

KENTUCKY Kernel

SPORTS

Nazr Mobammed and Jeff Sheppard are both expected to be chosen in the NBA Draft.

See Sports, page 4.



THU

June 18, 1998

iN Classifieds 7 Diversions 4
Sports 8 Viewpoint 6

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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

INDEPENDENT SINCE 1971



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN RODGERS Kernel staff

UP IN THE AIR Young Scientists Aniesa Parakkat (above) and Julie Jeffries (below) are hard at work monitoring EMG signals and studying blood samples as part of a NASA study on the effects of weightlessness.

Heartfelt KYSS

Young Scientists participate in NASA research this summer

By Jessica Coy
Editor-in-Chief

At the bustling UK Chandler Medical Center Julie Jeffries pulls on latex gloves and settles in to study hormone levels in the latest blood samples. Down the hall, Aniesa Parakkat records EMG signals from her subject's diaphragm and Jenawik Marcum pores over the latest results from the transcranial doplar, that monitors blood flow within the patient's brain.

Are these young women a new generation of doctors or researchers?

Maybe in a few years. But today they are all students participating in the Kentucky Young Scientists Summer program (KYSS).

Jeffries, a chemistry-biology junior from Campbellsville University, Parakkat, a chemical engineering junior at UK and Marcum, a UK biology senior, are three of twelve students selected to participate in the first year of this program.

KYSS is aimed at undergraduate students from any Kentucky university who are women, minorities, first-generation students, or are from low-income families, and is designed to stimulate the student's desire to go on to graduate school.

"The program's goal is to develop students' interests and talents as far as research goes and hopefully to interest them in careers in the field," said Michael Nitzel, dean of the graduate school.

The students are paired with faculty members in microbiology, neurology, physiology and other departments in the sciences and essentially become lab assistants.

Marcum, Jeffries and Parakkat all chose to be assigned to the microbiology department and are now at the heart of an ongoing NASA study that looks into the physiological effects of weightlessness on women.

Eugene Bruce, professor of microbiology, said the experience



the students will gain this summer will be essential in the years to come.

"The students were involved in the study from the beginning so they have been exposed to all aspects of research, from planning, to avoiding and solving problems to the repetitiveness that is necessary to get things right," Bruce said.

Marcum said that is just this experience which makes her time as a young scientist so valuable.

"I want to have a well rounded education and research is something that will always be an option in the medical field, so it's good for me to have this hands-on experience," Marcum said.

Historic zoning new possibility

H-1 zoning pending for local streets

By Jessica Coy
Editor-in-Chief

The signs are everywhere. H-1 zoning is looming in the future.

If the proposal requesting that over 40 local streets become part of Lexington's historic district is approved, hundreds of people—students, landlords, developers and families—will be affected.

A letter sent from the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government to residences in the area that would be affected by the change states, "It (historic zone overlay) would not change the present zoning or use of your property. The purpose of the Historic District overlay is to give protection to certain areas of our community having historic or architectural significance."

A question-and-answer letter distributed by Lexington Planning Services states that if the zoning change is passed any alterations to the outside of buildings in the area must be approved by the Board of Architectural Review.

Scott Wilder, a Lexington planning technician, said that many residents who have called Planning Services to inquire

about the zone change are worried that the new zoning will act as a loophole to make things harder on current residents.

"Some people feel that this will be another way to cut students out of the area, and others are afraid that it will make repairs more costly and time consuming," said Wilder.

Many don't know exactly how the impending zone change will affect them.

"I have seen the signs, but didn't really know if or how the change would affect me or students in general," said Emmett Ireland, a philosophy senior.

For this reason a hearing will be held on June 25 to discuss the proposal.

"It is important for anyone who lives in the area not only to come to the planning office and pick up information regarding the proposal, but also to come to the hearing and voice their concerns," said Rose Carver of Lexington Planning Services. "Any legitimate objections will be considered when the final decision is made."

For further information contact Planning Services at 258-3160.

UK grad dies in accident

Staff report

Lang Deng, a pharmacy intern at Franklin Regional Medical Center, died in a car accident on Interstate 64 last Monday at the age of 23 — two days after celebrating her birthday with friends and family.

Deng received her doctorate of pharmacy from the UK College of Pharmacy, where she was on the Dean's list for her entire academic career.

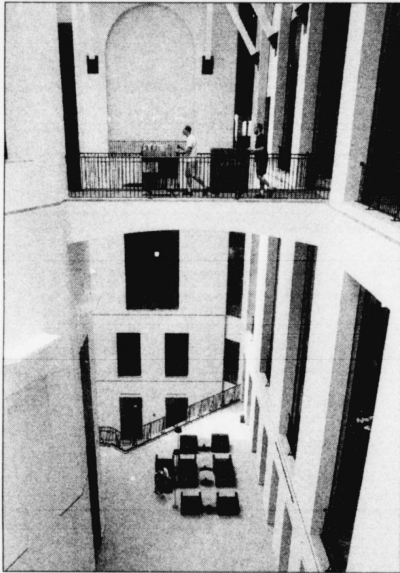
She was born in Chengdu, China and was the daughter of Kailin and Huaichen Liu Deng of Lexington.

"Her willingness to help people, her maturity, sensitivity, and sincerity touched all of our hearts," said Jason Li, a computer science major and friend of Dang's.

A public memorial service will be held Saturday, June 20 at 10 a.m. at Lexington Chinese Christian Church. For more information call 271-3065.



Deng



JONATHAN RODGERS *Kernel staff*

HALF FULL OR HALF EMPTY? *The move from M.I. King to W.T. Young Library has reached the halfway point.*

Young library nearly half full

Relocation to be finished in July

By Matthew T. Patton
Assistant News Editor

Half full or half empty? It all depends on the way you look at it.

Most workers and staff assisting in the M.I. King-to-William T. Young library move would prefer to look at the status with an air of confidence as the Young library collection nears the half full point.

Update boards have been placed at the entrances of the Agriculture and Medical Center libraries, which have been affected by the move.

The latest update available reported a move of 776,100 books, representing 52 percent of the entire W.T. Young collection and 24,876 periodicals, accounting for 47 percent of the collection.

The hardest part of the move, according to Jackie Radebaugh, UK graduate student and assistant stacks supervisor, is not necessarily the physical work, but the relabeling of "hun-

dreds of books from the Dewey Decimal system to the Library of Congress system."

Many libraries are converting to the easier Library of Congress system, but the Dewey Decimal system is still in use by some public schools and libraries.

"This is the most time consuming process," Radebaugh said. "The transit company is not only assisting with the move, but with the relabeling as well."

The university hired nearly 100 workers, many of them UK students and the William B. Meyer Commercial Moving company to assist with the move.

The King Library is reaching a state of abandonment as workers complete their tasks.

A security guard works the empty front circulation desk and directs the disoriented.

Books can no longer be checked

out from the M.I. King Library, but the Biological sciences library circulation desk is still in operation until Saturday.

Since some of the collection will still remain in the Medical Center library, books can be checked out from there as well.

Library patrons wishing to locate a publication may encounter difficulties until the move is finished.

If the article cannot be located at Young Library, then "everyone works together," said Radebaugh, who noted that patrons may be required to fill out a book retrieval form and wait until the book can be located.

"We work with all libraries, movers and staff to locate the book.

It usually only takes a couple days to find it," he said.

The move should be completed by mid-July.

▶▶
We work with all libraries, movers and staff to locate the book. It usually only takes a couple days to find it.

Jackie Radebaugh

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UK awarded six million in grants

By Manish Bhatia
Staff Writer

which it must match with an equal amount.

The Council on Post-secondary Education has approved a \$6 million grant for UK and the University of Louisville, for several programs that could potentially launch UK among the premier institutions of the country.

"It's a \$4 million grant to develop 11 different programs that have promise to be nationally prominent," said Lloyd Axelrod, Director of Public Relations at UK.

"This will help target those research areas that have potential to be in the Top 20 nationally," he said.

The areas at UK to benefit from the grant cover a broad spectrum of disciplines, such as biological chemistry, material and plant sciences, computer science and electrical engineering.

"These programs have either already received national prominence or show tremendous promise in the future," said Edward Carter, the Vice President for Management and Budget at UK.

As part of the funding process, the state offers UK \$4 million,

Thus, effectively, the university would have \$8 million to apply towards the improvement of the selected programs.

"The state essentially has challenged us to match them dollar for dollar in these areas of excellence," said Fitzgerald Bramwell, Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies.

In order to match these funds, UK would have to raise money from other sources.

There are very specific rules and regulations about how this money is to be raised, he added.

"We at the university have very carefully identified these programs that have received national and international recognition," said Bramwell.

As a part of a multi-year process, the faculty prioritized the areas where they could achieve prominence and the programs then submitted proposals which were reviewed, he added.

"These are the starting steps in bringing the goal of UK being a top notch institution to reality," said Bramwell.

The formal approval of the programs takes place after July 1.

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SOUNDbytes

How do you feel about hazing and UK's policy regarding it?



"Hazing is fine in moderation. If it hurts people it's not."

Ryan Dloski
English
Senior



"I think the hazing policy is fine, hazing isn't necessary."

Nicole Perry
Biology
Sophomore



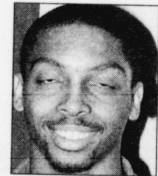
"Hazing should not happen, I have to agree with the university."

Alicia Perdue
Education
Graduate



"Hazing is part of the greek experience."

Samara Wadley
Physics
Junior



"There are other ways to promote unity within a group."

Kenyon Coleman
Physics
Junior

Delta Sigma Theta set to file appeal

Sorority protests UK decision about hazing practices

By Jessica Coy
Editor-in-Chief

Offenses: "Hazing by any action taken or situation created, intentionally or recklessly, whether on or off university premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Such abusive activities and situations may include, but are not limited to the following: illegal or harmful used and/or forced consumption of food, alcohol or drugs; paddling in any form; creation of fatigue; personal servitude ... and or any other activities which are not consistent with the regulations and policies of the University of Kentucky."

The UK student's rights and responsibilities handbook is clear not only on the definition of hazing, but also on the fact that hazing is a punishable offense, an offense that the Mu Epsilon chapter of Delta Sigma Theta has been accused of, and consequently suspended for.

A two month investigation by the University into the Delta Sigma Theta's hazing practices ended in the suspension of the sorority, which will not be eligible for reinstatement until the fall of 2001.

But there may be a light at the end of the tunnel for the sorority.

The student handbook also outlines the right to appeal disciplinary action taken by the university. Chyrita Banks, Delta Sigma Theta's president, said that the sorority is working on an appeal which will be filed by the end of the week, 21 days after the suspension was ordered.

The appeal will be given to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs who may reinstate the organization or refer the matter to the University Appeals Board. The Appeals Board would then consider the matter and pass its recommendation to the appropriate chancellor whose decision would be final.

"There hasn't been a case concerning a Greek organization that has been completely overturned in recent years, but there have been cases in which the disciplinary action has been altered," said David Stockham, dean of students.

Kathryn Brown, a member services representative at Delta Sigma Theta's national headquarters said there have been Delta Sigma Theta chapters at other universities that have been suspended for various reasons and that the national organization conducts its own investigations.

Brown added that the national office is now working with the Delta Sigma Theta on its appeal.

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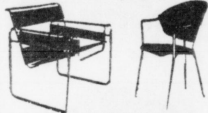
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Two Wildcats set to be drafted

*Mohammed expected to go early;
Sheppard likely second round pick*

By Steven Scrivner
Sports Editor

Were it not for Nazr Mohammed's late entry into the NBA draft, Kentucky's two-year streak of providing first-round fodder for the pros would have been snapped, scouts say.

Mohammed is expected to be drafted as high as ninth overall in the June 24 draft, while fellow Wildcat Jeff Sheppard is being

labeled an early second round pick.

If Mohammed's name is among the first 29 called, he will join Jamal Mashburn (1993), Tony Delk (1996), Walter McCarty (1996), Antoine Walker (1996), Ron Mercer (1997) and Derek Anderson (1997) as first round choices in the '90s and it would make the third consecutive year a Wildcat has been selected in the first round.

"I see him going between nine and 15," said Dan Issel, Denver Nuggets General Manager and UK all-time scoring leader. "Nazr will be long gone by the time our second pick (No. 23) comes around."

The Nuggets' first pick is third overall.

ESPN SportsZone's Chris Monter projected Mohammed going to the Milwaukee Bucks as the ninth overall selection, a move that Bucks' Director of Scouting Larry Harris said is not unlikely. "Nazr's certainly a kid that has size," Harris said, referring to Milwaukee's need to shore up their frontline. "He improved each year at Kentucky and he can score in the low post."

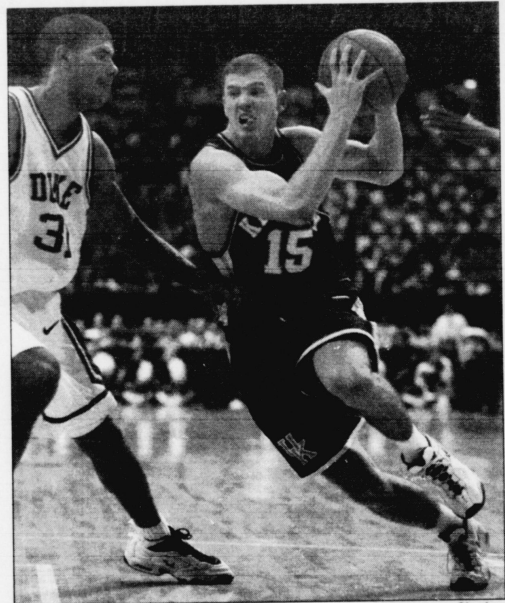
Mohammed was expected in Milwaukee late Monday to work out for the Bucks on Tuesday, Harris said.

Early Monday, Mohammed was in Philadelphia working out for the 76ers' staff. The 76ers own the eighth pick in the draft.

76ers Director of Scouting Tony DiLeo said the coaches were pleased with what they saw. "All the coaches liked him. He had a good workout," DiLeo said. "He's a little raw but has great potential. He could be a good NBA player if he puts his mind to it."

"I see him going between seven and nine," he said. The Orlando Magic, which owns three picks — 12, 13 and 15 — in the first round, also had Mohammed in for a workout. But Director of Scouting Stephen Giles questioned how Mohammed's size (6-foot-10, 245 pounds) would stack up in the NBA.

"Is he big enough to play center in the NBA?" Giles questioned. "A lot of people question that." But Giles praised Mohammed's play in college,



SHOW ME THE MONEY Denver Nuggets GM Dan Issel projects UK senior Jeff Sheppard as a second-round pick in the 1998 NBA Draft.

saying "Kentucky is the pinnacle of college basketball; how (Mohammed) developed and where he came from say a lot about him."

One team that has no interest in Mohammed is the Los Angeles Clippers, who hold the No. 1 pick.

Clippers' Director of Player Personnel Jeff Weltman said his team will select either Arizona guard Michael Bibby, Kansas forward Paul Pierce or Pacific center Michael Olowokandi.

Issel offered his take on the situation: "I think Bibby will go first, then Vancouver will take Olowokandi and trade him or (Bryant) Reeves later."

When asked what the Nuggets would do with the third pick, he responded, "We'll take either Pierce, Raef LaFrentz, Antawn Jamison or Vince Carter." He, too, saw Mohammed possibly going ninth, behind the six player he mentioned, Saint Louis guard Larry Hughes and Michigan's Robert "Tractor" Traylor.

As for Sheppard, most scouts saw the Final Four Most Valuable Player falling into the second round.

"I hope I'm wrong, but Jeff will probably not go in the first round," Issel said. "I'd say he'll go early in the second round, probably before our second round pick (No. 52)."

Weltman saw a sliver of hope

1998 Lottery picks

1. L.A. Clippers
2. Vancouver
3. Denver
4. Toronto
5. Golden State
6. Dallas
7. Sacramento
8. Philadelphia
9. Milwaukee
10. Boston
11. Detroit
12. Orlando
13. Orlando — from Washington

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The Graduate School Doctoral Dissertation Defenses

Name: Chenhua Xia
Program: Statistics
Dissertation Title: Maximum Likelihood Estimation For Nonstandard Mixture Models
Major Professor: Dr. David Allen
Date: May 27, 1998
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: 953 Patterson Office Tower

Name: Susan E. Golon
Program: Communication
Dissertation Title: Targeting Health Promotion: The Influence of Sensation Seeking, PSA Recall, and Classroom Involvement on the Effectiveness of a School-Based HIV Prevention Program
Major Professor: Dr. Lewis Donohew
Date: June 2, 1998
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: 117 Graham Building

Name: Camella P. Yates
Program: Psychology
Dissertation Title: The Relationship Between Alcohol Use and the Diversity of Behavioral and Cognitive Strategies Used in Response to Life Challenges
Major Professor: Dr. Ruth Baer
Date: June 23, 1998
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Place: 216 Kastle Hall

Name: Huiwo Wang
Program: Nutritional Sciences
Dissertation Title: Functionality of Beef Heart Serratus as Affected by Frozen Storage and Endogenous Phytases
Major Professor: Dr. Youling I. Xiong
Date: July 15, 1998
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: 108 Garrigus Building

Name: Maureen Francis Mascha
Program: Business Administration
Dissertation Title: The Effect of Feedback and Task Complexity on the Acquisition of Procedural Knowledge in an Expert System Setting Using an Audit Task
Major Professor: Dr. Ralph Victor
Date: May 29, 1998
Time: 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Place: 452 Gatton Business & Economics Building

Name: Chikereem Changchit
Program: Business Administration
Dissertation Title: An Expert System for Supporting Managers' Internal Control Evaluations
Major Professor: Dr. Clyde W. Hokappelle
Date: June 2, 1998
Time: 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Place: 452 Gatton Business & Economics Building

Name: Luta Hilaire
Program: Biomedical Engineering
Dissertation Title: Characterization of Lower Body Negative Pressure (LBNP) - Induced Fluid Distribution in Tissues Using Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Techniques
Major Professor: Dr. Charles F. Knapp
Date: June 24, 1998
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Place: 19 Werner-Green Laboratory

Name: Margaret Compton-Hall
Program: Instruction & Administration
Dissertation Title: Learning From the Experts: A Qualitative Look at Two Dual-Age Primary Teachers
Major Professor: Dr. Connie Bridge
Date: June 29, 1998
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: 122 Taylor Education Building



Mohammed

CAMPUS



JAMES CRISP Kernel staff

SOUL SOUNDS The Lexington Men's Chorus performed "For Gay Generations to Come" with guest Sister Soul last Saturday at the Singletary Center

Pride Month unites

Events bring community together

By Jessica Coy
Editor-in-Chief
and
Matthew Patton
Assistant News Editor

June is a month bursting with every color of the rainbow. Especially for gays and lesbians flying the rainbow flag during what is known as Pride Month.

Pride Month originated from parades and rallies held annually to commemorate the 1969 Stonewall rebellion, where gays rioted in Greenwich Village, New York, to protest the treatment they received from police and other authorities.

The June 26th commemorative celebrations have given way to what has become known as Pride Week, or as in Lexington, Pride Month.

In addition to events planned for Lexington, other Kentucky communities also held similar events to promote pride month.

One such event was the Lexington Men's Chorus presentation of "Pride. Anytown, USA" last Saturday night at the Singletary Center.

Musical selections featured a variety of songs from theatrical hits such as South Pacific and Les Miserables. Sister Soul was the special guest of the concert and performed "For Gay generations to Come," from *Coming out, Coming Home*, in a joint performance with the Lexington Men's Chorus.

Jeffery Jones, a UK arts and sciences advisor said events like the Lexington men's Chorus performance provide an opportunity for people to get together and have fun, which is an important part of Pride Month.

"Pride Month gives us not only an opportunity to express ourselves, but it also gives us a chance to get together as a community and have a good time," Jones said.

Most of the events scheduled for Pride Month are sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian support organization, which branched off from a UK campus organization called the Gay Liberation Front in the early 1970s.

But since 1991 UK's gay student organization, UK Lambda, has been attempting to spread information and provide support to the gay community year-round.

"Lambda is one of the oldest gay student organizations in Kentucky, and I really think that it makes a difference on this campus," Jones said.

Jones said that he has seen the number of hate crimes toward the gay community diminish over the years, but says that there is still progress to be made.

"The biggest problem for gays in our community is loneliness. Especially when someone is new to the area they might think that there is no one for them to turn to, but there are about thir-

Pride Month events

JUNE

SUNDAY, JUNE 21, LEXINGTON
Annual Wasson Volunteers
Appreciation Project

SUNDAY, JUNE 25-28, MUNCIE, IN
Indiana Women's Festival

JULY

SUNDAY, JULY 4, LEXINGTON
Independence Day Parade

SUNDAY, JULY 11, COVINGTON
Kickoff of the Run for Freedom

ty organizations in Lexington, including UK Lambda that provide support and services for gays, people just have to find them," Jones said.

UK has even taken strides toward becoming more diverse and open to the gay community by including "sexual orientation" in their non-discrimination policies. But some students feel frustrated that change isn't coming sooner.

"I hate gay bashing and racism. It's all the same. I've been scrutinized for my sexual orientation even here at UK," said a 21-year-old male UK student who wishes not to be identified.

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ViewPOINT

READERS' forum

One-of-a-kind doctor will be missed by all

To the editor:

Dr. Max Crocker was a founding party to the badly needed Family Practice Clinic at the University of Kentucky and was the youngest of three doctors that started the clinic in 1973.

Twenty-five years ago he came from a small town in Tennessee and made his home with us here in Lexington and with UK.

Over these years he has been a tremendous asset to the University and the people that frequent the now called Kentucky Clinic.

This man is not only a fine doctor, but a truly caring person. He carries the old style values that are a rare and almost endangered species in this day and time. He also has kept up with the most modern of changes in both medicine and in his ability to teach the many students that have had the privilege of learning from him.

He always takes time to explain any and all questions to those truly interested in learning. He shares many of his own experiences with them. This has given each person that has worked with him, students of all levels under his instruction and patients in his care a far better understanding of many medical issues that most doctors and instructors would not take the time to explain.

I feel we all will carry a

piece of Dr. Crocker with us into our future and be very grateful and better people for having been lucky enough to have had the benefit of his knowledge and wisdom.

The most exceptional thing about this man is I doubt that he realizes how much his smile and sincerity has meant to so many people. He has been such a genuine person that he does not take time for self-gratification.

Dr. Crocker as he leaves the clinic has taught many people from all walks of life many things and humanity is the most important in my opinion.

Each person from any area affiliated with Dr. Crocker can certainly say one thing with no reservations: Any question you ask this man, he told you straight. If he knew, he explained. If he did not know, he either knew who or where to send you for the correct answers and went to great lengths to see you were properly informed.

I am thankful for the many good doctors that will hopefully carry on the good work that Dr. Crocker has instilled in them.

Dr. Crocker will be a part of the University for many years to come. He may retire, but the knowledge and wisdom shall carry on forever.

Thank you Dr. Max Crocker for 25 years of excellent service to both the University and many people of Lexington and other areas of Kentucky. We will miss you greatly, but wish you all the good things in life with your retirement.

Helen Hayes
Lexington



Home isn't so sweet in Lexington

Efforts to change zoning is just a new way to give UK students the boot ...

I'm getting the impression that I'm not wanted around here anymore. More than a month ago I pulled up my residence hall roots and planted myself in an Aylesford area apartment. I just settled in when I noticed big blue and white signs posted up and down the streets telling of a impending zone change to H-1.

My seemingly vast storehouse of knowledge held no information on housing zones so I had no earthly idea what would happen to my newly-built apartment if the zone change occurred. More importantly I was worried that my rent would skyrocket and I would be forced back to the dorms.

After consulting several articles in the local newspapers I found the H-1 zoning lacking true evil intentions. The H-1 zone simply requires the historic architectural patterns of the area to be maintained by mandating that property owners consult building experts before destroying or creating new dwellings in the H-1 district.

It will help property owners work together to beautify and preserve the historical flavor of the neighborhood, but this really means piddly squat to me because I don't own my apartment.

I have no qualms that my landlord has the help of a new committee and local neighbors. So why should I or any student

leasing houses or apartments in the Aylesford district care?

Because they want us gone. The local landowners who live in the area want the students out for good. They are sick of loud, uncaring student tenants who trash the neighborhood and bring down their property values.

The parking mayhem created by commuting students who park on the residential streets irk the local property owners. They have lobbied the city officials to implement the H-1 because they feel this new housing zone will be able to limit the number of incoming student tenants by restricting new duplex and apartment buildings.

Fighting the Aylesford property owners tooth and nail are other property owners that live outside of Aylesford but around UK. They don't want the H-1 zone to pass because if the students can no longer live in the Aylesford area then the students will start flocking to THEIR areas.

These snotty property owners can bicker and bicker all they want about where the students should live. What they fail to realize is that H-1 zoning does not dictate the way property in the Aylesford can be used.

Houses will still be rented out to students because of the wonderfully close location of Aylesford to the UK campus, but what

ticks me off is the fact that these property owners really want us gone.

They expect to live one to six blocks away from major university without having any student tenants or student-based problems in their neighborhood.

Normally at parties and other social gatherings I'll leave if I get the hint that I'm not wanted. But I have just as much right living in the Aylesford area as anybody else regardless of who I am or if I am leasing the property.

This last happened back in the 50s and 60s and it was called segregation. I think most everybody nowadays admit that what happened back then was a mistake.

For my fellow students who live in the area to be rezoned, there are several steps you may be interested in pursuing. The best thing is to call your landlord or property owner and ask how this zoning change will affect you, your rent, your pets and your current contract if the zoning should take place before your lease expires.

If anybody has free time on their hands, the next meeting regarding the zone change will be held at 2 p.m. on June 25, at the corner of Martin Luther King and Main Street. I will be there to see how it all comes down. I want to witness firsthand how serious these land owners are to kick my fat butt out of their neighborhood.

It should be pretty funny and who knows, I may get on the evening news.

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Christopher Emmick
Kernel Columnist

Kernel

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DiVeRSions



Back Alley Blues

Lynagh's gets taste of Southern swing

By Dan O'Neill
Managing Editor

By all accounts the title of Victor Mecsnyne's second album *Husb Money*, and its alliterative subtitle *Tawdry Tales of Tarnished Lives*, sounds like something out of the movies. The name conjures images of the seedy, back alley dealings found in period films about corrupt southern politics or some other screen-worthy intrigue.

As well it should. Mecsnyne's sophomore effort is a rare theme album that makes for an extremely visual, as well as aural, experience. After all, the Nashville artist cites photographers Henri Cartier-Bresson and Robert Frank among his principle influences.

His music takes listeners to the distinctive South for a foot-tapping blend of lazy swing, New Orleans' jazz, ragtime and delta blues. Featuring 22 instruments including a talented horn section, banjo, mandolin and piano, *Husb Money* feeds off fairly simple arrangements that frolic in its writer's deadpan wit.

The genre convergence comes from a

list of musical influences that include Uncle Walt's Band, Tom Waits, Louis Armstrong and blues icons Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters. The influence of such greats is evident in Mecsnyne's everyman lyrics that come laced with humor and playful melodies.

From the spirited opening track "A Girl that's Hip" to the seductive closing cover of Walter Hyatt's "Going to New Orleans," the singer/songwriter offers a pleasant mix of up tempo and slow tempo beats of both the whimsical and weighty nature.

Perhaps the album's defining cut, "Lower Broadway," begins with Victor's comic touch, "The whores are quoting Shakespeare, what kind of street is this? / Hell, I'm just a college dropout and all I want's a little kiss," and proceeds to tell a colorful story of a slightly crooked Nashville district.

The fun is often met with surprisingly delicate and heartfelt tunes as with the elegiac "They Were Playin' the Blues."

With the album a little over a month old, Mecsnyne takes a break from touring Tennessee to make a stop in Lexington. Mecsnyne and his raucous six-piece band The Ragtops bring their clever musical concoction to Lynagh's Friday night. Cover for the 10 p.m. show is \$5.

SOUTHERN FRIED Sweetfish Recording artist Victor Mecsnyne and his six piece band The Ragtops play Lynagh's Friday night in support of their new album 'Husb Money.'

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