every end to a semester, there will be one less. That of course, will mean one less sufferage in The Room, or any similar academic experience. Too bad there is no secret to getting through these times, but there isn't. The only way through them is hard, persistent work.

Perhaps this builds character. It's almost enough to make a person want to be devoid of character and be a waiter for a lifetime.

Darrick McCally is a business administration senior and the Kernel's Tuesday columnist.

## Some SGA candidates had 'unfair' edge

**EDITORIAL REPLY**

We are sure that many of the students on this campus are finding it difficult to understand what is going on concerning this year's Student Government Association election, with words like "vindictive" and "ridiculous" filling the air. We would like to take this opportunity to explain to the general student body exactly what is happening.

During this year's UKSGA election, several incumbent candidates running for reelection received unfair support from their picture and names being posted in clear view directly by the polling area in the Student Center. This is in clear violation of Article V, Section 7 (G) of the UK Student Government Association Bylaws which states: "No Student Government Association resources shall be used to support any candidate unless these resources are available to all candidates. Violation of this section is grounds for

disqualification of the privileged candidate."

This is hardly an obscure part of the rules and regulations of UKSGA and we think it is obvious that this section of the UKSGA bylaws has been violated, and further we think it is obvious to everyone that these privileged candidates have received an unfair advantage because of their positions as officers in UKSGA.

The intent of our challenge to this election is not to drag Tim Freudenberg, John Cain and the rest through the mud. Nor are these charges intended to delay an orderly transition of government as

suggested by Tim Freudenberg. The issues here are fairness, equity and a legitimate democratic process here at UK, a process that will guarantee to all students that their representatives have been chosen in an orderly and fair fashion.

It would be setting a very dangerous precedent indeed to allow this improper utilization of UKSGA resources to go unchallenged. These pictures have been either covered or removed in years past, therefore it is obvious that there was a mistake made this year. As UKSGA officials, these incumbent candidates should have been aware of what was required of them under the bylaws of their constitution, and, therefore, shouldn't have allowed the pictures and names in the case behind the poll to remain uncovered.

We hope that we have made it clear that this is no petty violation, but one which could have easily in-

fluenced voters in such a holy contest election. It is up to the Judicial Board to place any blame where it may belong in this incident.

If they find that the defendants (Tim Freudenberg, et al.) are at least in part to blame for this violation, then we contend that they should be disqualified for maintaining an unfair advantage in accordance with the UKSGA constitution.

If the Judicial Board finds that these candidates are in no way to blame, then their only recourse under the constitution is to nullify the entire election. We only hope that after hearing all evidence from both sides, the Judicial Board will do what is right and just for the entire student body.

This editorial reply was submitted by James E. Davis, an accounting senior, and Phillip G. Taylor, a general studies senior.

## LETTERS

### Father Haacke's 'self-righteous' comments went too far

On April 13, Father Henry Haacke commented on the upcoming visit to Lexington of Father McBrien. In his letter, Father Haacke voiced his strong disagreement with McBrien over points of Catholic doctrine. It is important that valid differences in views be brought before the public.

Father Haacke, however, went

too far. Most of his letter appeared to be aimed at slandering Father McBrien. Father Haacke's concluding sentence is a prime example. Catholics and non-Catholics need to be cautioned that Father McBrien is a menace to the authentic Catholic Faith.

It is sad to see that a good Christian can become so caught in his own self-righteousness that he ignores real Christian values.

Slandering a brother in Christ is more dangerous to "the authentic Catholic Faith" than any minor dispute over code.

Look at what is before your eyes. If any one is confident that he is Christ's, let him remind himself that as he is Christ's so are we (2 Cor 10:17).

Michael J. Rossi  
Biological graduate student

### BLOOM COUNTY

WHEN ALL OVER IS PRE-DECIDED, IT PROVED TO BE A PAINFUL CALICUS WAGER!

BUT NOT HORTUNATELY WITHOUT CONCRETE RESULTS. FOR THE AMERICAN REASON PARTY NOW HAS THEIR FIRST PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. BULL THE CAT.

AND AS SELECTIONS IN THE FREE WORLD MUST SURELY KNOW IS POLICELY AND IRREVERSIBLY READ AS A REFERENCE.

NEVER, BUT NEVER TO BE OPENED OR UNWELLED HUMAN.



AND NOW I PURCHASE AT LAST! THE TEM, WOOD PE, IN SYSTEM TINT CONTROL!



HAWKES AS A RULE, DOES NOT HANDLE OBSCULENCE WELL.



HAWKES AS A RULE, DOES NOT HANDLE OBSCULENCE WELL.



HAWKES AS A RULE, DOES NOT HANDLE OBSCULENCE WELL.



Richard Themen  
Former student  
by Berke Breathed



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