



UK Online

Shiny Happy People

Before I begin, I want to take a moment and brag about my vacation to Miami, Fla., next week. Ahh, that was good. Anyway, if any of you have been to www.uky.edu lately, you've noticed the redesigned site and if you're like me, you said, "Okay, it's new" and then moved on with your life. However, some of UK's professors and students have been complaining that the picture of the two white males and the smaller picture of the black female make UK look racist and sexist. I can definitely see their point on this issue but they are lucky they didn't choose any of the other pictures in the running for the homepage. Here are descriptions of the other pictures that were not chosen.

"The Squirrels of Kentucky"

A bunch of rabid squirrels attacking students on their way to class. The lighting was good in the picture at least.

"Deceased Birds and Bird Parts"

This collection of dead bird carcasses did signify the level of competition one might see in college but appeared to be inappropriate.

"A Nice Trip"

This is just some guy falling, which is what the girl currently on the homepage is laughing at.

"The UK Car"

This one was a collage of images of Mitsubishi Eclipse, which make up about 47% of the cars that UK students drive.

"LOC Crew"

Why this one got censored is beyond me. The nude picture of myself riding a Harley was artistic genius. I suppose that I could have taken the picture "naturally" but the body oil really made me shine.

"Restrictions"

Personally, I felt that this collection of fences put up by the construction workers was a nice representation of the campus but the powers that be had their way I guess.

"Men in Blue"

For some reason, this dramatic image of one of our beloved parking employees writing a ticket to every car in an E lot was not taken seriously.

-Jonathan Ray
Rayl_editor@hotmail.com

THE '41'

Tomorrow's weather



86 66
Hi Lo

Rain, rain on my face. It finally stopped raining for a number of days.

Kentucky Kernel

VOL #107 ISSUE #2

ESTABLISHED IN 1892 INDEPENDENT SINCE 1971

News tips?

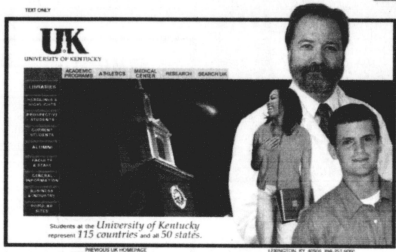
Call: 257-1915 or write: kernel@pop.uky.edu

SUMMER KENTUCKY KERNEL

June 14, 2001

CAMPUS NEWS

The next great mistake



PHOTOS FURNISHED

UK's home page: Some students and faculty say site has demeaning overtones

By Kelley Sears

NEWS EDITOR
Scott Sloan
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The UK web site's home page has undergone a change, but some are not pleased with the new look.

A group of students and faculty members believe the new display of pictures on the site is demeaning.

"The problem is you have a white male... sort of looming over two subordinate figures," said Joan Callahan, a philosophy and women's studies professor at UK. "One of them is a black female student and she is the smallest of the three. She certainly doesn't look like someone who might be a protégée of this professor, while the young man might be."

Callahan said the image of the black female student is self-defeating, because she is shown laughing while the two males have serious expressions.

Sara Todd, a biology senior, is also uncomfortable with the new home page.

"UK's web site is very important," she said. "Prospective students will go there and see this. I feel it very much gives the first impression of UK."

Todd says she believes there are ways to make changes and keep everyone satisfied.

She suggested having an image that represents different departments or majors that changes daily.

"Overall, something that doesn't play up to stereotypes in our society," Todd said.

Chuck Ham, UK's content webmaster, said Cornett Advertising, a national marketing firm, handled the site design.

"The design people put it together, and I was told to put it up with some minor changes," Ham said.

The changes made regarding spelling and the sites accessible from the home page.

"The controversy is somewhat disturbing because we did some testing of this and no one that we tested this on said anything about the photographs," he said.

The testing was informal and involved people in UK Public Relations and other around campus.

"I think it is an innocent mistake," Todd said. "This is what is so dangerous; this can easily be done."

Todd said she feels the image portrays UK as a place that holds men, science and engineering in a higher regard than those in the arts and hu-

manities.

"It has a large white man in a lab coat, another white male and a black female that's laughing," Todd said.

Todd said this relays the image that the elder man is serious, while the young black woman is having fun and carefree.

Ann Ferrell, the Kentucky Commission on Women's principal assistant for project management, said the site design relays stereotypes about women and minorities.

"Stereotypes about who's scholarly, intellectual and serious about their studies, and who is not, are reinforced by the juxtaposition of the photograph," she said. "It really hampers the images I think UK can project."

Callahan said the protest over the web site design has nothing to do with the people pictured.

"Our problem is with the people pictured."
See WEBSITE on 2

CAMPUS NEWS

The next great slogan

By Kelley Sears

NEWS EDITOR

UK's no longer "America's next great university."

Last week, after much criticism, UK decided to shelve its advertising slogan.

President-elect Lee Todd requested the change, Michelle Ripley, UK's national marketing director, said.

"He has his own image for UK," Ripley said.

Public relations representatives will meet with Todd in the next month to determine his outlook for UK, so an appropriate slogan and marketing strategy can be developed, Ripley said.

"We need to learn what Dr. Todd's vision is first, before we can develop the next logical step in the campaign," Ripley said.

Some students are pleased with the change.

"This will draw the attention away from us becoming a top 20 school and bring the focus on education," said James Heishman, a journalism senior. "This will ultimately take us to the top."

Beth Wiggington, a psychology senior, said she felt the old slogan was very insulting to current UK students.

"I do not like the old slogan because we are already a great University," she said.

Some employees in student recruitment at UK found the old slogan to be a disadvantage.

"I think, with my experience in recruiting prospective students... especially those that are academically talented, they want to attend a great university," said Kelly Holland, associate director of admissions. "They don't want to attend the next great university... they want to attend a great university."

Holland said many alumni have also complained about the old slogan.

"They ask, if it is going to be the next great university, what was it when I went there?"

UK's Merit Scholarship office had applicants develop new slogans when writing essays last spring.

Sandy Copher, director of merit scholarships, said most themes focused on research and UK's friendly people.

"The old slogan has been around for a while, so it's fine to bring in something new," Copher said.

Faculty trustee

By Scott Sloan

EDITOR IN CHIEF

UK's faculty has elected a new representative to the Board of Trustees.

Claire Pomeroy, a professor of medicine and chief of infectious diseases for the College of Medicine, won the election, which took place over the final two months of the spring semester.

"It was a very nice feeling having the support of my colleagues like that," Pomeroy said.

Pomeroy replaces Daniel Reedy, a Spanish and Italian professor who has served as a trustee for four years.

"I think Dr. Pomeroy is an absolutely splendid choice by the faculty, and I feel that she has the qualities and the capabilities to surpass any interaction that I may have had as a Board member," Reedy said.

Staff Trustee Russell Williams said he looks forward to working with Pomeroy on issues such as employee health insurance.

"Her being a physician gives her different insights than I have," Williams said. "The faculty is impacted as much as the staff is with that. That's probably the biggest [issue], because it's one that's not going to go away."

Pomeroy said she is excited about the opportunity to serve as a trustee.

"I think the appointment of Lee Todd as president has re-energized a lot of the faculty, a lot of the staff and students," she said. "It's a great time to be on the Board."

DEATH PENALTY

Execution protested downtown

By Scott Sloan

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Despite public opinion that supported Timothy McVeigh's execution, people across the country gathered Monday to show their opposition to the United States' use of the death penalty, including a group in Lexington.

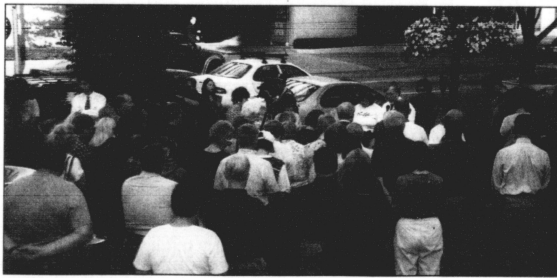
Nearly 75 people assembled outside the Fayette County Circuit Courthouse on Main Street at 8 a.m. Monday to silently protest the execution of McVeigh.

People of all ages came together for a silent vigil organized by the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.

"I just wanted to stand up for what I think is right," said Kelli Burton, a former UK student who will be returning in the fall. "I'm a strong advocate of silent protests being a way to show the justice system that not everyone agrees with them."

The event was led by Richard Mitchell, a member of the KCADP board and a UK College of Dentistry faculty member. Mitchell said the federal government's use of the death penalty was revenge against McVeigh, a man that seemed to be about revenge.

"I think part of it is just to say that even for McVeigh, someone who is clearly hard to have sympathy for, the death



SCOTT SLOAN | EDITOR IN CHIEF

Capital punishment vigil

Almost 70 people gathered at 8 a.m. Monday in front of the Fayette County Circuit Courthouse on Main Street to participate in a silent vigil against the federal government's execution of convicted criminal Timothy McVeigh.

penalty is still wrong," Mitchell said.

Mitchell said he hoped the event would convince supporters of the death penalty to reconsider their views.

"I think anytime you say something different than the majority says you put seeds of doubt in other people's minds, and it makes it easier for other people to stand up," he said. "It's easier to stand up when you're not alone."

Beth McArdle, a 2000 UK graduate, who also attended the rally agreed.

"If by silent protests, you get more people to join you, it's an okay thing," she said. "It's not right to take someone else's life no matter what they've done."

Protests also took place in Louisville and Owensboro.

McVeigh, 33, was pronounced dead following lethal injection at 8:14 a.m. EDT at the Federal Penitentiary in Terre Haute, Ind. He did not make a verbal statement prior to his death but did release a final handwritten statement that included quotations from the

poem "Invictus," including "I am the master of my fate. I am the captain of my soul."

McVeigh was convicted of crimes related to the April 19, 1995, Oklahoma City bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah federal building that killed 168 people.

McVeigh's execution was the first federal execution in 38 years. A second is scheduled on June 19. The prisoner, Raul Garza, 44, was convicted in 1993 of killing one man and ordering the deaths of two others.

CAMPUS NEWS

Administrator retires after devoting career to campus and community

Joe Burch: His dedication will not end after spending over 40 years working for students and faculty at UK

By Steve Jones
SPORTSWEEKLY EDITOR

About 50 friends, family and colleagues gathered at the Student Center Friday to honor Joseph Burch, who is retiring as UK's Vice President for University Relations.

"The strange thing is you wonder how long it will take you to get to retirement, and then when it happens you realize how quickly it came," Burch said during his remarks.

Burch, 62, is a UK graduate who has worked, in some form or another, for UK since 1959. Among the many jobs he has held are dean of students, deputy general counsel, assistant to the vice president for business affairs and acting director of athletics.

Burch's accomplishments and awards at UK have been many, including a 1997 Alumni Association Alumni Service Award.

Burch also helped author UK's first student code, helping to ensure that student rights were protected on campus.

The retirement celebration was attended by a number of UK administrators, including UK President Charles T. Wethington Jr., who spoke at the event.

"Joe's love and commitment to this place is unexcelled," Wethington said.

Burch's retirement on June 30 coincides with the end of Wethington's presidency.

Wethington was thankful that

Burch's departure did not come before his own, so he would not have been faced with replacing him.

"I'm delighted he stayed as long as I did," Wethington said. "He will be missed by me and a lot of other people. He is absolutely a first-rate administrator."

Incoming President Lee Todd will decide how to replace Burch.

Former Kernel editor in chief Andrew Oppman was asked to speak on behalf of Burch's former students.

Oppman, the executive editor of the Post-Crescent in Appleton, Wis., became acquainted with Burch while covering stories for the Kernel from 1981-84. Burch, then the Dean of Students, was a repeated source for Oppman.

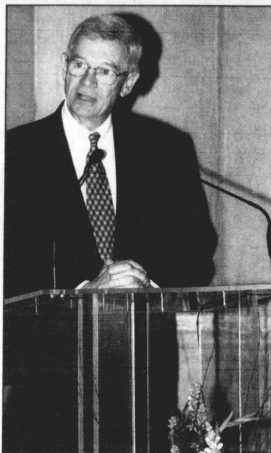
"Joe Burch was a fair, tough, decent administrator," Oppman said. "He was good to the students and great for the University."

Oppman said few administrators in the future would equal Burch's long-time commitment and loyalty to UK.

"He may be the last of his breed," Oppman said.

Though Burch is leaving his administrative position, he will continue to impact campus in a post-retirement appointment with the UK Alumni Association. He is also looking forward to traveling in his free time.

"I would like to do some of the things I did as a student," he said, laughing.



Retirement
Joe Burch, UK's vice president for University relations, spoke Friday at his retirement ceremony, where he was honored for over 40 years to service to the campus and community.

WEBSITE

Continued from page 1

configuration of the three images," she said. "At UK, whenever we try to represent diversity, it's always in terms of black and white. We have many international students. We have many gay students. Diversity is much more than white Americans and African-Americans."

Ham said that UK Public Relations will change the site design.

"We're taking their com-

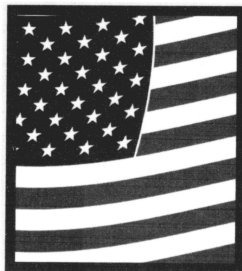
ments to heart and are working to make a change," Ham said. "It may not come about fast enough to suit them but we're working on it."

Ham said changes had already been planned for the site.

"On July 1, you're going to see the new president's (Lee Todd's) face on the homepage," he said.

Though the web site has inspired complaints from some, some students on campus feel the issue is moot.

"It does not offend me in any way, shape or form," said Courtney Sullivan, a communications senior. "Buildings are nice, let's just stick to those."



Flag day

Thursday is Flag Day and the flag's 224th birthday. The stars and stripes pattern was adopted in 1777 by the Continental Congress. President Harry S. Truman declared Flag Day a day of national observance in 1949.

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<p>Name: Zeping Bao Program: Nuclear Engineering Dissertation Title: Theoretical Modeling and Calculations of Molecular Flow Through Carbon Nanotubes and Sigmas 5 (30)</p> <p>(902) 265-8848 Major Professor: Dr. Eric Grube Dr. Susan Shimmelt Date: June 20, 2001 Time: 1 p.m. Place: 859-8542 Conference Room</p>	<p>Name: Ruston Prasad Program: Business Administration Dissertation Title: Karatite Structure and Changing Coverage: A Historical Case Study of the Transformed Post-Asia Industry</p> <p>Major Professor: Dr. A. Green Date: June 25, 2001 Time: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Time 2: 1 p.m. Place: 402 College of Business & Economics</p>
<p>Name: Changye Wang Program: Physics & Astronomy Dissertation Title: Electron Capture from Mixed p-States</p> <p>Major Professor: Dr. Keith Washburn Date: June 18, 2001 Time: 3:30 p.m. Place: 179 Chemistry-Physics Building</p>	<p>Name: William Michael Bradley Program: Economics Dissertation Title: A Study of the Economic Benefits of Water League Member</p> <p>Major Professor: Dr. Mark Berger Date: June 18, 2001 Time: 2: 1 p.m. Place: Economics Conference Room</p>
<p>Name: Christopher J. Morgan Program: Mathematics Dissertation Title: On Discrete Harmonic Mappings</p> <p>Major Professor: Dr. Ted Saffbridge Date: June 22, 2001 Time: 3 p.m. Place: 260 Professor Office Tower</p>	

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HACKS

'Swordfish' goes fishing for a plot and goes home empty



PHOTO FURNISHED

What's going on?

Gabriel Shear (John Travolta), Stanley (Hugh Jackman) and Ginger (Halle Berry) talk of worms, logic bombs and other techno-speak in the new Dominic Scena movie, *Swordfish*.

Top heavy: Travolta, Berry try and pull off mystery, but fail to hold up a bad plot line

By Alan Stone
SUMMER SCENE EDITOR

I'll tell you straight up. *Swordfish* was a bomb. Yes, a bomb. The plot is confusing, dialogue choppy, ending sappy and confusing, and the realism of computers is nil.

But, even as I sit here and tell you this, there is some redeeming quality. *Swordfish* is the tale of Stanley (Hugh Jackman), an ex-hacker who has just gotten out of jail for destroying an FBI program that reads everyone's e-mail on the Internet. After a two-year stint in the pen, Stanley gets out to find his ex-wife has taken his daughter to live with her new porn star husband. More over, if he even touches another computer, he goes back to jail. So, he lives in a crappy trailer and can't get his daughter back. All is lost, right?

Wrong. In walks Halle Berry in the typical "hot" female role. As Ginger, she degrades Stanley, walks on him

and basically cuts him for being who he is. Eventually she makes him an offer he can't refuse — \$10,000 just to meet her employer.

Enter Gabriel. Gabriel (John Travolta), is shrouded in mystery the entire movie. Is he a good guy? Is he a bad guy? Who's team is he playing for? Is he involved with Ginger? None of these questions can be answered, and they don't add anything to the plot. Gabriel wants to hire Stanley for one reason: to steal government money over the Internet. Why? Well, again, nobody knows. Nor will we ever know, unless, God forbid, they make a sequel.

Gabriel tests Stanley by placing a computer in his hands, putting a gun to his head and telling him that he has 60 seconds to crack a government web site. Oh, wait, there's more. He's getting oral sex in the process.

So now that the complexity level is too high to count, what is the point of the

movie? I still can't tell you. Not because I like to be secretive, but because I honestly don't know.

The actors, while drowning in a sea of loose ends and bad dialogue, are somewhat convincing. They at least try to fit their parts, even though the parts are fighting them each step of the way.

So from the mire of plot to the complete and totally implausible premise, what is the redeeming value of the movie I write about, you ask? All I can say is go for the first 15 minutes. The money you fork over to see this work is only good for the first scene. Travolta shines in his opening monologue and then proceeds to carry out a plan so diabolical it's breathtaking.

Go see the movie for this scene and this scene only. Not even the much-ballyhoosed topless scene of Berry compares to this scene.

As for the rest of the movie, I say walk out. Not having to keep up with the wandering plot and horrible characters will be worth the money you spent, too.

RATING: C-

WHAT'S NEW? Box office



PHOTOS FURNISHED

Tomb Raider

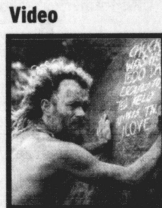
Angelina Jolie makes her appearance as every computer geek's wet dream, Lara Croft, in *Tomb Raider*, premiering June 15th



Atlantis

Disney premieres its newest animated flick about the city of Atlantis and its disappearance. Debuts June 15th.

WHAT'S NEW? Video



Castaway

Tom Hanks plays a (gasp!) cast away who has to survive on an island with nothing but a ball named Wilson. In stores.



Rammstein

Kings of the German metal scene, Rammstein, will perform on June 28 at 8:30 p.m. at Bogart's in Cincinnati. Tickets cost from \$15-\$30.

PHOTO FURNISHED

A GUIDE TO WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND UK

On Tap...

For the week of June 14- June 20

THURSDAY

Starlight Lounge Live, AIA, 9 p.m. Tickets cost \$10.

Festival of the Bluegrass, Kentucky Horsepark, runs through the 10th. Tickets range from \$10-\$40.

FRIDAY

Uncle Kracker, Bogart's, 8:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$5.

Free Friday Flicks, Jacobson Park, 7 p.m. Admission is free.

SATURDAY

Wingtip Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Rupp Arena. Tickets range from \$10-\$30.

Born Cross-Eyed, Lynagh's, 10 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.

SUNDAY

Alman Brothers, Louisville Motor Speedway, Tickets range from \$32-\$34.

MONDAY

Rodney Crowell, The Kentucky Theatre, 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.

TUESDAY

Drednot, Lynagh's, 10 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.

WEDNESDAY

The Groobees, Lynagh's, 9 p.m. Tickets cost \$5.

Coming Soon

Lynyrd Skynyrd and Deep Purple, Riverbend Music Center, Cincinnati, June 26 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$15-\$30.

Rammstein, Bogart's, June 28 at 8:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$15-\$30.

Tony Bennett, Riverbend Music Center, Cincinnati, July 1 at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$17-\$25-\$52.75.

Reel Big Fish, Bogart's, August 1 at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$20.

Godsmack, Verizon Wireless Music Center, Noblesville, IN, August 15 at 7 p.m. Tickets TBA.

MSYNC, Cardinal Stadium, Louisville, August 8 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$29.50-\$65.50.

Janet Jackson, Rupp Arena, July 22 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$34.75-\$77.75.

Backstreet Boys, Rupp Arena, June 21 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$38.75-\$95.25.

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- Kitty O' Shea's..... 255-3078
- Cheapside Bar and Grill..... 254-0046
- Kamakazies..... 255-8863
- Two Keys..... 254-5000
- Lynagh's..... 255-6614
- Rupp Arena..... 233-4567
- Lexington Opera..... 233-4567
- Actors' Guild..... 233-0663
- Busters..... 231-5076
- Club 141..... 233-4262

Cincinnati venues

- (513 area code):
- Bogart's..... 872-8601
- Riverbend..... 232-6220
- Taft Theatre..... 721-0411
- The Crown..... 421-4111
- Sudsy Malones..... 771-3550
- Ripley's..... 861-6800
- Playhouse in the Park..... 345-2242

Louisville venues

- (502 area code):
- Kentucky Center for the Arts..... 800-775-7777
- Toy Tiger..... 458-2020
- Kentucky Opera..... 584-7777
- Louisville Gardens..... 574-0060
- Actor's Theatre..... 584-1205
- Headliners Music Hall..... 584-8088

Movie theaters:

- Regal..... 264-7469
- South Park..... 272-6611
- Woodhill..... 269-1991
- Lexington Green..... 211-2070
- Man O' War..... 266-4645
- Kentucky Theatre..... 231-6997
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Say what?

"I didn't really have much of a desire to go on. I could definitely see how people could commit suicide being locked up like that."

So I prayed for some kind of hope, some kind of strength to get through it."

STONE TEMPLE PILOTS LEAD SINGER SCOTT WELAND, recalling the despair he felt as he began a six month jail term in 1999 for a probation violation.

"I like some of the Eminem stuff because it's kind of clever. I like the rhythm. I like the attitude and I can imagine if I was a young kid now, I'd like that."

FORMER BEATLE PAUL MCCARTNEY, in an interview with CNN's LARRY KING, talking about the music of controversial rap artist EMINEM.

"The corporations are all in collusion with one another and it's a damn shame."

CHUCK D, CO-FOUNDER OF THE RAP GROUP PUBLIC ENEMY, accusing major entertainment companies of quelling new artist development and grass-roots entrepreneurship in hip-hop music.

DIALOGUE

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IN OUR OPINION

America's next great slogan

Much to the delight of its critics, UK transitions to a new slogan for a new campaign phase

Steve Shaw should be happy. Shaw campaigned for Student Government Association president on the platform of abolishing UK's "America's Next Great University" slogan.

It looks as though Shaw's wish has come true. Observant web surfers will notice that the slogan is no longer on UK's home page. Lee Todd, UK's incoming president, has expressed concern over the phrase, so it has been scrapped in favor of another, according to UK Public Relations. Michelle Ripley, UK's national marketing director, said UK Public Relations employees will meet with Todd over the next month to determine his outlook for UK, so they can create a suitable slogan and marketing campaign.

It's about time someone recognized the stupidity of this slogan. Students, professors and Lexingtonians have ridiculed it since its inception.

Some say it demeans the students already here, as if they make up a "mediocre" university that will only be great in the future. Others object to the phrase's goal of becoming a top 20 research institution by 2020.

We know that UK is already a great university. There's no "next" about it. UK has 24 programs and grants ranked in the nation's top 25 in their respective fields, including the Patterson School of Diplomacy, the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration, and the College of Pharmacy. UK's basketball team has won the NCAA championship seven times, second only to UCLA. UK's home page boasts that students from every state in the nation, as well as 114 other countries, attend the University.

UK's old slogan suggested these accomplishments weren't "great" enough. While the idea of improving UK is a noble one, the old slogan was discouraging for students already attending UK. It was almost as if current students were just stepping stones to achieving a top 20 status.

So we say to the old slogan — Don't let the door hit you on the way out.

Clay McDaniel

KERNEL COLUMNIST

Bigotry police make a mountain out of a ditch

I am sitting here, somewhat sad, trying to picture the lives of those who have written in complaint of UK's new web site.

They make accusations of racism and sexism — not blatant racism or sexism, of course, but rather institutionalized, which eliminates the inconvenience of having to actually find someone who is racist or sexist — and point to an extremely benign picture that graces the entrance to the UK web site.

What pathetic lives academics must lead these days.

Honestly, if they can take one look at a picture of a professor and two students and see a racist, sexist power dynamic that UK somehow perpetuates, I cannot imagine the images they misinterpret in reality every day of their lives. To go through life with such zeal for pointing out mirages of repression must be mentally, and no doubt spiritually, exhausting.

Take a break, people. Get laid.

I had intended to lighten up at this point and recognize that racism does actually exist, and then further point out that this needless harping over an innocent picture actually hurts the cause for racial and gender equality, but I'm having way too much fun to get serious all of the sudden.

The opinions I had the good fortune of hearing mentioned how the white male is shadowing over the black female (by the way, whatever happened to the words men and women?), which is evidence of how our school prioritizes white males in lab coats.

Using that logic, it could be argued that I am racist since I bought whitewall tires for my Ford truck.

But it's a way of thinking that is spreading like a disease, an epidemic that threatens to divide us into smaller and smaller subsections of society until one day we will find ourselves completely isolated from the world

of fear that we will say the wrong thing at the wrong time.

It's insane, really, to try to frame every single incident that one faces in life in the context of racial injustice.

Just as Joey Tribbiana can transform any phrase into a euphemism for sex ("grandma's chicken noodle soup"), so too can a racial hound dog find racist overtones in almost every aspect of western civilization.

They claim that human nature is, at its essence, good and benevolent, but refuse to give human beings a chance to fight their way out from under the burden of past blights on our society.

They point to a picture of a black woman on the UK web site and accuse the webmaster of turning back the racial clock to the days of minstrelsy.

She has a "goofy" look on her face, they say.

Yes, and it's called laughter, an activity in which the Department of Women's Studies has ob-

Jenny Robertson

SUMMER DIALOGUE EDITOR

Customer disservice

Whoever came up with the vending machines that rent movies must have been a prophet. Who would have looked at a machine traditionally reserved for the sale of gum, condoms and soda and thought, "This is the future of the video rental industry?"

And yet, after several scarring experiences at local Blockbusters, I think these machines might be my new best friends.

The past few times I've entered a Blockbuster store, I've left seething and muttering, and I sure wasn't thinking "Wow, what a difference!"

After returning a new release within the 24-hour window, I'd return to the store only to find my account had not been credited. Finally after haggling with the salesman like we were in a black market, I was able to convince him that I had dropped the movie off in time. He was so nervous by the end of our argument that he ended up giving me a free rental, with an expression that could only be described as "Here, take the damn thing."

During finals last semester, a friend did me a favor by dropping off a movie at the Euclid Blockbuster, which turned out to be a bad thing because I had rented the movie at the Tates Creek store.

Apparently, the people at Blockbuster do not appreciate this sort of thing, judging by a call I received a week later telling me I was being charged daily for not returning the movie. I, however, had not been aware of the mistake until they left the threat on my answering machine.

Now, one would think this sort of thing happens all the time. Seeing as how Blockbuster reproduces more rapidly than two rabbits of the opposite sex locked in the same cage, it seems natural that people often make this mistake.

Upon investigation, I learned that when this happens, the district manager picks up the video and returns it to the proper store. Unfortunately for me, the manager hadn't yet done so, and I was still being charged daily for a movie I had returned on time that had been in Blockbuster's possession for more than a week.

Once again I had to haggle my way into getting the problem fixed. This time, though, I had to get my parents involved; apparently, no one under the age of 21 deserves any respect from corporate authority figures.

While I'm sure we can all relate to the trials and tribulations I've described, the problem is much larger than our individual

experiences. According to the Associated Press, Blockbuster video is trying to settle 23 class-action lawsuits brought by customers who claim the chain has profited unfairly from inflated overdue fees.

The customers say Blockbuster changed its policy without notifying customers and charged excessive "extended viewing fees" (extended viewing? As if people turn in their movies late because they have to watch *Leprechaun 4* just one more time).

And as far as changing policies, does anyone else remember when local Blockbusters upped their prices for old releases to \$2? I certainly do, because I went home with no movie and the \$1.59 in change that I had scrounged from the couch.

An inflated late fee might not be a big deal, except that the problem is compounded by the sheer size of the Blockbuster corporation. With 7,700 stores, Blockbuster is the largest video rental chain in the world. Purely for the sake of imagination, let's assume that each store charges an outrageous late fee of \$1 each week. That would be \$7,700 a week, \$400,400 a year. That's a lot of money for not a lot of work, and imagine if each store did this once a day.

Right now, Blockbuster is waiting for the federal courts to approve their settlement offer.

"Defending lawsuits like these require both time and money, so in the best interest of our company we've decided to settle the cases," Ed Stead, executive vice president and general counsel, told the Miami Herald.

Under the settlement, all customers charged extended viewing or non-return fees between Jan. 1, 1992, and April 1, 2001, will be eligible for refunds if they return the claim forms, which are printed on the back of store receipts. This will entitle them to certificates for free video rentals or \$1 off nonfood items.

Also, Blockbuster is paying the plaintiffs' attorneys, making this almost a \$450 million settlement.

So I guess I'll be getting a free rental out of the whole thing, which would sound better if I wasn't worried about what will happen after I return my supposedly free movie. After all, the past hasn't been so successful.

And if you're wondering why the video vending machine's copy of *The Godfather II* is always gone, don't look at me.

Summer Dialogue Editor Jenny Robertson is a journalism junior. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel.

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Kernel Columnist Clay McDaniel is a finance senior. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel.

HOME ON THE RANGE

New UK course is up to par



Out of the rough: After years without a place to call their own, the University Club gives UK's golf teams a long-awaited identity

By Eric Rau
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The new University Club is a dream come true for UK golf.

The new club will be the home of the UK men's and women's golf teams.

"This golf course is a dream that is now a reality," said C.M. Newton, UK's former athletic director. "There is nothing better for the University than to have just a great place to gather."

UK Athletic Director Larry Ivy said the course will fill a void in the athletic department.

It was a major concern in the past to have a place for the men's and women's golf teams

to play," Ivy said. "Now they finally have a place to call home."

UK women's golf coach Bettie Lou Evans said she looks forward to the new course.

"We're excited," Evans said. "We've never had our own course. Now we can host our own tournaments and have our own place to practice."

UK Athletic Director Larry Ivy said UK hopes to host the SEC tournament in the future. The Club contains two 18-hole courses, "Big Blue" and "Wildcat," that are about 7,000 yards in length.

"Big Blue is under construction, leaving Wildcat as the only course playable this

summer. Steve Prall, general manager of the Club, said the course is of the highest quality.

"The course condition is of PGA caliber," Prall said. "This golf course is something to make the state of Kentucky proud."

Evans also complimented the quality of Wildcat.

"It's in great shape," she said. "It probably has the best greens in town."

Aside from being the golf teams' new home, the University Club will provide UK alumni, faculty, staff and students an opportunity to play a 36-hole championship course.

The new course

The University Club of Kentucky's "Wildcat" course finishes with the par-4, 386-yard 10th hole. The club also consists of a second 18-hole course called "Big Blue" that is under construction.

SWANK CHAMBERS | PHOTO EDITOR

Club honors Newton

Former UK Athletic Director C.M. Newton became the first inductee into the University Club's Wall of Fame Friday.

Newton is considered by many to be one of the key players in finding a permanent home for the UK golf teams.

UK women's golf coach Bettie Lou Evans acknowledged Newton's work in the construction of the course.

"(Newton) was certainly instrumental in having the course completed," she said.

Ralph Hacker, the voice of UK basketball, said Newton's award was well-deserved.

"He came with a goal and raised the bar making UK a step higher," Hacker said. "He was an absolutely tremendous class act as the University athletic director."

IN BRIEF

Sportsbytes

White Sox sign UK player

UK senior pitcher Jon Hooker signed a free-agent contract with the Chicago White Sox organization Friday.

Hooker, who was 5-5 in his four-year UK career, posted a team-best 3.23 ERA in 2001.

Hooker, a native of London, Ky., had 11 saves this season as the team's closer.

Hooker reported Monday to mini-camp in Tucson, Ariz. The camp will last two to three weeks, according to Kyle Dawkins, UK's baseball sports information director.

Following training camp, Hooker will join the Bristol White Sox of the Appalachian League this summer.

The Appalachian League is primarily a rookie league and is considered the level directly under class-A baseball.

Hooker was not chosen in last week's amateur draft. This surprised many because Hooker was chosen by the Cleveland Indians in the 40th round of the 2000 draft, Dawkins said.

UK signs defensive back

UK football head coach Guy Morriss announced earlier this week that Tallahassee, Fla., defensive back Mike Williams has signed to play next season.

Williams is 5-foot-11 and weighs 185 pounds.

"Mike runs well and he hits people when he gets there," Morriss said. "We're happy to have him."

Williams played linebacker, strong safety and special teams for Godby High School in Tallahassee.

"Mike is an exceptional athlete who can run, jump and

hit," said Williams' high school coach Shelton Crews. "Kentucky is getting a hidden gem, a diamond in the rough."

The three-year football letterman also competed in track and field, finishing third in the state triple jump this season.

Williams becomes the 24th player of Morriss' first recruiting class. He is the seventh player that Morriss has signed since replacing Hal Mumme on Feb. 6.

U.S. Open tees off today

The 101st U.S. Open begins today at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, Okla.

The field of 55 players will be chasing the defending champion and world's No. 1 player Tiger Woods.

Woods, who captured last year's Open at Pebble Beach by a record-setting 15 strokes, is the favorite among oddsmakers to reclaim the title.

Woods has won five of the last six PGA events he has played this year, including the Masters on April 8 — his fourth consecutive major tournament.

Woods, the only man ever to hold the championships of all four majors at the same time, said Tuesday that his chase of another title would not be affected by the weight of his previous victories.

"What I've accomplished in the past, that's great, but it doesn't hit any golf shots for me this week," he said. "I've still got to go out and execute my shots."

Woods and the rest of the field have their work cut out for them. In addition to its fast, sloping greens, Southern Hills boasts the longest hole in Open history with the 642-yard fifth.

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