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THE KENTUCKY Kernel

Celebrating 33 years of independence



No, Jessica Biel isn't in a remake
of *Flight of the Navigator*
Page 3

Radio Eye given notice to relocate

By Sara Hack
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Central Kentucky's Radio Eye received a letter from UK on July 13 giving them three months to vacate its space in the King Library.

Radio Eye is the only radio reading service for the blind in Central Kentucky. Volunteers for Radio Eye read daily newspapers and magazines which might not otherwise be available to the blind.

CKRE has been housed rent-free and utility-free for the past 15 years on the third floor of the M.I. King Library. The broadcasts are run by 130 volunteers, 24 hours a day to about 1,500 Central Kentucky residents with disabilities.

In a press release, University Interim Provost Scott Smith said that the decision to move CKRE to a more suitable space is because of a growing space problem with more academic units. However, no information has been released about how the space will be used.

"I would rather like to know what the pressing need is for this space," said Margaret Chase, Radio Eye's volunteer executive director. "No one else seems to know."

Chase went on to say that one or two people have contacted her with relocation suggestions but the real issue is the cost. Chase said she is concerned that Radio Eye could not afford to pay utilities, even if they were able to find rent-free premises. CKRE also utilizes the University's free internet to broadcast online.

UK spokesman Jay Blanton said that the UK is determined to work with CKRE even if it takes longer than three months to find a suitable new space.

"We want to ensure our help to Radio Eye and fulfill our commitment to them and the community," said Blanton.

Chase said that she is very concerned and interested to find out about how UK plans to help, especially financially. Chase said no one from the University has contacted her since the initial notice to talk about the future options. Blanton stated that UK has not yet come up with an alternative space.

To contact CKRE or to volunteer, visit www.uky.edu/Libraries/CKRE.

E-mail news@kykernel.com

Lextran introduces 'Class Pass' as 'Go Free' expires

By Bennie Mills
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

UK's tuition rates aren't the only thing increasing this year as Lextran sees the end of its federal funding this August.

In summer 2002, Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) allotted a three-year federal fund to enable Lextran to provide the University of Kentucky students and staff with free transportation. It was then that Lextran started the "Go Free" campaign, which will end August 31.

To offset the cost to students as the result of the loss of the "Go Free" program, Lextran is offering a new program called the "Class Pass," where students pay a semester or yearly fee for unlimited access to the Lextran system.

The semester rate for Lextran's "Class Pass" is \$50, which covers the months of Aug.-Dec. or Jan.-May. The cost for the academic year is \$75 and will be good for only the Fall and Spring semesters. Students attending summer school will be required to pay \$30 per month for their passes in June and July.

Senior Matt Wiseman said he was unwilling to pay money to ride Lextran. "I wouldn't pay for it, not with their dependable service," he said.

The new plan is offered to the whole student population, including those at Bluegrass Community and Technical College and middle and high school students in Lexington. However UK faculty and staff will not be able to participate in the "Class Pass."

Dave Riggins, Director of Community affairs at Lextran, said that it wouldn't be fair to allow the UK faculty and staff to participate in the new program because other local schools' faculty and staff aren't allowed either. However, bus service will be available for faculty and staff to pay a \$30 monthly fee to ride.

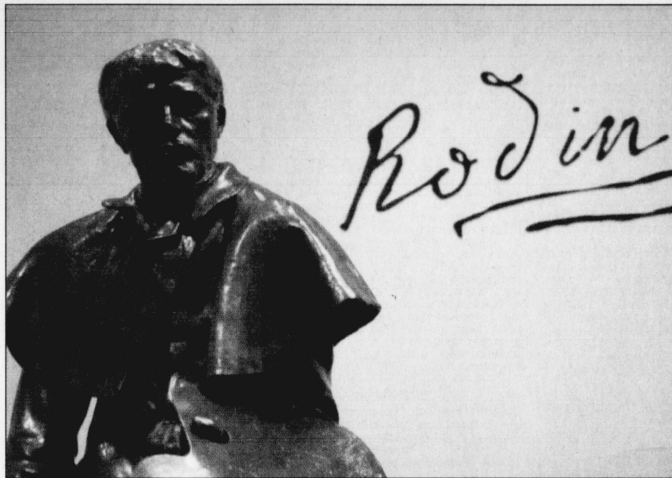
Students who plan on riding Lextran this year must present their proof of enrollment and money to Lextran's Administrative Office or the Transit Center. Students attending UK can bring their proof of enrollment and money to either the Kelly Building or Parking Structure Five.

E-mail news@kykernel.com

Lextran 'Class Pass'

The 'Class Pass' is available for Aug.-Dec. or from Jan.-May for \$50. A pass for Aug.-Dec. costs \$75. Passes will be on sale at the Transit Center on Vine Street, the Lextran Administration Office at 109 W. Loudon Ave., or on campus at the Kelly Building and Parking Structure Five. Students should bring proof of enrollment.

For more info contact Dave Riggins at driggins@lexttran.com or call (859)253-4636.



A bronze cast of Auguste Rodin's sculpture of Jules Bastien-Lepage, on display at the UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center. The sculpture is one of 30 in a show highlighting the expressionist sculptor's work.

Rodin on the road

By Charlinda Turner Brashear
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

UK students now have the chance to view works by revolutionary sculptor Auguste Rodin. The UK Art Museum is hosting the exhibit "Rodin: In His Own Words. Selections from the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation," from July 10 to Sept. 18. Along with the approximately 30 works of art by Rodin are quotes from the sculptor himself.

"Students will find the emotional quality of Rodin's work most interesting, as well as his revolutionary modeling techniques," said Danna Kay, the Associate Curator and Collections Manager of the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Foundation.

The Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Foundation owns 114 works either by or about Rodin. The works were acquired over a period of 50 years, during which Cantor was an avid Rodin collector.

"The foundation chose the UK Art Museum because it had been 20 years since the foundation sent a show to Lexington, and the UK Art Museum has a reputation for doing quality exhibitions," Kay said.

Rodin was born in France in 1840 and died in 1917. Rodin struggled early in his career, earning a living working for other artists. Later during his lifetime, he was viewed as one of the greatest sculptors since Michelangelo. Today his work is still considered revolutionary and moving. In Paris, the Musée Rodin is an entire museum devoted solely to Rodin's work.

The website for the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Foundation



A portrait of artist Auguste Rodin, taken in 1880, hangs beside a cast of one of his sculptures entitled "Venus."

says that Rodin's work is the "critical link between traditional and modern figurative sculpture" and many scholars agree. Rodin is known for emotional pieces of sculpture that capture a subject's sense of movement. One of Rodin's most famous and recognizable works is "The Thinker," from his work "The Gates of Hell," which was inspired by Dante's "Divine Comedy." A small-scale edition of "The Thinker" is on display at the UK Art Museum.

"Most of the pieces are hollow," said UK Art Museum curator Janie Welker. "Otherwise the floor wouldn't be able to support the weight."

See Rodin on page 2



A cast of Rodin's "Spirit of War" sculpture, on display at the UK Art Museum through August 18.

Parking lot on Limestone closing Friday

By Tiffany Stephens
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

This Friday, 25-30 parking spots, located in the gravel E-lot at the corner of South Limestone and Leader Avenue, will be closed due to the renovation and expansion project of UK's new hospital patient care facility.

The renovated parking lot is expected to re-open around Sept. 1. The 30 new parking spaces will be available to medical center personnel with reserved parking per-

mits only.

In the meantime, 26 new spaces will be provided for those who usually park at the corner of South Limestone and Leader Avenue. These alternative parking spots will be in the lower section of the Virginia Avenue lot and the Press Avenue lot (along the driveway to BSRB).

Don Thornton, director of Parking and Transportation Services, said the alternative parking spaces are in "close proximity" to its previous location on the corner of

Leader Avenue and South Limestone.

Previously, the lot was available to UK employees for a fee of \$24 a month, according to Thornton. After the renovation, the parking area will only be available to medical center personnel with reserved parking permits, with a fee of \$70 a month.

This is not the only renovation that will take place due to the hospital expansion project. Along with the development of a reserved parking area for medical per-

sonnel, there will also be a new parking structure built for patients and visitors on the area between South Limestone, Transcript Avenue, and Conn Terrace. Thornton said this area will see plenty of reconstruction.

"In order to build the parking structure, some buildings [on South Limestone] will need to be demolished," Thornton said.

Also, another parking

See PARKING on page 2

Used books are useful

By Charilinda Turner Brashear
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

For those that thirst for knowledge, but find their well of finance running dry, The Friends Book Celler, a used bookstore run by the Friends of the Lexington Public Library, can be an oasis.

"Cheap books are always good," said Janet Arnot, a UK political science senior.

Many UK students feel the same way, as evidenced by the demand for used textbooks every semester. The Celler provides books for pleasure reading that are often in great shape and can be bought for bargain prices.

Since the first books were sold at the Celler in 1971, the Friends of the Lexington Public Library has been raising money for underfunded programs. Selling used books is a major way the Friends raise money. Patrons walk away with the books they want, and the library receives funding for community projects. Many businesses and private individuals donate to this cause.

"Everything we have is donated," said Joe Williams, President of the Friends of the Lexington Public Library.

All of the books, bookshelves and even the furniture is donated. The Fayette Cigar Store donated the magazine racks. Bruce

Knox, who used to own a used book store called the Book Nook, donated approximately 30,000 used books to the Friends Book Celler. Campus businesses also donate.

"We donate books to them and to several other agencies," said Carol Behr, general manager of Kennedy Bookstore.

Behr said students often ask to donate books that she cannot buy back. She tries to facilitate that.

"We hate when we can't recycle books," Behr said.

Williams said that the Friends Book Celler sometimes even sells current edition textbooks, donated by students, to Kennedy's.

Williams worked in the UK Department of Agricultural Communications for over 42 years. He retired in April with the rank of Assistant Extension Professor.

"Essentially I taught others how to teach and communicate in an understanding and simple nature," Williams said. He said his role as president of Friends of the Lexington Public Library is very similar except does not get to travel the entire state as in earlier years.

"So far my life is been very fulfilling in these roles," Williams said.

Williams said the Friends Book Celler has two large book sales a year. During those sales 30,000-40,000 books are sold.

The next sale begins on Nov. 2 for members of the Friends of the Lexington Public Library (who get 10 percent off purchases). The remaining four days of the sale are for anyone.

The major draw for The Friends Book Celler's used book sales is "Sunday Bag Day." On this day everything a person can put in a paper grocery bag, furnished by the Friends of the Lexington Public Library, costs \$2.

"I managed to place 43 hardback and paperback in one bag with a little planning," Williams said. Due to other costs, the price may have to be raised to \$3 per bag this year. Williams said that is still a bargain, especially since there are several shelves devoted solely to books from 2004 and 2005.

E-mail

news@kykernel.com

The Friends Book Celler

Where: 140 E. Main Street, in the basement of the Lexington Public Library
Hours: Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Phone: (859) 231-5505

Upcoming Events: Semi-Annual book sale begins Nov. 2 and lasts through the week.

Parking

Continued from page 1

structure will be created for faculty and staff of the medical center at the corner of Virginia and Press Avenues.

Thornton said the construction of new parking facilities on campus is a response to the parking problems the campus now faces. According to Thornton, because the campus is growing, parking opportunities must grow with them.

"We've got to expand our [parking] facilities, especially in the area of healthcare," Thornton said. "Every time a building is being built on campus, parking is affected."

He also said the UK Parking and Transportation Services is trying to "minimize negative impacts" that may come from detouring parking spots, especially when school begins.

"We are trying to be proactive...we want to get these things done before fall

semester," Thornton said, pertaining to the renovation of the parking lot on the corner of South Limestone and Leader Avenue.

Although the South Limestone/Leader Avenue lot is set for completion around Sept. 1, the parking facility located on the corner of Virginia and Press Avenues (known as Parking Structure Six) isn't planned for completion until next summer.

Thornton said parking on campus will most likely be difficult until Parking Structure Six is constructed and ready for use. Parking Structure Six will be available for a mixture of commuter students, employees, and visitors.

Thornton said UK faces many obstacles when it comes to the construction of parking facilities on campus.

"It is difficult for us to have more parking structures on campus because they are expensive to build," he said.

The cost of construction for Parking Structures Six and Seven (located on Sports Center Drive on the corner

of Complex Drive and slated for completion in early 2006) combined is \$22 million.

Thornton said the funds for the development of these structures comes primarily from permit fees collected from students and employees.

Thornton also said problems in building the new parking area on South Limestone and Leader Avenue can potentially arise from poor weather. If bad weather occurs, construction could be postponed, causing delays in parking renovations and development, he said.

"We are sort of dependent on the weather," Thornton said.

Chris Heck, a UK resident M.D. who parks in the South Limestone/Leader Avenue lot, said the renovation is a step in the right direction for UK parking, especially since the lot is gravel and has potholes.

"If they could turn it into a nice lot, then it [the renovation] would be worth it," Heck said.

E-mail

news@kykernel.com

Rodin

Continued from page 1

The UK Art Museum also provides a detailed explanation of the casting process. Casting is the process by which an artist's original clay sculpture is transformed or "cast" into bronze. A series of models depicts the process from start to finish.

Rodin's will left his entire estate to the French government. A government decree officially established the Musée Rodin, which was given the right to cast Rodin's sculptures posthumously. In 1956 French law limited production to twelve casts of each model.

Before casting laws were established, Rodin himself granted many foundries permission to cast as many sculptures as the market demanded. According to the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Foundation's website, "from around 1898 to 1918 the Barbedienne foundry alone produced 319 casts of another sculpture from 'The Gates of Hell' titled 'The Kiss.'" In fact, French law did not cope well with the problems involved in posthumous reproduction until the mid 20th century. For nearly half a century there was ambiguity as to the authenticity of posthumous reproductions.

In 1974, when Rodin scholar Professor Albert E. Elsen,

from Stanford University, was elected to the presidency of the College Art Association, this problem saw some resolution. Elsen, according to the Cantor Foundation's website, confronted the problem by bringing together art experts, lawyers and others to draft the "Statement on the Standards for Sculptural Reproduction and Preventative Measures to Combat Unethical Casting in Bronze." This is the basis for many authentications made today.

Since 1999, the "Rodin Chaser," as Florida artist and gallery owner Gary Arsenau is called by many in the art world, has followed Rodin exhibitions across the country. Arsenau is a vocal critic of what he calls "fraud."

"As an independent scholar, I feel morally obligated and compelled to expose these contentious issues of authenticity to the public. With full and honest disclosure, the public might be able to give informed consent whether they chose to attend this exhibit, much less pay the price of admission," Arsenau said via e-mail.

Arsenau said he believes most of the sculptures in the Rodin show are fake and considers himself on a mission to expose art "fraud." Arsenau's argument is that "dead men don't sculpt," and that posthumous reproductions are not original Rodin works. In this case, he believes Rodin's will is not being properly followed.

"He [Arsenau] trying to create a controversy where there really isn't one, not in anyone else's mind," said Welker.

Welker said Rodin approved in his will to have his plasters cast by the French government after his death.

"It was legally authorized by Rodin," Welker said.

Welker said that Rodin obviously had faith in the French government and that most scholars agree that the work is of high quality and represents Rodin's vision and ability. In addition, Welker said that Rodin himself never cast his own work, but instead relied on the foundries he trusted.

Kay said the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Foundation does not respond to inquiries Arsenau, but would freely answer questions about posthumous casting.

E-mail news@kykernel.com

'Rodin: In His Own Words'

Where: UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center

When: Now through Sept. 18
How Much: Tickets cost \$8 for general public, \$5 for senior citizens, and \$6 for groups (by reservation).

Free for UK
Web site: The Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation:

www.cantorfoundation.org
UK Art Museum
www.uky.edu/art/museum
The Musée Rodin
www.musee-rodin.fr

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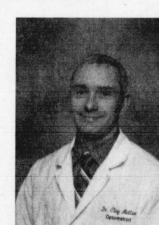
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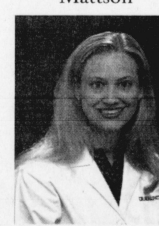
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Bush's nominee: Why some like him and some don't

President Bush's announcement Tuesday night of his choice to replace outgoing Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is sure to provide plenty of conversation over the next few weeks. Some will come to approve of the nominee. Some will come to oppose him.



Ben Roberts
KERNEL COLUMNIST

But, as soon as they heard the name John Glover Roberts Jr., a few had already made up their minds. It was good news for some, bad news for others.

Here's why:

Good news for... anyone who likes good television.

Reason: Whether C-Span is regularly on your TV list or not, the Roberts confirmation hearings are sure to entertain anybody who likes a good TV drama.

First, you'll see Ted Kennedy argue so passionately with the prospective justice that the colorful senator will turn a shade of purple even the good people at Crayola couldn't dream up.

Then, you'll hear some outlandish revelation like, "Roberts paid for his education at

Harvard Law School by running guns for the Irish mob in Boston."

Finally, Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin will promise to vote for Roberts if he agrees to live in a house with Bob Saget and M.C. Hammer for a week while eating nothing but dung beetles and salamander heads.

Reality TV at its best.

Bad news for... Sen. Joe Biden

Reason: The judiciary committee member was probably hoping to use these hearings to kick start his own 2008 presidential campaign by throwing all the tough questions in front of a national audience that might not be familiar with the senator from Delaware.

No chance of that now.

Unlike Kennedy, Biden voted to approve Roberts' nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals in a 2003 vote. Switching his stance now would make him look like a "flip-flopper." And we all know how that tag resonates with the American voters.

That click-clack sound you hear is Hillary Clinton typing her acceptance speech for the 2008 Democratic convention.

Good news for... Karl Rove

Reason: President Bush's deputy chief of staff and top political adviser has dominated

the news the past two weeks due to his role in the leak of undercover CIA operative Valerie Plame. The situation was getting so bad that Republicans within the White House actually admitted the president bumped up his announcement to take some of the heat off his friend.

But now Rove can put the Plame ordeal behind him and return to his normal everyday activities — strangling puppies and kittens in his West Wing office.

Bad news for... puppies and kittens in the Washington, D.C. area.

Reason: See above.

Good news for... sign and placard retailers

Reason: Like presidential inaugurations, Supreme Court justice nominations are the Olympic games for protesters. That means demonstrators on everything from abortion rights to assisted suicide to the decriminalization of bestiality will be camped out in front of the White House like it's the only place to buy the next Harry Potter book.

And they'll all have signs.
Get your Kinko's stock while it's cheap.
Bad news for... Chief Justice William Rehnquist

Reason: The hunched back. The aloof expression. The spotty, near-hairless dome.

For 33 years, Rehnquist has been the

undisputed sex symbol of our nation's highest court. Nobody could rock the black robe like him, but we all knew it had to end some day. And with the arrival of the youthful and energetic Roberts, it looks like the reign is over.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg is already drooling. Good news for... conservatives everywhere

Reason: Many predicted the president would choose a moderate along the lines of O'Connor as his first Supreme Court nomination. But within hours of the announcement, Roberts' name was being mentioned in the same sentence as Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and, god help us, Robert Bork.

Yikes.

Bad news for... President Bush

Reason: Just days after Laura Bush tells NBC's Today Show she would like to see a woman replace O'Connor on the bench, the president goes with another white guy. The First Lady's not going to be happy with that. But I hear the First Couch is very comfortable.

Ben Roberts is a journalism graduate of no relation to John G. Roberts Jr.
E-mail broberts@kykernel.com

ONLINE POLL QUESTION

Do you approve of President Bush's decision to nominate John G. Roberts Jr. to the U.S. Supreme Court?

Yes

No

VOTE ONLINE AT
WWW.KYKERNEL.COM

ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Should Tubby Smith allow Randolph Morris to return to the UK basketball team?

Yes

58%, 59 votes

No

42%, 43 votes

Christians can learn from Potter success

It's abominable, terrible. Thousands of precious, gullible children and millions more grown adults are snapping up copies of the newest Harry Potter book.



Stephen Burnett
KERNEL COLUMNIST

Throughout the globe, these people have become ensnared in author J.K. Rowling's created world and characters, and they're paying millions of dollars just to become indoctrinated in these disgusting, evil Satanic stories.

Watching this, I shake my head sadly. And I think: "Oh, man. I want to have a piece of that."

Sure, based on what I've read, I doubt I would let my own children read the books, but I wouldn't let them read or see a lot of things. At this point I have no children, so it's idiotic to worry about it anyway.

Thus I'm more indifferent to Harry Potter; there's a lot worse stuff out there, it seems. And it seems more people within Christendom have gradually come to the same conclusion. Yes, the burn-them-all advocates still exist, yet most Christ-believers have moved on to realize another reason:

Given: Harry Potter is way popular.

Given: Harry Potter is not Christian.

Therefore: We must generate Christian Alternatives to it.

But wait a moment. We already have the Christian Alternative to Harry Potter. It's a wonderful little series called *The Chronicles of Narnia*, by C.S. Lewis. And half a century after publication, it's still selling big. Why? Andrew Adamson of *Shrek* fame is even directing a movie of the first book in the series — *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, due Dec. 9, 2005.

Will anyone remember any recently-written Christian Alternatives to Harry Potter 50 years from now?

(Vacant crickets-chirping sound effect goes here.)

Yet how many of you nodded in recognition when I mentioned Narnia? Show of hands? I knew it. And most of you aren't Christians, either! You would likely agree with reviewer "Quint" from AintItCoolNews.com that "I'm not Christian, but the parallels in the [Narnia] story doesn't [sic] turn me off of the inherent classic quality of the drama."

But Christendom just can't seem to regain the "paradise lost" that C.S. Lewis had in creating such classic, Christian symbol-imbued drama that both Christians and non-Christians love.

Here's my theory why: many members of the Christian subculture have bought into "message myopia" — they're focused solely on marketing their message at the expense of creating art that is truly relevant, original and timeless.

Guess who incidentally foresaw this dichotomy 50 years ago: C.S. Lewis. Yes, he's relevant again.

Evidently Lewis' fans last century

thought that for sure any Christian symbols or messages got into Narnia because Lewis put them there intentionally. They assumed that surely Lewis wrote only to preach Christianity — so they figured he decided to study the market, sneak the morals and messages in to his audience with a fairy tale, inject some child psychology and make up the allegories on purpose, right?

"This is all pure moonshine," Lewis himself said. "I couldn't write in that way at all."

Instead, Lewis explained, "everything began with images; a faun carrying an umbrella, a queen on a sledge, a magnificent lion. At first there wasn't even anything Christian about them; that element pushed itself in of its own accord."

You mean — Lewis didn't try? He didn't want to copy off things that were selling at the secular bookstore? He didn't become appalled at what children were reading and decided he had to provide a Christian Alternative? You mean C.S. Lewis actually just — wanted to tell a timeless story first?

Well, it worked, didn't it? For Christian artists this will smack of heresy, but here's my suggestion: *Forget about the message.*

C.S. Lewis didn't start out with message myopia and he didn't need formulas or systems or marketing techniques. He only needed true creativity and originality — the Christian messages and symbols came out naturally in his work because of Lewis' personal, heartfelt faith; because of who he was!

Yet the method Lewis did not use is the same as the modern Christian subculture keeps using. And not only does this message myopia have little relevancy to the "secular world" outside the subculture sphere, but it often helplessly fails to create timeless art as well.

That's why I tend to sigh whenever some Christians complain about the evil secular media or the disgusting Harry Potter and all that. This stuff is all consumer-driven, and if Christ-believers have failed to produce heartfelt, original works of art as did J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis, then they can't really blame secular authors such as J.K. Rowling for filling the void.

It is time to end this. *The Passion of the Christ* cracked the Christian subculture barrier just a little; *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* may just rip it open further. Meanwhile multiple Christian authors are fast becoming especially good at writing novels with actual originality — try Ted Dekker for one.

Instead of whining about the horrible fiction media, Christians, learn from these successes. Instead of calculatedly ripping off the world's entertainment while cramming Biblical messages in on the side, start creating truly original works of art and let whatever messages you have include themselves inevitably.

Get to work.
Stephen Burnett is a journalism graduate.
E-mail sburnett@kykernel.com.

How I learned to stop worrying and love the book

On the floor of my kitchen are three boxes of books, representing the initial effort I've made toward moving the stuff from my current apartment into a new, more stuff-friendly one.



Jonathan Meador
KERNEL COLUMNIST

These cardboard hulks, brimming with works great and small, the classic and the not-so-classic, the pretentious and the fun: I say a trade bag *Lolita*, a dog-eared *Fear & Loathing: On the Campaign Trail '72*, a copy of Stephen King's *Night Shift*, and a collection of noir and pulp stories a friend gave me as a birthday present ("You should write like this, Jon," said the friend), all 100+ lbs. of them very dear and very precious to my heart.

But, perhaps, too precious.

At 20, I already own more books than I own items of clothing, CDs, videogames, anything. Whenever I go to a thrift store for, say, a pair of shorts, I'll leave with another book — maybe two.

So there they sit, these symbols of compulsive buying, condensed right before my eyes, a testament to something.

My rationalization for this behavior is that I'm a writer, that these are not just books, not just stories to be read, but they are also *instructional manuals*, to be used in the formation of my craft, my art. After all, a painter studies paintings, a carpenter studies architecture, so why not?

Yet painters do not own original Da Vincis or Picassos. Carpenters are not real estate moguls. But books are, by their nature, different. A fan of Chuck Palaniuk buys a copy of *Fight Club* and does care that it is not the original manuscript, whereas a Dalí fan must suffice with yet another print of melting clocks.

This affordability leads to some serious buying, especially if one is like me and only cares about owning any copy he can get his sweaty hands on, regardless of edition; it's the power that matters, a feeling that what's within these covers is somehow important.

Without writing a treatise on the importance of literature, let's say that this kind of argument usually has me playing defense.

"Well," I say, "Women have a thing for shoes. I have a thing for books. Is that so wrong?"

But rationalizations can only cover an addiction so far.

For example, one of the main reasons I decided on this new apartment was because of the shelf-space: For books.

Bad plumbing? *Whatever*. Rats in the walls? I love animals! Decomposing murder victims under the floorboards? *Look at all this shelving, honey!*

And it doesn't help that I've not read more than half of the books I own, as each uncracked spine is like a personal insult from the author, as if to say, "What? Are we too hard for you, little man?" (It's usually Joyce, the bastard), which says to those who would judge my supposed literary voracity that my collection is a mere pretension, an affectation of erudition, that all I'm concerned with is having the appearance of a big collection for conversation's sake.

Which, actually, is not the case. If I buy *Atlas Shrugged* it doesn't mean I'm going to read it tomorrow, but in the years to come. Books take time, and at 20 years old, that's what I've got the most of (besides books). And I just like the things; how they smell, how they affect me. It sure beats watching VH1 for hours at a time (Author's Note: Do not attempt this. You will die).

Maybe I'm really trying to convince myself that owning books is not only okay, not only an abnormality in today's culture, but something to be proud of in a way.

Besides, *women buy shoes*...
By the time I get out of college I will have six boxes, not three, guaranteeing that even though I may be a poor man with more books than common sense, I will at least have plenty of kindling to keep the fire going.

Which is a shame since I don't have any *Harry Potter*...

Jonathan Meador is a journalism junior.
E-mail jmeador@kykernel.com

E-mail letters to the editor, cartoons or guest columns to
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Taking it to the mat

Joe Hall
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

A University of Kentucky student stole the show at the Kentucky Fighting Challenge, Saturday night at the Continental Inn in Lexington.

Allen Browning, an undecided freshman from Paris, Ky. won a feature fight at the Fighting Challenge, which is the biggest amateur mixed-martial-arts event in Kentucky.

MMA is an increasingly popular sport that allows competitors to use a variety of fighting techniques, including boxing, kickboxing, wrestling and submission holds. It is sometimes called "ultimate fighting."

Browning stopped William Mosley of Van Buren, Ariz., in the second round of their 155-pound fight. The match was Browning's MMA debut.

"I thought it was pretty good for my first fight," said Browning, who added that he has been training for MMA matches for only three months, though he has some previous wrestling and boxing experience.

The 20-year-old outboxed his opponent throughout the first five-minute round. He stunned Mosley several times with fast, accurate punches and floored him with a left hook and right uppercut combination.

Mosley was game after going down, though. He climbed to his feet quickly, and his strategy turned to tying up with Browning and trading short punches and knee strikes on the inside. Unlike boxing, prolonged fighting in the clinch is allowed in MMA.

Browning took an occasional knee into his abdomen while fighting in the



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICKY SUTTHANATA, KENTUCKY FIGHTING CHALLENGE
Mosley, of Van Buren, Ariz., an undecided freshman, fires a right hand at the Kentucky Fighting Challenge.

clinch, but he retaliated with hooking overhand rights and lefts. He then broke free and resumed boxing with Mosley. Again and again Browning scored with heavy combinations.

"Every shot I landed meant something," said Browning, who trains at Four Seasons Martial Arts in Lexington and has also worked out with the UK boxing club.

Browning's wrestling skills came in handy in the second round. He prevented Mosley from tripping him to the mat and eventually scored his own takedown. He then landed a series of strikes on the ground, and the referee stopped the fight.

Greg Franklin, the referee of Browning's fight and the brother of Ultimate Fighting Championship World Middleweight Champion Rich Franklin, was impressed with Browning.

"His boxing was unbelievable," Franklin said. "He's a good fighter. He has good heart."

Classified continued from page 5

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