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WEATHER Mostly sunny today, high 65. Cloudy tonight, low 40. Cloudy with 30 percent showers tomorrow, high 57.

PARTICLE MEN They Might Be Giants perform with Violent Femmes at EKU tonight. See Diversions, page 6.



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April 15, 1997
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Senate passes uniform grading

By James Ritchie
Senior Staff Writer

The University Senate voted yesterday to place all undergraduates under a uniform grading scale. However, the question of exactly what system remains unanswered.

Senate members cast a paper ballot listing their top two choices among seven proposed systems:

▼No plus/minus system: A, B, C, D and E only

▼A+ system: plus/minus grading with A+ worth 4.3 points.

▼Rounded-off A+: same as A+ system, but cumulative GPA is rounded off so that it cannot be greater than 4.0

▼No A+ system: plus/minus grading with no A+

▼All plus/minus system: plus/minus grading without the minuses

▼Numerical system/no letter grades: 100-90 = A, 89-80 = B, 79-70 = C, 69-60 = D, less than 60 = E.

▼GPA neutral system: Plus/minus grades are assigned by instructor and appear on transcripts, but

GPA is computed on the whole letter grade only. The results of the ballot will be released today.

At its April 28 meeting the Senate will discuss the two most popular systems and may vote on which one to implement. However, it has until spring 1998 to approve a system for enactment in fall 1998.

The grading issue was fodder for much debate on the Senate floor.

Psychology professor Richard Smith said he had not seen enough research on the different systems.

"The information is not there to make an informed choice," he said.

Senate Chairwoman Jan Schach said the Senate will make available all the information it can compile from studies conducted by UK faculty in past years.

"We will gather and distribute everything we have to date," she said.

Student Government Association Fine Arts Senator Mark Ison said he will not base his vote on a pile of studies. Instead, he will listen to the opinions of the constituents for whom he speaks.

"That's the way I'm going to vote regardless of

what research says," he said.

History professor David Hamilton said the grading issue is too important to be decided by a small cross-section of the university such as the Senate. He proposed that all faculty members be polled by mail.

"We should not privilege one group to make this decision," he said.

The Senate defeated the suggestion after discussion that students would not be represented in such a poll. The Senate is charged with representing students and faculty on issues such as grading.

The important issue to remember when voting on a grading system, Schach said, is that no system will please every student and faculty member, especially those who hold strong opinions on the matter. The Senate should strive to find the solution that is "most acceptable to everyone."

If the Senate does not meet its spring 1998 deadline, the action to create a uniform grading scale will become null. The various current systems will remain in use, and the Senate will continue to consider proposals from individual colleges.

Volunteers help hospital

By Halli Wu
Staff Writer

They read to patients, color with children, and assist families having difficulties with hospital policies. The volunteers of the UK Hospital Auxiliary Program have been helping people for 34 years.

This program incorporates three groups of individuals — adults, college students and teens — to volunteer around the hospital.

At the beginning of each semester Bonnie Thornton, director of UK volunteer programs, accepts about 80 college students for different volunteer positions.

"We enjoy our college students," Thornton said. "It's a win-win situation, because not only are they gaining what they need, but we also get the help they give us to enhance the experience for our patients and families at UK Hospital."

Students volunteer for various reasons. For some it is a rewarding and much-needed experience to take them a step closer to various medical careers. For others it is a requirement for a social work class. Of course, there are also those who volunteer just to give something back to the community.

"I wanted an experience in a hospital to see what it's like," said biology sophomore and first-time volunteer Johnna Shipp.

The most popular departments for students are the emergency room and the newly established children's hospital.

"The new children's hospital is a big draw; a lot of folks enjoy working with children," Thornton said.

Shipp, who has been working at the UK Chil-



HELPING OUT Volunteer Johnna Shipp keeps patient Teresa Caudill company as part of her job at the UK Children's Hospital. Ninety-three percent of students who apply for volunteer positions are UK students.

ren's Hospital since February, described her job as a great experience.

"I play with the children, help them to be in a good mood," Shipp said. "It's great to help people."

Shipp has not yet worked outside the children's hospital, but she expressed interest in working in the emergency room and operating room.

Ninety-three percent of all students who apply for volunteer positions are UK students. But students from surrounding colleges and universities also work for this program.

Students who are accepted to the auxiliary program go through orientation and training to prepare

them for the work ahead. All students are required to work two to three hours per week for each semester, but many students work more than that. For Shipp, though, the required number of hours is just fine.

"I come here every Monday from 3 to 5," Shipp said.

Volunteers also have to go through tests, such as the TB test, just like regular employees.

What is so great about this volunteer program?

"I just got experience of being around patients and sick people, (learning) how they act, how to act around them," Shipp said. "They are not that different from us."

Lecturer blasts civic journalism

By Chip Bright
Staff Writer

This year's Pulitzer Prize recipient, Michael Gartner elicited a chorus of laughter and a standing ovation as key-note speaker of the 20th annual Joe Creason Lecture.

Gartner's lecture followed the induction of five new members into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame and recognition of journalism student scholars.

Brenna Reilly, editor-in-chief of the Kentucky Kernel, and Jeff Vinson, managing editor of the Kernel, introduced Gartner as a writer who speaks to the heart of issues affecting his newspaper's readers. Reilly and Vinson also recognized him for his defense of free speech.

"Mr. Gartner is a staunch defender of First Amendment rights and ... of student rights," Vinson said.

Gartner began his speech with several brief stories about his first days in Kentucky as the editor of The Courier-Journal in Louisville.

Gartner said Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell came to see The Courier-Journal editorial board and told him The Forum was bad with the Bingham broth-



PULITZER MAN Pulitzer prize winner Michael Gartner talks with Director of the School of Journalism and Telecommunications Buck Ryan.

er but had gotten worse since the Gannett Co.'s takeover. "That was the best compliment anyone had given me in six months in Kentucky," Gartner said.

Addressing recent trends in civic journalism, Gartner questioned the definitions of civic journalism, which proponents of the trend boast. He said promoters declare community journalism as interaction and involvement in helping the community.

"Newspapers are being conne'd by civic journalism," the 58-year-old Iowa man said. "Newspapers explore issues not solve them. Papers are suppose to tell the truth."

The editor and co-owner of the Ames, Iowa Daily Tribune related to his own experience as an out-

sider on a Kentucky newspaper staff while discussing the ills of chain-ownership and constant transfers that dominate modern newspapers. Gartner said his lack of knowledge of the state and its people hindered his closeness and understanding of the community.

Gartner, who writes a biweekly column "Words, Words, Words" for The Courier-Journal, attacked the constant movement of reporters and editors, which he said creates the need for civic journalism because editors have to constantly learn about new communities.

"Activism within communities is just a scheme to get editors and reporters to learn about their towns," Gartner said.

Undeclared sophomore Brad

Wethington's letter refuted

By Kathy Reding
News Editor

A letter from UK President Charles Wethington to the governor and a prospectus by Fitzgerald Bramwell, vice president of research and graduate studies, have become widely read, even though they were addressed to only Gov. Paul Patton.

In a hearing before the state Task Force on Postsecondary Education yesterday, Sheryl Snyder, a Louisville attorney, presented an analysis of UK's rationale of requirements for its becoming a top 20 research institution. UK is currently 45th.

The analysis, completed by Snyder and a committee of seven others, concluded that the letter was "hurriedly put together," Snyder said.

"The numbers, in our view, are considerably overstated," Snyder said of the \$795 million needed for UK to reach that level stated in Wethington's letter.

"I don't think it's a matter of (Wethington's) being right or wrong," Snyder said. "It's a suggestion that the methodology is faulty and should not be relied upon."

Patton had asked the committee of business leaders and attorneys to review whether UK's projection of resources necessary to reach his proposed top 20 status in 20 years was in the ballpark. He said if the price tag had been accurate, he would rethink that goal.

The evaluation states UK's costs are based on the full cost of maintaining the entire university as a top 20 facility rather than the marginal cost on a program-by-program basis of elevating UK's status.

UK's numbers also assume all the funding comes from tax dollars but account for none from federal and private research grants, the major sources of research university funding, Snyder said. "The state should not give up that goal (of UK as a top 20 university), and we should appoint a scholarly study (of what the goal will cost)."

Football star will turn pro wrestler

MILWAUKEE — Reggie White: Baptist minister. Super Bowl champion. Professional wrestler? He will make his ring debut May 18 against former Chicago Bears defensive tackle Steve McMichael in Charlotte, N.C., promoters said yesterday. The pay-per-view special will air on TNT.

"Reggie is a competitive guy and he's a big fan," said World Championship Wrestling executive vice president Eric Bischoff. Bischoff wouldn't disclose how much White will pocket for the one-time appearance except to say: "It was a healthy payday."

Compiled from staff wire reports.

Patton, in outlining budgeting that would take place if his plan for postsecondary education were approved, said he would give \$20 million to \$30 million per year for 20 years to UK to improve as a research institution.

"Is my number so completely ludicrous and ridiculous?" Patton asked. "One hundred and four million dollars a year is impossible for this state to do. To me 20 million (dollars) or possibly 30 million (dollars) is absolutely all I can see the state of Kentucky giving to this institution."

Bramwell, David Watt, vice chancellor for academic affairs, and Del Carter, vice chancellor in the medical center, defended UK's rationalization of the funds needed.

Bramwell said \$30 million a year for 25 years would equal \$750 million, close to UK's total estimate.

"(Patton's dollar proposal) jives with our snapshot," Bramwell told the task force.

He said the \$104 million a year outlined in the prospectus for recurring needs would go to funding the additional faculty needed for the higher research status. He did not answer whether he thought Patton's proposed amount would boost UK to the desired status.

"State money of any amount would make an impact," Bramwell said.

Representative Greg Stumbo asked for a study to determine the actual cost of improving research at UK because Snyder's committee did not set out to do this.

"We all agree that it's a worthwhile goal, but how much does this cost?" Stumbo said. "There's nothing out there that tells us what this is really going to cost."

He and other legislators said they would disregard Wethington's letter.

Watt asked the task force not to debate numbers, but to look at UK's strategic plan for targeting research areas, which will begin this fall and come



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Offensive line adjusting to new style

All five starters return up front

By Chris Easterling
Sports Editor

Just when it seemed that the UK offensive line was getting everything together at the end of last season, the new coach had to come in and completely change the system.

Last year, in a run-oriented style of offense, the youthful offensive line struggled early to keep the defensive players off their quarterback or whoever was carrying the football. But as the season progressed and the unit came together and matured, one could actually tell the line was making some significant improvement.

Then Hal Mumme comes in and brings a wide-open, passing offense, which means the line has to learn a completely different blocking technique.

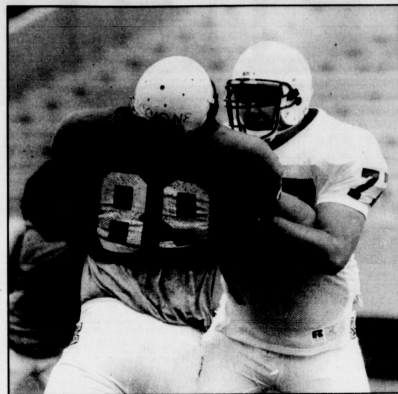
Just how difficult has it been for the line to pick up?

"It changes the whole technique completely," offensive tackle Jonas Liening said. "It hasn't been too bad; there's things that we need to work on as a unit, but considering everything that we're doing, it's not going too bad."

One of five starters returning from last season, Liening said having to relearn the blocking techniques in a way eliminating the advantage of having the entire line back.

Another problem is that one of the starters, Jeremy Streck, has been moved from his starting position at right guard to the backup position at left tackle. Kris Comstock was also moved from left tackle to right guard.

The biggest thing that the line has to watch out for this season is injuries. In each of the last two seasons, the offensive line has



MATT BARTON Kernel staff

TRENCH WARFARE Jeremy Streck is one of three returning linemen to miss at least one game last year due to injury.

been hit by a variety of injuries. Last season, three different players missed at least one game due to injuries.

Liening missed the last three games after he broke his leg against Georgia; Streck suffered a dislocated kneecap against Louisville and was sidelined three different times due to the injury.

Then there was John Schlarman, who suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament during the spring prior to last season, yet was still able to play in the second game of the season against Cincinnati. He also had to undergo knee surgery during the season, but he did not miss any action because of it.

Throughout his career Schlarman has endured five major

injuries and has gone through three different surgeries on his knee. Despite all this, he has missed only three games in his career.

"He's a special guy," offensive line coach Guy Morris said. "The thing that everybody talks about John is his toughness and his work ethic and all that, but John is really talented also. He's got a lot of ability."

Schlarman said the offensive line has a chance to be good, as long as no outside factors adversely affect the team, and "as long as we can all stay healthy and stick together," he said.

"The last couple of years we've had injuries that have hurt us a lot," Schlarman said, "so if we can keep away from that, we're going to be alright."

Six Wildcats in World League

By Chris Easterling
Sports Editor

It might not be the NFL, but UK can proudly claim that it has the most players of any Southeastern Conference school in the World League.

The World League is an NFL-supported venture which has teams in various foreign cities. Its regular season began on April 12.

Oliver Barnett, Chuck Bradley and Alfonso Browning will all play for Barcelona; George Harris will play for London; Don Robinson will suit up for Rusk. Rusk will play for Scotland.



Rusk

Rusk is being loaned to the World League by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The number of former Wildcats in the league is two more than any other SEC school has. Alabama, Auburn, Georgia and Tennessee each have four players in the league.

Three former LSU players grace the rosters of the World League, while Florida, Ole Miss, Mississippi State and South Carolina all have two players each in the league. Arkansas and Vanderbilt each have one player on the World League roster.

Among the more recognizable names to play in the league include Shane Matthews, who set many conference records while playing quarterback at Florida, and former South Carolina quarterback Steve Tanehill.

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A pamphlet containing information about Commencement activities was recently mailed to degree candidates for whom correct addresses were available. Students who did not receive this pamphlet may pick up a copy at any college dean's office. For specific details regarding individual college recognitions, please contact your college dean's office.

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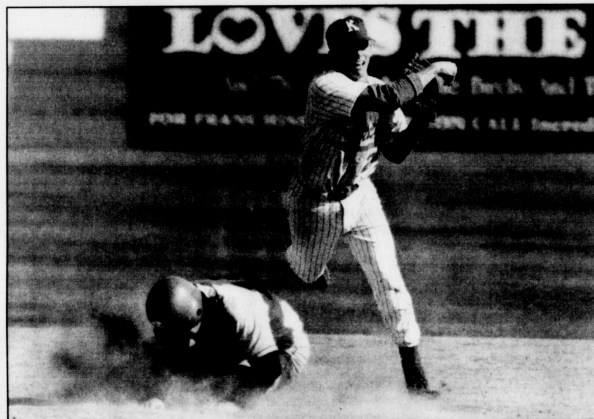
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MATT BARTON Kernel staff

Tuesday matinee

The UK baseball team returns to action today at 3 p.m. against IUPUI-Indianapolis at Cliff Hagan Stadium. The Cats lost 2-of-3 last weekend to Southeastern Conference rival Tennessee.

Cats spilt weekend home matches

By Dave Gorman
Staff Writer

You win some, you lose some. That pretty much sums up the final chapter of the UK men's tennis team's spring season.

The No. 5 Wildcats upset No. 2 Georgia in Athens on Friday night 4-3. It was another amazing, head-turning victory for UK in addition to their wins over No. 1 Emory and No. 6 Pepperdine earlier this season. UK also was getting revenge for their loss to Georgia in the semifinals of the National Team Indoor Tennis Championships in Louisville.

"We've had a great year. I feel that our team has competed hard all year," UK coach Dennis Emery said, looking back on the season.

"This win over Georgia has been one of highlights of my coaching career," he said.

Early in the match things looked grim for UK as they fell

behind 1-0 after the Bulldogs shut them out in doubles. Fighting back, the Cats won the top four singles matches to pull off the upset.

No. 5-ranked Cedric Kauffmann lived up to his billing when he clinched the match by topping No. 4-ranked John Roddick 5-7, 7-6 (4), 6-2. Ludde Sundin, No. 15, wiped his hands with No. 63-ranked Steve Baldas 6-2, 6-2 while freshman Carlos Drada defeated No. 72-ranked Kevin Sessions 6-2, 6-1.

No. 95-ranked Marcus Fluit helped further celebrate the upset, party dismissing No. 9-ranked Eddie Jacques, 6-4, 0-6, 6-4.

The Georgia match was the sixth UK played in 12 days. The last three matches were road trips.

"It's tiring, but we're in great shape," Fluit said. "I think that is what helped us in our win over Georgia."

No. 5 UK falls to Ole Miss
On Sunday the Cats lost their last match of the season at home to Ole Miss at the Boone Tennis Center, a.k.a. "Da Boone Barn." It was the end of a long stretch of

matches with not many days of rest for UK.

Kauffmann and Sundin started things off well with their win over No. 3 Sebastian Dechaunc and Robert Abendroth 9-8 (5). After that match things went downhill as Ole Miss won the remaining two matches. Fluit and Dan Spamer fell to Johan Landsberg and Martin Landsberg 8-5. Drada and Ariel Gaitan lost their match as well, and that was all she wrote as UK lost the top four singles matches.

"We are still confident despite the losing today," Kauffmann said. "We will probably see them in the tournament; we definitely want to play them again."

Postseason outlook

As the Southeastern Conference Tournament gets under way this week, and with the NCAA Tournament coming up in early May, UK's Sundin is confident about their chances.

"We really know that we can beat anyone in the country," he said. "We've proved that we can beat anyone, anywhere — indoor, outdoor; it doesn't matter."

SPORTSbytes

Smith signs with Denver Broncos

DENVER — Defensive end Neil Smith, a five-time Pro Bowl selection, signed with the Denver Broncos yesterday.

Eugene Parker, agent for the former Kansas City Chiefs star, last week agreed to a contract with the Broncos. But he said Smith hadn't indicated whether he would sign the one-year, incentive-laden deal.

Smith was allowed to become a free agent after a subpar season in 1996. After visiting with several teams, including Denver, Smith met with Chiefs coach Marty Schottenheimer last week and was told Kansas City could not fit him under its salary cap.

Smith had only 4 1/2 sacks in 1996, his lowest total since his rookie year in 1988, when he was the second player taken in the college draft.

Rudd looking to cash in on draft

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — While his ex-teammates labor through spring practice, Dwayne Rudd is looking to cash in on a great decision.

The Alabama linebacker agonized over whether to stay with the Crimson Tide for his senior year or come out a season early. Since he made the choice to come out, his stock has gone up.

"When he first started thinking about going out early, the speculation was that he was going to be drafted in the second 10," said Alabama coach Mike DuBose.

"But now, after going to the (NFL) combine, he's being projected from five to 10."

The 6-foot-2, 242-pound Rudd is considered by most scouts to be the top outside linebacker and a likely top 10 pick in Saturday's draft.

He's already being compared to former Alabama greats Cornelius Bennett and Derrick Thomas, although some scouts and coaches are concerned because Rudd didn't consistently dominate games they way those two did.

Still, Rudd was named the AP's Southeastern Conference's defensive player of the year and a second-team All American.

He finished the season with 74 tackles, four sacks and 16 quarterback pressures. In three years with Alabama, he had 191 tackles, nine sacks and three interceptions.

Compiled from wire reports.

CAMPUS

Community college SGAs side with UK

By Angela McGlinn
Contributing Writer

In the midst of Gov. Paul Patton's proposal to separate the community colleges from UK, the student government associations of the colleges have been educating students on the effects of such a decision.

Many SGA presidents oppose the governor's plan. With backing from the SGAs, students gathered yesterday to voice their opinions at Students Talk, a rally in Frankfort.

Rachel Standridge, SGA president at Southeast Community College in Cumberland, participated in the meeting to persuade leaders to reject the proposal.

"(Patton will) never give up about the college," Standridge said. "I fear that many students will drop out and this is a big concern for SGA."

Many SGA presidents have noticed an increase in their responsibilities since they were first faced with this dilemma. "Our workload has gone up in order to get the word out to students," said Lance Johnson, SGA president at Somerset Community College.

On Saturday, Johnson invited legislators to SCC's second annual pig roast so students could share their sentiments with them. Somerset receives a certain amount of funds from UK for student services that would be missed at the college if the governor's plan goes into effect.

Many of the presidents recognized the large role the colleges play in their communities and worry that the separation will have a detrimental effect throughout their counties. Standridge said the average age of the Southeast Community College student is 27, and they are not willing to leave their hometown to get an education elsewhere.

This is true in other communities as well. "A lot of students at Somerset have families and jobs; they can't uproot and take off," Johnson said.

"If students wanted to go to the vocational school they would already be there," Standridge said.

While most of the community college SGAs have expressed opposition to Patton's plan, Martie Ruxnor-Boyen, SGA president at Owensboro Community College, is leaving it up to students to decide for themselves where they stand.

She has provided students with access to a list of representatives they can contact with their opinions on the issue.

"As president of SGA it is my duty to provide both sides of the argument. A lot of students don't have all the information," Ruxnor-Boyen said.

Ruxnor-Boyen pointed out that the Owensboro campus as a whole is open to both sides of the debate.

"The colleges have excellent faculty and staff, and our students are very active in the community," Ruxnor-Boyen said.

"The community college system has worked as it is now, but we have to move forward."

"The SGAs are prepared to face this challenge with strong leadership until it is resolved one way or another."

"Nothing is written in stone," Standridge said.



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Group trying to raise numbers

By Mat Herron
Features Editor

Talking with Monica McQueary, one could hardly believe the Social Work Association has been a registered student organization only since January.

The president of the organization and a social work junior, McQueary said involvement is low. "We have eight people that do everything", and she hopes more students make an effort to join.

And not just for the bumper stickers and the membership cards.

McQueary and another member, social work junior and executive director candidate Mandy Lewis, said they first got the idea to jump start the organization while attending a national social workers' conference in Cleveland last November.

The two said there was a "real need" for the College of Social Work to come together and to be involved.

Both approached professor Holly Riffe, who agreed to be the group's faculty adviser.

A bake sale and a Super Bowl fund-raiser later, SWA now looks to April 26, when 35-40 social work majors and six professors in the college will gather for Repair Affair.

SWA will help repair an elderly woman's house in the Lexington area.

Participation in the AIDS Walk April 20 and two trips to national conferences in Baltimore and Orlando, Fla., next fall and spring are also planned.

Attending conferences and getting involved in SWA, McQueary and Lewis said, aid in networking for graduate schools and entering the work force.

It gives members an opportunity to meet deans from prestigious social work programs from around the country.

"You never know what can turn up," Lewis said.

Forming ties with the professors also helps students who are focused on "get me a degree, get me a job," she said.

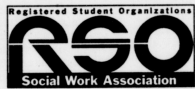
Membership dues are \$10 for the first semester and \$5 for subsequent semesters to cover the association's expenses.

Those wishing to join can check in the social work department on the sixth floor of Patterson Office Tower.

The College of Social Work made headlines recently with the approval by the Council on Higher Education to form a joint doctoral program in the major with the University of Louisville, which was six years ahead of UK in completing the paperwork for the doctorate.

McQueary said this merger benefits the association and the college as a whole.

"It's a good opportunity for our college to be recognized on a



Lecturer

Journalists inducted to Ky. Hall of Fame

From PAGE 1

Pullian said Gartner's view as an outsider in Kentucky did not represent how Pullian feels as a native of the state.

"He talked down on native industries and habits without applying what that had to do with me personal," Pullian said. "He was a funny guy to listen to, but I didn't recognize all the people within the state he criticized," Toya Bailey said.

Bailey, a communications freshman, said Gartner's observations of the state did not include all aspects of the state and sometimes stuck to stereotypes.

"I knew I could never know Kentucky like my native colleagues, so I packed my bag and went back to Iowa," Gartner said.

"Now that's what I call community journalism."

Professors use journals to teach

By B.J. Shackelford
Staff Writer

Writing is learning, as the cliché goes.

And journals are one of the many learning tools professors use.

The journal entry has kept pace with changing times, moving into the information age as part of "virtual classrooms."

Virtual class journals require the same effort but allow expression of ideas, issues and opinions on an electronic bulletin board system.

They replace pen and paper with a keyboard and mouse.

"It's one way to use writing as a learning tool, to make students think about what they're learning," said David Durant, English department chairman, "and as a way to get students to become independent in thought."

Students in English literature classes are most familiar with class journals, but students in political science, advanced writing and law also use it.

"The journal has opened my eyes to things I'd never realized before," declared sophomore James Powell said.

When a professor requires a journal or notebook, it is more than an extra assignment for the semester. Associate professor in English Janet Eldred called it an "engagement," a place to explore ideas, practice new techniques and think through classroom concepts.

"It extends the idea of engaging the students with written personal responses to some text or material," Eldred said.

"The responses are now accessible to the public." Class journals can be a valuable study aid, helping students to discover new thoughts about the world and new perspectives on issues.

But journals require a lot of extra time and work. The electronic journals, while a great leap forward, are "very demanding on faculty and students," Eldred said.

"(Journals can) detract from a student's already limited time," said English and history junior Jessica Brown.

"If used effectively, journals can be very beneficial to a class," Brown said.

"If teachers use them incorrectly or (they) are not structured to the class, then journals become a waste of time."

Task force

Patton puts total on research funds

From PAGE 1

back to the funding question next year.

The task force asked University of Louisville President John Shumaker for U of L's plans for using the \$10 million to \$15 million that would be allocated to it, which amounts to a third of the research funds. The \$20 million to \$30 million for UK represents two-thirds.

Shumaker said U of L already has a specific plan in place to focus on strategic programs; the school is ranked 111 among public research institutions. He said the governor's funding will help bring U of L up to its mission in a shorter period of time than it could alone.

Shumaker said he thought UK and U of L could easily match the state's funding with private donations and grants earned by professors.

Reports to the task force continue today regarding the establishment of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

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ViewPOINT



Everyone suffers when Lambda decides not to participate in Speak Out

Late last week, the final installment in the UK Speaks Out series was cancelled.

The reason for the cancellation was that UK Lambda, a campus gay-rights group, and others decided they do not wish to be a party to an event that would give Ben Rich, a columnist for this paper who opposes gay rights, a platform to express his views.



Todd Baggary
Kernel Columnist

Their decision will prove to be a loss to this campus. The purpose of the forum was to provide both sides with an opportunity to air their views. The purpose of the college experience is to expose those who partake of it to ideas that are in conflict with their own.

This is done so that everyone will be forced to rethink their own views and either be in a better position to defend themselves or conclude that one's original views were not based on sound reasoning and make adjustments accordingly. The forum's cancellation robbed the UK community of this opportunity.

I would have welcomed being able to hear an exchange of ideas on this topic. I am sure that a lot of others would, too.

Therefore, I am devoting my column today to advocating my own views on the subject and hope that anyone who holds contrary views to let their views be known via the Reader's Forum section.

The United States is more than just a nation. It is an idea and an ideal. This ideal was first and best articulated by Jefferson in 1776 when he stated that we, as a people, accept as self-evident the proposition that everyone is created equal. Everyone, no matter their race, class, sex, or sexual orientation possesses infinite moral worth.

It is, in part, because of these considerations that anti-discrimination laws on behalf of women and ethnic minorities have been enacted. Those categories of persons have traditionally been limited in the extent to which they have been able to participate in the public life of the nation. Even as we accepted the ideal of the equal worth of all persons, we have not always lived up to this. Anti-discrimination statutes force us to abide by in practice what we know to be a valid ideal.

The exclusion of persons from the civic life of the nation robs the individuals who face discrimination of the opportunity to develop their human potential to its fullest.

The divine spark which sets mankind apart from the beasts is squelched out before it has even

had the chance to become a blaze. This is such a tragic waste. I am fully aware that there are many of you out there who are disgusted by the thought of gay sex — so disgusted that you want to force homosexuals to the margins so you will not even have to think of them. I was raised a Baptist. I understand this aversion. I once subscribed to it. Ultimately, though, one must come to realize that this is an irrational aversion — the product of a socialization process that can only be described as fostered bigotry. Some people feel the same way, even to this day, regarding non-whites. They believe that non-whites should be shut off to the periphery of society for no reason other than the fact that they possess a genetic trait which bears no relation to their status as persons.

Analogously, those who reject the right of homosexuals to live their lives on an equal basis with the rest of us do so because homosexuals (probably) possess a subtle genetic difference from the rest of us which bears no relation to their status as persons.

By using such an analogy, I suspect that I will have brought offense to many of you on the other side. If this is the case, then I apologize for your hurt feelings. It has not been my intention to offend anyone. Rather, I hope that you will see that the principle that excluding homosexual people from public life is no different from excluding black, Hispanic, Asian, or female persons from the public life of the nation. All of these are examples of bigotry and are incompatible with those sacred ideals to which we adhere. If this adherence is sincere, though, we must all bring our actions in line with this ideal. Ultimately, you must answer one simple question: Do you believe that everyone is created equal or do you think that our nation's heritage is one big, pathetic joke?

If you are not willing to acknowledge that everyone, including those whom you do not approve of, has a right to fully participate in civic life then you are forced to concede to ideals we claim to accept are, at base, a farce.

I have tried to lay out the best argument I can in favor of equal civil rights including homosexuals. I look forward to hearing the other side of the debate continue.

Kernel Columnist Todd Baggary is a political science graduate student; his views do not necessarily represent those of the Kentucky Kernel.

By using such an analogy, I suspect that I will have brought offense to many of you on the other side.

Missed opportunity

A university campus should be the perfect environment to promote open debate, especially among students or student groups who have opposing viewpoints.

It's a shame, however, that some students at UK don't recognize the same opportunity.

Organizers of the UK Speaks Out Series were forced to cancel tomorrow's session on sexuality when UK Lambda's withdrawal from the discussion sparked a mass exodus by other panel members. UK Lambda, a gay and lesbian organization, initiated a boycott of the session because organizers invited Kentucky Kernel columnist Ben Rich to serve on the panel.

So much for open debate. UK Lambda cited Rich's "homophobic and homophobic views" as reasons for its boycott. The group contends that Rich's columns uphold stereotypes and are loaded with blatant hate speech directed at gays and lesbians.

But instead of engaging Rich in an open debate, UK Lambda chose the low road and issued its own stinging news release, calling Rich a "homophobe" and a "bigot."

In essence the group did exactly what it

accuses Rich of doing: It hid behind print. UK Lambda said it was worried about what Rich might say during the session.

"In terms of whether he could be able to maintain himself, we doubted it," Solberg said. "The only thing he's done is bash and show he is hateful."

In all honesty, the Kernel sees little difference between Rich's columns and UK Lambda's news release. They are both filled with sophomoric name calling. The organizers asked Rich to serve on the panel to offer a different point of view. UK Lambda should have used the debate to express its ideas about sexuality, in particular the gay and lesbian lifestyle.

The group missed a golden opportunity to confront Rich and challenge the columnist in a meaningful debate. In the battle of public opinion, one would have to score a point for Rich. Just the idea of his being at the session caused an entire group to back away from the debate table.

If it's that easy to lose heart, one has to question the strength of Lambda's conviction and the power of a Kernel columnist.

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READERS' forum

Fill the Kernel column space with real issues

To the editor:

I am writing in response to two articles printed in the Kernel, both regarding Ben Rich (see, what a surprise).

First of all, the decision of UK Lambda to boycott the UK Speaks Out on sexuality. This is ridiculous.

My question for Mr. Solberg is, How do you plan to improve homosexual status if you are not willing to hear the argument against it? The whole idea of a forum such as this one is to hear the arguments from all sides of an issue.

Mr. Solberg explained the reason for the boycott was that he was unsure — no he doubted — whether Rich could maintain

himself. This after Ben Rich dedicated his weekly column just to explain to everyone that he will respect the other speakers and not participate in any bashing. I think that Mr. Solberg is in fact afraid that Ben Rich actually possesses an intelligent mind and would speak knowledgeably on the subject. I agree with Ben Rich and believe you are "a bunch of gutless wonders" for not letting him speak.

Before I go further, I would like to state for the record that I am not a Ben Rich "cronie," nor have I ever met him.

This second article I am responding to is the letter to the editor written by Marissa A. Mayfield.

Mayfield spent the better part of her letter responding to a Ben Rich article, which I don't have a problem with. But, her last line

upset me. She said Ben should think about changing his major because journalism isn't cutting it for him.

Ben Rich may be a lot of things, but one he is not is a bad journalist. Ben's weekly column, obviously the most-read Kernel segment, does not fail to stir up the campus. He never holds back what is on his mind.

Also, his columns contain topics of substance and importance — not, for example, toilet etiquette or Hardee's meals.

He is one of the most talented writers on the Kernel staff, and if Ben Rich wasn't a good journalist, then he would not receive half the hate mail he does.

Criticize Ben for his opinions, not for his ability to write.

Tom Williams
undisclosed sophomore

TALKback!

Address your comments to "Letters to the Editor", Kentucky Kernel Editorial Editor; 635 Enoch J. Grehan Journalism Building, UK, Lexington, Ky. 40506-0042.

E-mail letters to the Kernel@pop.uky.edu.

Letters to the editor must be no more than 250 words and guest opinions should be between 700-825 words.

Please include your classification — year and major for publication.

Letters received without a phone number or classification for verification will be discarded.

We reserve the right to edit all material.

INFORMED SOURCES

"THEY ALL focus on how young women are supposed to act around their boyfriends: How to get 'em, how to keep 'em, how to kiss 'em!"

Charis Shafer, on the popularity of pre-teen magazines such as "Seventeen."

Restricting nudie bars is not only for strippers

Take it off, baby," a spectator advises. "Take it ALL off!"

Lexington has experienced a recent redefinition of local community standards. Strip clubs, in particular, have been targeted as subject for social reform. Costly licenses will be required and restrictions will be placed on operating hours. Physical contact between entertainers and their audiences will be banned.

Membership in society carries with it two responsibilities. Citizens have certain obligations to the local community. Individuals also have the choice to exercise responsibility for themselves.

Moral legislation is more often met with resistance. There is a tendency among citizen groups to resist outside influences. As college students, we live in an atmosphere of almost limitless freedom. Mom and Dad aren't watching over our shoulders anymore.

Infringements on our recently acquired independence might be resisted: "Don't deny me my right of free expression!"

Democracy is based on free choice — but accountability is the flip side of free will. We each carry responsibility for our actions and their effects on ourselves and those around us.

Mature decisions often call for self-denial and restriction of personal freedom in the interests of others. Paul, one of the founders of the Christian Church, recognized both his freedom of will and its accompanying responsibility: "Everything is permissible, but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible, but not

everything is constructive" (I Corinthians 10:23).

Current legislation has been justified by politicians as effort by citizens to clean up crime within the community. What about our responsibility for ourselves?

There is a freedom in being able to go to a strip club. There is also freedom in not having to go to one.

When does freedom become bondage? Precisely at that point when what you desire gains mastery over you. What draws men to strip clubs? Is it the enlightened conversation? The culinary cuisine? One guy told me, "I go there to chill out. That stuff doesn't affect me."

Certainly the presence of nudity adds some appeal to the atmosphere, since these clubs draw a consistent audience.

Strip bars are designed to fuel desire. While women frequently respond to touch or words, men are aroused by visual stimulation.

What's going on as men watch an exotic dancer? Patrick Carnes, a clinician, has done a series of studies on sexual addiction. His findings suggest such visual images produce powerful chemicals within the brain. These chemicals washing over the brain serve to cover over the emptiness, provide a distraction from reality, and help the person to "numb out."

"So what?" participants might respond. "It's not hurting anybody." It's not helping either. However we choose to act upon them, visual images remain encrypted in the brain. Actions, by nature, are progressive.

Contributing Columnist
Lisa Yanarella

Lust is a hunger which feeds on itself. Even in the aftermath of climactic response, the void is left unsatisfied. Carnes' studies showed that, in time, visual stimulation can become an addiction.

The outcome of the series of peaks was an abyssal low; participants in the study became jaded. The brain can take only so much stimulation. Like drugs, a larger dose of intoxication was needed to generate the initial response.

Humans all have physical desires; sight-based arousal might seem to provide a method of quick release. But the best answer to a problem is not always the one that involves the least amount of complication.

It's a lot easier to bare a body than to bare a soul. Risk and courage are required in building trust with someone. Relationships require investing time, rather than providing the ease of instant gratification.

Lust by nature is selfish. Love does not seek its own best interests, but those of others. The temptation is to settle for some-

thing less — to feed the lust and rob the trust. It is the sell-out of becoming a society of naked bodies and veiled souls.

Relationships are unpredictable. There's an absence of money-back guarantees. For this reason, we settle so often for the flesh-based and temporary. Deep down, we are cowards. It's much easier to disrobe than to unveil the naked heart.

Too easy to sit in the sidelines and not risk becoming involved. A few jeers and cheers and a large tip from the table in row 4.

What about the freedom to love and to be loved, even if at times that choice leads to the sacrifice of personal desires? Are we prepared to experience true intimacy beyond the orgasm? To exercise self-restraint for the benefit of others?

Perhaps some freedoms we just aren't ready for.

Contributing Columnist Lisa Yanarella is a library science graduate student; her views do not necessarily represent those of the Kentucky Kernel.

DiVersions

They might be a good show tonight

By Jeremy Rogers
Staff Writer

They Might Be Giants and the Violent Femmes team up tonight for a concert in Richmond.

The two bands are not touring together; they will perform together one time only, tonight at Eastern Kentucky University's Alumni Hall.

Tonight's show is part of TMBG's international tour in support of their sixth album, *Factory Showroom*. John Flansburgh and John Linnell formed the duo a decade ago. TMBG have toured extensively and have released six albums and several EPs on the Elektra label, including their hit single, "Istanbul (Not Constantinople)."

Although TMBG is often dismissed as a novelty band with nothing more than a few silly songs, they're also noted for

putting on a seriously fun show with some exceptional music and antics.

Performing with John and John are drummer Dan Hickey (The B-52s, Cyndi Lauper), bassist Graham Maby (Freedy Johnston, Joe Jackson), and guitarist Eric Schermerhorn (Iggy Pop, David Bowie).

This month sees the Violent Femmes on a rigorous tour schedule of their own across the East, Midwest and into the West.

Gordon Gano (vocals, guitars), Brian Ritchie (bass) and Guy Hoffman (drums) have straddled the fence between mainstream and underground for over 15 years.

Since the Violent Femmes' Milwaukee genesis in the early 80s, they have recorded more than a half-dozen albums and several singles on the Elektra label. Despite an impressive discography and touring, the Femmes remain one of the best-



LOOKING ahead

The Violent Femmes and They Might Be Giants play tonight at EKU's Alumni Hall.



Photo furnished

GIANT DUO John Linnell (left) and John Flansburgh (right) of They Might Be Giants perform tonight at EKU. For tickets call (606) 281-6644.

kept secrets in modern rock.

April also sees the Femmes release three songs for the film *Grasse Pointe Blank*, including a remake of perhaps their biggest hit, "Blister in the Sun."

TMBG and the Femmes are no strangers to the college crowd. In fact, two-thirds of TMBG's April

shows are at colleges across the East, and an even larger portion of the Femmes' April shows are at colleges and universities throughout the Midwest.

The concert, which begins at 7:30 p.m. in EKU's Alumni Coliseum, promises to be an energetic pair of performances.

The vocal range demonstrated by frontman Dickey Barrett is what separates this album from previous. On older albums he often limits himself to growling out lyrics.

On Let's Face It, Barrett breaks the tradition and shows his true vocal range. This is exemplified on one of the best songs on the album, "Another Drinkin' Song."

From beginning to end, the new album proves to be the Bosstones' most musically talented to date. The variety of the latest album shows that the Boston bunch has outgrown its label as a ska-core band.

They don't just play good ska music; they play good music — whatever label you want to give it.

Cusack's hitman film a dark comedic gem

By Josh Herr
Staff Critic

Hitmen are people too. That's the central premise of one of the funniest (and blackest) black comedies to come out in a long time. Unlike so many films that portray hitmen as heartless killers, or hip buffoons who debate the virtues of a Royale with cheese, *Grasse Pointe Blank* presents us with a hitman with a past, with regrets, and with a personal life.

John Cusack stars as Martin Blank, a former CIA hitman who now works independently as a contract killer. He is starting to question his choice of professions when his quirky secretary (played brilliantly by John's sister, Joan Cusack) bullies him into going to his 10-year high school reunion. This involves seeing the girl he stood up at the prom and can't stop thinking about.

As he tries to figure out his life, reconcile with his ex-girlfriend, attend his reunion, and pull off his last job, he must also allude the pursuit of several competing hitmen, NSA agents, and the grocer (Dan Aykroyd) who wants him to join the hitman's union.

Needless to say, it is a busy weekend.

Cusack has shown a talent for black comedy in the past with his excellent turn in *The Grifter's*, but here he combines that talent with the knack for romantic comedy that initially got him attention.

He plays Blank's neurosis excellently, particularly in scenes with his timid psychiatrist (Alan Arkin).

Minnie Driver stars as Debi, a radio personality and Blank's high school girlfriend. Driver displays her usual gift for accents, this time

trading in British for Detroit, and radiates a sort of charm that is hard to resist.

Aykroyd, who hasn't gotten a laugh in ages, is startlingly funny in this film. By putting his goofball humor behind a truly intimidating character, he has managed to find the kind of part that can still support his personality, rather than playing the sad-eyed losers he tries to make lovable in other films.

Director George Armitage, who displayed a knack for brutal comedy with *Miami Blues*, adds more than his share of humorous touches to the film, particularly through some of the ironic choices for the soundtrack.

Perhaps the funniest scene in the film comes when Cusack is approaching a convenience store where a rival will try to take him out.

As he is walking, Guns and Roses' version of "Live and Let Die" is playing. The second he enters the store, the song switches to a Muzak version without missing a beat.

Throughout the film Armitage displays a deft touch of mixing comedy and violence in ways seldom seen.

The movie does have a few flaws. A scene in which Cusack goes to visit his mother comes out rather contrived, and when it is finally revealed who Blank's final hit is, it is not as much of a surprise as they'd like you to believe.

But those who have the ability to find humor in death will enjoy the perversely sardonic wit injected in the script.

This film may not appeal to everyone. For lovers of dark comedy, however, the consistency of tone, hilarious script, and impressive acting from likable characters make *Grasse Pointe Blank* the first bright spot we've seen in a while.



MOVIEreview

★★★★1/2

(out of five)

'Grasse Pointe Blank'

Hollywood Pictures

Directed by George Armitage

Bosstones transcend ska genre

By Jason Feldmann
Contributing Critic
★★★★ (out of five)

Let's face it, the new Bosstones album is a success. With their sixth effort, the eight-member band has proven once again that they know how to play ska.

The originators of ska core have been together for almost 10 years now and still continue to produce quality albums. Their newest, *Let's Face It*, is no exception.

The new album combines a mixture of their standard ska-core

(heavy, punk-influenced guitars with growling lyrics and power horn lines) with more traditional ska qualities such as slower lyrics and reggae style rhythms. Songs range from classic Bosstones material like "Desensitized" and "That Bug Bit Me," to slower, more reggae-influenced tracks such as "Royal Oil."

The latest album is by far the Bosstones' most radio-friendly. Songs like "The Rascal King" and "The Impression That I Get" make it obvious why the band recently played "The Conan O'Brien Show" and is getting con-

siderable public attention.

"Impression," the first single off the album, is perfect for radio play. It has a certain pop quality that succeeds both in pleasing old Bosstones' fans and in drawing new fans into the ska realm.

The listener is tempted to sing along during the chorus line: "I've never had to knock on wood/ But I know someone who has/ Which makes me wonder if I could."

This is the hidden success of the album. Like any good ska album, the Bosstones hit their listeners in the face with music that brings them to the edge of dancing.

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