



Points to ponder

Now I get it!

Why are there 5,280 feet to a mile? Why not a number like 5,000?

The answer to this lies with the English. They got it from the Romans, who once ruled part of Britain. The Romans had a measure called the mille passum (ME-lay PA-soo-em), literally, "a thousand paces." Each pace consisted of five Roman feet, for a total of 5,000 feet per mile.

Unfortunately, the English had another idea. Besides the mile, they had a measurement called the furlong, which was used to measure farmers' fields. A furlong is said to be the distance a horse could pull a plow in a straight line before having to rest. It was 660 feet long.

The English wanted to have eight furlongs to the mile. Trouble was, 8 times 660 was 5,280. So somebody realized that it made more sense to pick one or the other. The English picked 5,280 feet for the mile.

This choice was made because most property deeds at the time had been figured out in furlongs that were 660 feet long. If this had been changed, many farmers would have lost property.

Why are stoplights Red, Yellow and Green?

Early traffic officials borrowed the red-yellow-green code from the railroads, which used it for the track signals used to control trains.

The railroads chose red for the stop signal because for thousands of years it had been a signal for danger. Red is the color of blood. So if you want to tell people to stop, best they face death and destruction, red makes sense.

The other colors were pretty much pulled out of a hat. When the railroads got started in the 1830s and 1840s, the color for caution was green and the color for go was clear - white. After a while, it became apparent that these colors presented some serious problems. It was easy to mistake an ordinary white light (say, a street lamp) for a go signal.

Traffic engineers, knowing they had a good thing when they saw one, borrowed this system for use in stoplights.

- Source: Know It All! The Fun Stuff You Never Learned in School, by Ed Zotti

- RON NORTON

THE 411

Tomorrow's weather



66 44

Hi Lo
Sun keep-c-coming

Kentucky Kernel

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News tips?

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

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TUESDAY KENTUCKY
KERNEL



Tourists
Hawn, Martin co-star in *The Out-of-Towners* | 8

April 6, 1999

http://www.kykernel.com

House broken?

Students finding enjoyable shelter in off-campus living

By Karla Dooley
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR
and Chyrica Banks
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Loud music, constant visitors, curfews, fire drills, no privacy, long lines for showers, and constantly tripping over objects in cramped quarters. These are just a few of the problems that students are forced to deal with when living on campus. And as a result, many have sought off-campus housing.

This semester, only 4,529 students are living in dorms, which have a capacity of 5,088, according to the UK housing office. There are 12,676 full-time undergraduates enrolled this semester.

"I didn't like the dorm life," said undeclared freshman Shane McNatt. "It's just... a little cramped." Shulesia Stewart, a journalism senior, said she moved off campus because she has a child.

"The place I stay in now is a beautiful residential area for families that is very quiet," she said.

Through living off-campus has advantages such as no time regulations for visitors, less noise, more space and more privacy, it does have its problems.

Off-campus students often have to deal with people who are not college students.

"There's an old man that lives right next to me that hates my dog," said Sarah Buchenberger, an English education junior.

"My dog doesn't like him too much, either."

Buchenberger said her neighbors sometimes become annoyed with she and her three roommates because of noise, which has become a common problem in several off-campus neighborhoods

since the dry campus policy took effect.

Chemical engineer sophomore Pierre Coolen had one word for his biggest problem living off-campus: cops.

"They've come in without any reason," he said. Coolen and pal Ben Smith, an undeclared sophomore, said they moved after being placed on dorm probation.

"It's no fun to come home to your dorm and find like five cops chilling in your room," Smith said.

She said she has also dealt with rude, arrogant neighbors.

"I have had one neighbor who has threatened to run over my child for being in her driveway," Stewart said. "I also have a neighbor who curses at my child."

And sometimes the neighborhood children fight, she said, which gets the parents involved and ultimately results in problems.

And paying bills on a monthly basis is another real-world issue facing most off-campus students.

"It's difficult to pay the rent and the actual bills that you have," said finance sophomore Jennifer Wilbers.

Students who live off campus also have to deal with the possibility of crime.

"We had like three car break-ins a few weeks back," said sociology sophomore Ken McGrew, who chose an apartment on Pimlico Parkway over the dorms.

"Other than that, it's a good neighborhood."

McGrew also said he also dislikes having to drive all the way back to campus after classes if he has a paper due.

But even with its problems, students who choose to live off-campus rarely move back to the dorms.

Leslie Sharp, a journalism senior, said she prefers off-campus housing to the dorms any day.

"Personally I would never live on campus," she said.



An in-depth at the issue of off-campus housing

INSIDE
Read the history of neighborhoods around UK | 4

Developers have difficulty finding locales | 4

Students give their opinions on what the issues are with off-campus living | 5



PHOTOS BY JAMES CRISP | KERNEL STAFF

Off-campus ease

(Above, from left) Owen Osborne, and English education junior, Jill Wodowski, an arts administration junior, Bryan Jared, an undeclared junior, Kristina Rouster, an elementary education senior, and Cristina Corder, a psychology senior, talked on Rouster's porch on Transylvania Park. Baker Eadie (below), an animal sciences senior, mowed the grass at his apartment on Woodland Avenue. Many UK students have found enjoyment in off-campus housing.



When you come to college, you do not expect to be told what to do. That is why you moved away from home."

- Shulesia Stewart, journalism senior

INSIDE

Rape Awareness Week begins

Greek leadership: Fraternity, sorority sponsor week that will encompass entire campus with mission to inform, educate all UK students

By Chyrica Banks
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Delta Delta Delta and Sigma Pi mean business when it comes to discussing issues of rape. The sorority and fraternity are sponsoring Rape Awareness Week from April 5-9.

"We have it every year with

Sigma Pi and it is pretty successful," said Tri-Delt member Stacey Hazle.

Hazle says the reason for these type of events is to let people know what is going on and educate them.

To kick off the week, Stephanie Perry, of the Lexington Rape Crisis Center, will speak

about the services provided by the center, as well as give information about Rape Trauma Syndrome.

Rape Trauma Syndrome is the term used to describe a victim's reaction after being raped. The condition can include depression, flashbacks, panic attacks, sleep disturbances and even suicide, Perry said.

The presentation will take place at 7:30 p.m. on April 5 in 245 Student Center.

Pam Woodrum, a women's health care nurse practitioner at the Kentucky Clinic, is also sched-

uled to speak on preventing acquaintance rape and identifying signs of an abusive relationship.

Today "The Cause," a UK-based peer education group, will provide an informative program to teach students about rape issues.

"This program is angled toward rape and gender issues and more fun than lectures," said Tri-Delt member Kara Scharber.

The program, which is a cross between Comedy Central's "Win Ben Stein's Money" and "Jeopardy," takes place at the

Tri-Delt house, located at 468 Rose St., at 7:30 p.m.

To polish the week off, Officer Gary Wilson, of the Lexington Police Department, will do a presentation on personal safety. The presentation will be at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday in 230 Student Center.

"These programs are beneficial and we have a speaker on acquaintance rape which people tend to forget about because they cannot tell if it is rape or not," Scharber said.

The scheduled events are open to all and there is no cost.

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS

The Low-down

Libya delivers Pan Am suspects

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Libya's surrender yesterday of alleged former intelligence agents Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah means the two men can be tried under Scottish law on charges of planting the bomb that blew up Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988. The suspects will be arraigned this week on charges of murder, conspiracy to commit murder and violations of international aviation laws. Their arrival in the Netherlands triggered suspension of international sanctions against Libya. The sanctions were imposed for the country's refusal to hand over the suspects.

Dow, NASDAQ end at new highs

NEW YORK — Technology issues propelled the stock market to a new record yesterday, with investors looking forward to strong first-quarter earnings reports: The Dow Industrials rose 174.82 points to a new closing high of 10,007.33. That was just above the Dow's previous closing high of 10,006.78. The blue chips rose amid optimism related to first-quarter earnings reports that will be released starting this week. On the NYSE, gainers led losers 1,689-1,221. The NASDAQ rose 58.55 to 2,551.92, passing its previous high close of 2,510.08.

NATO strikes target in Yugoslavia

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — NATO struck fuel depots, bridges and army barracks throughout Yugoslavia yesterday, saying it was taking particular aim at Serbian ground forces accused of terrorizing ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. NATO Air Commodore David Wilby said NATO jets striking at Serb forces in Kosovo drew heavy anti-aircraft fire, but all planes returned safely. And as night fell, air raid sirens sounded again in Belgrade, likely heralding the 14th straight night of NATO bombardments. Meanwhile, NATO said relief flights carrying 200 tons of food and other emergency supplies were scheduled into Albania and Macedonia to help the hundreds of thousands of Kosovar refugees.

Britain: No ground troops in Kosovo

LONDON — Prime Minister Tony Blair described the NATO action against Yugoslavia as a "battle of good against evil," but renewed his pledge that Britain would not send troops in to fight a ground war. "There is no question of NATO ground forces being sent in unless it is to police an agreed political settlement," Blair wrote in yesterday's edition of The Sun. But while he remained optimistic about NATO's chances of success, Blair warned that it was unrealistic to expect that NATO could stop Yu-



goslav President Slobodan Milosevic quickly.

U.S. groups defy Iraq sanctions

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Two American groups trying to draw attention to the plight of Iraqis living under U.N. sanctions donated \$50,000 worth of medicines and books to Iraq today. The items were donated to hospitals and Baghdad University's medical school by Voices in the Wilderness and Physicians for Social Responsibility. The U.N. Children's Fund estimates that 500,000 children have died of malnutrition and a shortage of medicine since sanctions were imposed in 1990.

Rep. urges China donation probe

WASHINGTON — Linking alleged Democratic campaign fund-raising abuses with a visit to Washington by China's premier, Rep. Dan Burton is pressing President Clinton to demand answers about possible Chinese influence on U.S. elections. The president plays host this week to Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji. Congressional investigators and the Justice Department should be allowed into China to interview principal witnesses, Burton wrote Clinton yesterday.

Guilty plea in gay attack

LARAMIE, Wyo. — One of two young men charged in the slaying of gay college student Matthew Shepard pleaded guilty yesterday and was sentenced to two consecutive life terms in prison. Russell Henderson, 21, pleaded guilty to felony murder and kidnapping, avoiding the possibility of the death penalty. Authorities said Henderson and Aaron McKinney, 21, posed as homosexuals and lured Shepard out of a bar last October, kidnapped and pistol-whipped him and left him tied to a fence. He died five days later.

Drug may fight heart disease

BOSTON — The experimental drug that caused a sensation when it was found to wipe out cancer in mice is also showing promise against heart disease. The same Harvard Medical School and Children's Hospital researchers who did the cancer study found that in mice, at least, the drug endostatin may also greatly slow the development of atherosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries. Endostatin has not been tested yet on people.

Tigers win in season's first game

ARLINGTON, Texas — Juan Encarnacion homered on the first pitch in this afternoon's Tigers-Rangers matchup, and Brian Moehler took a no-hit bid into the seventh inning as Detroit beat Texas 11-5. Every hitter on Detroit, the defending division champions, had a hit and an RBI by the sixth inning and its fielding was rarely tested.

Compiled from wire reports.

NATION

Man who spread AIDS sentenced

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAYVILLE, N.Y. — A man accused of infecting least 13 young women with the AIDS virus through unprotected sex was sentenced yesterday to four to 12 years in prison.

Nushawn Williams, 22, struck a plea bargain after only two victims agreed to testify. Some of the other women never came forward.

Investigators said Williams traded drugs for sex with young women and teens he approached in schools and parks. The case spread fear across rural western New York when it became public in October 1997. State confidentiality laws prevent people who are HIV positive from being identified. But prosecutors persuaded a judge to disclose Williams' identity and allow for his photo to be distributed.

Williams, who is already serving a prison sentence for selling crack, pleaded guilty to statutory rape for having sex with a 15-year-old girl. He also pleaded guilty to reckless endangerment for having unprotected sex with another teenager. She later contracted the AIDS virus.

Williams claimed he didn't believe the public health nurse who told him he was HIV-positive, so he continued having unprotected sex.

"He's not an evil person," defense attorney Richard Slater said. "He's been painted as an evil person. He feels badly that he's ill. He expressed to me the concern he may not live out his sentence."

Williams pleaded guilty to a similar reckless endangerment charge involving a 15-year-old girl in New York City and is awaiting sentencing.

He's been painted as an evil person. He feels badly that he's ill. He expressed to me the concern he may not live out his sentence."

— Richard Slater, defense attorney



I consider him one of the pre-eminent songwriters of the times. Every song he does has a vitality you don't find everywhere."

— Bob Dylan, musician, on touring with Paul Simon.



BEST OF UK BALLOT

Best free event on campus:	Best health club:	Best place for live music:
Best Greek event:	Best clothing store (women):	Best local band:
Best classroom:	Best clothing store (men):	Best place to dance:
Best place to study:	Best hotel in Lexington:	Best pool tables:
Best place to people watch:	Best grocery store:	Best local news cast:
Best apartment complex:	Best coffee house:	Name: _____
Best show in syndication:	Best "late night" restaurant:	Address: _____
Best tanning salon:	Best barbecue restaurant:	Phone: _____
Best alternative or vintage store:	Best pizza:	UK students, drop your completed ballot in the collection boxes at these campus locations by April 10: • Lobbies of Kirwin and Blanding Tower, Haggin, Blazer, Donovan and Holmes Halls • The Classroom Building • The Student Center
Best place to get a haircut:	Best hamburger:	
Best radio station:	Best Italian food:	
Best place to meet people:	Best Mexican food:	
Best place to go on a first date:	Best Chinese food:	
Best Women's sport:	Best restaurant in Lexington:	
Best Men's sport:	Best brand of beer:	
Best Bar to watch sports games:	Best bar in Lexington:	

Or enter on-line at:
www.kykernel.com

Ballot must be completely filled out to be registered for the Grand Prize of: **Two Lower Arena Student Tickets to all of UK's Home Basketball Games Next Season***

*Must be a full time student

Keep watching for further details. **KENTUCKY KERNEL**

SOFTBALL

Gamecocks beat Cats

But UK does upset No. 10-ranked South Carolina once

By Matt May
SPORTSDAILY EDITOR

A promising Friday upset turned into a long weekend for the UK softball team, as the Cats returned to Lexington after winning only one of four games against No. 10 South Carolina in Columbia, S.C.

After shocking the Gamecocks 4-2 on Friday night, UK played South Carolina closely, but lost the last three games of the series, 6-3 in the second game Friday, and 3-2 and 8-1 in Saturday's doubleheader.

UK (17-25 overall, 2-6 Southeastern Conference) faced off against the conference's leading pitcher in South Carolina's Megan Matthews in Friday's opener, pounding out eight hits against the freshman. UK's Beth Fogle, Angie Dal Pozzo and Tiffany Kruse each had two hits for the Wildcats.

The Cats took an early 1-0 lead, but Carolina (34-9 overall, 9-3 SEC) responded to tie it at one.

UK took a lead it would never relinquish in the top of the fifth, as Sandi Dengler and Dal Pozzo used a double steal to score Dal Pozzo and give UK a 2-1 lead.

The Cats added two more insurance runs in the sixth, as Kruse and Leslie Kwiatkowski hit back-to-back singles. Dal Pozzo's double scored both Kruse and Kwiatkowski, making the score 4-1.

Despite giving up a solo home run by South Carolina's Kim Pietro with only one out left in the game, UK star pitcher Keary Camunas shut down the Gamecocks over the last three innings, ensuring the win and moving her record to 9-8 on the season.

The win was UK's first ever over a top-10 team in its three-year history.

Fogle finished the second game of Friday's doubleheader, going 3-for-4.

The Cats almost pulled off a second upset on Saturday, as they lead 2-1 with two outs in the final inning. But a line drive by Carolina's Adrienne Genovese skipped off



PHOTO BY HOBIE HILLER | KERNEL STAFF

UK's Angie Dal Pozzo eyed a pitch during a game last week at the UK Softball and Soccer Complex on South Campus. UK went 1-3 over the weekend in Columbia, S.C. against the Gamecocks.

center fielder Kwiatkowski's glove, scoring the tying and winning runs.

The Cats will return to action this Friday when SEC rival Georgia arrives in Lexington for a doubleheader starting at 6 p.m.

The Bulldogs and Cats will face off again on Saturday in another doubleheader starting at 1 p.m.

IN BRIEF

The score

Cats pull big upset

Coming off a huge upset of No. 18 Mississippi State, the UK men's tennis team travels to Nashville for a meeting with Vanderbilt today.

UK is now 12-6 overall and 5-3 in the Southeastern Conference, while the Commodores are 10-9 overall and only 3-4 in the SEC.

Vanderbilt is coming off a 5-2 loss to Alabama-Birmingham on Sunday.

The upset over Mississippi State went down to the wire on Saturday at the Hillary J. Boone Tennis Center. UK was playing

its sixth match in a 10-day time span, but mustered enough energy to down the Bulldogs (8-9 overall, 2-5 in SEC).

UK took the No. 1 and No. 3 doubles' matches, as Johan Hesoun and Patrik Johansson defeated MSU's Conrad Hurter and Daniel Healey 8-4, while UK's Edo Bawono and Tomas Smid beat David Ruiz and Mathieu Soto 8-5.

But the Bulldogs took the No. 2 doubles and the top three singles matches to take a 3-2 lead in the overall match. MSU's Bally defeated UK's Carlos Drada 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 in No. 1 singles. Jeremy Bayon beat Hesoun in a shortened match at No. 2 singles and Hurter beat UK's Smid 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 at No. 3 singles.

The Cats won the last three singles' matches to comeback

and post the upset. UK's Gustav Pousette beat Ruiz 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, while UK's Grunditz defeated MSU's Healey 6-2, 7-6 to set up the tie-breaking final match of the day.

In that match, UK's Bawono stormed from behind to beat Mississippi State's Soto 6-7, 7-5, 6-1 and give UK the upset.

Golf finishes fifth

The UK men's golf team took home fifth place at the 14th annual Johnny Owens Invitational at Kearney Hills Golf Links just outside of Lexington.

UK's three-round total score of 897 was 17 strokes behind team champion Miami University.

The best individual performance by a Wildcat came from Jeremy Langley, who finished

in a tie for seventh with a score of 219. UK's John Beckett took 17th with a 222, while Jay Knight finished 28th with a 226.

UK will be back on the course next weekend in West Virginia at the Marshall (University) Invitational.

Spring game tickets on sale

Tickets for the 1999 Blue/White Spring Football game went on sale yesterday at the UK Athletics ticket office.

Tickets all cost \$10 each for the annual game to be played on April 24 at 3:30 p.m. This year's game will be at Georgetown College's Rawlings Stadium because Commonwealth Stadium is undergoing an extensive facelift.

Compiled from staff reports.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

The Campus Calendar is produced weekly by the Office of Student Activities. Postings in the calendar are free to all registered student organizations and UK Departments. Information can be submitted in Rm. 203 Student Center or by completing a request form on-line at <http://www.uky.edu/StudentCenter>. Posting requests are due ONE WEEK PRIOR to the Monday information to appear in the calendar. For more information call 257-8866

Tuesday 4/6

- ACADEMIC**
 - Math 109 & 123 Tutoring, 203 Frazee Hall, FREE, call 7-6959 for more info
 - Informal Creative Writing Workshop 8-9:30pm, Rm. B108C W.T. Young Library, Free
 - Chemistry 107 Pre-Exam Review, 5-7pm, Rm 103 Barker Hall
- MEETINGS**
 - Alpha Phi Omega meeting, 7:30pm, 359 Student Ctr.
 - Intervarsity Christian Fellowship Quest Meeting, 7pm, Rm 230 Student Center
 - Green Thumb Earth Day meeting, 7pm, 106 Student Center
- SPORTS**
 - UK Ultimate Frisbee Practice, 6-8pm, Band Field, call Nick at 281-1256 for info
- LECTURES**
 - Reading by Marilyn Nelson, Singletary Center
 - Panel Discussion of Current Political Issues, 4pm, Rm 230 Student Center
 - Keeping Humanities Human by Dr. Ken Kilchell, 3pm, W.T. Young Library
- ARTS/MOVIES**
 - UK Opera Workshop Performance, 7pm, Memorial Hall
- INTRAMURALS/RECREATION**
 - Tennis Doubles entry deadline for tournament on 4/10 and 4/11 today at 4pm, sign up in Rm. 145 Seaton Center
 - Swim Meet entry deadline today 4pm for meet on 4/14, sign up in Rm. 145 Seaton Center
- SPECIAL EVENTS**
 - Rape Awareness Week: "The Cause", 7:30pm, Delta Delta Delta House

Wednesday 4/7

- ACADEMIC**
 - L.E.A.P. - 2-250, Rm 203 Frazee Hall
 - Lambda Sigma Theta Interest/Return Meeting, 8-9pm, Rm 205 Student Center
- MEETINGS**
 - Fellowship of Christian Athletes meeting, 9pm, CSF Bldg. (corner of Woodland & Columbia)
 - Student Meal and Discussion 5pm, Newman Center
 - French Conversation Table 4:30-6pm, Oviatt's Cafe
 - Holy Eucharist at St. Augustine's Episcopal Chapel, 12:05pm & 6pm
 - MSU Spotlight Jazz Committee Meeting, 7:05pm, Rm 203 Student Center, call James at 7-8867 for info
 - Russian Table sponsored by the Russian Club, 4:30-6pm, Lynagh's, Knowledge of Russian Not Required!
 - Homecoming 1999 Committee Member Recruitment Meeting, 7pm, 206 Student Center, Free Food!, Sign up to work on a recruitment, contact Kelly at 7-8867 for info
- INTRAMURALS/RECREATION**
 - Aikido Classes/UK Aikido Club, 6:30-8:30pm, Alumni Gym Loft, call Chris at 245-5087 for info
- ARTS/MOVIES**
 - Piano Recital: Alan Hersh's Studio, 8pm, Memorial Hall
 - Movie: The Waterboy, 7pm, Worsham Theatre, \$2
- LECTURES**
 - Good Rhetoric Makes Good Writing by Dr. Nan Johnson, 12pm, W.T. Young Library Auditorium

Thursday 4/8

- MEETINGS**
 - Campus Crusade For Christ weekly meeting, 7:30pm, Worsham Theatre
 - UK Lambda meeting for Lesbians/gays people, 7:30pm, Room 231 Student Center
 - Thursday Night Live, 7pm, Christian Student Fellowship, call 233-0313 for info
 - UK Student Council Meeting, 4:30pm, Rm 119 Old Student Center
 - Pre-Law Assoc. Meeting, 4pm, Miller Hall
- SPORTS**
 - UK Ultimate Frisbee Practice, 6-8pm, Band Field, call Nick at 281-1256 for info
- RELIGIOUS**
 - Russian Film Series, 2-4pm and 7-9pm, Rm 340 Classroom Bldg., English Subtitles!
 - 245-5087 for info
- RECREATION**
 - Piano Recital: Alan Hersh's Studio, 8pm, Memorial Hall
 - Traditional Russian Folkdancing Lessons, 4-6pm, Barker Hall
- SPECIAL EVENTS**
 - Rape Awareness Week: Presentation on Personal Safety by Lex. Police Officer, 7:30pm, Rm 200 Student Center

Friday 4/9

- ARTS/MOVIES**
 - Final Gallery Series Presents a Recital by Matthew Young, Alexander Bingcang, and Alan Hersh, 12 noon, King Library

Saturday 4/10

- ACADEMIC**
 - Master Student Program, Sign up in advance, seating is limited!, call 257-6959 for info
- MEETINGS**
 - Catholic Mass 6pm, Newman Center
- ARTS/MOVIES**
 - UK Dance Ensemble Spring Concert, 8pm, Singletary Center, Tickets \$7 students and seniors, \$10 general admission, \$2 children, call 257-4929
 - International Student Council Basketball Tournament, 10am, Alumni Gym, entry deadline 4/9, call Jerome at 252-8953 for info
- INTRAMURALS/RECREATION**
 - Aikido Classes/UK Aikido Club, 1-3pm, Alumni Gym Loft, call Chris at 245-5087 for info
- MEETINGS**
 - Phi Sigma Pi meeting, 7pm, 230 Student Center
- RECREATION**
 - Student Recital: UK Percussion Ensemble, directed by Marcus Reddik and Doug Patko, 2pm, Singletary Center
 - Guest Ensemble Recital: Klemperer Trio, 3pm, Singletary Center
 - Student Recital: UK Guitar Studio, directed by Rodney Stucky, 7pm, Singletary Center

Sunday 4/11

- ACADEMIC**
 - Master Student Program, Sign up in advance, seating is limited!, call 257-6959 for info
- RELIGIOUS**
 - Catholic Mass 9am, 11:30am, 5pm, 8:30pm, Newman Center
 - Sunday Morning Worship, 11am, Christian Student Fellowship
 - Holy Eucharist at St. Augustine's Episcopal Chapel, 10:30am & 8pm
- MEETINGS**
 - Phi Sigma Pi meeting, 7pm, 230 Student Center
- INTRAMURALS/RECREATION**
 - Aikido Classes/UK Aikido Club, 1-3pm, Alumni Gym Loft, call Chris at 245-5087 for info
- ARTS/MOVIES**
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 - Guest Ensemble Recital: Klemperer Trio, 3pm, Singletary Center
 - Student Recital: UK Guitar Studio, directed by Rodney Stucky, 7pm, Singletary Center

Tickets still on sale for Widespread Panic!
for show on 4/23
\$17 with UKID
call 257-TICS

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Are you working on your GPA or your BAC?
(Blood Alcohol Content)

National Alcohol Screening Day

Thursday April 8, 1999
10a.m. to 3 p.m.

Screenings available at three campus locations:
William T. Young Library
The Commons
The Student Center

Sponsored by the University Health Services, University Counseling and Testing Center, and the Health/Alcohol Education Office

Questions? Contact Dr. Tospay Staten at 323-8055 or Cheryl Tuttle at 257-9687

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KENTUCKY KERNEL

online@http://www.kykernel.com

Did you know ...

- 5,008**
The total number of students that University Housing can accommodate.
- 4,529**
The number of students that are currently occupying student housing on campus.
- 12,676**
The number of undergraduates enrolled in the current spring semester.
- 8,147**
The number of undergrads are currently living off campus.
- 150**
The number of active neighborhood associations in the urban Lexington area.
- 176**
The number of years ago when the first Lexington "house of ill repute" was located in the 180-year-old Belle Breeding house. It is now a women's locker room for Transylvania University athletics.
- 1940**
The year Lexington's Chevy Chase area was started. Before that, it was farmland, but it was where the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus would pitch a tent to put on the greatest show on earth for Lexingtonians.
- 528.88**
The average cost, in dollars of a two bedroom and one-and-a-half bathroom apartment in Lexington.
- 111,287**
The average cost, in dollars, of a 1,800 square foot, newly-constructed home in 1992.
- 817**
The average number of people per square mile in the city of Lexington.

— Sources: William T. Young Library and 1996 Census.

HISTORY



PHOTOS BY JAMES CRISP | KERNEL STAFF

570 Woodland Ave. was the site of the shooting of UK football player Trent DiGiuro in the summer of 1994. The case remains unsolved to this day. Surrounding neighborhoods have seen a variety of incidents, tragic moments like this, to celebrations of basketball championships.

Solid foundations

Changing atmosphere: Times have certainly seen a different tone in those who used to live in neighborhoods, and who lives there now

By Amy Ernst
STAFF WRITER

Imagine your landlord living with you. Imagine your professors living next door to you. Imagine Euclid Avenue with two lanes. Sound like a nightmare? Well, this is how things were at one time in neighborhoods surrounding UK.

Many of the neighborhoods around UK that are now occupied by large numbers of students, used to be filled with families. Grant S. Bell, former resident and property owner at Transylvania Park for more than 70 years, said life was a lot different in Transylvania Park years ago.

"At one time, Transylvania Park was one of the nicest neighborhoods to live in Lexington," Bell said.

"Quite a few prominent people lived there, including UK professors." Bell's father built his home in 1907. It was one of the first homes built on Tran-

sylvania Park. It wasn't until 1912, though, that Transylvania Park began resembling a neighborhood, Bell said.

Although families occupied neighborhoods almost entirely, some residents did rent rooms to students. Bell rented three rooms to students for \$15 a month each after World War II. Students weren't a problem for residents back then. "Students couldn't cause trouble because the landlord lived with them," Bell said.

It wasn't until the mid-1960s that students began to heavily occupy Transylvania Park, Bell said. At this time, students no longer lived with their landlord.

Instead, landlords rented out whole houses or tore houses down and built apartment buildings.

In 1965, Bell fought to change Transylvania Park's zoning to prevent the building of more apartment buildings.

— Grant S. Bell, former resident and property owner at Transylvania Park



The Pope House (above) is one of the structures that has been home to both students and nonstudents throughout its history.

Three apartment buildings were built before the zoning change passed. Bell eventually sold his home in 1983.

Waller Avenue residents have also seen many students move in their neighborhood more recently.

Virginia Farmer, who has lived on Waller Avenue for almost 60 years, remembers when only families lived in the neighborhood about 10 years ago. Now she knows of only two owners on Waller Avenue who actually live in their homes.

"The neighborhood has gone downhill," Farmer said.

"People used to take care of their homes and take pride in them. Now, people buy homes that need repair and rent them out to students before fixing them. The houses only get worse."

But students say they still see beauty in the neighborhoods residents blame them for destroying, and many are drawn to the old houses there. One of these students, Rebecca Merkel, an English junior, lives in an old house on Linden Walk.

"I love history, especially art history, and to me these houses are like art," Merkel said.

NEW AND IMPROVED?

Breaking ground tough

Supporting new housing? Meuser says development should occur in right areas

By Michael Downs
STAFF WRITER

Zoning changes have had a major impact on the way development happens in the neighborhoods around UK's campus. "Just because we live next to the University doesn't have to mean we live next to a slum," said Mike Meuser, president of the Aylesford Neighborhood Association. The association represents residents in much of the area from Maxwell Street to Ashland Avenue, between Central Avenue and Euclid Avenue.

Meuser said he is not opposed to development of student housing. It is important that the development occurs in the appropriate areas; areas where sound or historic structures do not already exist, he said.

Meuser said Virginia Avenue is a good example of an area where student housing development is being handled appropriately. Last September, the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government passed a zoning change in the campus area. An H-1 historic overlay zone was applied, which is in addition to any zones that already exist in the area.

The H-1 zone change has added another layer of regulation and requires any demolition or exterior structural changes to be approved by the Board of Architectural Review, said LFUCG planner Bill Sallee.

"There has to be a little more care taken to determine if a building permit is appropriate," Sallee said.

The zone change was granted in response to a petition issued by the neighborhood group. "We sleep better at night than we did two years ago," Meuser said. The group proposed the zone change two years before

See DEVELOPERS on NEXT PAGE >>>

NEIGHBORS

Zoning still a concern

Neighborhoods still trying to find ways to relieve tension

By John Wampler
STAFF WRITER

In neighborhoods where residents have had numerous problems with noisy and boisterous students, many city officials have looked to down-zoning as a possible solution.

"Most of the down-zonings we've had (in the Lexington area) have been around the UK campus," said Bill Sallee, an administrative officer in the Lexington-Fayette County Division of Planning.

Down-zoning is when an area zoned by the Division of Planning is lowered from its original status. For instance, an area that originally was zoned to have structures up to the level of an apartment complex may be down-zoned to only have single-family residences.

See ZONING on NEXT PAGE >>>

RELATIONSHIPS

Committee working to create better peace

Neighborhood associations, UK committee agree students are not the cause to all area problems

By Lori Mercado
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For many students, college life is temporary. Four or five years are given to the University, and students ultimately move on.

The temporary residences of students offer one explanation for some disparagement between students and non-students sharing the neighborhoods surrounding campus.

A recently formed UK Neighborhoods Committee meets bi-weekly to discuss problems and offer solutions for the neighborhoods, by combining committee representatives, government officials, UK officials and students.

David Cooper, a representative of the Elizabeth Street neighborhood,

said with the recent Zero-Tolerance Policy toward student drinking and parties near campus, the neighborhood has been quieter. He maintains the major problem exists with the appearance of the neighborhood.

"It would be much more in UK's interest to have healthy, thriving neighborhoods around it that are attractive," Cooper said.

The Elizabeth Street neighborhood organizes clean-ups after UK games. Part of Cooper's distress on behalf of many of the non-students living in that neighborhood, is the lack of student participation in the clean-ups.

Mike Meuser, president of the Aylesford Neighborhood Association, describes similar problems

within his neighborhood, and the surrounding four neighborhood associations which form the Aylesford Association.

The biggest problem is "a lack of respect for the neighborhood," Meuser said. He deemed the trash problem to be "excessive," and that housing is in need of repair and maintenance.

"We're not anti-student at all. We believe that a lot of the students aren't getting a fair shake," Meuser said. "They aren't getting much back in terms of quality housing."

Meuser attributes some of the problem to the fact that students are constantly moving in and out of the rented houses and apartments in the neighborhoods. Students don't own property in the neighborhoods, so they often don't take pride in it, or respect it, Meuser said.

Meuser and Cooper both have seen a significant difference in alcohol problems and parties with the in-

crease in awareness on behalf of the police, and the new policies concerning student drinking.

The Aylesford Association hopes to maintain its neighborhood through proposals to the committee, such as public trash cans, repaired sidewalks and inspections of student housing. The safety and maintenance of student housing is one of its concerns.

Parking is another concern for both non-students and students. Cars often line the streets, crowd driveways and are parked in front yards, tearing the grass and making the neighborhood less attractive.

Mimi Jones, a communications senior, lives on University Avenue.

"Our biggest problem in the neighborhood is parking," she said. "There is miscommunication between non-students and students because we are angry about the same thing. There are many people parking in these neighborhoods that aren't residents, commuting to UK."

Tomorrow ...

See how successful students have been with filing complaints against their landlords.

DEVELOPERS

Continued from page 4

it was implemented.

Meuser said that he and many of his neighbors literally did not know if the houses next door to them would be standing when they came home from work.

Because of the demand for student housing in the area, there is a strong incentive to build structures that maximize the number of tenants possible for one property.

"This led to a lot of demolition of perfectly good houses and indiscriminate development of 'hotel-style' apartment complexes, Meuser said.

"We're not running a beauty contest here. I'm here to make money," said Kige Kiger, managing partner for Wassmer Properties.

Kiger also said making complexes for housing more tenants is not the only reason to build new. Poor insulation, plumbing and other problems make old houses "unpractical" for both landlords and tenants.

"99 percent of everything I have are what you'd call newer houses," he said.

As a result of the H-1 zone change, more landlords will have to deal with maintaining their old buildings and fewer will have the option of starting from scratch.

Meuser said that the passing of zoning change brings new issues for residents in the campus area to deal with.



Michael Downs | Kernel Staff
This house is a student development project at the corner of Marquis Street and Euclid Avenue.

"We need to start fostering some respect for how we treat these neighborhoods," he said.

It is the responsibility of all connected to these neighborhoods, students, homeowners and landlords, to take more care in how the properties are maintained, Meuser said.

ZONING

Continued from page 4

Although neighborhoods sometimes request them in hopes of solving problems with students, Sallee said down-zonings cannot have much of an immediate effect because they only serve to maintain the current level of residential density, rather than cause it to decrease.

Another flaw with using down-zoning to address problems with residential density is the zoning system itself. In the future, down-zoning still may not serve to lower residential density.

Technically speaking, the only real difference between a single-family residence (or R-1) and a duplex (R-2 residence) is the number of kitchens. So it could be very feasible that four people could be living in a house, just as four people could be living in a duplex, Sallee said.

And in some areas, down-zoning will not solve the problems simply because it cannot be implemented. For instance, on the south side of UK's campus, nearly all the properties have already been zoned R-1. Yet the same issues still arise.

"We don't feel that down-zoning is the solution to our problems," said Mike Meuser, president of the Aylesford Neighborhood Association.

He said he thinks the issues people sought to fix with down-zoning should be resolved in other ways. David Stevens, co-chair of the UK/Neighborhoods Committee, mentioned that in a number of cases, single-residence houses were being rented out to a large number of students, and this contributes to large parking problems, because of the high number of cars.

To address this and other residential density issues, Third District Urban County Council Member Dick DeCamp proposed in late November of 1998 a bill that would limit the number of unrelated persons living in a single-family residence to three.

Stevens said the three unrelated persons bill was perceived as such a threat, and so many people protested, that it had little hope of passing. He did feel, however, that issues between students and the community had to be resolved in some fashion.

"This problem is not just in Lexington, Kentucky," Stevens said.

"It is in every town where you have a large, urban university. Our committee (The UK/Neighborhoods Committee) was formed to discuss these issues in a rational way."

“We don't feel that down-zoning is the solution to our problems.”

— Mike Meuser, president of the Aylesford Neighborhood Association

STUDENT SPEAK

What are the issues involved with students living off campus?



“It's your entrance into dealing with other aspects of life.”

— Andri Kukas, natural resource counseling junior



“Transportation, getting here, meeting people and paying for food without a meal card.”

— Charles Coulston, secondary education and math freshman



“Transportation and meeting people.”

— George Oberlick, undeclared freshman

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April 15 at 5:30 pm

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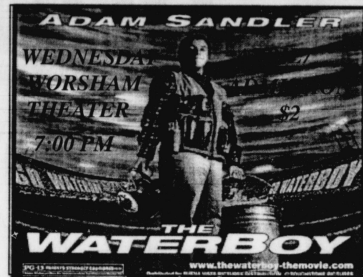
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Native American Heritage Festival

<p>Monday April 12, 1999</p> <p>Blue Jacket -Savanna oral Historian -Adaptor to the History Channel -Recent age actor -Native Savanna Language Storyteller</p> <p>Worsham Theatre 7:30pm</p>	<p>Tuesday April 13, 1999</p> <p>-Flintknapping Demonstration using Carter Cave, Kentucky Flint -Lectures on technologies used by Native Americans -Display of Finished products</p> <p>NATIVE AMERICAN ARTIFACTS COLLECTOR</p> <p>DANNY ROUSH flintknapper</p> <p>Bridge Lounge, Student Center 11:00am-3:00pm</p>
<p>Wednesday April 14, 1999</p> <p>One of the Best Films of the Year Two Big Thanks Up!</p> <p>Smoke Signals</p> <p>Worsham Theatre 7:00pm</p>	<p>Thursday April 15, 1999</p> <p>Author of "The Lone Ranger and the Fight in Heaven" "Reservation Blues"</p> <p>Sherman Alexie</p> <p>Screenwriter and Producer of "Smoke Signals"</p> <p>Memorial Hall 7:30pm</p>

Presented by Student Activities Board

All new
Kernel chat on-line @ kykernel.com

Commonwealth
 knowledge

Confederate matters

SHEPHERDSVILLE — Once the old stationery and brochures are finally used up, Bullitt County tourism officials will sever their ties to a logo that featured images of the Confederacy. The old logo displayed a saber, tobacco leaves, Civil War cap and slogan "Where the Real South Begins." The images stirred complaints, some of which were "pretty confrontational," said Jo Ann Yates, executive director of the Shepherdsville-Bullitt County Tourist and Convention Commission. "It's possibly a racial issue," she said, "just from the standpoint of the Civil War, the Union and the Confederates." Bullitt County is located just south of Louisville.

Women's rights?

LOUISVILLE — Some Louisville-area women say Gov. Paul Patton is favoring men over women in Jefferson County Democratic politics. They're also questioning his commitment to other issues such as equal pay for equal work. Many of the women complaining are the same ones who were a key factor in electing Patton governor in 1995. "It's a devastating show, in terms of his commitment" to women's issues, said Andree Mondor, a volunteer in a program for abused women, after attending a meeting Patton sponsored last week to reach out to women leaders in Louisville. Patton and his women allies say the criticism is off target because he has an unparalleled record of appointing women. They especially point to his appointment of women to judgeships; has defended abortion rights; and has been active in such women's issues as domestic violence and early childhood development.

Compiled from wire reports.

Chain reaction

Readers are encouraged to submit letters to the editor and guest opinions to the Dialogue page. Your comments should be addressed to: "Letters to the Editor," Kentucky Kernel 35 E. J. Grehan Journalism Building University of Kentucky Lexington, Ky. 40506-0042

 Send electronic mail to kernel@pop.uky.edu.

Letters should be about 200 words; guest opinions should be no longer than 600 words. All material should be typewritten and double-spaced.

Include your name and major classification (for publication), as well as your address and telephone number for verification, which will be kept confidential.



READERS' FORUM

Expressions

More from the police files

To the editor:

On Saturday, March 27, five friends and myself were heading to the Lexington City Brewery when we came upon a red light at the intersection of Virginia Avenue and Limestone. Our car was fourth in line waiting for the light to change. A police officer was directly in front of us. The light was malfunctioning, and was not changing. After about four minutes, the police officer decided to go through the light without turning on his emergency lights. We got to the intersection, and after waiting for another 30 seconds, also decided to proceed.

Within minutes we had four UK police cars behind us in the Winn-Dixie parking lot. They ordered the driver out of the car and gave him a roadside sobriety test. We had recruited him as a sober driver to take us to the bar. So being responsible, he had not been drinking. Even after explaining the situation, the police cited him with failure to obey a traffic signal. This was the same traffic signal a

marked police officer disobeyed only minutes before. The police treated a responsible student doing his friends a favor, in being a sober driver, like a criminal.

Now I'm not sure how many UK police cars are on patrol at any given time, but I'm willing to bet it is not many more than four. The whole process took about a half-hour, while who knows what real crimes were being committed on the other side of campus.

In the future, try to differentiate the criminal from the student.

 JERRY BRANKIN
 FINANCE SENIOR

Grade data was very helpful

To the editor:

The publication of the grade distribution data in last Wednesday's Kernel insert, The SGA Advocate, was wonderful! Why hasn't it been done before, or has it, and I've just been ignorant of it? Anyway, I believe that it's nice to be able to compare two teachers in a class, just to see if you are "get-

ting screwed over," in layman terms. But it makes you wonder, is it fair that two grade distributions for two professors in the same class are so varied? I realize that professors, like all people, have different styles of teaching, but shouldn't there be some standard of grading established in each class?

ALAN CHAN

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING SOPHOMORE

No thanks!

To the editor:

Fortunately, I don't follow the Kernel's suggestions for an enjoyable weekend. If I did heed the advice of the "Best Bets For A Good Time" column regularly, I would probably start looking forward to Mondays. This week's suggestions, for example, begin with the highly anticipated *10 Things I Hate About You* (*Babysitter's Club* meets Shakespeare?) If you haven't had enough *Teen Beat* rhetoric, the Kernel suggests you see 'N Sync in Cincinnati on Saturday. If you go, say "hi" to my 8-year-old cousin for me.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but didn't the Kernel used to be a liberal, arts-based publication?

CHRISTOPHER YOST

ARCHITECTURE SENIOR

 Check out www.kykernel.com for more letters to the editor.

Trevor Sanders

CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

Action, not reaction, what UK campus needs

As a member of UK's Leftist Student Union, I believe that a little activism is always healthy. In fact, without it, something is wrong. Although I believe that constant rebellion against social limitations to individual autonomy is essential, protesting is especially needed when one has a cause. I am not writing this column, however, to chastise my schoolmates. Rather, I hope to energize the campus.

Our parents protested for two things: a stop to the Vietnam War, and a more open culture. They, of course, forgot economic issues, which should precede all others.

Without an economic livelihood, individuals have a more difficult time expressing their culture, let alone opposing political authority. The former is a fundamental human attribute. The latter is usually, if not always, oppressive. In our generation's case, we face both a death of human culture and a growth in political oppression.

Let me explain myself a little more. We face the death of human culture because of global capitalism.

In case you have not noticed, students are having to work to pay more for a standard education. The corporate invasion of college campuses has raised tuition and reduced university instruction to job training.

Face it, students face a grim economic future. Although many qualified students receive college degrees, very few of them are promised a living-wage job.

In turn, we will be working for our parents, because they demand a comfortable retirement. Because we will be working (and have time for nothing else), it is very possible that we will not even have

the time to relate to each other, let alone organize or even express ourselves. This is the death of human culture that I mentioned earlier.

The growth of corporate power through global expansion has also augmented political authority. That is to say, they are the ultimate authority. Our political institutions are no longer responsive to social change. Hence, we have two choices: subordination to political authority or revolution. Subordination really doesn't seem to solve any of the problems I mentioned earlier, so we're left with only one acceptable alternative.

But we can't have that alternative without some organization.

When people organize, political authority loses its legitimacy. When people retake control of their lives, the fruits of human culture blossom and oppressive social institutions — for example, corporations — crumble before our eyes.

Besides, rebelling against everyday social limitations to individual autonomy creates more vibrant human relations. In essence, it makes society more responsive to change.

It makes for a little excitement, too.

IN OUR OPINION

A silent epidemic

Rape: we must have awareness

Human rights atrocities and violations make the headlines on a daily basis, especially in light of news coverage of the Kosovo conflict. Women and children are raped on a systematic basis either under the guise of "ethnic cleansing" or in the violent perpetration of the dehumanization of women resulting from sex role disparities. While it is easy to cast criticism on other countries for human rights violations and discrimination against women, one need look no further than our own borders for similarly repugnant and criminal behavior.

In recognition of this fact, this week marks the annual campus-wide Rape Awareness Week. Campus social organizations like Tri-Delta social sorority and Sigma Pi social fraternity plan to sponsor events to raise awareness of rape.

While most people recognize the illegality of rape, few take the time to talk to rape victims in an effort to truly fathom the impact of rape on our mothers, sisters and friends. While rape is a crime of violence and the physical intrusion of a woman, the perpetrators of rape choose this form of assault for the power it exerts over a weaker person. Instead of using a knife or taking a fist to a woman, a rapist realizes the power inherent in simulating the act of sex in order to injure his victim. He realizes that using his own penis as a weapon leaves more serious psychological injury than a knife ever would. This goes for date rape as well; it's about one person controlling another.

This week isn't called Rape Awareness Week for nothing. The point of scheduling events and speakers is to be aware of rape: why it happens, who's likely to be a victim or perpetrator and the emotional and psychological destruction of those involved.

A significant number of people reading this have probably experienced the horror of being raped. Many have probably chosen to keep silent because of the embarrassment they fear. We must prevent victims of rape from being in such a situation and being aware of rape will help to bring this about.

As long as men view women as sexual vessels and the "means" to achieving their sexual conquests, rape will continue to thrive in the variety of assaults committed against them.

Marianne Lorensen

CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

A bridesmaid always, but with no regrets

Ah, spring is here! And you know what that means, don't you? Sunny weather, shorts and t-shirts, the end of the school year, and oh yeah... weddings. Lots of weddings. Love, as they say, is in the air. After reading Beverly Spitzer's column last week, I realize that I am not the only person who is conscious of this phenomenon.

For me, it all started last October when I caught the bouquet at my friend Tyson's wedding. People looked at me, smiled and remarked, "You know what that means, don't you?" Sure, I knew. It meant I had to figure out how to transport a bunch of flowers from Oklahoma to Kentucky without the airline counting it as a carry-on.

As I look at the bridal showers and weddings on my calendar in the next few months, I feel as though I am living in an alternate universe. When did this happen? When did people (kids) my age start contemplating lifetime commitments? I can still remember when boys had cooties. I can remember asking my mother how old I would have to be before I could wear make-up, pierce my ears, date, and stay up past midnight. Suddenly, I am not seven anymore. I'm 22, technically an adult. Now I'm just asking myself where all the time went.

Love and marriage used to be things that were for grown-ups. You know, people my parents' age. Now many people my age are engaged and planning weddings, and asking me when it will be my turn to take the plunge. My standard response is, "never." Mind you, I am not cynical, negative or anti-marriage. I just

think it's a stupid question.

I have set lists of goals for myself throughout life. Marriage has never been one of them. Obviously, I have no control over whom I will fall in love with, when it will happen, or even if it will happen. So why would I put pressure on myself with a timeline? I can't understand people who say things like, "By the time I'm 30, I want to be married with two kids." If I were to ever get married, I would want to marry for love, not for the sake of reaching some randomly timed goal.

By the time I'm 30, I just want to be out of school and happy with my chosen profession. That, at least, I have some control over. If love happens, it happens. If it doesn't, it doesn't. I have too many other things to stress about. Like, for instance, what to do with all the bridesmaid dresses I will acquire over the next year!

Don't get me wrong, I am very happy for all of my betrothed friends and I am glad they have found their Prince Charming. It just boggles my mind that they are ready for such a serious step. I forget that we are not little kids anymore. In this day and age, I hope that they have found a love that will last the test of time and not just a fairy tale that will end at the stroke of midnight (or a mid-life crisis).

As for me, if my Prince Charming is around, he has not yet made his intentions clear. So I don't have any ideas when (or if) it will ever be my turn. Maybe I will catch another bouquet this year. Maybe I won't. Why worry about it? What is clear, at least to me, is that love is an emotion I don't control, and marriage is a commitment, not a goal.

FILM THOUGHTS

Get right out of town

Magical simplicity: Steve Martin and Goldie Hawn rekindle spirit of *Planes, Trains, and Automobiles*

By Tucky Williams
STAFF CRITIC

In general, movies have specific reasons for being made (good screenplay, a director's vision, exploitation of the latest visual effect), but it seems the only reason *The Out-of-Towners* was made was so that a bunch of people could get together and make a movie.

The Out-of-Towners is an exceptional film, in that it aspires to delightful mediocrity, reaching its goal without ever seeming boring or offensive, and keeping the audience interested and laughing.

It's hard to imagine anyone feeling passionate about any aspect of this film.

From the acting to the editing to the lighting, everything seems to have been done in a going-through-the-motions manner, rather than with any sense of speciality or investment in any task.

But what *The Out-of-Towners* is lacking is what makes it good.

It never takes itself too seriously nor puts efforts into making an exceptional product.

The film is able to concentrate on being good within its own means.

The plot is simple enough: a hus-

band and wife are finally on their own when their children leave their middle-America Ohio home.

Once alone, however, each of the two realizes that they don't know the other very well.

Henry (Steve Martin) has a secret: He's been fired from his job. When he goes to New York for a job interview, his wife Nancy (Goldie Hawn) decides to surprise him by joining him on his trip.

Of course, the trip is not an easy one, and is instead reminiscent of Martin's journey in *Planes, Trains & Automobiles*.

There are plenty of the standard travel jokes: getting on the wrong train, bad rental cars, lost luggage.

The only real difference between *The Out-of-Towners* and *Planes, Trains & Automobiles* is that in the new film, Martin's character is married to the John Candy character.

The running joke throughout the movie is the couple's inability to communicate.

They can't stand each other, but they're too polite to let it show.

Their frustrations are leaked out through carefully worded dialogue: When Nancy shows up unexpectedly on Henry's plane to New York, she asks him, "Are you excited I came?"



PHOTO FURNISHED

Steve Martin plays a husband who is fired from his job in the new film *The Out-of-Towners*. Goldie Hawn plays his loving wife, who tries to surprise him on his job interview to New York. The film also stars comedy veteran John Cleese, of Monty Python fame.

"Yes," he says. "You don't seem excited," she replies.

Giving the pained grin that only a Martin character can, Henry replies, "I'm holding it in."

Predictably, as the journey grows increasingly difficult, Nancy and Henry are forced to rely upon each other. And (sniffle) they learn a valuable lesson about long-term love.

But *The Out-of-Towners* never forgets that it's a light comedy; never pushing the morals or the lessons learned.

As Nancy and Henry run wearily about New York, they cross paths with a host of zany characters, most notably Mark McKinney ("The Kids in the

Hall") as a slimy agent, and John Cleese (*A Fish Called Wanda*, Monty Python) as a snooty, cross-dressing hotelier.

The screenplay seems to have been constructed in nuggets, with each piece being Nancy and Henry's misadventures with a different person they meet on their trip.

The situations in which the two find themselves entangled are ridiculous and contrived, but they come off well since the film never takes itself seriously.

Hawn and Martin maneuver the material adeptly, demonstrating that they are two comedy pros who work well with each other.

They give the impression that

they didn't even read their lines until the day they were supposed to say them for the camera.

Instead they rely on their individual, time-tested schicks: she as a screwball innocent, he as a tortured sole trying to pass himself off as happy.

It would be difficult to enjoy *The Out-of-Towners* if the film were held up to any standards.

But if one looks past implausible situations and unrealistic characters, the brilliance of this film's simplicity is revealed.

Rating: A-

CELEBRATING THE FIRST AMENDMENT "Censorship, Public Libraries and the Internet"

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