



Columnist:
Women's
hoops
veterans
show their
worth
Page A4



(Left) The Santa Train, also known as the Santa Special, brings toys, food and tradition through Eastern Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia each year. Hundreds gather at its stopping points to pick up the goodies.

(Below) Santa Train volunteer Regina "Angel" Stuart (left) gathers with girls Allison (middle, left) and Abigail Stuart, and their mother Amanda Stuart.

PHOTOS BY
JONATHAN PALMER
STAFF

THE SEASON OF GIVING

Santa Train delivers Christmas spirit

In the rural coal-mining communities of Eastern Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia, one holiday tradition outshines all the rest: the Santa Train. It brings food and toys to the young and old alike, but most importantly, volunteers say it brings joy to their hearts.

By Danielle Komin
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The Santa Train's whistle echoes through the Appalachian Mountains, dances over rocky creeks and cuts through hollows littered with abandoned school buses, old refrigerators and tired, leaning outhouses.

In the mountains of Eastern Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia, people young and old gathered together Saturday, as people have for 62 years every Saturday before Thanksgiving, to wait for the Santa Train and the gifts it always brings.

CSX Transportation and The Kingsport Area Chamber of

Commerce co-sponsor the Santa Train, also known as the Santa Special, as a way to give back to the rural coal-mining communities it does business with and its trains pass through every day.

The Santa Train starts in Shelby, Ky., at 7 a.m. and heads south until it ends in a Christmas parade in Kingsport, Tenn., at 3 p.m.

As the 11-car train grinds to a halt at its first stop in Marrowbone, Ky., the frenzy inside the last car begins. Volunteers, mostly CSX employees or part of the chamber, grab large plastic crates of goodies and quickly toss them to Santa and his

helpers, who throw the goodies off the back of the train to the eager crowd.

Christmas music plays cheerily over the outside speakers as 15 tons of candy, Moon Pies, Cheetos, rolls of wrapping paper and small toys are distributed to the masses who wait at stops in towns with names that few outside of the region would recognize. Whether the train stops in Toms Bottom, Elkhorn City, Dunganon or Kermit, it is always met with children's high-pitched, frenzied screams of "Santa! Santa!"

Many of the little ones sit atop their parents' shoulders,

craning their necks upward, their little hands outstretched, hoping to catch something.

Some hold plastic bags to collect their goodies. Others struggle to hold rolls of wrapping paper, bags of food and coloring books in their arms.

For the young, old or disabled who cannot push their way to the front, volunteers dressed in red vests with bulging bags make sure that no one walks away from the Santa Train empty-handed.

The volunteers give Play-Doh, water guns, hand-knit scarves and stuffed animals to

See Santa Train on page A8



Mine Safety Project sticks up for miners

By Megan Boehne
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

When he was growing up in a Kentucky coal mining camp, Wes Addington's father encouraged him to get an education and not follow his footsteps into the mines.

Though the UK law school graduate took his father's advice about education, Addington still returned to his coal-mining roots, working in Prestonsburg, Ky., to help miners like his father.

Addington, a Letcher County native, earned a fellowship to work at the Appalachian Citizens Law Center to resurrect the Mine Safety Project. The non-profit law center was established 30 years ago to offer free services for low-income citizens with coal mine-related cases.

"Miners feel as if they don't have as many places to turn if they do have safety concerns," Addington said. "There is not really a voice for the miners."

Tony Oppgaard started the Mine Safety Project in 1991 to give miners a place to turn for legal help in safety-related disputes. Oppgaard is now general counsel to the Kentucky Office of Mine Safety and Licensing.

and due to a lack of funding, the project went dormant for several years.

Since the exit of the United Mine Workers group in 1963, miners in Kentucky and neighboring states have had no union to rely on for support, which can raise critical safety concerns, Addington said.

"Geographically, Eastern Kentucky is the heart of the central Appalachian coalfields," Addington said. "Thus, we are in close proximity to the coal regions of West Virginia, Virginia and Tennessee."

Addington, who passed the bar exam in July, received a two-year fellowship from the Equal Justice Works of Washington, D.C., to restart the project.

Addington primarily handles federal black-lung benefit cases and mine safety discrimination cases. Black lung disease occurs when someone has been exposed to too much coal dust, clogging the lungs and the body's respiratory system.

Under federal law, a miner diagnosed with black lung has a right to transfer to a work environment with a smaller concentration of coal dust and still receive the same pay.

See Mines on page A2

UK 77, COPPIN STATE 46 Cats' defense strikes fear in Eagles

By Ben Roberts
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Coppin State head coach Fang Mitchell simply wanted his players to concentrate on basketball.

After his starters were introduced, Mitchell took his team to an off-court tunnel as Rupp Arena public address announcer Doug Bruce presented the UK starting lineup.

He didn't want them worrying about the 22,000 screaming UK fans, the seven national championship banners or the No. 9-ranked team sitting on the other bench.

But Mitchell's plan went awry from the opening tip-off as the Cats jumped out to a 5-0

lead in the first 25 seconds and coasted to a 77-46 victory in their first game of the regular season.

"For one of the rare times, we saw the team of ours play with fear," Mitchell said of his team's start. "I guess it is a little tough coming in here and seeing everything and not have any fear."

UK jumped on the Eagles early, applying a full-court pressure defense that led to two Coppin State turnovers in the first minute of play and forced Mitchell to call a timeout just 26 seconds into the first half.

Senior forward Chuck

See Cats on page A4

New dynamic duo drives UK

Patrick Sparks can't quite explain it — he and Rajon Rondo know how to play together.

In UK's 77-46 win over Coppin State, the junior guard Sparks and the freshman guard Rondo combined for 21 points as well as some of the game's best highlights.



Tim Wiseman
SPORTS EDITOR

There was Sparks finding Rondo for a smooth lay-up in the first half.

There was Rondo kicking it out to Sparks for a 3-pointer later in the first half.

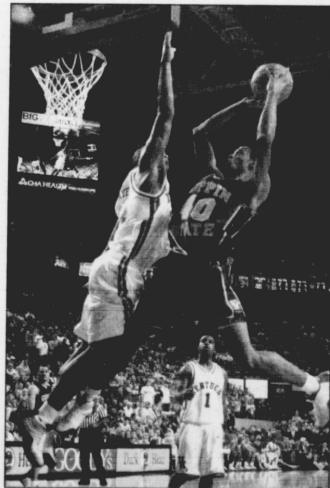
There was Sparks giving it up to Rondo for a monster dunk to start the second half.

It's a little repetitive, but it's the kind of consistency fans and coaches love.

It's the kind of consistency that wins games, a whole lot of games.

After a month of practical

See Guards on page A4



SCOTT LOUWER | STAFF

UK forward Chuck Hayes (left) goes up to block the shot of Coppin State forward Robert Pressey in UK's 77-46 win Saturday. Hayes recorded his 14th career double-double, finishing with 12 points and 13 rebounds.

Brooks

Continued from page A1

ing through right now will, hopefully, reflect that."

Brooks is 6-16 in his second season at UK, including a 2-3 record this season. The Cats will finish the season Saturday at Tennessee.

"We knew this was going to be the toughest year of the years of probation," Todd said.

"We got hammered pretty hard for that." Throughout this season, Brooks has stated that he is "here for the long haul." Brooks has three years left on a five-year contract that pays him \$725,000 per season.

If UK decided to fire Brooks, he would be owed \$2.1 million.

"We are in steady shape financially," Barnhart said.

"Money is not the factor. We'll evaluate our program going forward, period."

Barnhart has been

meeting with all of UK's fall sports coaches in recent weeks, evaluating each program. Volleyball coach Jona Braden resigned last week after seven years with the team.

"I think the time-frame in college athletics is being squeezed everywhere," Barnhart said.

"You had five to seven years to get a program turned around, then it became four to six, then three to five, and now it's a much shorter time-frame."

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Mines

Continued from page A1

In one of Addington's cases, a client's work schedule was cut by 10 hours per week, and his wages dropped by \$4.50 per hour.

"The result was that many weeks, he was bringing home about half of what he previously was making," Addington said. "Like many miners, he was reluctant to file this case because he is afraid of future discrimination and harassment."

Many law offices will not take these cases because they typically take so long to complete, Addington said. The Mine Safety Project has yet to receive a decision in any of the cases it has filed in 2004.

"Meanwhile, miners afflicted by black lung are dying," Addington said.

"Often, original miner claims are often re-

filled as widow's claims because the miner in question dies."

And once a case reaches the end of the appeal process, the success rate is low, which also causes many lawyers to shy away from minor safety cases.

Only 7 percent of the cases filed actually win, and the cases can take many years before being resolved, often outlasting the miner's lifespan.

"Miners feel as if they don't have as many places to turn if they do have safety concerns."

Wes Addington
Mine Safety Director

"Cases often can last six to ten years," Addington said. "We have a case here that is still active from 1981."

Mine safety discrimination cases are also distributed to Addington as a part of the Mine Safety Project.

Such cases are meant to protect miners from firings, pay cuts, reduced hours and other threats and harassments.

"What I am hoping to do with the project is not just litigation with these cases," Addington said.

"It's organizing miners and being able to inform them of their safety rights, and encourag-

ing miners to take more of an active role in mine safety."

Oppegard was successful with these goals, Addington said. Oppegard's name became well known in the region, and miners often received referrals to the Mine Safety Project.

But since Oppegard first began the project, it has been reprised more than once.

Under Addington, the project is once again facing difficulties in securing future funding.

Currently, the Law Center is working to establish an endowment to ensure the future of the Mine Safety Project.

While grants are available, "the progress and viability of my project is crucial to impress likely donors," Addington said.

"As with any non-profit, fundraising is an ongoing obstacle," he said.

"Hopefully, the Mine Safety Project will become a hub where miners can express mine safety concerns, and a place they can turn for quality legal representation."

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NEWS BRIEFS

Federal budget gives UK \$13 million

U.S. Rep. Ben Chandler, D-Ky., said Friday he has earmarked \$13 million for UK in the government's budget for the 2005 fiscal year.

The funds are divided into 10 different categories. The biggest winner was UK's Forage-Animal Protection Unit, which will receive \$3 million.

About \$1.5 million will go toward three agricultural programs, including UK's Crop Diversification Program and a livestock systems project.

The UK College of Law also received \$1 million for the development of a Rural Drug Assistance program.

Athletics Board adds two members

The UK Athletic Association's Board of Directors unanimously approved the addition of two at-large members Friday. The move will increase the board's size to 18 members. The current 16-member athletics board has one at-large member, Luther Deaton, who is the president and CEO of Central Bank and Trust on Vine Street.

Tennessee wins Big Blue Crush

The University of Tennessee won the 17th annual Big Blue Crush blood drive, giving a total of 2,700 pints of blood.

UK finished the week with 2,543 pints of blood, its highest total since the 2000 blood drive. UK finished the competition strong, giving 603 pints of blood Nov. 19 — four pints shy of the highest total for either side. UT donated 607 pints Nov. 18.

Combined, the two colleges collected 5,243 pints of blood.

Iraqi elections will be in January

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq's electoral commission yesterday set Jan. 30 for elections to choose a National Assembly, a vote that could deliver power to Iraq's Shiite Muslim majority after decades of disenfranchisement. The balloting, however, remains imperiled by calls for a Sunni Muslim boycott and a persistent insurgency

that has roiled Sunni regions.

The election will choose a 275-member National Assembly. In turn, that body will select a new government to replace the current, appointed leadership and oversee the drafting of a constitution. If the constitution is ratified, another election will be held in December 2005 to seat a permanent government.

Congress approves spending bill

WASHINGTON — Congress reached final agreement Saturday night on a \$388 billion spending bill funding 13 government departments and dozens of domestic agencies in 2005, after last-minute objections from abortion rights advocates threatened to delay or derail the vote of 944 to 51.

The bill, consisting of more than 1,000 pages and weighing in at 14 pounds, codifies the stinging budget for domestic departments since the late 1990s. Although a few favored agencies, such as Amtrak and NASA, were spared cuts, the measure bears evidence of a new austerity in domestic spending, brought about by soaring budget deficits and the rising costs of war and counterterrorism programs.

Bush warns Iran and North Korea about nuclear weapons

SANTIAGO, Chile — On his first trip overseas since winning re-election, President Bush stepped up the pressure on Iran and North Korea Saturday, whose nuclear threats critics accused him of neglecting in his first term.

Bush saved his harshest words for Tehran, seizing on new allegations that the Iranians are proceeding with the production of a gas used in the production of nuclear bombs despite pledging to halt such activity under a tentative accord with European nations.

On the topic of North Korea, Bush proclaimed that the five nations involved in discussions with the Pyongyang regime will speak with a "common voice" in the quest to rid the North of its nuclear arsenal.

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Tennis stars entertain at exhibition

By Kyle Hamilton
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

It was quickly apparent on Sunday that Kentuckians aren't the most serious of tennis fans.

During the Lexus Tennis Challenge at Rupp Arena, fans cheered all types of shots — those in play, those out of play, those that went over the net and those that ended up in the net.

In fact, it seemed that as long as the shots were hit by Venus and Serena Williams, Anna Kournikova and Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, the fans cheered.

An estimated crowd of 4,500 people watched the singles exhibition matches in which Venus Williams defeated Kournikova 6-3, 6-2. The crowd also saw the team of Venus Williams and Schultz-McCarthy beat Serena Williams and Kournikova 6-3 in a doubles match that consisted of only one set.

The exhibition matches were error-filled, partly because of an abdominal injury that Serena Williams suffered last week and partly because Kournikova was playing in her first competitive match in several months.

In the singles match, Venus Williams dominated Kournikova. The Russian-born supermodel had many problems during the match, hitting a lot of drop shots into the net and returning many of Venus Williams' serves into the stands.

After the singles match, Jamal Mashburn had trouble returning Venus Williams' serves as well.

The former UK basketball standout,

whose Excel Incentive Scholarship Program was a beneficiary of the event, came out of the stands to face the challenge from Venus Williams and subsequently drove one of the soft serves into the stands and another into the ground two feet in front of himself.

"(Venus) laid off me," Mashburn said. "Just a little bit."

In the doubles match that followed, Schultz-McCarthy and Venus Williams quickly dispersed of Serena Williams and Kournikova with an abundance of strong serves.

It also didn't help that Kournikova had to make all the serves for her team because of Serena Williams' ailment. Serena Williams said her abdominal strain didn't bother her during the match.

"It felt fine because I really didn't serve," Serena said. "Not being able to serve really is debilitating, and I hope to be able to do it real soon."

The tennis stars played the exhibition match to benefit Mashburn's scholarship fund, the Tubby Smith Foundation and the OWL Foundation, the charity of the Williams sister's mother, Oracee Price.

Venus Williams said she felt good to help out.

"Our mom has always and will always do as much as she can for us."

Venus Williams said. "So it's nice for us to reciprocate with her and of course to help the kids, also."

Lexus Tennis Challenge: The Players



S. Williams



V. Williams



Kournikova

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Spartans sweep series with Cool Cats

Chris Johnson
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

This weekend, Michigan State taught the Cool Cats a tough lesson.

The Cats were beaten soundly for the first time all season, losing 6-2 Friday and 7-2 Saturday to Michigan State. Repeated defensive letdowns and slow reaction time doomed UK (12-7-1) as Michigan State used their superior quickness and experience to beat the Cats to loose pucks and force quick decision making by the Cats, who were not always up to the challenge.

But the team and its coaches now know that it can play with the best in the country, and the coaches see an improving program.

"They didn't beat us as much as we beat ourselves," Cool Cat coach Mike Sosnowski said. "We gave the puck away, and they capitalized on our mistakes."

The Spartans retained control of the puck for a majority of both games, taking shot after shot at UK goalie Drew Matichak and waiting to catch him leaning the wrong way or the slightest bit out of position.

Matichak covered more ice than the Zamboni driver, making 102 saves on 115 shots.

"I'd rather play this way than

against someone like Tennessee where you get like 10 shots a game," Matichak said after Friday's loss, in which he saved 55 shots. "I love it."

Assistant head coach Rob Docherty, who is in charge of the defense, was disappointed in his unit's performance, which was a major reason why so many shots were taken at the UK goal.

"We played pretty weak tonight," Docherty said after Saturday's contest. "This team [Michigan State] will make you look stupid, and they did."

Experience was a major factor in the team's loss, Sosnowski said. "I think this is a young hockey team coming together," Sosnowski said. "This weekend showed us that we can play with any team out there," Docherty said.

"I talked to their head coach after the game, and he said, 'You guys are almost there, and I think he's right.'"

Several players and coaches agreed that Michigan State was the best team UK would play all year.

"Confidence may have been a reason for them coming out flat on Friday, where the veterans had never hung with a Michigan State before, and the

new guys didn't know if they could either," Sosnowski said. "But we can skate with these guys."

That was proven Friday, in a game that was much closer than the final score indicated.

Next Game

Illinois vs. Kentucky
Lexington Ice Center
Midnight, Dec. 3

Andy Bertram tied the game at 2-2 with 17:20 left in the third period, but from there, the roof caved in for the Cats

as Michigan State regained the lead 90 seconds later and never relinquished it, scoring three more times to finish the Cats off.

Forward Alex Poulos scored the Cats' first goal Friday, getting behind the Spartans' defense and putting a deft maneuver on the goalie to make the score 2-1.

UK defenseman Sean Tugle and UK forward Kevin Theobald scored Saturday — Theobald on a perfectly bounced ricochet off the boards that he sent into the goal, and Tugle on a break where he deked the defender and the goalie with the same move, sliding the puck past the goalie and into the left corner of the net.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Grace to run in NCAA Championships

UK junior Allison Grace will run at the NCAA Cross Country Championships in Terra Haute, Ind. Grace qualified for the event by finishing 10th at the Southeast Regional Nov. 13 in Greenville, N.C. She earned All-Southeastern Conference Honors by finishing in seventh place at the SEC Championship Oct. 30 in Fayetteville, Ark.

Swim squads claim six victories

The UK men's and women's swimming teams set a new school record Sunday by claiming six event victories, and the women's diving team won the platform event, in two separate meets.

At Indiana's Counsilman-Billingsley Aquatic Center, UK's Daniel Farnham, Tim Patrick, Daniel Cruz and Steven Manley set a school record in the 400-freestyle relay with a time of 2:55.89, beating the previous record by .36 seconds. The time also made the NCAA provisional qualifying cut by nearly four seconds.

Senior Jessica Siegele placed second in the 200 backstroke with a time of 2:00.01. Freshman Jill Southern placed fifth with a time of 2:03.90. Senior Jeram Chudleigh placed in the 200 backstroke with an NCAA "B" cut time of

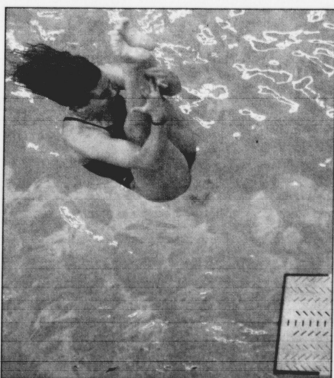
1:46.65. Sophomore Alejandro Bravo placed fifth and senior Dave Roberts placed seventh.

Four Cats finished in the top six of the men's 100-freestyle event. Farnham won the event in 43.94. Patrick placed second in 44.92, senior Clay Gasparovich took fifth and sophomore Mark Doyle finished sixth.

Junior Laura Graham automatically qualified for the 2005 NCAA Championships in the 200-breaststroke event with a time of 2:13.77. Junior Shantel Commander made the "B" cut time at 2:15.16.

Manley took first in the men's event with a time of 2:02.16. Senior Mike Arce placed fourth, freshman Will Vietti finished fifth and senior Dane Redlinger placed eighth. Cruz won in the 200 butterfly at 1:45.13. Chudleigh finished fourth and senior Chris Collins took sixth place.

At the Georgia Tech Fall Invitational, sophomore Taryn Ignacio won the platform-diving event with a score of 420.65. It was her second win in as many weeks in the event. Sophomore Joey Brown placed fifth and sophomore Jillian Becker took ninth. Senior All-American Mario Rodriguez took fourth on the platform, and freshmen Ben Starchuck and Justin Monte took seventh and ninth,



JOHN FOSTER | STAFF

UK swimming teams set a new school record with six victories in its meet in Bloomington, Ind., this weekend. At the Georgia Tech Fall Invitational, diving sophomore Taryn Ignacio won her second event in two weeks.

ca Golf Classic today and Tuesday at the El Paso Country Club in Texas. The tournament is hosted by the Sun Bowl Association.

Wells is the second UK player to participate in the field of the previous year's All-American. Senior John Holmes played in 2002.

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STUDENT TRAVEL & BEYOND

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Week of November 22nd-26th

The Campus Calendar is produced by the Office of Student Activities. Registered Student Orgs. and UK Depts. can submit information for FREE online ONE WEEK PRIOR to the MONDAY information to appear at: <http://www.uky.edu/CampusCalendar>. Call 257-8807 for more information.

MEETINGS

*Wesley Foundation's Bible Study and FREE Dinner, 6:00pm, Wesley Foundation, 508 Columbia Ave., Lexington **Mon 22**

*UK Swing Dance Club, Dance Lessons, 8:30pm, Alumni Gym, \$25 entire semester

*Christian Student Fellowship presents "Shift" for Freshman, 7:00pm, CSF Building on the corner of Woodland and Columbia

*UK American Civil Liberties Union Meeting, 7:30pm, Student Center, Room 231

*Campus Ministries International Meeting, 8:00pm, Student Center, Room 111

ARTS/MOVIES

*"Minds Wide Open," Monday-Friday, 11:00pm-8:00pm, Raddall Art Gallery, Student Center

MEETINGS

*Baptist Student Union's English Conversation Class, 6:00pm, 429 Columbia Avenue **Tues 23**

*Baptist Student Union TNT, 7:30pm, 429 Columbia Ave.

*UK Students for Life Meeting, 8:00pm, Student Center, Room 115

*UK Berean Bible Study, 8:00pm-9:00pm, Student Center, Room 113

SPORTS

*Shaolin-Do Club Meeting, 5:00-6:30pm, Alumni Gym Loft, \$60 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 Tae Kwon Do Club Mtg., 8:30pm-7:30pm, Alumni Gym Loft, call 351-7311 for more info

ARTS/MOVIES

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

*UK Anime presents Yumeria, 6:00pm, Student Center, Center Theater

MEETINGS

*MCL, French Division's Table Francaise, French Conversation Group, 3:00-4:30pm, Student Center, Room 206 **Wed 24**

*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", 8:00pm, 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 Roa St.

*College Republican Mtg., 8:00pm, Commons Market, Room 306

ARTS/MOVIES

*"Minds Wide Open," Monday-Friday, 11:00pm-8:00pm, Raddall Art Gallery, Student Center

*Creative Writing Corner, 6:00pm-8:00pm, W.T. Young Library, Writing Center, 8th floor Westside, for more information call the Writing Center at 257-1386

THURSDAY 11/25/04
THANKSGIVING BREAK **25**
Thurs

FRIDAY 11/26/04
THANKSGIVING BREAK **26**
Fri

Upperclassmen help Cats crush Rattlers

After UK women's basketball's first exhibition win two weeks ago, several of UK's upperclassmen leaned against a wall watching the press interview the freshmen.

A few laughs were shared as UK Hoops' future took the spotlight.

But though the freshmen may have headed the preseason hype, the upper class dominated yesterday.

Junior forward Jennifer Humphrey had a double-double and senior forward Sara Potts scored 21 points, as UK rolled over the Florida A&M Rattlers 84-55.



Derek Poore
SPORTS COLUMNIST

Humphrey's 15 boards and 12 points combined with Potts' 4-of-8 shooting from behind the arc.

This first weekend of real action for UK ended with two blowouts, gaudy rebounding advantages and solid shooting (an average of 45 percent over the two games).

Any UK basketball fan can appreciate that. So can Potts.

"When you miss a shot, it's not over," Potts said. "You have to keep going after it."

UK head coach Mickie DeMoss appreciates it, too. She practices with lids over the basket, sending the ball every which way.

"We don't want to give them a second opportunity," Humphrey said.

So far they haven't. This weekend, UK nearly doubled-up their two opponents in rebounding: 112-57.

Potts said her team feeds

off defense, much to the happiness of DeMoss, who comes from the Fat Summit school of basketball. Those hallowed halls at Tennessee produced six NCAA titles.

And so far, the juniors and seniors are the class of UK Hoops.

But I'm not dismissing the newcomers or anything. They're not the "Fab Five." Not yet. They are silent assassins.

Along with transfer junior Nastassia Alcius, the newcomers are the "solid six."

Thirty-eight of UK's points against Florida A&M and a third of its rebounds came from newcomers. The freshmen are a core to be reckoned with.

DeMoss just hopes they take care of business.

"I expect them to score and take care of the ball," DeMoss said. "I expect them

to play like upperclassmen."

DeMoss' first class is a glimpse into UK's future. They're building solid fundamentals that will make everything else seem a little bit easier and a little bit more fun, Humphrey knows.

"They've improved every day in practice," she said. "They're going to be so good by the time they're seniors. They work so hard."

And for all their efforts, for the second straight game, UK held a team to 31 percent shooting.

Rattlers head coach Debra Clark was asked what contrasts she saw from UK on tape last year and what her team faced yesterday.

"They've got a little bit more depth this year," Clark said.

There's a little bit of genius in that.

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Cats

Continued from page A1

Hayes, who had two early steals, said UK's defense keyed the early offensive outburst.

"We wanted to go right at them," Hayes said. "We started out right from the beginning pressing them and causing turnovers. And we got some easy layups because of that."

The Cats' defense continued to pester Coppin State throughout the first half, forcing 14 turnovers and holding the visitors to 23 percent field goal shooting in the game's first 20 minutes.

UK head coach Tubby Smith was pleased with his team's early defense.

"Early on, we caused a lot of deflections and turnovers and that's something we try to do and we know that can create a lot of momentum," Smith said. "Our defensive intensity was good today."

Hayes and junior guard Patrick Sparks led a balanced UK offense with 12 points apiece. Hayes added a game-high 13 rebounds to log his 14th career double-double.

The Cats struggled from the field, shooting 35 percent in the first half and 41 percent for the game, but they dramatically improved from behind the 3-point line.

In its two exhibition wins, UK shot 20 percent from 3-point range, and junior guard Kelenna Azubuike was the only Wildcat to make more than one 3-pointer.

The Cats shot 44 percent from behind the arc Saturday, converting on 10-of-23 attempts. Six different UK shooters made at least one 3-point shot.

Azubuike, who was 1-of-4 from 3-point range, said he expected UK's long range shooting to improve with time.

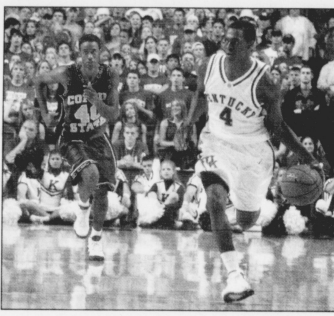
"We have a lot of people that can shoot the ball," Azubuike said. "Tonight we showed that. If one guy is not making them then another guy is always going to be there to step up and make them."

Azubuike and Hayes, UK's top two returning scorers from last season, were held to a combined 4-of-17 shooting by the Coppin State defense.

Hayes pointed to their poor performance and the 31-point UK victory as a sign that future opponents couldn't hope to defeat the Cats just by shutting down the veteran duo.

"I think tonight shows you can't just key in on me and Kelenna," Hayes said. "We have other guys that can beat you."

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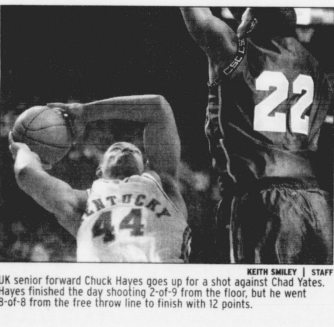
UK freshman guard Rajon Rondo leads the break in UK's 77-46 win Saturday over Coppin State. In his first collegiate game, Rondo started and scored nine points and five steals.

Coppin State (46)

NAME	mi	fg	3pt	ft	rb	tp
King	24	0-9	0-4	2-2	3	2
Proctor	30	2-5	0-0	3-3	4	7
Goffar	14	1-2	0-0	0-0	4	2
Vates	8	1-2	0-0	0-1	0	2
Scott	12	2-3	0-2	2-2	4	6
Harrison	28	4-7	0-3	0-0	5	8
Roberts	18	1-3	0-0	0-0	0	7
Presley	2-5	2-0	0-0	0-0	1	7
Daniels	20	2-5	0-0	1-2	4	5
Team	200	17-51	11-12	11-15	31	46

Kentucky (77)

NAME	mi	fg	3pt	ft	rb	tp
Azubuike	25	2-6	0-0	1-2	2	6
Hayes	28	2-9	0-0	8-8	13	12
Morris	11	1-2	0-0	5-7	3	7
Rondo	21	4-8	0-0	1-2	1	9
Sparks	21	4-8	3-7	1-2	5	16
Moss	10	2-2	2-2	0-0	1	12
Bradley	13	2-4	2-4	1-2	4	7
Carrier	7	1-3	0-2	0-0	0	2
McMicheal	3	1-1	1-1	0-0	0	3
Perry	11	1-3	0-1	0-0	1	2
Allelyne Crawford	16	2-2	0-0	2-4	3	6
Team	200	24-59	10-23	19-27	40	77



UK senior forward Chuck Hayes goes up for a shot against Chad Yates. Hayes finished the day shooting 2-of-9 from the floor, but he went 8-of-8 from the free throw line to finish with 12 points.

Guards

Continued from page A1

Sparks has no clear explanation for the duo's quick chemistry — he just enjoys it.

"We have a good connection," he said. "I don't want to feel it is. We just have a good feel for the game."

He and Rondo are perhaps an unlikely duo.

Coming into the season, many thought Rondo and Sparks would battle for the starting point guard spot. A rivalry would not have been

unexpected.

Instead, they are on the floor together, and if Saturday's game means anything, it is the start of something great.

In Rondo and Sparks, the Cats have two tenacious defenders who love to frustrate and harass opponents.

Against Coppin State, Rondo forced five steals. He pressured the Eagles relentlessly, and his effort impressed Coppin State coach Fang Mitchell.

"I can see that he is going to be great just by the things that he can do," he said.

Sparks equally im-

pressed Eagle guard Raheem Scott.

"He was a zonebuster today," Scott said of Sparks' 3-point shooting.

After just one game, it is hard not to imagine what the two guards can be together.

Together, the two present opponents with a world of problems.

Then you add in UK's other guards — juniors Kelenna Azubuike and Ravi Moss, and freshmen Joe Crawford and Ramel Bradley — and even UK coach Tubby Smith gets a little excited.

"That's what I like about

this team—we have some depth here and we have some people who can apply pressure defensively and offensively," Smith said.

If the ever-skeptical Smith is dishing out that kind of praise, it means something.

What Sparks and Rondo did on Saturday is only a glimpse of their potential, and that's the really exciting part.

As long as he and Rondo keep it up, Sparks doesn't need to explain anything — the results will speak for both of them.

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Tom Kenny soaks up fun as SpongeBob

By Ellen Edwards
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Picture this: A large yellow sponge, with big round eyes and square brown pants, calls a fancy Hollywood restaurant and asks for the best table.

Tom Kenny laughs at the prospect. Not happening, he says. "If you call a restaurant and say that you're the voice of SpongeBob, they'll just hang up on you. I live in Los Angeles. 'SpongeBob? We've got Jack Nicholson coming in!'"

For the past five years, Kenny has been the sound behind the most famous sponge in history. The character he helped create with *SpongeBob SquarePants* originator Stephen Hillenburg has become a cultural icon, a touchstone of humor, a mega-selling product and the most successful cartoon that Nickelodeon has aired. And its audience goes beyond the kids for whom it was intended: 30 percent of the viewers are over age 20, according to Nielsen Media Research.

On Friday, Mr. SquarePants became a movie star: too, when the first *SpongeBob* full-length movie opened in theaters.

SpongeBob lives his life going happily through every surprising day with his best friend Patrick, the not-very-Cheeks, a squirrel looking for excitement; his money-loving boss Mr. Krabs, and the cranky neighbor Squidward. In the movie, the plot has more spins than a backward 3 1/2-somersault pike, venturing out of the safety of Bikini Bottom and into The World. Suffice to say that *SpongeBob* must battle the evil Plankton's plot to take over his happy hometown, and David Hasselhoff of *Baywatch* fame is his greatest ally.

The reviewers may think what they want, but my 9-year-old son proclaimed it "the best movie I have ever

seen, and I have seen *Top Gun*."

That made Kenny laugh and laugh, in his own, non-SpongeBob voice. He is quick to note that the character's voice is not electronically altered, as many people assume. He does, he says, use his hands to help make *SpongeBob's* signature laugh, something that might sound like a maniacal sheep.

"It's probably a good thing you can't see me right now," he says by phone from Los Angeles. "I just make a kind of weird smoky noise in the back of my throat — EHHHHHHHHH — and I move my hands up and down on my Adam's apple. BAAH-HHAAHHHHAHAHA. It's very bizarre. I never knew I could do that until *SpongeBob*. There are very few jobs where that skill is going to come up."

Hillenburg tapped Kenny for the voice of *SpongeBob* when he was still in the process of creating the cartoon.

"He and I had worked on an earlier cartoon for Nickelodeon, and that was the first time either of us had been hired to work on an animated cartoon," Kenny says. "We just hit it off... We just worked out what the character would sound like and where his voice placement would be."

"One of the great things for me about *SpongeBob* is that I didn't have to audition," he said. "Most of the time you walk into a room to audition for a cartoon and there are 15 or 20 of the best voice-over guys in the business sitting in the waiting room, and you just go, 'Ohhh boy. This is not going to be easy.'"

SpongeBob, who shifts between being a kid and an independent adult with a job (Krusty Krab fry cook extraordinaire) is "a combination of a child and a grown-up," says Kenny. "And that's definitely what I am."

As a kid Kenny was a self-proclaimed "animation freak," watching *Rocky and Bullwinkle*, *The Jetsons*, *Top Cat*, *Yogi Bear* and others.

"I was fairly shy up until seventh or eighth grade. People say, 'You must have been the class clown.' I was too shy to be the class clown. I was the class clown's writer. I would pass jokes to the class clown and say, 'Hey, say this during math class.'"

By 17, he was doing stand-up comedy in clubs that led to acting and eventually voice work. He's been Heffer in *Rocky's Modern Life* and Dog in *CatDog*. And he does the voices of Elroy Jetson and Top Cat for promotional spots for Cartoon Network.

Kenny has written three songs for the soundtrack, with the *SpongeBobian* titles of "Employee of the Month," "Under My Rock" and "Best Day Ever."

"The reason I was able to write those songs and sing those songs was because as a teenager, I played in rock 'n' roll bands with my friends. Obviously I never made a living at it and never became a rock star, but I understood something I was interested in."

"Years and years later, it comes in handy I guess all those hours in the garage driving my parents crazy with band practice wasn't wasted. Nothing is wasted."

As for his famous character, Kenny has a great fondness for him and his ability to make kids laugh.

Although the idea behind the cartoon is simply to be funny, if there is a message to kids from the little yellow guy, Kenny says it would be something like, "Be enthusiastic, live life, every day has the possibility to be the best day ever. *SpongeBob* comes out of bed every day and says, 'This is going to be the best day ever!'"

"Sometimes it is and sometimes it isn't. But it's a nice way to start the day."

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Players to blame for brawl in Detroit

On Friday night, NBA All-Star Ron Artest showed his athleticism, speed and strength with an explosive offensive move — a crazed leap into the stands to fight with a fan.



Tim Wiseman
KERNEL COLUMNIST

Artest, a guard for the Indiana Pacers, used all his athletic gifts to start beating the crap out of fans in the Detroit Pistons' home arena. With that move, Artest launched a bar room brawl in the stands, broadcast nationwide in living color.

Artest claimed it was all an act of self-defense, but that's ridiculous.

Yes, an idiotic fan had chucked a beverage at Artest, who was out of bounds, lying on the scorer's table to take a break from the on-court scuffle he had sparked with a rough foul. Sure, that was an inexcusable act by a dumb fan, but who considers a spill an attack on one's life?

Artest would. He is a crazed man with a history of crazed outbursts and rampages.

He is a man who hurled a television monitor onto the floor of Madison Square Garden during a game in 2002.

He is a man who in the 2002-03 season led the league in flagrant fouls, was suspended for 12 games and was fined a total of \$155,000.

On Friday night, he lost control again. Only this time, he put a lot more people in danger. When Artest went into the stands, some of his teammates followed and entered into the fray. They threw punches at fans and took punches from fans. The stands became a battleground, as players and fans clawed at each other.

No one did the right thing. Fans acted like hooligans, players acted like thugs.

But Artest could have prevented it all. He could have rolled off the scorer's table and walked away from the problem. He could have turned his back on the idiot fan and been content with the whooping he and his Pacers were giving the Pistons that night. He didn't — he attacked without mercy.

He kept attacking even after he made it out of the stands and back onto the court.

That's when he coldcocked a fan in a Pistons jersey who happened to stand in

his way. The blow sent the fan and his buddy to the floor. (Then Artest's teammate Jermaine O'Neal threw a haymaker at the second fan, as the fan struggled to his feet.)

It was a surreal, horrible, terrifying scene of sports gone mad.

Let's hope with his announcement Sunday of a season-long suspension, NBA Commissioner David Stern has taught Artest a lesson he won't forget.

The past fines and the minor suspensions apparently were not enough. Let's hope this will be.

Stern must also address all that went wrong Friday night in Detroit — the pathetic response by security, the fans' wild response, etc. — but he has started by establishing a precedent that speaks

clearly that the NBA will not tolerate anything like this again.

By suspending Artest's teammates O'Neal for 25 games and Stephen Jackson for 30, Stern did not let superstar status cloud his judgment.

Seeing what Artest did, no suspension, however long, seems enough. Maybe 72 games on the sideline will be.

Artest has proved he is a world-class basketball player, but he has yet to prove he has any real class at all.

He wasn't the only one to cross the line on Friday night — players, fans and coaches did, too — but he was the one who leapt over that line with a reckless abandon that was frightening.



ILLUSTRATION BY DEREK POORE | STAFF

Tim Wiseman is an English junior. E-mail twiseman@kykernel.com

Other instances of violence between professional athletes and fans

Boston Bruins at New York Rangers

The two teams began brawling on the ice after the Bruins won the game 4-3. The fight made its way into the Madison Square Garden stands when a Ranger fan punched one of the Boston players. Several Bruins traded punches with fans and one spectator was beaten with his own shoe. Four fans were arrested.

Houston Rockets at Portland Trailblazers

Houston guard Vernon Maxwell enters the stands to punch a fan who had been heckling him. Maxwell was suspended 10 games and fined \$20,000 by the NBA.

Los Angeles Dodgers at Chicago Cubs

L.A. catcher Chad Kreuter and several Dodgers' coaches and players enter the Wrigley Field stands and fight with fans after the spectators dosed the L.A. bullpen with beer and tried to steal Kreuter's bat. Sixteen players and three coaches were suspended as a result.

1979	1981	1995	2000	2004
Los Angeles Dodgers at San Francisco Giants	Manchester United at Crystal Palace	Manchester U. striker Eric Cantona runs into the stands and kicks a fan in the chest with his metal spikes. Cantona was sentenced to two weeks in jail for the attack.	Texas Rangers at Oakland Athletics	Texas pitcher Frank Francisco throws a chair into the right field stands, hitting two fans, after he said they had been heckling him. Francisco was arrested on a charge of aggravated battery.

ONLINE POLL QUESTION

Who is most to blame for the brawl between players and fans at last week's Pacers-Pistons game in Detroit?

- A- Ron Artest
- B- Ben Wallace
- C- Detroit fans
- D- Arena security

VOTE ONLINE AT WWW.KYKERNEL.COM

IN OUR OPINION

Ban unfairly punishes athletes

Earlier this month, the Mississippi State men's basketball team played its first home game in Birmingham, Ala.

In the first round of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic, the Bulldogs defeated Fairfield 53-49. The NCAA moved this game from Starkville, Miss., to enforce its ban on certain athletic events being hosted by Mississippi due to the state's flying of the Confederate flag on state capitol grounds and its use of Confederate symbols in its state flag.

The ban also affects South Carolina for its flying of the flag on state capitol grounds. The spirit of this policy is right. The Con-

federate flag conjures up an unfortunate period in this country's history, full of bigotry and racism.

But the NCAA's move for social justice unfairly punishes those who have no control over changing that culture in the South.

They cannot change the flag, so it punishes the wrong people — namely student-athletes. And in this case, it punishes the American Cancer Society, which would have benefited from a larger crowd in the Bulldogs' home arena. Ticket sales of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic go to the charity. Ole Miss basketball coach Rod

Barnes, the school's second black men's basketball coach, said he thinks the ban is unfair to schools in Mississippi.

In an e-mail to the Kernel, he said: "We play in the NCAA just like everyone else. I understand what the national consensus is and the reason why they do that. But as a coach here,

"I want my players to have the same opportunity as everyone else in the country, and in this particular situation, we don't have that. I think the people being hurt the most might be the players. That's the problem that I have with it."

We agree because this ban does punish student-athletes more than anyone else. The NCAA's goal is an honorable one, but its stance is wrong.

The state of Mississippi has made strides in recent years. This season, Mississippi State hired Sylvester Croom, the SEC's first black football coach.

In recent years, Ole Miss has kept Confederate flags out of its football stadium by banning the sticks people used to wave the flags around during games.

The NCAA has overstepped its bounds with this policy and has created an unfair punishment for its student-athletes.

Democrats must fear Republican consolidation

There can be no more ominous term in the English language pertaining to government than consolidation.

As one surveys the Washington scene, one can witness the departure of the frazzled secretary of state and top operatives from Langley, leading to the ascension of Condoleezza Rice and the pre-eminence of the "alternative CIA," under the auspices of the vice president's office.

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, staring at a possible indictment for abusing his powers, has warned that the K-Street community should not hire ex-Daschle aides if they want to do business with the federal government.

Consolidation is ensuing in the Beltway which one might not notice if one were paying too close attention to Democratic re-nominations ("Why did John Kerry leave \$15 million in his campaign coffers?") or squabbles

("Who will be the next DNC Chair?").

The president's recent appointments have tightened the inner circle to a degree not seen since 1973, when their names read Ehrlichman, Haldeman and Kissinger. Clever gerrymandering has all but ensured one-party rule for the rest of the Bush administration — by which time the norms might have changed, and not for the better. No president will appoint an attorney general that will indict him, and all have their most trusted advisors. Until now there was some expectation, however, that dissenting voices could at least have a say — for, regrettably, this regime has no use for dissent.

Americans and powerful interests, not necessarily in that order, have decided to elect Republicans to represent the federal government. Naturally, these powerful forces have moved to consolidate their control, but were they elected to utilize thinly-veiled threats like the "nuclear option" (invalidating Democratic filibusters by changing the number of votes needed for cloture) and to place justices on the federal bench that will turn the Constitution clock back several decades?

Republicans have not enjoyed such bullying power since the 1920s, an era, it appears, they desire to return to. Based on their actions in the succeeding years, one will get a sense of how the Republican consolidation will be read by history.

Will this crowd have any substantive accomplishments — other than blocking intelligence reform, spiraling further into debt, eliminating health care protection for millions of Americans, eradicating Social Security, and all but sanctioning the "backdoor draft" to compensate their transformatives, if not delusional, Middle East ambitions?

These are the same powers-that-be who castigate Democrats as socialists for simply desiring to provide universal health care — without any clear answer of their own that does more than merely empowering HMOs. These are the very folks who are aghast at the realization that Democrats would fill the federal judiciary with those who — gasp! — might read the Constitution inclusively and without societal prejudice.

National Republicans want credit for introducing an education bill but do not want to fund it. These are the individuals habitually returned to Washington

by the American people. Consolidation is usually fleeting, and no one rules for a thousand years. In the end, however, it is not the duration of rule as much as the impact of rule — what did you do with your power?

Did you make the country safer or just more akin to a police state? Did you embrace a reasoned and principled low taxes and tight spending fiscal policy, or did you simply make the tax code more regressive and salute pork barrel spending? What is your legacy: that of a strong-willed toughness against malfeasants abroad coupled with domestic reform to improve America for the better? Or as a corrupt, insensitive, ignorant, bigoted, sexist, nihilist coterie that approved the president's every decree all while burdening its children with issues threatening the stability and prosperity of our beloved republic, because of their inaction and negligence?

To that I can only submit to the honorable Republican Party, deserving heirs of Lincoln and Roosevelt: Where art thou? What's that you hear, the breaking of glass?

Edward Guest is a history senior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

WEEK IN REVIEW

Aaron Roth, 29, of Louisville, pleaded guilty to fourth-degree assault Monday on a charge stemming from the death of a Dayton University student earlier this year at the Royal Lexington Apartments on Virginia Avenue. According to Lexington police reports, Roth held-butted Nicholas Holmes, causing him to fall to the ground and strike his head on the concrete. Under a recommendation from the Commonwealth Attorney, Roth would serve one year in jail. Police initially charged Roth with reckless homicide in Holmes' death.

The Kentucky Supreme Court overturned the conviction of UK alumnus Shane Ragland in the 1994 shooting death of former UK football player Trent DiGiuro. DiGiuro was shot and killed July 17, 2004 at a party at his home on Woodland Avenue. Ragland had been serving a 30-year prison sentence since being convicted in his 2002 trial. The court ruled one of the attorneys for the DiGiuro family misspoke in the trial, and ordered that a new trial take place.

The UK men's and women's basketball teams opened up their regular seasons with convincing victories over visiting weekend opponents. The men defeated Coppin State 77-46 Saturday at Rupp Arena while the women earned 29- and 38-point wins over Florida A&M and Butler at Memorial Coliseum. If the Cats continue their success on the hardwood maybe it will be enough to make UK fans forget about the dreadful football season. But then again, Rich Brooks still has one more chance to embarrass us all this weekend in Knoxville.

ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Will the death of Yasser Arafat make peace between Israelis and Palestinians harder to obtain?

Yes (32%; 46 votes)

No (68%; 99 votes)

'Jesus Prom' offers a 'blessing' to disabled

By Stacy Springer
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

A "Jesus Prom" is more than a typical high school prom.

Two hundred volunteers came together at Calvary Christian Church in Winchester Friday night to host a formal dinner and dance specially designed for 80 guests with special needs.

The first Jesus Prom was held at Southland Christian Church in Lexington a few years ago. The event was based on the Bible verses Luke 14:12-14: "Jesus said to his host, 'When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'"

After learning of the event during a church service at Southland, co-chairwoman and telecommunications senior Alison Matthews brought the idea to her youth minister at Calvary Christian Church.

"A special-needs person led the worship service I attended at Southland, and I knew right away I wanted to

be involved," Matthews said. "When we told the youth minister at our church, he immediately wanted to help organize the event. Last year, we became the first satellite Jesus Prom."

Guests invited to the Jesus Prom were physically or mentally challenged and ranged from middle-schoolers to the middle-aged. Attendees came from Clark, Montgomery, Bath and Menifee counties, and from the Stewart Home in Frankfort.

Free formal dresses and tuxedos, corsages and boutonnieres, hair and make-up, photographs, limousine rides, dinner, and dancing made for an unforgettable night.

"This prom is much more fun than any high school prom because it goes far beyond who is wearing what dress and who's dating who," said co-chairwoman and inter-

acted communications senior Jessica Pasley.

"The best part of the event was seeing the guests get out of the limo—we had trumpets playing, their names being called over the loudspeaker, a red carpet entrance and people cheering," Matthews said. "The looks on their faces were priceless be-

cause they couldn't believe this was all for them."

One enthusiastic prom attendee shouted, "I'm here to dance, dance, dance!" as he was escorted by a volunteer into the prom.

Big D Entertainment provided DJ service for the dance. Prom attendees danced the night away until the event ended at 10:30 p.m.

"This is the first time some of these people have ever been to a formal dance or have been in formal attire," Pasley said. "To see how excited they are is as much of a blessing to me and the other volunteers as it is to them."

Darren Diguette, executive director of the Clark County Association of Handicapped Citizens, helped organize and train volunteers for the Jesus Prom. He also brought 16 clients to the event.

"Once adults with disabilities graduate from high school, there are no state-sponsored programs for them," Diguette said. "The Jesus Prom gave them a chance to feel like a star and know that people in the community care about them."

Diguette works with the Kentucky STRIDE organiza-

tion to involve adults with disabilities in the community by going to baseball games, movies, Special Olympics events and other activities weekly.

"We're always looking for volunteers," he said. "We have five programs per week and can even work out internship credit for student volunteers."

Party favors for each guest included a gift bag with a framed photo, a Jesus Prom T-shirt and a hand-painted shield to go along with the "A Knight to Remember" medieval theme.

"Because our volunteers outnumbered our guests at least two to one, we were able to give the guests a personal touch and experience the prom with them," Pasley said.

"They hug us and tell us how much fun they had. Guests talk about this event all year long. We are expecting the number of guests to double next year."

"It was an absolute success," Matthews said. "We definitely felt the power of God guiding us through the night."

E-mail
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Santa Train

Continued from page A1

the children too shy or scared to get close to the train, and surprise adults with flannel shirts or handmade leather wallets.

In Fort Blackmore, Va., the road leading up to the tracks had become a parking lot for families traveling to see the Santa Train. The overpass that stretches above the train tracks was teeming with folks waiting to get a glimpse of the train and the pandemonium that inevitably comes with it. An old, rusted blue bicycle with a basket leaned against one of the pillars of the overpass, looking as weary and old-fashioned as this small, coal-mining town.

Nannie Sluss stood at the Ft. Blackmore stop next to her brown van, away from the crowd. She watched the scene with a serene smile on her face, one that contrasted deeply with the chaos less than 50 feet in front of her.

"I don't care anything about getting the candy," she said. "I just like to watch the people." Sluss has been coming to see the Santa Train since almost 45 years ago, when she was only a few feet tall, and remembers walking away with pencils, writing tablets and candy.

In her small town, people start to anticipate the train as early as August, she said. She and her husband Claude drove to the stop an hour and a half before the train's scheduled stop at 12:50 p.m. and said that it would probably take them 30 to 45 minutes to get out.

"Once you get in here, you're pretty much here until it's over," she said.

In Clinchco, Va., even twenty-some things came to see the train for tradition's sake.

Twenty-one-year-old Garon Turner and his 25-year-old brother Aron excitedly jumped for candy along with the rest of the crowd gathered around the back of the train. Garon said he has actually been to see the train 22 times, even though he's only 21—his mother came to see it when she was pregnant with him.

"Everything shuts down when the Santa Train comes," Garon said with a smile.

"We don't even care if we get anything," Aron yelled over children's screams, as the excited crowd swelled around him, pushing him off balance.

The two get their devotion from their mother, Kathy Rose, who has been com-



Danielle Fuller inspects her present she received from the Santa Train in her hometown, Haysi, Va. Haysi is one of 13 stops for the train on its way to Kingsport, Tenn.

ing since she was a little girl. Her wedding was on a Saturday when the Santa Train came through, she said, and she and her fiancé went to see the train before the ceremony.

While it may seem odd that even adults love the train, they will almost all say that they come for the tradition, but most of all, they came to see the expressions on the children's faces when the Santa Train comes. Volunteers on the train agree.

UK engineering professor Jerry Rose has been a volunteer on the train three times, including this year.

"We just enjoy seeing the children, and it's a good way to usher in the Christmas season," he said.

Some volunteers love the spirit of the Santa train so much they've practically devoted their lives to it.

Regina Smith, a support clerk for CSX's engineering department, has been a volunteer for 12 years. She has become the official "Angel" of the train—she gets off at every stop and makes sure that no one, especially children with special needs, leaves empty-handed.

She bustles around a car filled with boxes and boxes of colorful gifts for the eight-hour train ride, coordinating volunteers and making sure all of the toys are in order as the train makes its 110-mile journey. Her festive red, black and green vest, decorated with holly and other Christmas decor, along with her unrelenting energy, makes her easy to spot.

"You just leave a part of your heart at every stop," she said. "I'm tired at the end, but it's a good tired."

Smith began buying presents for the Santa Train with her own money years

ago and continues to do so today.

She spends \$500 to \$5,000 on Santa Train gifts each year, she said, scouting craft fairs and stores year-round for bargains.

But Smith is not the only dedicated volunteer who comes back year after year.

Smith's daughter Alison has been a part of the train for three years and even gave the volunteers a pep talk before the day began.

"Head elf" Larry Lester, has worked for CSX for seven years and has volunteered each of those years. With his booming laugh, jovial personality and dedication, it is easy to understand how he earned his title. It is also obvious that Lester, a father of three, loves children.

"I just enjoy the kids and seeing the smile on their face," he said.

After the last stop, the action winds down and the weary volunteers gather in one of the train cars to sing Christmas carols. They are bleary-eyed, having been up since 5 a.m., but when they finally do get to sleep tonight, they will likely dream of all that they saw in the struggling towns of Appalachia.

The little girl tiptoeing down the tracks so-so-carefully, holding her mother's hand, wearing what Santa gave her—a hand-knit toboggan with a colorful ball on top. The white-haired grandparents who looked on with joy to see the happiness the train brought to their grandchildren, remembering what it once felt like to be in their place. The girl in the wheelchair, clutching her stuffed Rudolph doll as if she'd never let it go.

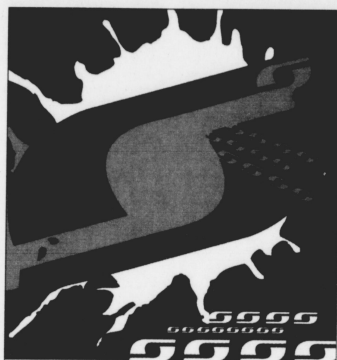
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- Brother
- Sister
- Grandma
- Grandpa
- Girlfriend/Boyfriend
- Aunts
- Uncles
- Cousins
- Boss
- Co-workers
- Roommates
- Friends

	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25
26	27			
	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>			
28	29	30	1	2
3	4			
6	7	8	9	10
11				

AN ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT TO THE KENTUCKY KERNEL



HOLIDAY SHOPPING GUIDE

November 22, 2004

Get a head start on holiday shopping and grab some great gift tips from right here in Lexington with the Kentucky Kernel's Holiday Guide.

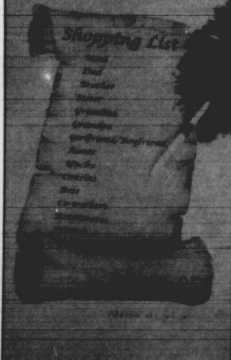
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Gift tips for gaming buyers

By Rebecca Tichenor

Brandon Serrano started playing video games before his fingers could even reach the right buttons.

"It gives people an escape from the real world and their troubles," Serrano said. "It lets people be something that is not as serious as life and lets them become a character."

While some gaming enthusiasts play as second-nature, others are left in the dark when video game fans ramble about the new RPG (role-playing game) or the awesome cinematics.

Because of the huge popularity of the gaming industry there are a few basics that everyone should know.

First, the three popular gaming consoles are the Sony Playstation 2, Microsoft Xbox and Nintendo Gamecube.

Matthew Ward of Best Buy recommended the Xbox. Best said its better graphics and its ability to play over a network make it his choice.

However, Chris Scott of CompUSA recommends the PS2 because it has a larger variety of games. The console allows you to play both PS2 games and basic Playstation games. Both agreed that the GameCube is for a younger audience.

"Nintendo just can't shake the image of the Mario Brothers Series," Scott said.

Three popular types of video games are RPGs, first-person shooter games and sports games. RPGs generally have an in-depth storyline while first person shooters are more straightforward.



"Halo 2" for Microsoft's Xbox is expected to be the top Holiday seller.

RPGs can sometimes take 60 hours or more to complete.

Games serve different purposes for different people.

"Games offer a challenge and you can settle apartment disputes by challenging your roommates to a game," Serrano said. Others

the person you are shopping for tells you exactly what to purchase, games can be confusing.

Scott said gift cards are good options for unsure shoppers.

But if you decide to venture into the world of game shopping, observe the per-

son you are buying for.

This Christmas, "Halo 2" and "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" are expected to be the best-selling games. Both of these can be pre-ordered at Best Buy and CompUSA for a small deposit.

However, Scott said that most companies overload the stores with new games and it is rare for one to sell out.

Other local electronic retailers and online sites like eBay, Amazon.com and others will showcase the latest hot-selling video games.

The video game culture has come a long way since the days of "Pong," Atari and "Super Mario Brothers."

General knowledge of the gaming phenomenon can be useful whether it is to start a new hobby or just for the purpose of holiday gift giving. For this holiday season shoppers can expect a high number of quality games in a variety of places.

There are 54 million Playstation 2 owners in America and Europe. 16 million Xboxes have been sold in America and Europe.
— Wedbush Morgan Securities

son's behavior during commercials and look for patterns in his current collection.

With hundreds of video games available it can be hard to try and purchase a video game as a gift. Unless

son's behavior during commercials and look for patterns in his current collection.

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NOT YOUR AVERAGE GIFT WRAP

By Carolyn Petredis

Suds and Snoopy shrinkwrap this year's holiday gift stash

What do blueprints, comics and empty beer boxes have in common? For the gift-givers who wrap with paper or stuff gifts in bags with tissue paper on top, those things are unrelated.

Although what is inside any package is important to the receiver, it's now time to step outside the box and create a sense of excitement and personality.

Libby Dostart, an employee at Third Street Stuff, said that if it's not a really exciting gift, it should at least have a good outside to make up for it.

She also said that the opposite could be done when someone is given an ugly package and inside is an expensive gift, thus creating similar excitement.

For those with a bigger budget Dostart suggests buying little things and placing them inside something larger that follows the same theme, while remaining "cute and useful."

For students on a budget, any gift at all may seem like an honor for the receiver. However, creative gift wrapping is especially

useful for those on a budget because the packaging comes from stuff lying around the house.

Psychology junior Michael Stewart suggested a more creative use for empty beer

boxes: turn them into a very personal and cheap gift wrap.

Dostart also said using newspaper comics or brown paper bags with painted swirls would look great and could add personality to the gift.

Judy Rawlings, who works in the gift wrap department at a local retailer, suggested a witty way of wrapping gifts on a budget.

She recommended using old papers from school.

"Especially ones with good grades," Rawlings said. This would work since almost every student has graded papers in their car's floorboard or on their bedroom floor.

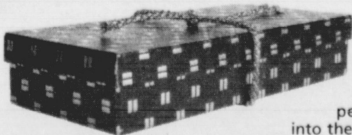
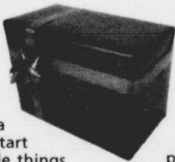
Julie Fitzpatrick, an interior design sophomore, used her leftover blueprints as a way to wrap her gifts for family and friends.

"I think it is important to be creative," Fitzpatrick said. "Presentation is important."

As holiday shopping comes into full-swing and shoppers find themselves sitting in front of an unwrapped gift, they can think

past the paper and bow standard and put personality into the package.

Whether it is blueprints, the Kernel or an empty carton of suds, consider it a great opportunity to save money and bring something extra to the gift-giving season.



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The Right Gift for the Right Guy

By Jacob Knight

Holiday crowds at the mall are enough to stress shoppers out. Driving anywhere during the holiday season can make them insane, while others worry about what to buy for the special guy on their list who has everything.

What is the appropriate gift for someone with whom you have a long term or short relationship? What is the appropriate amount of money you should spend? What if you have no idea what he likes?

Men are easier to shop for than most think.

While some feel a gift card is the safest way to go, try buying a gift that shows more of a personal touch.

All guys will wear a sweater at some point this winter, so think about buying a sweater in a cotton blend at a maximum cost of \$50.

Kelly House, manager of a popular men's clothing store at St. Matthew's Mall in Louisville, said solid colors sell better because they are easy to match with clothes men already own.

If you don't like the sweater idea, try something like a poker set, mini foosball table, mini pool table or other small game. These are

items some guys wouldn't buy, but would enjoy.

Fayette Mall Dillard's Sales Manager Mandy Jackson referred to these gifts as "Giftables." They make gift buying easy for people who find it difficult and are fairly low priced at \$25.

Another idea, especially for someone you've known for a while, is to spend a little more money, about \$75 to \$100, and buy him a cashmere or cashmere blend sweater. These sweaters can be dressed up or dressed down.

"The younger crowd is dressing up more," House said, "So buy him a sweater that he can wear to a job interview or to an important meeting, but that he can also throw on with jeans to go out at night."

An alternative is to buy him some new cologne.

If you know your friend well, you probably know what kind of cologne smells he will like. Jackson said that some of this year's top colognes are Kenneth Cole Reaction, Kenneth Cole Black, Ralph Lauren Polo Blue and Hummer. All of the above colognes cost between \$52 and \$58 for the largest bottles.

If you can spend more, most of those colognes come in gift packages and offer more products for just a little more money.

Shawn Zirnheld, a third-year LCC student, said that he really likes Ralph Lauren Polo Blue cologne and Victoria Secret's Very Sexy for Him2. Very Sexy for Him2 will cost \$47 for the biggest bottle.

Zirnheld, who has been dating his girlfriend for four years, says he likes getting sentimental gifts every once in a while.

"One year she gave me a picture frame with pictures in it from our trip to an Alabama game," Zirnheld said.

The gifts don't always have to be big and extravagant.

Sometimes the thought put into a gift means more. Guys are more likely to remember gifts they receive that are specially picked or put together. These gifts are best for people who have been in long-term relationships.

These ideas will help you to find the perfect gift that your friend will surely like. Hopefully this will help lighten some of the stress this holiday season. Now, if we could only do something about holiday traffic.

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Book gifts a novel holiday idea



By Shelby Jones

The holiday season is a hectic and often overwhelming time of year. There are gifts to wrap, cards to mail and parties to attend. In all of this chaos, you still have to find the time to get the perfect gift for everyone on your list.

Ben Edwards understands the pressure of gift buying.

"Books make great gifts because you can find something for everyone." Said Edwards, sales associate at Hastings in Richmond, Ky.

New books for this holiday season offer everything from cooking to finding the meaning of life.

The *Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold has a popular following.

"Every college age girl that comes in here buys that book," Edwards said.

Melissa Darsey, manager of Barnes and Noble, said the newest Oprah book club book should be a big seller for the holidays.

"Oprah always sells out," she said. Other recommendations include *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren, He's

Just Not That Into You: The No-Excuses Truth to Understanding Guys by Greg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo and *A Kentucky Christmas* edited by local author George Ella Lyon.

Other good ideas are political books, biographies and cookbooks. Two hot cookbooks for the holidays are *Cooking with My Sisters* by Adriana Trigiani and *The Gourmet Cookbook: More than 1,000 Recipes* by Ruth Reichl. Children's books, *The Polar Express* and *Lemony Snicket's Series of Unfortunate Events*, are also predicted to be top sellers. These two books have been made into films and will be in movie theaters during throughout the holidays.

"Harry Potter books are still big sellers," Edwards said.

Used and rare bookstores are alternatives for chain bookstores. The Black Swan at 505 E. Maxwell St. provides book buyers with a unique experience. The store has modern first editions; art, photography, cooking, poetry, literature and children's classics just to name a few.

"We don't have a lot of fluff here," said owner Mike Courtney. "We carry new books by Kentucky authors otherwise, everything is older, one of a kind or autographed."

Courtney recommends leather bound books or copies of classics as gifts. A new book for the holidays is *Tobacco Harvest an Elegy* (photos by James Baker Hall, essays by Kentucky author Wendell Berry).

"This is not beach reading for the most part," Courtney said. "We have lots of hard to find books and sometimes we never get another copy of a book."

If you still feel like you can't find the perfect book, then gift cards may be the answer. Barnes and Nobles has gift cards available for any amount.

Hastings gift cards range from \$5 to \$50 and The Black Swan has hand printed gift cards for any amount.

Don't let the daunting task of choosing a gift for someone consume your life. A quick visit to the bookstore may knock a few lines off the shopping list.

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Custom gifts add personal touch

By Mary Porter

Girl meets boy. Girl eagerly anticipates present from boy for Christmas.

Girl receives bracelet. Boy didn't personalize it.

Girl doesn't like her unpersonal bracelet.

According to shopping experts, more Americans are choosing personalized gifts this holidays — items that speak more to the person and less to the obligation of exchanging presents.

Kinko's, Unforgettablez and Things Remembered are among the many companies offering a variety of personalized gifts this year. Kinko's can create customized calendars "sure to be enjoyable" all year long.

"The Photo-A-Month Calendar is most popular because you're not stuck looking at the same picture all year long," said Kinko's graphic designer Jarrod Al-alou. For more than eight years Kinko's has offered this service to its customers, Al-alou said.

The Deluxe Photo-A-Month calendar is priced at \$19.99 and the Year-On-A-Page calendar at \$6.99.

Al-alou said customers are not just limited to photo calendars. He said Kinko's offers other custom items, such as personalized mugs, mouse pads, greeting cards, picture frames and Christmas orna-

ments. "All orders come with a custom gift box and are generally ready 24 hours after the order has been placed," Al-alou said. Photo calendars can be made from hard copy pictures, negative prints and from photos on a disc.

"Calendars can also be made online by simply uploading your photos and following the simple instructions online at fedexkinkos.com," Al-alou said.

Unforgettablez Customized Gifts & Jewelry in Fayette Mall offers a variety of personalized gifts from necklaces to key chains. "This is the place to get the gift they won't forget," store owner Jane Lau said. Unforgettablez offers a wide variety of charms available in silver, gold and color pendants that can be engraved using a favorite photograph.

Such personalized jewelry is trendy, according to Custom Designer Chad Hundley. "Our necklaces are popular mainly among teenagers and young adults in their 20s," Hundley said.

The entire process is complex but takes less than an hour and a half. "We take any picture of your choice and scan it, then impact the image onto the pendant with a special diamond tipped machine," Hundley said.

Almost any photo should work. "Professional portrait prints, and hard copy photographs work best, but we can also take your picture here with a digital camera," Hundley said. Hundley's creations range from \$28.99 to \$58.99, depending on the charm and features added. "Text can be added to the charm for an additional \$5 to give the charms a more personal touch."

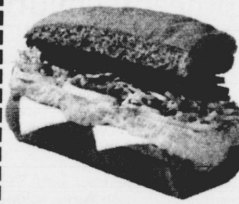
Hundley also urged shoppers to think outside the box. "Be innovative and creative, and purchase a personalized gift to please that special friend or family member."

Things Remembered in Fayette Mall offers a wide range of gifts that can be personalized with embroidery or engraving. According to the Web site (www.thingsremembered.com), the company focuses mainly on the "celebration of people" and on providing gifts for special occasions such as, birthdays, weddings and newborns.

Along with a "100-percent satisfaction guarantee" — even on personalized items — Things Remembered contributes a portion of its profits to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Spending extra time and effort to get "personal" this holiday season may really pay off, in more ways than one.

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A holiday brightened

Toys for Tots help needy children this Christmas

By **Nikolas Moreno**

Toys for Tots, a U.S. Marine Corps Reserve program has brought gifts and donations to needy kids nationwide.

Students and volunteers supporting local charitable programs such as Toys for Tots, Lexington Rescue Mission and the Salvation Army can bring the holiday season to the needy and less fortunate.

Cpl. T.J. Brown directs the Toys for Tots campaign in the Lexington area and business districts.

"Every year more and more money and toys are donated," Brown said late last month. "Right now we have exceeded last year's goal and have two more months remaining."

Toys for Tots national growth and awareness have made it possible for needy children to have gifts and assistance during the holiday season.

"The more we go along, the more success is attributed to the growing popularity of Toys for Tots," Brown said.

Lexington residents and students interested in making donations or contributing toys for the Toys for Tots can also volun-

teer in other parts of the campaign.

"People who want to get involved can set up drop off locations, organize events, and assist in collection pick-ups," Brown said.

During November and December, Salvation Army volunteers become the friend next door at your local Kroger with the Red Kettle Campaign.

"In the U.S. the Salvation Army annually aids more than six million people at Thanksgiving and Christmas," according to the Salvation Army holiday Web site (www.redkettles.org).

Another way residents can get involved in charitable giving or volunteering is with the Lexington Rescue Mission.

Jim Connell, executive director of the Lexington Rescue Mission, said he has experienced a life-long lesson through helping people and supporting individuals in need.

"A lot of people just need a little help, love, support and extra mercy to overcome obstacles that has limited their potential for success," Connell said.

The Lexington Rescue Mission offers opportunities for

students to get involved with the community as well.

"Volunteers interested just need to call and arrange a tour where we can then place them with people who coincide with their specific needs," Connell said.

With the holidays approaching Connell and committee volunteers try to make it a memorable time for those in need.

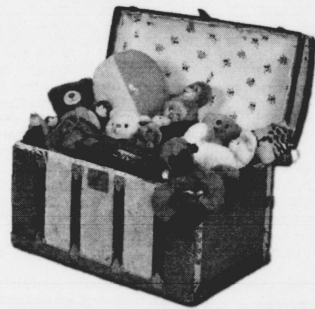
"Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners will be held to invite the needy, which will be served by committee volunteers," Connell said.

"Our goal for the holiday seasons is to familiarize people with the organization to gain future support down the road," Connell said.

The Lexington Rescue Mission is a relatively new program and has grown to draw more and more volunteers.

"Being only three years old, money contributions and volunteer support has grown each and every year," Connell said.


Volunteers during the holiday season contribute to the success of these organizations and allow the less-fortunate to have a brighter Thanksgiving and happier holidays.




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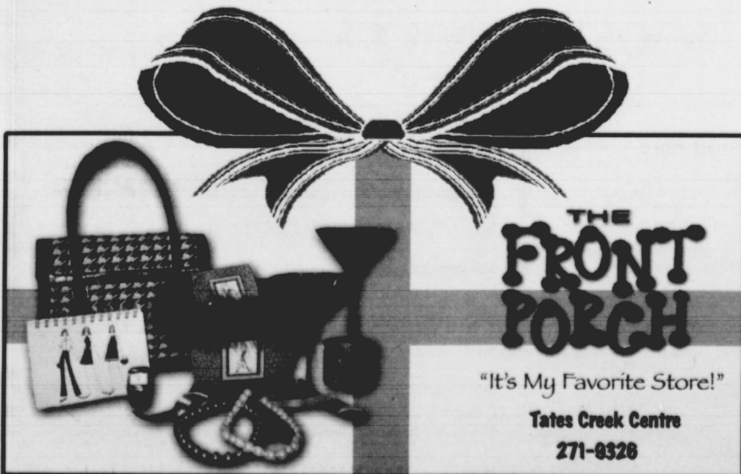
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Gift Ideas for Under \$200

By Courtney Carano

Christmas is a time for loving, giving, sharing and caring. Many wonder what they are going to purchase for holiday gifts and how much they are going to cost.

Holiday gift giving can be stressful. Many people want to buy nice things, especially college students who can't afford expensive gifts.

There are many stores around with great gift ideas for under \$200.

The most important shops are jewelry, electronic and clothing stores.

"We have many options for people who are looking for good quality jewelry for a low price this holiday season," said Kerry Bryant, a sales associate at Zales Jewel-

ers. "Some of our most popular items are actually under \$200."

Bryant said the most common gifts for women this holiday season are three-stone pendants and promise rings. The three-stone represents the past, present and future of a relationship. Many different styles are available.

Bryant said prices vary according to style. She said that the most common gifts for men are watches and chain bracelets.

A popular men's watch is the Men's ESQ Venture stainless

steel watch, Bryant said. "Jewelry is a great gift for someone special, it is something people cherish forever and in some cases, wear forever," Bryant said. "Most of the time jewelry doesn't go out of style and is something that makes people feel special every time they put it on." Engraving gifts can also add a personal touch to gifts.

Bryant said engraving isn't as popular this year as it has been in the past. She said that personalizing is never a bad idea, but to make sure the engraving doesn't look too tacky.

Electronic gifts are also extremely popular and affordable.



Apple's iPod

Some gift ideas under \$200 at Best Buy are the Apple iPod, Sony PlayStation 2, DVD players, DVDs and some digital cameras, said Best Buy Sales Associate Ben Davis. "You really can't go wrong if you buy one of these items for your significant other," Davis said. "The women are more into the DVDs and the digital cameras, whereas the guys are more into the PlayStations and iPods."

"I think it's a great idea to give your girlfriend a digital camera or even some DVDs as a gift, just make sure she likes to

take a lot of pictures and watch- es movies," said UK student Lindsay Bollie. "If she likes clothes or jewelry better then go that."

Clothing can also make great holiday gifts. There are many different clothing stores and many different styles.

If you are planning on buying clothes it is important to make sure you know what your significant other likes.

"It is important to stay away from pants and to just stick with sweaters and collared shirts. It is difficult to find pants that fit someone exactly the way they like," said Kim Hayth, sales associate at The Limited. "The one color we are selling a lot of is winter white. It's popular in sweaters, shirts and even pants," Hayth said.

Being creative with inexpensive gift ideas is important for those on a tight budget.

Bollie said making a scrapbook, engraving a frame with a picture in it, or even something as small as making a CD with all of your favorite songs on it, are good ideas.

"The more personal a gift is the more special it is," said UK student Leah Kelborth. "No matter what, giving gifts is all about showing someone you care about them and that you love them. The thought is what counts."

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