

Ron's Rants

Ron Middleton Staff Writer

Music lovers unite!

With the downfall of Napster last year, the record companies are attempting to tighten their grip on us...

Things got worse when I put my new computer to complete with a compact disc burner.

I made CDs of just my favorite songs - I even took requests from people I knew and made CDs to give them as presents.

I already owned a good portion of the songs that they wanted, but found it necessary from time to time to dip into the Napster pool for the remainder.

Before I go any further, I understand the record companies argue and agree that artists should be paid for their work but I also understand that if you don't have an inch, they'll want a mile and usually take 10, thus ruining a good thing for everyone.

If I downloaded anything off Napster, or used it, I would really do something not available in the U.S. without paying a ton of money to have it imported.

It is also easier for me to convert several CDs to MP3 and burn all the files to a CD and take them to work, instead of carrying 200 CDs around with me all the time.

This brings me to my current problem with the record companies.

According to PC World Magazine, new CDs will be unplayable in computers.

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Viewpoint



Open Forum...

Ten Commandments basis of court system

The editor: (Preamble of the U.S. Constitution) We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the United States of America.

The Ten Commandments is a set of rules for all civilization to live by and set a precedent on which our Constitution is based.

If the jury system of America is not following the ten Commandments, then why do we have murder, theft and slander cases? The Ten Commandments really is the basis of our Court System.

Psalm 9:17 - The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. This is a very serious verse from the Bible that needs to be heeded.

Psalm 33:12 - Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom he has chosen for his own inheritance. Ecclesiastes 12:13 - Let us hear the conclusion of the

whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. God bless America, and may the Ten Commandments live forever.

Lloyd Dean United Pentecostal Church, Louisville, Ky.

Television company refuses to recognize organization

The editor: During the holiday season parents will search for movies appropriate for their children, and Hollywood studios will spend millions of dollars to capture that young audience.

Among the releases this Christmas is a Nickelodeon movie, Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius, that the company hopes will lead to the enormous merchandising revenues of their hugely successful Rugrats.

The studio has developed a sweeping national advertising campaign targeting children they hope will be lured into buying toys, video games, clothes and other products based on the movie and all the nations that forget God. This is a very serious verse from the Bible that needs to be heeded.

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The creative and hard-working men and women who write many of the popular Nickelodeon animated television programs that kids love had felt mistreated for long time and were frustrated in their efforts to have their concerns addressed by the company. They asked Nickelodeon to rebroadcast the union and provide them the same benefits and protections as their colleagues in the rest of the industry.

They need the union's help, desperately. Nickelodeon pays many of them far less than minimum-negotiated minimums and refuses to pay residuals, the standard for all writers in the industry for more than 40 years. Nickelodeon does not offer multi-employer health or pension plans that are critical to those working in the entertainment industry.

When the Writers Guild asked Nickelodeon if we could begin discussions on behalf of these writers, Nickelodeon said no, not once, but several times.

The frustration of the writers mounted. They chose to vote on who should be their bargaining representative. The Guild invited California Assemblyman Paul Koretz to witness the election and testify that it was fair. In full view of their employer and Koretz, the writers cast secret ballots. Of 21 writers who voted, 19 voted to be represented by the Guild. What happened next? Nothing...and everything. Nickelodeon refused to

down with the Guild. After the writers on Nickelodeon's SpongeBob SquarePants asked to be represented by the Guild, Nickelodeon cancelled production of this hit show. After the writers on the series Jimmy Neutron, Boy Genius asked to be represented by the union, Nickelodeon transferred the show and its writers to a subcontractor that offered no health coverage for their children or other dependents.

After the Writers Guild asked whether the manufacturers Nickelodeon uses to make toys and apparel are signatory to fair labor codes protecting children in China and other countries from exploitation as child laborers, Nickelodeon had its lawyers respond with threatening letters to the Guild.

We are at the start of a new millennium, and it is hard to believe that some employers have not advanced beyond the painful and anti-labor tactics that owns CBS, Paramount Pictures, Showtime, Infinity Broadcasting, Westwood One, Simon and Schuster, Blockbuster Video, Infinity Outdoor Advertising, BET, MTV, VH1, TNN, Sundance Channel, King World, WPX and Comedy Central. Clearly

Nickelodeon is a subsidiary of Viacom, a giant corporation that owns CBS, Paramount Pictures, Showtime, Infinity Broadcasting, Westwood One, Simon and Schuster, Blockbuster Video, Infinity Outdoor Advertising, BET, MTV, VH1, TNN, Sundance Channel, King World, WPX and Comedy Central. Clearly

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City & County Officials

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- Mayor Ronnie Clark
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'Come on, it's just a game... isn't it?'

If you believe Kentucky's state motto - "United We Stand, Divided We Fall" - then you'll have to admit that the commonwealth is doomed to fail.

The cultural divide between Louisville, the state's largest city, and the rural part of the state, especially the mountains of Eastern Kentucky, is so wide it may never be closed.

Unfortunately, the Kentucky Louisville basketball game brought all this strife bubbling to the surface again.

The first shots were fired by Oscar Combs of The Cats' Pause newspaper.

In the issue mailed Monday, Dec. 24, Combs, a native of Hazard, articulated the hate that many rural Kentuckians feel toward Louisville, its university's basketball program and its head coach Rick Pitino, who formerly worked in Lexington.

Combs referred to the U of L coach as Rick "Benedict" Pitino. He stopped at the word "Benedict" and recommended that the Rupp Arena, ground poll Pitino made for each of his 10 healthy rebirds in the Lexington area will be smart enough to stay out of harm's way prior to the game.

We want to see any harmless creatures becoming "unnecessary victims." He also

claimed that Big Blue fans hate Pitino far worse than Ray Meers, Dave Brown, and Denny Crum.

"So it's no wonder Pitino doesn't have a clue how he cornered the market on U of L must be for most UK fans," Combs wrote. "And how easily exciting it must be for UK's archrivals, the Cardinal fans in Louisville, who obviously are willing to win at any cost."

By his most thoughtful provoking comment, Combs wrote, "Welcome back Rick."

Regardless of the rivalry, you're back where you belong, coaching in the college game where you once again will be one of the very best. It's just that you could have chosen a better environment. But, then, maybe you and Louisville are a pair made for each other."

When in the name of Peck Bickman does the "news" mean by saying maybe Pitino and Louisville were made for each other?

Such disparaging remarks made for each other? Good will between the clubs, the universities, and the fans have a right to be offended by Combs' as racist, ignorant,

insinuates. It's another example of a Kentuckian with rural roots sneering the evil big city.

But Combs and other Big Blue fans hardly have cornered the market on prejudice. The day of the U of L game, WIAS radio personality Terry Meiners, a close friend of Pitino's who hosts the coach's TV show, posted a mean-spirited diatribe on his internet web that ridiculed Big Blue fans

Bluegrass Sports



Billy Reed Columnist

His goal, apparently, was to needle those UK fans who take basketball too seriously. But this time Meiners, who's normally witty, clever, and funny, didn't pull it off. His "lampoon" was hurtful to UK fans who live in the mountains. He portrayed them as racist, ignorant,

deserve sympathy, not ridicule. "One definition of prejudice is to stereotype and generalize about any particular group of people. In these politically correct times, it's undiminished to publicly make jokes about Jews, blacks, homosexuals,

Why, then, would anybody think it's O.K. to make fun of the folks who live in Appalachia? Yet Combs was as guilty of perpetuating negative stereotypes about Louisville as Meiners was of perpetuating "so hilariously" stereotypes. But maybe, inadvertently, they've done the

commonwealth a service by exposing our cultural divide. There's no doubt that many UK fans said "right on" when they read Combs' insinuations about Louisville. And there's no doubt that a lot of U of L fans were immensely entertained by Meiners' characterizations of a certain element of UK fandom.

In 2002, our state remains far more divided than united. And basketball is the lightning rod that seems to bring out the worst in many otherwise good and decent people.

To contact Billy Reed, e-mail him at breed@aol.com

Home Loans advertisement with details on purchase, refinance, debt consolidation, cash out, and Aaron Mortgage Company contact information.

FORE THOUGHT.

Advertisement for Northwest Airlines featuring a map of flight routes and a list of cities served including Chicago, New York City, Cleveland, Toledo, St. Louis, Houston, etc.

Advertisement for Northwest Airlines golf packages, including details on golf, hotel, and air packages.

Advertisement for Northwest Airlines featuring a map of flight routes and a list of cities served including Chicago, New York City, Cleveland, Toledo, St. Louis, Houston, etc.

Advertisement for The Proctor & Gamble Distributing Co. featuring a list of products and contact information.

The Carlsle Mercury advertisement containing contact information, subscription rates, and editorial board details.

Part Time Retail Merchandiser advertisement for Morehead Area.

Advertisement for The Proctor & Gamble Distributing Co. featuring a list of products and contact information.

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