

Tuesday
December 7, 2004

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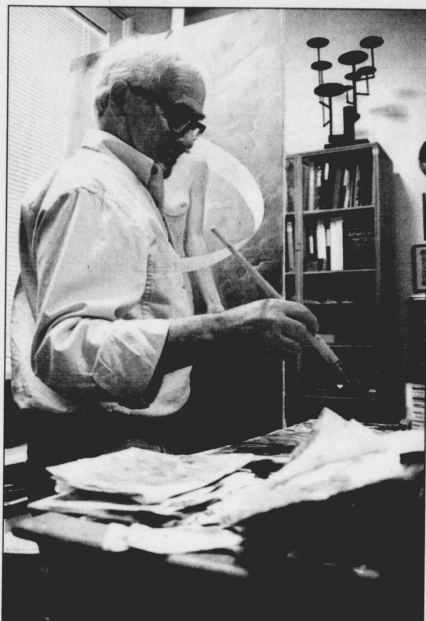
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THE KENTUCKY Kernel

Celebrating 33 years of independence

Fantasy football a gamble
or a payoff?
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Columnist takes on secularism
in traditional Christmas poem
Page 4



Top: Frederico Pizzuro paints at his home on North Limestone. He has won more consecutive awards at the Lexington Nude Show than any other artist.

NANHAN ALLEY | STAFF

Left: This painting hangs in Pizzuro's living room along with his many other paintings.

SCOTT LOUITHER | STAFF

Paint on the Walls

By Scott Louthier
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Frederico Pizzuro brings an enriched meaning to "studio" apartment.

He has been painting in his living room on North Limestone Street since he came to Lexington 25 years ago.

"It's like squeezing blood out of a rock," Pizzuro said of his work. The room mostly showcases his nude paintings, though he also dabbles in other styles.

And while the paintings cover the room's walls, that's not the only place the paintings can be seen. Many are on gallery walls all over Lexington.

"Fred is an under-appreciated genius," said Rosemary Rosenthal, who owns three of Pizzuro's paintings.

Rosenthal has been close friends with Pizzuro for almost nine years and has posed for him on several occasions.

"He makes you want to pose for him, and it feels excellent," she said.

Pizzuro came to the United States from Sicily, Italy, in the early 1980s.

He had classical art training as a child. "I've wanted to be a painter all my life," he said.

Pizzuro went to work in Michigan for Chrysler Motors' interior styling department at age 9.

In 1979, he moved to Lexington into a small studio apartment on Limestone Street to get back into .

Jim Brancaccio, gallery director of The Living Arts & Science Center on Martin Luther King Boulevard, resides just down the street from

Pizzuro. Brancaccio has known Pizzuro since he came to the center to host an automobile styling exhibit several years ago.

"He is a really wonderful artist," said Brancaccio, who owns a Pizzuro painting. "I love the luminous look of the flesh on his people."

Unlike other artists, Pizzuro "paints beauty and mood through landscape and figure," said Arturo Sandoval, a professor in the UK art department.

"He uses a low-key color palette and lots of contrast," he said. "He knows where to put light."

Instead of having a model sit for his paintings, Pizzuro takes photographs of them.

"I take a few rolls and then just go from there," he said.

See Art on page 2

Water rates rise 17 percent

Hike may affect tenants' rent, utility packages

By Elizabeth Troutman
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Kentucky-American Water Company raised water prices by nearly 17 percent last week, its first increase since 2000.

And while many students have the price of water included in their rent, at least one landlord says this hike in rate might lead to tenants paying their own water in the future.

"At most other apartment communities, residents have to pay water and sewer bills," said Carrie Dulin, general manager for Pinebrook Apartments on Tates Creek Road.

The price increase, implemented Dec. 1, means "the average customer cost increase is about 10 cents per day," said Nick Rowe, president of Kentucky-American Water.

The Kentucky Public Service Commission still must approve the change, and it will do so in February. If the commission votes down the rate change, Kentucky-American customers will receive refunds for the months of December and January, Rowe said.

The rates affect the Central Division, which includes Fayette, Clark, Bourbon, Harrison, Jessamine, Scott and Woodford counties.

Rowe said that since 2000, Kentucky-American has spent nearly \$68 million in capital.

"The water business is very capital intensive," he said. "You have to recoup the cost you have invested. All we are doing is recovering the capital that has been put into the community. It has nothing to do with the condemnation."

Over the past decade, the

expenses for customers have risen 1.75 percent. Research conducted with Fayette County customers last spring indicated that 80 percent of customers approved of the rate increase.

Stephanie Boven, a political science and linguistics senior, said she and her roommate pay for all the utilities for their house on State Street.

"Any kind of increase is upsetting," she said. "We (students) can hardly pay for anything, and not more of the same thing anyway."

Graduate student Cleveland Hall lives in Patchen Place Apartments off Richmond Road and does not worry about paying a water bill because it is included in the rent. He said students generally aren't concerned about the increase unless they are responsible for the bill.

See Water on page 2

AG denies SG senator's appeal

By Tricia McKenny
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The Kentucky Attorney General's office has decided that UK did not violate the Kentucky Open Records Law when it denied a Student Government members' request for e-mail communication between administrators.

SG Senate President Braphus Kaalund originally requested any documents, memos, personal notes or e-mails among administrators about Referendum One, an issue on last spring's ballot.

Kaalund appealed his request to Attorney General Greg Stumbo's office in November, after UK legal counsel denied the part of his request asking for information from personal notes and e-mails.

In its decision, the attorney general's office said that "with the exception of one e-mail, the university properly relied on the cited statutory exemptions in denying the request."

The one e-mail that the attorney general's office said must be turned over is between Vice President for Student Affairs Pat Terrell and a reporter for the Kentucky Kernel.

The attorney general's office said this e-mail was not considered "correspondence with private individuals" and must be released.

All other e-mails are exempt from being released because they are considered preliminary documents and do not qualify as open records.

Barbara Jones, UK's legal counsel who presented UK's response to the attorney general, said she is satisfied with the decision — it is important that the attorney general's office recognized the need for administrators to keep private their preliminary e-mails.

"It is all a part of the preliminary decision making," she said. "If we can't use e-mail, we can't talk to each other and couldn't get anything done."

Kaalund said that while the decision has some things to appease both sides, he hopes to review the decision and take a closer look at some of the issues.

"I want to look at some of the reasonings for the exemptions," he said. "I really want to see how seriously (UK legal and administrators) have taken this."

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Ticket lottery draws record turnout

By Dariush Shafa
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

At the UK men's basketball lottery last night at Memorial Coliseum, almost as many tickets were sold as for the game against Louisville in 2001, said announcer Tony Blanton.

By 10:30 p.m., 4,450 student tickets were allotted, and no one had been turned away.

"It's amazing," said Carly Farrell, a pre-veterinary freshman. "We're very lucky."

Tickets were sold for the Jan. 5 South Carolina game, Jan. 12 Vanderbilt game and Jan. 9 game against Kansas, which is ranked No. 2.

Even those who had to wait a little longer had reason to celebrate.

"It feels good, oh yeah," said Erin Montgomery, a pre-communication disorders sophomore who was in the ninth lot called.

"It feels good because I've never been called before."

Others shared Montgomery's sentiment.



SCOTT LOUITHER | STAFF

About 4,500 students showed up for the UK men's basketball lottery last night. The turnout mirrored the 2001 lottery for UK v. University of Louisville tickets.

"I don't even know what to say," said Jeff Hignite, a civil engineering, business marketing and business management junior. "I just bleed blue."

Blanton said he expected that the lottery wouldn't be done until about 1 a.m.

dshafa@kykernel.com

Site offers students chance to meet, catch up with friends

By Bill Yackey
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Each day thousands of UK students log on to facebook.com, an online social network that hit UK's campus in October.

This new Web site is an online directory that connects students to others at their school and allows them to look up friends at other universities. Facebook currently has more than 2,500 students registered.

Signing up requires a school e-mail account.

Once a student becomes a member, they can begin searching for friends.

When a friend's profile is found, the user offers an invitation for friendship. If the friend accepts, then the two people are connected, and each of them is also

connected to each others' friend lists. For example, Aaron Weaver, a music junior, has 134 friends, but is connected to 1,351 other members through those friends.

"It's addicting and the best way I've found to procrastinate," he said. "I've gotten in touch with people from other schools I haven't seen since high school."

Sara McGarvey, an elementary education senior, joined over Thanksgiving break.

"I enjoy reading everyone's profiles; it's funny to see what kind of pictures people put up," she said.

Chris Hughes, Facebook's co-founder and a student at Harvard University, said he believes the site is successful because it is versatile, serving as a means of communication and a reference tool.

"I think that combination — and the fact that it's fun to use — keeps people coming back," he said.

Students do keep coming back, as the site averages about 40 million hits a day. It has about 900,000 users nationwide, and about two-thirds of the users log in daily.

Hughes and fellow student Mark Zuckerberg created the Web site in February 2004. Hughes said it was the product of "a few weeks work and many late night dorm room conversations."

A general concern among school administrators has been the privacy of students since their addresses, phone numbers and birthdays can be posted on the site.

Tony Blanton, the associate dean of

See Site on page 2

Site faces copyright suit

By Bill Yackey
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Facebook is being sued by a group of Harvard students who said Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's creator, used their idea of an online social directory to create Facebook.

Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss and Divya Narendra worked with Zuckerberg on a now-defunct Web site called HarvardConnection.com, an online social network that allowed students to connect according to their interests, classes and friends.

Narendra and the Winklevosses used the idea to create a Web site called Connectu.com, a network sim-

See Lawsuit on page 2

Art

Continued from page 1

Sometimes, what he paints is merely an essence of the original photograph.

"He may turn you into something completely different than you imagined," Rosenthal said. "His paintings are about what his vision was when he took the picture."

Pizzuro's favorite painting is of his hometown Sicily, Italy.

"That's my grandmother in the foreground," he said, pointing to his painting.

Pizzuro also paints about current events, such as the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and common social issues, such as

abortion.

"I like to raise questions about social issues," he said. "I don't have the answers to them; nobody does."

One of his paintings depicts a dead baby leaving the womb.

"It's like he's telling a story," Brancaccio said. "It's not just a pretty picture."

After 25 years of work, Pizzuro doesn't seem to want to put down the brush anytime soon.

He has won more consecutive awards at the Lexington Nude Show than any other artist, and these awards cover one whole wall in his kitchen.

The hallway that leads to his kitchen is cluttered with several frames — waiting to hold another Pizzuro portrait.

"He's very passionate. I

think he's a jewel," said Rosenthal.

Many people who own Pizzuro's paintings share that respect.

"I think they would get rid of their houses before their 'Fred's,'" she said.

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Frederico Pizzuro's work

Frederico Pizzuro's work is on permanent display at the Lyndon House located at 507 N. Broadway. It can also be viewed at Mulberry & Lime Antique Shop at 216 N. Limestone St. Several Pizzuro pieces are currently for sale at The Living Arts & Science Center at 362 N. Martin Luther King Blvd.

Water

Continued from page 1

responsible for the bill.

"Part of the good deal of living there is not paying for water," he said. "If you don't see the bill, you don't care."

Dulin said that about 30 percent of her renters are college students. Pinebrook currently does not charge renters for water. Dulin said she would like to see the city to fight the increase.

"Somebody needs to control them (Kentucky-American

because we have a monopoly," she said. "It's not like somebody else is going to give them competition. The government should have control over utilities."

Dulin said the increase in water could lead to charging future residents for water and sewage. Pinebrook has paid \$31,000 in sewer and \$34,000 in water bills this year, excluding the month of December. Current residents will not be affected by the increase.

"Renters don't want to pay water and sewage when they are renting," she said.

"We wouldn't charge someone that has a current lease."

Kentucky-American filed the rate case last April and the regulatory process will be complete when the Public Service Commission makes a ruling in February. The commission received testimonies on the case in a public hearing in November.

"All public hearings have been held," Rowe said. "It's a matter of the commission going back, reviewing the case and making a final order. It's pretty clear-cut. It's a good process because it protects the consumer."

"Everyone has a chance to give their input."

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Lawsuit

Continued from page 1

ilar to Harvardconnection that branched out to other schools. Zuckerberg worked with the Connectu team as a programmer for their site from November 2003 until February 2004 but was not paid for his work.

Winklevoss said that his team was "duped" by Zuckerberg and that he broke an oral contract by using their idea.

The Connectu team filed their lawsuit in September against Zuckerberg for any fi-

nancial damages incurred to Connectu during the four months that thefacebook.com was online and Connectu.com was not.

Mark Zuckerberg was unavailable for comment on the lawsuit, but Chris Hughes, a Facebook spokesman, said, "Mark's (Zuckerberg) relationship with the creators of Connectu.com was informal, in the sense that he was never paid, nor did he have a contract with them."

Hughes said Facebook is preparing to counter sue to compensate for the estimated \$200,000 that it will cost to defend this case.

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Site

Continued from page 1

students and a recent Facebook member, said that it is in no way connected with UK, and students assume their own risk by putting their information on their profiles.


"It's not anything they're being forced to do; they sign up themselves," he said.

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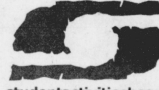


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HOOPS NOTEBOOK

Rando gives UNC guard slap on the wrist

By Ben Roberts
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Overshadowed by UK's first loss of the season Saturday — a 13-point drubbing at the hands of No. 9 North Carolina — was the 24-point performance by junior forward Kelenna Azubuike.

After starting the season slowly with six points in each of his first two games, Azubuike has averaged 20.3 points over UK's last three games.

The UK forward shot 10-of-19 from the field Saturday and 4-of-6 from 3-point range. He also added team-highs in rebounds (six) and steals (five), and his 24 points were a career high.

Azubuike also logged 35 minutes on the floor for the Cats Saturday, which is more than any UK player has played in a single game this season.

UK junior guard Patrick Sparks said the Cats would need Azubuike to step up for the rest of the season.

"He came up big and knocked down some shots for us today," Sparks said. "We need that from him."

After Azubuike followed up his 16-point performance against Georgia State with a then-season-high 21 points to lead the Cats past Tennessee Tech Nov. 30, UK head coach Tubby Smith said he was pleased to see his top returning scorer from last year finally gain some consistency.

"He really looked relaxed," Smith said. "His focus and concentration were good and we were happy to have him play well. He's one of the guys we're going to have to have play well."

No harm, no foul

With the Cats trailing UNC 55-46 early in the second half, UK point guard Rajon Rondo slapped Tar Heel point guard Raymond Felton's heavily-wrapped sprained left wrist.

In obvious pain, the injury forced Felton to leave the

game after the UNC bench called an emergency 30-second timeout.

Felton eventually returned to the game but UNC's fans booed Rondo whenever he touched the ball.

When the UK freshman picked up his fifth foul with 5:26 remaining in the game, the Tar Heel fans cheered loudly until he reached the Wildcat bench.

Felton said after the game he didn't think the slap was intentional.

"I'm going to look at it as he didn't mean to do it. That he didn't mean to hurt me," Felton said. "I don't know him that well but I don't see him as that type of player."

NextGame
UK vs Morehead St.
7 p.m., Wednesday
TV: WKYT-27
Radio: 630 AM

Field goal streak

North Carolina made 29 of their 59 field goal attempts Saturday to shoot 49.2 percent from the field on the afternoon. Had the Tar Heels connected on one more field goal they would have broken UK's streak of 36-straight games of holding an opponent to under 50 percent from the field.

"You look down (at the stat sheet), and I'd like to have made one more so we would have shot 50 percent," UNC head coach Roy Williams said.

"I think we could have broken (their streak). Tubby's got a streak of about 800 games that everybody shot below 50 percent against them."

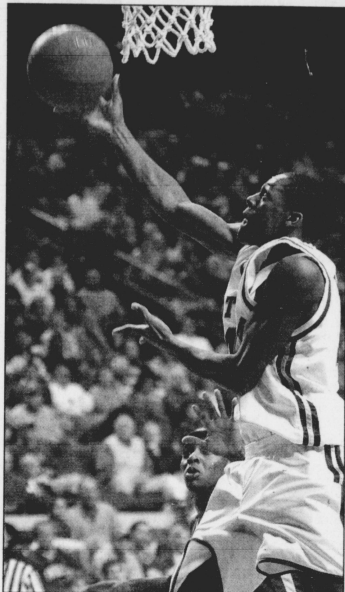
The streak is now at 37 games, not 800, as Williams said.

Donna stays positive

Standing outside the visitors' locker room at the Dean Smith Center Saturday, Donna Smith made sure none of UK's players left the arena feeling down.

The wife of the Cats' head coach gave each of the players a hug as they passed her on their way to the team bus.

"Get the next one, baby," she said after embracing each team member.



BLAKE DENNIS | STAFF

Freshman point guard Rajon Rando is averaging 8.4 points per game this season. He leads the Cats with 15 steals heading into Wednesday's game against Kyle Macy's Morehead State Golden Eagles.

Top NBA Cat

Detroit Pistons forward and former Wildcat Taysheum Prince averaged 11.7 points and 8.3 rebounds in three games last week.

The Pistons earned road victories over the Rockets and Hornets, but fell to the Spurs, who own the NBA's best record.

Prince is averaging 11.9 points and 6.1 rebounds per game this season for the defending league champions.

Happy Birthday

To former UK center and

two-time All-American Cliff Hagan, who turns 73 Thursday. Hagan played three seasons for the Cats and was a member of UK's 1951 national championship team.

He is the program's 18th all-time leading scorer, with 1,475 points, and is also third on the all-time rebounds list.

Hagan played 13 seasons in the NBA and ABA and was an all-star selection six times during his professional career.

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FACULTY & STAFF

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College of Dentistry
Room MN 363- 7:00 PM

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CAMPUS CALENDAR

Week of December 6th-December 11th

The Campus Calendar is produced by the Office of Student Activities, Registered Student Orgs, and UK Dine. Can submit information for FREE online ONE WEEK PRIOR to the MONDAY information is to appear at: <http://www.uky.edu/CampusCalendar>. Call 257-8867 for more information.

MEETINGS

*Baptist Student Union's English Conversation Class, 8:00pm, 429 Columbia Avenue
*Baptist Student Union TNT, 7:30pm, 429 Columbia Ave.
*UK Berean Bible Study, 8:00pm-9:00pm, Student Center, Room 113
*UK Pre-Dental Society Meeting, 7:00pm, College of Dentistry Building, Room 363

SPORTS

*Shaolin-Do Club Meeting, 5:00-6:30pm, Alumni Gym Left, 860 per semester fee
*UK Fencing Club, 8:00pm-10:00pm, Buell Armory on Administration Dr.
*UK Water Ski Club, 8:00pm OFF CAMPUS, Call (859)983-4123 for more info.
*UK Tee Kwon Do Club Mtg., 8:30pm-7:30pm, Alumni Gym Left, call 351-7211 for more info

ARTS/MOVIES

*"Minds Wide Open..." Monday-Friday, 11:00pm-5:00pm, Readall Art Gallery, Student Center
*Classic Tuesdays "Oceans 11," 8:00pm, Worham Theatre, Student Center
*UK Anime presents Figure 17, 8:00pm, Student Center, Center Theater

MEETINGS

*MCL French Division's Table Francaise, French Conversation Group, 3:00-4:30pm, Student Center, Room 206
*Lavender Society Mtg., 7:00pm, Student Center, Room 228
*Cats For Christ Mtg., 7:00pm, Student Center, Room 230
*UK Fellowship of Christian Athletes Mtg., 8:00pm, Upstairs of the Commons Market, South Campus
*Baptist Student Union "The Rock", 9:00pm, 429 Columbia Ave., Greeks building a solid spiritual foundation- one step at a time
*Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry's Worship and Dinner, 7:00pm, St. Augustine's Chapel on Rose St.
*College Republican Mtg., 8:00pm, Commons Market, Room 206

ARTS/MOVIES

*"Minds Wide Open..." Monday-Friday, 11:00pm-5:00pm, Readall Art Gallery, Student Center
*Creative Writing Corner, 6:00pm-8:00pm, W.T. Young Library, Writing Center, 5th floor Westside, for more information call the Writing Center at 257-1386

MEETINGS

*Westley Foundation Focus Worship, 7:30pm, Student Center, Center Theater
*Christian Student Fellowship presents "Synopsys", 8:00pm, CSE Building on the corner of Woodland and Columbia
*UK Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Mtg., 5:00pm, Student Center, Room 206

SPORTS

*UK Fencing Club, 8:00pm-10:00pm, Buell Armory on Administration Dr.
*Shaolin-Do Club Meeting, 5:00-6:30pm, Alumni Gym Left, 860 per semester fee
*Dressage Team Meeting, 5:00pm, Student Center, Room 118

ARTS/MOVIES

*"Minds Wide Open..." Monday-Friday, 11:00pm-5:00pm, Readall Art Gallery, Student Center

SPORTS

*UK Tee Kwon Do Club Mtg., 8:30pm-7:30pm, Alumni Gym Left, call 351-7211 for more info

ARTS/MOVIES

*"Minds Wide Open..." Monday-Friday, 11:00pm-5:00pm, Readall Art Gallery, Student Center

SPORTS

*UK Tee Kwon Do Club Mtg., 11:00pm-12:30pm, Alumni Gym Left, call 351-7211 for more info

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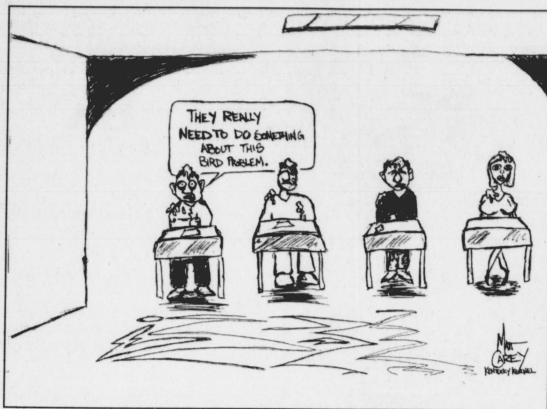
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Opinions

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MATT CAREY, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

IN OUR OPINION

Records won't effect change

The federal government appears to be taking steps toward improving higher education in this country. According to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, officials at the Department of Education are considering a plan to gather specific information about every student at a public college or university. Currently colleges report their own information regarding total enrollment, student aid, graduation rates and other data. The new system would make colleges more accountable for the performance of their students, the Department of Education said. The database would include information on retention and graduation rates, as well as the net price — overall tuition minus financial aid.

It is true that the new database would keep more accurate information than the self-reporting system in place now. But the program is not without its faults to be worked out. Most importantly, the database would be subject to federal open records laws. The database does not appear to meet any of the prescribed exemptions set forth by federal law. One compromise suggested by the department would be to make the information available to the Department of Education and no other agency. But government must operate transparently. If the records can't be made public to everyone, officials should halt the database's creation.

Also, the department wants to keep the records permanently, giving the program a Big Brother feel. And the department has not figured out whether students at private universities and colleges would have their information tracked. Other questions are raised because the *Chronicle of Higher Education* article did not include a price tag for the changeover to the new record-keeping system. Since higher education was an issue largely ignored by major party candidates during the 2004 campaign, it's refreshing to see the Bush administration working to make sure college students are progressing and flourishing. But creating the database seems to be another way of growing the bureaucracy without effecting any real change.

Columnist's 'Twas a fortnight before Christmas'

By Stephen Burnett
KERNEL COLUMNIST

'Twas a fortnight before Christmas, and all through the land,
Several creatures were stirring — they were all in a band
Of lawyers and writers, and bitter old men,
All talking and yelling. (They made quite a din.)
They don't like the season, they don't like its name,
And with no other reason, their courses they came.
More rapid than eagles, to my house they came creeping
And settled outside, with their cell phones a-beeping.
Inside, we'd hung stockings by the chimney with care,
In hopes we could forget all the troubles out there.
The kitchen was filled with the smells of desserts
With no spiders crawling up the Christmas tree skirts.
And in my thick coat, the others also wrapped
Were opening the front door, about to fall in their trap.
When what to our wondering eyes should appear,
Was a squadron of secularists, with cell phones and sneers.
With an ugly old leader, so weaselly and quick,
I knew in a moment he was up to old tricks.
The beard of his chin was all pointy and gray,
He patted his briefcase, and then he did say:
"Now hearken, ye celebrants, and pay me your heed —
"Where d'ya think you are going?" he went on with screeed.
"Evening church service," I said, "and to sing later on."
"Now please let us pass. You are crowding the lawn."
With a narrowing of eyes, and a shaking of head,
He then let me know I had something to dread.
"Your church is for losers, you intolerant bigot,
"Make way for our lawsuits. We've opened the spigot.
"We're suing courthouses and we're suing your church."
He went into his litany; I went into his lurch.
"Your Nativity and symbols we will demonstrate
"Are crossing the 'wall between church and the state.'
"All of public property is government-made,
"Don't use it for 'Christmas.' Don't march in our parade.
"You must be more tolerant; all religions have wealth,
"Except of course, yours — you'll keep that to yourself.
"Now go back inside for your long winter's nap,
"Do your 'Christmas' thing privately, while we do our crap.
"You have tried to laugh at us, you've tried to ignore,
"Said we're just on TV — now we're at your front door!
"We don't like your 'Christmas' and we don't like your faith.
"How do you like that?" Then he smirked like a wraith.
A smart-mouthed retort I bit back with a flash,
"Cause his sneering head I so wanted to smash.
I spoke not a word, but my brain went to work,
And I tried to ignore terms like "you moron" and "jerk."

Then as dry leaves before the wild hurricane fly —
When you're met with an obstacle, pray toward the sky

And then, like the moon on the new-fallen snow,
My heart shone with old truths that I used to know.

"In the beginning, our God did create,
"He's Creator and Savior — yes, something you hate.

"We all have sin natures, and that's why He came,
"To save us from darkness, from sin and its shame.

"He was born in a manger, in Bethlehem town."
(At this point the lawyer man's smirk turned to frown.)

"We celebrate Christmas because of that birth,"
Then he snickered once more; I was causing him mirth.

I continued to tell him, "This season's for all,
"If you say we don't count, you've considerable gall.

"You may call me intolerant, but all you are fools —
"That is what the Bible says. And you've got no rules!"

"Your 'principles' are simply moral relativism,
"And you're ripping this nation apart with that schism.

"You act like you treasure our country so dear,
"It was founded by Christians. Put that in your sneer.

"And this 'separation' thing with which you have fun —
"It's from a letter by Jefferson in 1801!"

"And he never meant for you to use it like this,
"Tom Jefferson endorsed God; that's something you miss.

"And you've kept on establishing your own state religion
"Of Godless humanism — you're driving its engine!"

"If you can show your faith, then I'll show mine too,
"I'd be glad now to tell you about which one is true.)

"With your logic in shambles, how will you argue?
"And who's really 'bigoted,' when you'll only sue?"

He glared at me fiercely; his blood pressure rose.
His quivering fist almost shot up to my nose.

I laughed as I watched him, in spite of my dread,
Then I told him some more truths that needed to be said.

"This story's original, but the battle is old,
"I won't say clichés like 'your heart's really gold.'"

"And I don't think I'll tell you I know your good soul
"Because inside I fear it is dark as the coal.

"And I won't say you're this way 'cause when you were eight,
"You never got presents. That's really clichéd!"

"Now get off my lawn, you winter poltergeist,
"This season's not about you — it's love, peace, and Christ."

Then I heard them scream out as they skulked out of sight,
"We'll be back here next year, and continue this fight!"

Then I shook my head, smiling, and sighed out a fog.
"I hope you'll soon see that I'm right and you're wrong.

"While you're plotting and assembling all your legal might —
"Merry Christmas to you all ... and I hope you find Light."

Stephen Burnett is a journalism senior. E-mail: Stephen2120@comcast.net.

Ukrainians must have another vote

When I first read the news about millions of Ukrainian people who gathered in downtown Kiev to protest the results of the second round-off of the presidential election, I was very proud of my fellow Ukrainians.

I lived in Ukraine for more than 15 years before I left to study in the United States. People in Ukraine, including my family, live their lives in constant fear of showing any signs of dissatisfaction because of the collapse of Soviet Union, not much has changed, even though the government wants to prove the opposite. But I believe that better times are ahead.

After Viktor Yanukovich was pronounced the winner of the second round of presidential elections, Viktor Yushchenko complained that fraud robbed him of victory. Millions of Western Ukrainians refused to recognize the results, which provoked mass protests by Yushchenko supporters.

"I am excited very much, because finally, people woke up from a long dream of repression and humility. Government was manipulating people's lives taking away their democratic freedom, today it has changed — it is a new country now," said Oleksiy Synelnychenko, a graduate student in the Patterson School of Diplomacy.

He is also from Kiev, as am I, and had a lot to comment on about the current situation in Ukraine. Oleksiy did not vote in the last election, but is planning to do that on Dec. 26, when he believes the real democratic election will take place.

"I would definitely vote for Viktor Yushchenko. He is the future of Ukraine," he said.

Yushchenko was poisoned by an unknown, nearly fatal virus back in October, and his face has been completely disfigured. I give respect to Yushchenko; after all that he has gone through, he still has enough strength and drive to fight.

Viktor Yushchenko sees future Ukraine as working with the United States and European Union, while Viktor Yanukovich believes that Ukraine is better off with Russia. Yanukovich plans to eliminate the Ukrainian language and make Russian the official language of the country.

When my sister told me that Yanukovich had won and that the Ukrainian language was going to be eliminated, I was very hurt. Our forefathers had fought for many years to achieve independence from Russia and let Ukrainian literature and language prosper. I was terrified by the idea that Ukraine was about to take a step back into the Communist era.

After trying to follow the latest events in Ukraine, I decided to write this article. I e-mailed my parents, who are still in Kiev, and interviewed them on the subject. Both of them refused to comment.

"You have to remember that you are speaking to woman who is older than 50 and take into consideration the mentality and age. I am scared to tell all the truth because I am still afraid that they may read it and don't like it," wrote my mom in her e-mail.

That is how many Ukrainian people felt when they went to vote. Some of the people were scared to vote for Yushchenko even if they wanted to. They were afraid that the government might find out later and blackmail or even kill them.

The mass protests of Western Ukrainians lasted for about three weeks, and downtown Kiev was turned into a small tent city. Last week, the Ukrainian Supreme Court declared last month's election poll results to be invalid and scheduled another round of elections to take place Dec. 26.

A few days back, I talked to Oleg, one of my friends in Kiev. He told me that people are not planning to leave until Viktor Yushchenko is declared the next Ukrainian president. People are waiting for the third round of the election and truly believe that Yushchenko will win this time. Oleg also mentioned that no violence has yet occurred in any of the protests.

I am waiting for the third round of the election myself and thinking about going to Washington, D.C., to vote on the day after Christmas. I encourage the rest of Ukrainians who read this article to vote if they haven't decided yet.

Sasha Shymanska is a journalism junior. E-mail: opinions@kykernel.com.

Note to readers

The Opinions page provides a forum for the exchange of ideas.

Unlike news stories, the Kernel's unsigned editorials represent the views of a majority of the editorial board.

Letters to the editor, columns, cartoons and other features on the Opinions page reflect the views of their authors and not necessarily those of the Kernel.

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TECHCHECK | not just for geeks Fantasy football a financial draw

By Alex Saunders
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Fantasy football isn't always played for glory and bragging rights among your friends — sometimes thousands of dollars may hang in the balance.

In September, both the National and World Fantasy Football championships in Las Vegas offered a grand prize of \$200,000, according to Las Vegas Review-Journal columnist Kevin Iole.

Still, to some, fantasy football may seem like a childish game. But to the number of fans that religiously check stat sheets every Sunday, it's much more than a game.

"More than 15 million people in the United States played fantasy sports last year, including 12 million in fantasy football, according to a survey conducted by the Fantasy Sports Trade Association. Many are in free leagues available on the Internet, or in leagues with friends and associates with entry fees in the range of \$10 to \$100 and total payouts of \$100 to \$1,000," said Erik Matuszewski of Bloomberg L'ews.

With that said, it's no secret that fantasy football is popular. With the Internet, participants can easily manage their own NFL teams and face off against their friends in head-to-head matches.

Physics sophomore Stan Heaton, who began to play fantasy football this year, said the best part of the game is playing against friends, then taunting them when they've been beaten.

"It makes me want certain teams to win that I never cared about before, certain players to do well, and others to do poorly," Heaton said.

Jeff Grimm, an integrated strategic communications sophomore, has been playing fantasy football for

Fantasy Football Footnotes

■ Fantasy football was created in late October or early November of 1962, in the Manhattan hotel in New York City and is now 42 years old.

■ Wilfred "Bill" Winkenbach along with Scotty Stirling and George Ross of the Oakland Tribune came up with the idea of fantasy football while on a road trip with the Raiders.

■ Fantasy football was an idea created from similar games played with golf and baseball in the 1950s.

■ The first fantasy football league ever included eight teams and was named the "Greater Oakland Professional Pigskin Prognosticators League."

Source: "The Birth of Fantasy Football" by Luke Esser
www.espn.com,
www.fantasy.com or
www.fantasytermind.com.

The Rules of the Game

■ At the beginning of each season, each league holds a fantasy draft. Leagues are based on wins and losses. Whoever has the most wins at the end of the league is proclaimed champion. A point system is also used as a tiebreaker.

■ Points are awarded to each player based on their performance during the week. Things that give players points include touchdowns, rush yards, pass yards, completions, catches, receiving yards, field goals, safeties, return yards, fumble recoveries, sacks, and interceptions. The number of points awarded for each one of these categories can be changed under league settings. The way points are awarded and the manner in which champions are determined depend on the way individual leagues are set up. League set-ups vary; some award points just for scoring, others include points for yardage.

■ In most leagues, team owners have to decide which players will start and which will sit on the bench, as only your starting lineup will earn yard points. Owners make these decisions based on the strength of their players' opponents and who may be injured.

■ Specific rules in each league such as limits on trades and other transactions, trade deadline, trade reviews, waivers, and maximum number of teams in the league can also be changed.

three years now. "It's awesome because the professional athletes are like puppets and you're the puppet master," he said.

Grimm said he first heard about fantasy football when a friend asked him to join a league. He said he gets competitive when he plays with his friends, but doesn't really get that into it when he plays with people he doesn't know.

"Fantasy football is fun, but it's not that important — it's just good for bragging rights," he said.

Though Grimm said he's never spent money on any fantasy football league, he always checks on his team to see if he needs to make

any updates to his roster. Political science sophomore Chris Woodall belongs to two fantasy football leagues this year and said the game can become an obsession.

"When you have friends in a league, there's a natural competitiveness. Nothing is more awesome than beating the garbage out of friends," he said.

Woodall also said the game can become an expensive obsession.

"Gambling is compulsive, and different people get it from different outlets," he said. "Some get it from fantasy football."

E-mail: features@kykernel.com

Cell phones play your song ... for a price

By Geoff Boucher
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Sixteen-year-old Whitney Abraham answers only to the heartthrob hit "She Will Be Loved" by Maroon 5. For her pal Priscilla Espinoza, it's a chirping version of "Stan," by Eminem. Their high school classmate Josh Hoffman prefers "American Idol" by the punk band Green Day — but that might change if you call him next week. "I've been cutting back," he says, "but I still buy like, seven a month."

The Napster generation, whose downloading habits have battered the music industry, finally has found tunes they are willing to pay for — in the form of customized 20- to 30-second ring tones for their cellular phones. "I'd say more than half the kids have them," said Abraham, a student at Frazier Mountain High School in Lebec, Calif.

"It's funny, kids will illegally download a song instead of paying 99 cents for it, but they'll pay \$2.99 for a 20-second snippet off a Casio keyboard," said Don Passman, a music industry attorney whose clients have included R.E.M. and Janet Jackson.

He's right. This year the

global revenue for ring tones will exceed \$3 billion, while the U.S. market in 2004 more than doubled to \$315 million and is expected by many industry estimates to spike an additional 20 percent to 30 percent by the 2005 holiday season. That's a tune catching the ear of the music world.

Madonna this year became the first major artist to set up a ring-tone "shop" on the Internet. Ludacris, a rapper whose beats have been favorites for fans' phones, recorded a concert this week that would be used by a company called InfoSpace Inc. just to produce ring tones. And when Universal Music Group released Eminem's "Encore" last month, it included in the package a free ring-tone offer to fans who bought the album — a bid to offset piracy but also an acknowledgment of the ring tone's value as pop culture currency.

Even trade magazine Billboard, which for more than a century has defined what is and isn't a hit, has just added a ring-tone chart to its pages. And on Wednesday when industry players gather in Las Vegas for the Billboard Music Awards, a new category will premiere: Ring tone of the year. The

nominees are bleating, blooping versions of rap hits — "Hey Ya!" by OutKast, "Dirt off Your Shoulder" by Jay-Z and two hits by 50 Cent, "In Da Club" and "P.I.M.P." — a nod to young America's passion for the genre as well as the music's tidy translation to the simplified rhythms of ring tones.

All of this is music to the ears of telecommunication carriers, ring-tone merchants and songwriters — the groups profiting most so far from the ring-tone boom. Western Europe and Asia account for the lion's share of the industry's revenues, according to Consect, a company that tracks the business.

In Japan, the average cell phone subscriber purchases 17 ring tones a year, according to telecommunications surveys there. That ubiquity is a long way off in America, but the tiny tunes are an entrenched part of campus life here.

"I defy you to go into any high school classroom anywhere and not find at least one ring tone," said Zena Burns, music editor of Teen People. "It's all about personalization and expression, and a ring tone tells everyone around you something about you."

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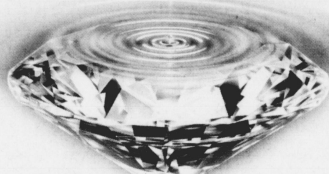
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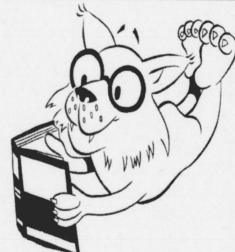
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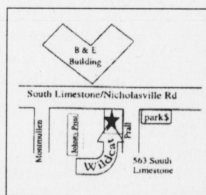
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