

Why Twitter Matters in Lexington

Or, How I learned to stop worrying and love Twitter

By Rob Morris

On April 17, Oprah began using Twitter. Some saw Oprah's adoption of the service as a milestone that Twitter had gone mainstream. Others decried it as a sure sign that the Twitter fad was about to flame out.

Asked about Twitter criticism (Is it redundant? Is it trivial?), co-founder Biz Stone said in the *New York Times* on Sunday, May 10, "That's like people saying, 'Why would I ever carry a phone around when I have one in my kitchen?'"

On April 23, UK's new basketball coach, John Calipari joined Twitter, and had 1,000 followers within one hour (over 20,000 now).

So, why all the fuss about Twitter?

I have to admit that I just didn't get it. At first. In Part 1, I'll talk about how I learned to love Twitter. In Part 2, I'll explain why Twitter matters. If you feel like a Twitter pro, then skip on down to Part 2.

How Twitter works

Twitter is a microblogging service which allows users to post messages of 140 characters or less. These messages — called 'tweets' — chronicle what the user is doing / reading / thinking in that moment. You can follow other users, and they can follow you as well. [Note: There are privacy settings in Twitter which allow you to protect who sees your tweets.]

Twitter shorthand has developed to convey key concepts. Responses to other users contain an 'at' sign (@) before their user name — so, for instance, other Twitter users respond to my posts with an '@robmorris2'.

When discussing a particular topic, users often apply a hashtag (a pound sign: #) to their post. (Ace's hashtags for #swineflu were #hamthrax and #HamaGeddinIt.) Local trending hashtags are #CPLex and #UnElect for example.

Many users want to share stories or blog posts with their followers — using URL 'shorteners' to compress a web address. So, many links on Twitter are from the bit.ly, is.gd, tr.im, or similar odd-looking domains.

When users want to share someone else's tweet with their followers, they often 're-tweet.' They do so with 'RT' and the user's @name. So, when I saw a Dave Winer tweet that I thought was worth sharing, I shared it this way: "RT @davewiner: Why NPR is Thriving (They're Not Afraid of Digital Media). <http://tr.im/jH5o>."

Critical Mass

Twitter gives you some basic tools to help you find and add other friends who use the service.

When I first started using Twitter, I added a few close friends. I twittered something about what I was doing, careful to use my 140 character allotment.

And nothing happened.

I really wondered what this Twitter fuss was all about....

Only one of my friends really used the service more than a

few times a month. And he (@billder — well worth following) was in Portland, used a bewildering array of #'s and @'s; he was talking with folks I didn't know; and I wasn't quite sure what to make of it all.

I posted to Twitter once or twice a week through January. And then I drifted away until April.

After listening to an audiobook of *What Would Google Do?* by Jeff Jarvis (@jeffjarvis on Twitter), the prominent blogger of the BuzzMachine blog, I decided to give Twitter another try.

I followed many more folks the second time around: local and national news sites; favorite authors, bloggers, and personalities; technology sites; interesting companies and their executives; and whatever else I found interesting.

When I got up to about 50 people, Twitter started to get really intriguing. With more and more interesting people sharing more and more interesting thoughts, links, and re-tweets, Twitter suddenly became much more vibrant.

Going Real-time

But there was something which still didn't work for me: the Twitter web page. As a static page with maybe 20 tweets on it, I had to keep reloading. If a lot of folks were tweeting, I often missed important tweets from friends in the flurry of tweets from other, more prolific users.

It was (and is) all a bit chaotic.

But there are solutions. Twitter has allowed software developers to graft their products onto the Twitter platform (Seismic, Twhirl, TweetFon, Tweetie, and many others).

My current favorite is desktop software called TweetDeck. With TweetDeck, Twitter finally came alive and started making sense for me. In other words, I finally 'got' Twitter.

There are four key features of TweetDeck which make it work for me.

First, TweetDeck auto-refreshes. This means that I get nearly-live updates as soon as they happen.

Second, TweetDeck lets me create groups of people that I can follow. This means that I can group folks according to how important they are to me or by which parts of my life they belong to.

Third, the software made tweeting easier. TweetDeck has a lot of built ins and lets me shorten a URL right inside the interface.

Fourth, TweetDeck has a search function which allows me to monitor what anyone in the twitterverse is saying about a particular topic (like, say, "Toyota") live. So I can get a sense of what is happening with things that are important to me right now.

Making Twitter Work

What made Twitter 'work' for me was 1) making sense of its shorthand, 2) following a critical mass of other users to make things interesting, and 3) using a 'live' interface (for me, TweetDeck) which catapulted the service from a website

into a many-to-many conversation.

Part 2: Why Twitter matters

I'm certainly not the most prolific or most informed user, but I've come to gain some insights about Twitter. These are by no means exclusive to Twitter, but I think it is the platform which most embodies these characteristics today:

1. New kinds of connection. More than any other medium I've come across, Twitter enables new kinds of social interactions. Conversations become multilateral public events, instead of one-way or two-way forms of communication. And those conversations can coalesce around personal, local, or topical interests.



Follow Coach Cal on twitter at [@ukCoachCalipari](https://twitter.com/ukCoachCalipari)

2. The new news. As a news junkie, I used to troll blogs and websites for the latest information on what was happening in business, in technology, in Lexington, and in the world-at-large. Now, Twitter serves as my news station. What is best is that this news is already vetted by folks I respect and trust. Further, Twitter's hashtag convention allows me to follow what topics are 'hot' through tools like TwitScoop, which is enabled by default in TweetDeck. The news on Twitter often unfolds long before mainstream media picks it up. Kakie Urch (@ProfKakie) put together an excellent analysis of how Twitter acted as the new news in the #amazonfail case, including how long it took traditional media to even notice, while the twitterverse was exploding in outrage. (As I write this, a friend of mine, @JasonOney, has a campaign to save the NBC series Chuck, using the #savechuck tag. And he's got friends marching with him. Look out NBC. A Chuck decision is expected: May 19.)

3. Twitizenship. What the #amazonfail and #savechuck cases (among many thousands more) demonstrate is a new form of online citizenship, characterized by immediacy, openness, and cause-centered organization. In this new 'twitizenship', groups and conversations spontaneously form around causes within minutes. Before Twitter, such formations may have taken days to fully gel. Twitizens expect speed, transparency, and action from both businesses and civic leaders.

4. Hyperlocalism. These three aspects of Twitter (connections, news, twitizenship) come together most effectively at the **local level**, where the virtual Twitter community meets the physical world. These hyperlocal physical gatherings (some-



times called 'flash mobs' or 'tweetups', depending on the event) reinforce the communities initiated in the twitterverse.

My favorite recent example: Kickeball at CentrePointe Parque. Using Twitter and Facebook, a flash mob formed around the idea of playing a kickball game on the pit of rubble where CentrePointe is not currently being built. So, April 24, 5:30 PM, they had a game — and a wonderful bit of public theater and civil disobedience. You can see video by Mick Jeffries (@mrtoastey) and running commentary from Keegan Frank (@KeeganFrank) on the Ace blog (aceweekly.blogspot.com).

You should check out these accounts, because the local media completely whiffed on coverage over the ensuing 24 hours. I left work to go to the pit and witness the game (but not to participate —I was chicken, and didn't want to get arrested).

Since I became more active in Twitter, I've seen similar patterns of virtual and physical gatherings unfold several times. Last week, as the CentrePointe developers addressed the Urban County Council, there was a live (and lively) metadiscussion about the event on Twitter, consisting not only of folks who were in council chambers, but also from citizens who were watching live video from GTV3 or over the web. One twitizen (@mrtoastey) was inspired enough by the discussion to leave the comfort of his hammock to go to council chambers to see the occasion first-hand.

Other examples: @Mother_Tongue organized attendance to a preview for the new Star Trek movie. @TransformLex (and others) convinced @AceWeekly to hold the first Front Porch Friday Forum in May (instead of waiting until June). A huge group of UK students formed a flash mob in the W.T. Young Library during dead week (this was one of the only such events traditional local media covered). Twitter also chronicled the quest for funnel cakes in the run-up to MayFest in Gratz Park last weekend, and the resulting despair when none were to be found (#funnelcakefail).

These are fun examples, but I hope my main point shines through: Twitter allows citizens to form into and disband from interest groups at lightning speed. Sometimes the groups form around light, fun activities. Often, they form important movements which are vital to our community's future. These groups have higher expectations of their leaders and of businesses, who must respond with greater speed and openness. Those who fail to respond will surely #fail.

Twitter's platform allows for new social formations which are important, and will be changing the way we interact, the way we get our news, and the way we create a better city, state, nation, and planet. Governments, businesses, and citizens must adapt to this changed world, or they will be left behind.

Those are just my thoughts on why Twitter matters. What are yours? ■ Follow Rob Morris on twitter at @RobMorris2 and read him at ace-weekly.blogspot.com.



Dudley Webb at the Historic Bldgs Inventory Mtg. Tue, May 12. On twitter, there is an @CentrePointe.

FayetteVILLE on Twitter

Ace has been on Twitter for one year (as of Friday, May 8, 2009) and at first, it was pretty lonely. We're not lonely anymore. More and more Ace Readers join us there everyday, and it's Ace's first look at local news. It's just one cog in a much longer, more thoughtful sequence, but it's an important one. Writing starts with Twitter. From there, we move on to the blog (and Facebook, and this summer, our new website).And then — like right now — you see the print edition for longer stories, in larger context. Last week's heated May 5 LFUCG Council Work Session unfolded on Twitter.It was old news by the 6 o'clock newscasts, and Ancient History by the time the *Herald-Leader* put it on their front page the next morning on May 6.

**“Jim Gray admits he didn’t have crystal ball — just an ability to read a newspaper.”
—Ace blog headline Tuesday May 5**

Twitter **was** the story. The medium became the message. For example, check the hashtag #ChiaPointe. Or #hood-winked. Or #bluefish. Twitter is what made it a dialogue. It gave government a life, a participatory life. If you had an opinion (and as in life, not all opinions are equally interesting or valid), you could share it, limited only by 140 characters. Ace's blog headline, by 5pm, was “Jim Gray admits he didn’t have crystal ball — just an ability to read a newspaper.”

LEXINGTON AND UK ARE WOEFULLY BEHIND ON using the micro-blogging service to keep the citizenry apprised. Especially after the Mustache Audit [you can click on Ace blogposts about that], everyone could use a little reassurance. High hopes abounded when @UKCoachCalipari embraced the forum (amassing 10,000+ followers in his first few days, and topping 20,000 at press). An imposter posing as @UKPresTodd surfaced on Mother's Day Weekend but was immediately outed (does anyone think Dr. Todd speaks in “big shout-outs?”) The REAL President Todd wasn't on Twitter as we went to press, but he might be now. You can read the Ace Twitter to

find out. The City Elders checked out Austin last year for its role model potential, and they're headed to Madison, Wisconsin now. But it's Fayetteville, Arkansas that's ahead of Lexington on this. (Cleveland is too; and Mayor @CoryBooker in Newark, NJ is, as usual, an early adopter.) In the *Northwest Arkansas Times*, Robin Mero reports: www.nwanews.com/nwat/News/75230 “One Fayetteville alderman believes Fayetteville should use Twitter.com to disseminate information and is using Tweets to share what’s happening at the council table during meetings.



Alderman Matthew Petty first sent and received Tweets on his laptop computer during the March 17 council meeting. **Television is a one-way conversation**, Petty said. Tweets are short and quick, and are a truly open form of communication as they're posted on Twitter.com for all to see, even those without a Twitter account. Some cities are embracing the method, such as Cleveland, Ohio, which sends updates on city council actions and reminders about upcoming meetings and events ... Tweets were also useful during the ice storm for spreading information and updates, and Petty said he would like to see the city embrace the method.”

In Lexington, email councilmembers@lfucg.com and ask for Twitter Transparency. Twitter is where you'll find an ongoing CONVERSATION about where we go next as a city. You'll read about Lexington's evolution on the Ace blog every day (aceweekly.blogspot.com), and in the Ace print edition every week — but you will see Ace's “first drafts” on Twitter 24/7. Literally. Because Ace never sleeps. You already know that if you read the Twitter. ■

—RR

Follow Ace & Ace Writers on Twitter

These are their Twitter screen names, preceded by the @ symbol.

@aceweekly

@TransformLex

@ChefDave0

@Wyllie

@HeatherCW



@KeeganFrank



@RobMorris2

@KimmyVille

@ProfKakie

@RealityTruck

Ace Friends on Twitter

(a small sampling of who we follow):

@AMartinDesign (social media)
@Ale_8_One (official sponsor of Ace's front porch Fridays)
@AllanThinks and @AliThinks (Best of Lex Power Couple 2008)
@asianSteev
@BullhornWill
@Churchill Downs (Ace Advertisers are often disclosed in Tweets as #product-placement)
@DavidKitchen (United Way)
@DMohney (Lex DDA)
@DVS (new media)
@GoTreadGo (if you follow only one person on Twitter, make it Tread)
@ElevationJeff (design)

@ideaFestival
@KellyFlood (state rep)
@KYSportsRadio (Matt Jones)
@LexingtonDD (distillery district)
@lolliloo
@MariAdkins
@MrToastey
@ncryder
@ricetopher (UK)
@PeterBeattie (“What exactly IS an INLAND hurricane?”)
@SustainLex (Jim Embry)
@TimJonesCS
@TomKimmerer
@TrickyDoc (Ace 20th anniv. board member)
@UKCoachCalipari
@UKCoachMitchell

Lex in the Middle

WRFL hosts Black Moth Super Rainbow at Red Mile By Megan Neff

Black Moth Super Rainbow sounds like you would expect a band who crafts their tunes in Pennsylvanian hinterland and goes by the pseudonyms of Tobacco, The Seven Fields of Aphelion, Power Pill Fist and Father Hummingbird to sound: a sun-drenched brand of surreal electronic psychedelia that takes root as you listen and grows as easily as weeds in the summertime.

The BMSR show on May 19 at Red Mile follows a recent string of big names in independent music performing in Lexington, a result of street savvy and effective planning on the part of the University of Kentucky radio station, WRFL 88.1 FM.

From Crystal Stilts in March to Ariel Pink in April, WRFL has been inciting locals and out-of-towners to frequent Al's Bar much more often than usual in the past few months.

WRFL promotions director, James Friley (vocalist and keyboardist for Bedtime, also appearing Tuesday) said several factors have made the excess of shows possible. One of these is the sizeable budget given to the volunteer-based radio station by the university. Another is his familiarity with the music community and booking process. "My experience booking tours already for my band has helped out, just with the way you talk to people when you're trying to book something and working on the business side of things," said Friley. Lexington's ability to lure in the big ones is nothing new, according to Friley, but in the past they have been limited to experimental and noise groups.

Despite their prevalence in the underground of Lexington's music scene, major players in this genre are decidedly less likely to garner as much attention as acts gracing Pitchfork Media's Best New Music page with each album drop.

The location of Lexington as a play-through on the way to bigger cities with high-touring traffic is another factor that influences who plays in Lexington.

Friley says, "You know, within an hour, there's Louisville and Cincinnati. And if you keep going, there's Columbus, Nashville, Knoxville, and Chicago, too. So we're just kind of in the middle."

A true product of their woodsy stomping grounds, BMSR cemented its indie-rock stardom with Dandelion Gum, their 2007 release on Graveface Records. The concept album

turned heads with an unusual combination of bubblegum psych rock and warped pop, prompting comparisons to groups like the Flaming Lips and Boards of Canada.

And Tuesday, May 19, Black Moth Super Rainbow will bring their eccentric opus out of the undergrowth to Lexington at the Red Mile Round Barn.

The tour supports *Eating Us*, their latest album set for release on May 26. And from the sound of things, the group is keeping the acid-weird, but removing the focus from the synthesizer and stepping up the recording quality.

Vocals siphoned through a vocoder to the point of near incoherence are artfully layered upon

vintage keyboards and warbling guitars in *Eating Us*.

A stop in Lexington begins BMSR's spring tour, which is set to run until July 24, crossing from coast to coast and ending at South Street Seaport in New York City. Co-headliners School of Seven Bells — tribal dream-pop trio of Ghostly International label fame — will not be making the trip to horse country.

That void will be filled by local talents Tiny Fights and Bedtime.

Tiny Fights, formed in the fall of 2008 and over 9,000 Myspace hits strong, mixes their own brand of kraut-inspired rock with a modern aesthetic. If you thought lo-fi rock heavy with reverb and MacBooks were genetic dead ends, you should rethink what you know about evolution.

Bedtime, a four-piece with members in both Lexington and Ashland, offers a taste of the manic-depressive by way of infectious melodies set to minor keys and distorted guitars.

Friley describes their sound as one that mixes rock and pop with "lots of noise." Though the line-up is a diverse mix across genres, Friley sees more of a connection in sound between Tiny Fights and BMSR.

"Tiny Fights and Black Moth Super Rainbow are a little closer together," said Friley. "They both have that lo-fi, electronic sound that makes you move a little."

The BMSR show on May 19 is only the beginning of a season filled with WRFL-sponsored gigs, from Bonnie Prince Billy in June to Deer Tick in July. "It's just a really good scene here," said Friley, "so people believe me." ■

Doors open at 8:30pm and the show is all ages. Cost is \$5. Go to wrfl.fm for more information on this and other upcoming shows.



Bedtime

Selected Gigs & Concerts

Thursday, May 14

CARLA GROVER Natasha's. 9pm.

CORALEE AND THE TOWNIES Al's Bar. 9pm.

SOFT PAIN CPR Cultural Preservation Resources. 7pm.

THE HOT SEATS The Dame. 8pm.

WES MEEK Lower 48. 9pm.

Friday, May 15

DELILAH WHY Cheapside. 10pm.

JIMMY HONEYMAN w/ **Jai Swann** Common Grounds. 9pm.

ON THE ROCKS Caddyshacks 2. 9:30pm.

RAKADU Natasha's. 9pm.

THE BLUE LAWS Lower 48. 9pm.

THE ENRIGHT HOUSE w/ **Spooky O'S, Arsenic on the Rocks** CPR Cultural Preservation Resources. 7pm.

THE US BAND Al's Bar. 10pm.

Saturday, May 16

CAW! CAW! w/ **Wildcat Revival, & Freak the Mighty** CPR Cultural Preservation Resources. 7pm.

DAVE BUTLER Common Grounds. 9pm.

DELILAH WHY Cheapside. 10pm.

DORKBOT CPR Cultural Preservation Resources. 4pm.

ELLERY Natasha's. 9pm.

JOVONTAES w/ **TINY FIGHTS** Al's Bar. 10pm.

ON THE ROCKS Caddyshacks 2. 9:30pm.

R.E. OTHERSON Giuseppe's 7pm.

SEXUAL DISASTER QUARTET Brooklyn Pizza. 10pm.

ZACH DEPUTY The Dame. 8pm.

ZIONZNOIZ w/ **King Moses, & Mykraphone** Lower 48. 9pm.

Sunday, May 17

PAWN SHOP RADIO w/ **June July** Al's Bar. 9pm.

SHELLY SHORT w/ **Alexis Gideon, Candy, & Arzu** CPR Cultural Preservation Resources. 7pm.

Monday, May 18

OPEN MIC NIGHT Common Grounds. 9pm.

SI KAHN w/ **Maura O'Connell** Woodsongs. 6:45pm.

Tuesday, May 19

CHRIS WEISS Natasha's. 8:30pm.

Wednesday, May 20

HOLLER POETS SERIES INSTALLMENT 13 Al's Bar. 8pm.

MOONSHINE DRIVE Red Barn Radio. 7pm.

SUNDOWN SERVICE w/ **Jeopardy Jackson** CPR Cultural Preservation Resources. 7pm.

Thursday, May 21

BEN SOLLEE w/ **Anni Rossi** The Dame. 8pm.

CLUB DUB Cheapside. 10pm.

FRANK ROCKET Al's Bar. 9pm.

SONS OF THE FRIGIDAIRE Natasha's. 9pm.

THE JASON KELLEY BAND Lower 48. 9pm.

BEN LACY & BOB BRYANT Brooklyn Pizza. 10pm.



LOS STRAITJACKETS!

with



Friday, May 29th

Headliners

Tix \$15 in advance,
\$18 Day of show

Tickets Now On Sale!

Tickets can be purchased at ticketweb.com
For more information go to www.productionsimple.com



MOVIE CLOCK

Movie times are only provided for
Friday, May 15 through Thursday, May 21.

CINEMARK FAYETTE MALL 3800 Mall Road, 971.0718

17 Again: 11:55, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 9:55.
Angels and Demons: 12:05, 1:05, 1:55, 3:10, 4:10, 5, 6:15, 7:15, 8:05, 9:20, 10:20.
Ghosts of Girlfriends Past: 12, 1:15, 2:30, 3:45, 5:10, 6:25, 7:35, 9, 10:05.
Monsters vs. Aliens: 11:45, 2, 4:15.
Next Day Air: 12:40, 3:05, 5:15, 7:25, 9:45.
Obsessed: 11:50, 2:25, 5:05, 7:40, 10:15.
The Soloist: 1:25, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50.

Star Trek: 11:45, 1, 1:45, 2:45, 4, 4:45, 5:45, 6:30, 7, 7:45, 8:45, 9:30, 10.
Wolverine: 11:40, 12:25, 1:20, 2:10, 2:55, 3:50, 4:40, 5:25, 6:20, 7:10, 7:55, 8:50, 9:40, 10:25.

KENTUCKY THEATRE 214 E. Main, 231.6997

The Soloist: 5:20, 7:30, 9:40 (Fri, Tue, Wed); 1, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40 (Sat, Sun); 9:40 (Mon).
Star Trek: 4:45, 7:20, 9:45 (Fri, Mon - Thurs); 1:40, 4:45, 7:20, 9:45 (Sat, Sun).

LEXINGTON GREEN 3195 Nicholasville Rd., 271.2070

Adventureland: 12:55, 4:10, 7:20, 9:55.
Confessions of a Shopaholic: 12:10, 2:35, 5, 7:25, 10.
Duplicity: 12:40, 3:50, 6:50, 9:35.
Fighting: 12, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:50.
Gran Torino: 12:45, 4:05, 7, 9:45.
Knowing: 12:50, 4, 6:55, 9:40.
Paul Blart Mall Cop: 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:05, 9:25.
Taken: 12:20, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:30.

REGAL CINEMAS Hamburg Pavilion 16, 264.7469

17 Again: 6:25, 8:50.
Angels and Demons: 12, 12:30, 1, 3:10, 3:45, 4:20, 6:20, 7, 7:30, 9:30, 10:10, 10:40.
Earth: 1:30, 3:55.
Ghosts of Girlfriends Past: 1:55, 4:35, 7:10, 9:40.
Hannah Montana: 1:15, 3:50.
Monsters vs. Aliens: 12, 2:15, 4:30.
Next Day Air: 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 7:15, 9:35.
Obsessed: 12:50, 3:40, 6:45, 9:25.
The Soloist: 12:10, 3, 6:35, 9:15.
Star Trek: 12:40, 1:10, 1:50, 3:30, 4, 5, 6:30, 7:20, 7:50, 9:10, 10:20, 10:50.
State of Play: 2:10, 5:20, 8:15.
Wolverine: 2:20, 4:10, 4:50, 6:35, 7, 7:40, 9, 9:45, 10:30.

WOODHILL (behind Woodhill Plaza), 269.1911

17 Again: 11:55, 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45.
Angels and Demons: 11:45, 12:55, 2:50, 4, 5:55, 7:05, 9, 10:10.
Ghosts of Girlfriends Past: 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:35, 10.
Hannah Montana: 12, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:55.
Obsessed: 11:50, 2:25, 4:50, 7:35, 10:05.
Star Trek: 12:30, 3:30, 7, 10.
Sunshine Cleaning: 12:10, 2:35, 5, 7:25, 9:50.
Wolverine: 11:45, 1, 2:20, 3:35, 4:55, 6:10, 7:30, 8:45, 10:15.

17 Again No thanks. Wasn't that great the first time. It'd be worse with Zac Efron. *Cinemark Fayette, Regal, Woodhill*



Angels and Demons The people pictured look just as bored as audiences were while they tried to watch the first film. The girl second from the left, her posture encapsulates everything I'm trying to tell you. *Cinemark Fayette, Regal, Woodhill*

Ghost of Girlfriends Past According to rumor, the common thread of Matthew McConaughey's ex-girlfriends is that they will always remember Matthew's legendary bad body odor. That's a ghost that keeps on giving. *Cinemark Fayette, Regal, Woodhill*

Hannah Montana The Movie When I saw the trailer for this, it instantly made me think of *Georgia Rule*, with the whole girl-gettin'-dirty-on-the-farm overtones. I could be wrong, yet I'm not going to find out, because a grown-ass man such as myself has no business watching this movie in the theater, or anywhere else for that matter. *Regal, Woodhill*

Monster vs. Aliens Everyone goes on about how, in real life, Seth Rogen's a smart guy. But every time you see him on Kimmel or Stewart, he just seems stoned and stupid. He sure doesn't SAY anything smart on-camera when somebody else isn't around to write his dialogue. *Cinemark Fayette, Regal*



Next Day Air I know you were all waiting with bated breath for the day this came to theaters. You just couldn't wait to break an ankle rushing out to see this one. You better hurry, because this movie will be out of the theaters after the weekend. *Cinemark Fayette, Regal*



Obsessed Watching this trailer and seeing Beyonce in that ridiculous wig has me obsessed about how handsome it makes her look. Amy Poehler's rendition of Beyonce is "All the Hungry Ladies," and the line is "if you liked it then you shoulda put some cheese on it." *Cinemark Fayette, Regal, Woodhill*

The Soloist If the man Jamie Foxx was portraying in the film was blind, he'd win another Oscar. But no. It'll be back to cracking jokes about Miley Cyrus's horse teeth. *Cinemark Fayette, Kentucky Theatre, Regal*



Star Trek This really is "Star" Trek, because I saw this and was saying to myself, "Oh hey, there's Syla from *Heroes*. And the dude who was the *Hulk* (before Edward Norton was cast in the remake a few years later), as well as *Shaun of the Dead*, Harold from the *Harold and Kumar* movies. Dr. Cameron from *House*. Even Tyler Perry's big head is in there. And Winona Ryder earns a paycheck too. *Cinemark Fayette, Regal, Woodhill*

State of Play A newspaper is the hero of this story, and it feels retro in a good, *All the President's Men* / *Zodiac* kinda way. Stephen Colbert asks "if newspapers die, what will I use to kill spiders?" Answer Stephen: PHONE BOOKS. Seriously, how many *Ace* Readers have hauled those straight to the Rosie this week? Show of hands? *Regal*

X-Men Origins Wolverine Please outpace all box office records so that Hugh Jackman will think he's too BIG to host the Oscars next year in case they ask him again — which they probably will. Idiots. *Cinemark Fayette, Regal, Woodhill*

ACEList

CRITICS' PICKS MAY 14 - MAY 21

ACE IS YOUR OWNER'S MANUAL FOR THE BLUEGRASS:

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO GO/SEE/DO IN THE NEXT 8 DAYS. DAILY

UPDATES AT CEWEEKLY.BLOGSPOT.COM.

HOURLY UPDATES AT TWITTER.COM/ACEWEEKLY.

ACE Weekly To do List TAKE FIVE

☐ 1. Steve Earle's latest is *Townes*, a tribute to the late great Townes Van Zandt, which he previewed at his July show last summer at the KY Theatre.

☐ 2. If you're on Twitter, Ace Reader Jason Oney would like you to #saveChuck. Ace has never seen *Chuck*, but Jason's dedication's is admirable. Deadline May 19.

☐ 3. *Friday Night Lights* hits DVD. (It may need saving too.)

☐ 4. Boobalooza seeks artists submissions by May 15 for Boobalooza May 30, benefiting Susan G. Komen Foundation. Email colormywalls@gmail.com.

☐ 5. Actors Guild will not be doing a Shakespeare at Equus Run series this summer, but they are bringing *Bad Dates* back to the stage in June.



THURSDAY, MAY 14

BASEBALL Lexington Legends vs. Charleston RiverDogs. Appelbee's Park. 7:05pm.

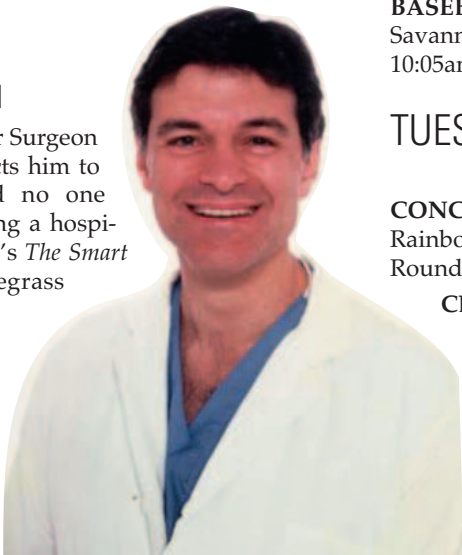
JAZZ Jazz Arts Foundation presents Jazz Live at the Library, 7pm, downtown branch on Main.

ART ArtTalk at Art League, "How Artists See Their World," curated by Dan Prince.

FRIDAY, MAY 15

DR. OZ IN TOWN

He would be Ace's pick for Surgeon General, but no one expects him to take the demotion. And no one should think about entering a hospital without reading Dr. Oz's *The Smart Patient*. See him at Bluegrass Ballroom.



...ALSO ON FRIDAY

FOOD Wine Tasting 5pm to 8pm, 486 W. Second Street. (See this week's food column, Chef Dave, p 13.)

FUNDRAISER 5th annual "Taste of the Vine," benefiting Manchester Center at Equus Run, 6pm to 10pm.

STAGE Broadway LIVE! presents *To Kill A Mockingbird* Lexington Opera House.

THEATRE *Oklahoma*, presented by Woodford County Theatre, Versailles. 859.873.0648

THEATRE *As it is in Heaven*, presented by UK Theatre at Shaker Village. See story p. 12.

SATURDAY, MAY 16

LEXINGTON CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

200 craft beers for sampling. BBQ. Jambalaya. Tickets \$30 at the door. Info lexingtonbeerfest.com. Red Mile. 4pm to 7pm.

...ALSO ON SATURDAY

BASEBALL Lexington Legends vs. Savannah Sand Gnats. Appelbee's Park. 7:05pm.

EVENT Central Kentucky Peace & Global

Citizenship Fair, BCTC campus. Noon to 8 pm. They have not promised funnel cakes — just peace, love, and understanding. And that's good too.

MONDAY, MAY 18

WOODSONGS Si Kahn w/ Maura O'Connell. Kentucky Theatre. 6:45pm.

BASEBALL Lexington Legends vs. Savannah Sand Gnats. Appelbee's Park. 10:05am.

TUESDAY, MAY 19

CONCERT WRFL presents Black Moth Super Rainbow with Tiny Fights and Bedtime, Red Mile Round Barn. (See story p. 10.)

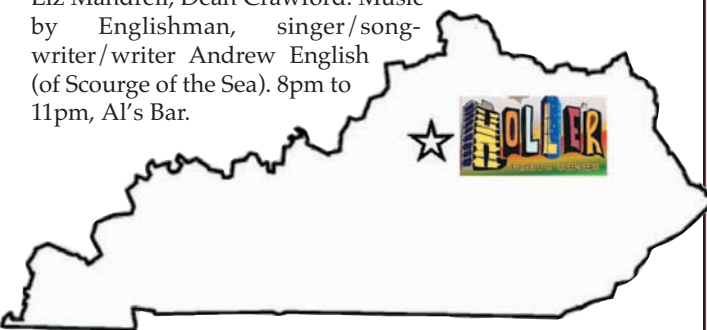
CD RELEASES INCLUDE Bizzy Bone *Back With The Thugz Part II*; Busta Rhymes *Back On My BS*; cKy *Carver City*; Eminem *Relapse*; Ben Harper and the Relentless *7 White Lies for Dark Times*; Iron and Wine *Around the Well*; Method Man and Redman *Blackout! 2*; Tori Amos *Abnormally Attracted To Sin*.

DVD RELEASES INCLUDE 24 (7th Season); 8 *Simple Rules* (2nd Season); *Friday Night Lights* (3rd Season); *Paul Blart Mall Cop*; *Valkyrie*.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

HOLLER13: ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Liz Mandrell, Dean Crawford. Music by Englishman, singer/song-writer/writer Andrew English (of Scourge of the Sea). 8pm to 11pm, Al's Bar.



...ALSO ON WEDNESDAY

RED BARN RADIO Moonshine Drive. Artsplace. 7pm.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

GIGS Ben Sollee, Anni Rossi at the Dame.

THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE The Big Maracas. Cheapside Park. 4:30pm - 8pm.

Around the Corner in the Bluegrass

May 23 Poolapalooza

May 24 Red Mile Blues Festival

May 25 Lex Humane Mutt Strutt at Keeneland

May 28 The blue fish swims in muddy water.

May 29 Taste of the Bluegrass

May 30 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Fair (WILL there be funnel cakes? WILL THERE?)

May 30 Chamber Music Festival of the Bluegrass

Jun 5 KET Summer Celebration, Donamire

Jun 5 Ace First Friday: Front Porch Fridays

Jun 12 Grand Night for Singing, UK Singletary

Jun 14 Lucinda Williams, Brown Theatre (Lville)

Jul 6 Lexington Junior League Horse Show

Jul 18 Keeneland Concours d'Elegance

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OUT & ABOUT

UK Dance Ensemble Fall performances



Photos by John Chan

E s s a y

"...AND THE GREATEST OF THESE IS CHARITY"

Charity begins at home. It shouldn't end there, but it's a good place to start. It's what my mom and dad taught me. It's what's at the heart of Ace's annual Charity issue, for the past dozen years or so.

Growing up, it's a great thing to be able to admire your parents. So many memories from my childhood stand out around the holidays.

Like the time an acquaintance of my mom's showed up at our door after their house burned. My mom was the one who mobilized the community—finding a place for them to stay, and clothes and shoes, and coats, and deodorant and toothpaste and even finding out what Christmas presents had burned under their tree, so she could replace them.

Or the time we went to Jackson County as part of St. Camillus's outreach program. I'll never forget meeting Ceil and Cody, who lived in a camper (not a mobile home, just a camper) with a potbellied stove in the center. *Batman* was playing on the black and white television next to the stove. I remember Cody steering me out of the way of that stove so my down jacket wouldn't catch fire. The bulk of the holiday "cuisine" we brought them was a case of baby food—because that's all Ceil could eat. She'd had most of her digestive system removed as part of her cancer treatment. I conservatively guessed she looked about 75 (when one of the nuns asked), but found out on the way home she was 46-years-old.

I came home filled with holiday spirit—really grateful and thankful—primarily grateful and thankful that I wasn't them. (Not the lesson the nuns had in mind.)

But one of the most vivid memories I have is the Christmas my dad

worked on Cane Creek, driving a back dump for Richland Coal. His job was pretty self-explanatory, consisting of backing up this multi-ton piece of machinery to within an inch of a 100-foot highwall and dumping the dirt over the side. He was (and still is) deathly afraid of heights, but he did it every night (second shift), for more years than I can count.

Every day, on his way up to the deadlift, he'd pass this little shack—the kind you'd see in a Shelby Lee Adams photograph—a gang of kids and dogs in the yard, a car up on blocks out front, a washer and a sofa on the porch.

He started to get worried as the holidays got closer and he didn't see a Christmas tree, so he decided that he'd play Santa Claus.

He came home and told us what he remembered about the kids—how old they might be, what size they might be. Then we all went shopping. I picked out things for the girls, my brother for the boys. I remember some pretty red mittens, a doll or two, and a remote control car; there were even chew toys for the dogs.

We really got into it. I imagined showing up on their doorstep with all this loot—how they'd rip into these packages, thanking us profusely. It'd be great. *The best Christmas ever.* Finally, I thought, I had a handle on what the Sisters of Divine Providence had been telling us all along. THIS was what it was all about.

But that wasn't what my dad had in mind. We came home. We wrapped up all the presents. My mom added in container after container of her beautiful holiday cooking—her loaves of braided challah, country ham (an odd match in some houses maybe, but not ours), cranberry salad, homemade apple butter...

My dad put it all in a big box. He drove up to these people's house—alone—in the dead of night, Christmas week (hoping not to get shot or dog-bit), and left it all on their porch.

The only way we know that they got their presents was because he saw them wearing the clothes and playing with the toys the following week.

My dad, of course, had been poor. Most of his life. And he knew a little something about charity.

His family had spent their entire lives avoiding it—along with the condescension that often accompanies it as the price of admission.

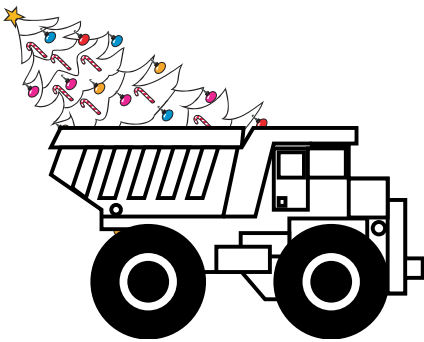
So he knew that how you give is as important as what you give.

You give in a way that's right for the recipients. You give in a way that acknowledges and preserves their dignity.

Charity's an important value, especially when it's wrapped in respect.

—RR

Reprinted, Ace, every Thanksgiving, since November 1999.



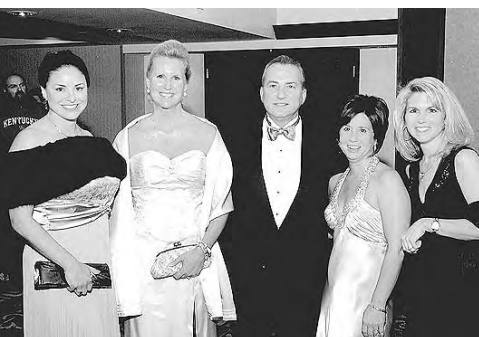
St. Joseph Foundation's an Evening with the Stars gala



John Michael Montgomery, Vicki Atwood,
Crystal Montgomery, and Ramona Woods



Jane Warner, Chuck Mangione, and Sally Blake



Ramona Woods, Michele Ripley, Barry Stumbo,
Kathy Marano, and Tracy Kostelic



Anne Hoskins, Alice Stewart, Gene Woods,
Phyllis Cronin, and Jackie Nicholson

Photos by Neil Sulier

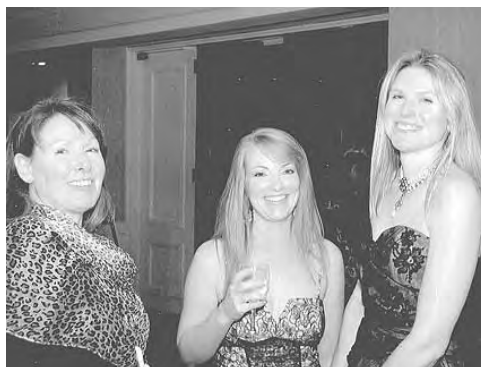
Lexington Humane Society's Beastie Ball



Chris McCarron and guests



Bret and Donna Hawkins with Nolen and
Beverly Barger



Photos by Neil Sulier

March of Dimes Chefs Auction



Katrina Adams-Thompson, Terry Alvey, Laura
Boisseau, and Susan O'Brien



Committee member Nancy May, Alan Sullivan,
Ellen Ferguson, and Tom Stanwix-Hay



Delta Gamma volunteers Brittany Woody, Katie
Taylor, Megan Beach, Kelsi Whitman, and
Hannah Younger



Cheryl Smiley, committee member Lisa James,
event Co-Chair Leslie Fannin, and March of
Dimes State Board Chair Tammy York Day

Photos by Neil Sulier

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—source, *AdRap*, February 2006

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Social Innovators and Investors are Lex's Future

What Lexington needs is new leaders — not just any leaders but a specific kind of new leader. We need more practical idealists capable of solving our community's most pressing needs in new and innovative ways. Some call them social entrepreneurs. Others call them social innovators. I simply call them our future.

If there is any upside to the current economic crisis, it is that we have been forced as a nation to take a long, hard look at what got us into this mess. And the only conclusion one can come to is that it was largely caused by our own greed — especially those at the very top rung of the ladder. Those on Wall Street were so caught up in a their own self-absorbed culture and so disconnected from Main Street that they felt perfectly comfortable consuming massive amounts of artificial wealth without creating anything of actual value. However, as we've found out the hard way over the past year, a house of cards can only stand for so long.

As a society, we now need to seriously reassess how we define value. Most people

ed to thrive in a 21st century more compassionate form of capitalism; that we will work to become one of the leaders in this area rather than play our usual game of catch-up. In short, that Lexington will actually play a critical role in shaping the new economic landscape our children are likely to encounter.

What evidence do we have that compassionate capitalism is on the horizon? For starters, a man who embodies change and hope has already established a White House Office for Social Innovation and Social Innovation Fund. As a result, I and millions of others involved in this budding field are filled with hope that better days lie ahead. We are excited about the increasing number of social entrepreneurs using their business acumen to solve social needs in innovate new ways and blur-



gain civil rights in America for an entire race of people?" On the other hand, if these same naysayers cite Lexington's lack of leadership as a reason for pessimism, I am forced to agree. Why? Because it is leadership that drives everything else. If there is a worthwhile project in Lexington and public interest is lacking, effective leadership can fix it. If the problem is the bureaucracy, good leaders can even surmount that.

What Lexington Needs by Nathan Cryder

Gandhi and MLK, Jr. didn't walk on water, but they did teach us everything we need to know about how to become a practical idealist, or what we would term as social innovator today.

Great leaders are not born, they are made — first through the right nurturing and eventually through direct experience. I

"... they felt perfectly comfortable consuming massive amounts of artificial wealth without creating anything of actual value. However, as we've found out the hard way over the past year, a house of cards can only stand for so long."

fail to realize that there is absolutely nothing except human psychology and old habits preventing us from placing higher value on companies that behave in a socially responsible manner versus those with the same "objective" metrics that do not do so. A stock's value correlates directly to simple supply and demand economics determined by investors. And who are these investors? For the most part, we are! In the U.S., the vast majority of Americans own stocks. Therefore, if we would simply choose to put our money into socially responsible companies, more companies would behave responsibly — if for no other reason than the positive effect it would have on their bottom line.

So what does any of this have to do with Lexington? My dream is that Lexington will soon become a hotbed of social innovation and, equally important, of social investment; that our city will learn to nurture the kinds of leaders need-

ring the lines between the for-profit and non-profit worlds.

I know what some of you are probably thinking — a rosy outlook on the country is one thing, but to actually think that our little ol' Lexington could become a hotbed for anything other than horse-breeding and racing is just plain delusional. "That could never happen in Lexington," is the mantra of the local naysayer that we hear all the time. "The Distillery District will never happen." "We'll never get an interconnected set of walking and biking trails or have a thriving local food economy."

When I hear such statements, I'm usually compelled to conceal my true feelings. The response I would like to give would go something like this: "Have you absolutely no sense of history or eye for optimism? Are you not aware that one man led a mass movement to gain India's independence from the British empire and one man led the movement to

am not suggesting that some individuals aren't born with certain innate qualities conducive to leadership. However, I am suggesting that these talents must be recognized and cultivated by others in order for the individuals who possess them to reach their true potential. Far too few organizations and institutions in Lexington get this. If and when we finally do, Lexingtonians will stop saying, "That could never happen in Lexington" and begin saying instead "I'm ready to make that happen in Lexington. Now who's ready to follow?" ■

Nathan Cryder is the Co-founder and Executive Director of Global Gain Social Investments, Inc, a social-profit organization based in Lexington. Global Gain will be launching Lexington's first social business incubator in the fall.

"What Lexington Needs" is an open forum for Ace readers. Submit 800 words to editor@aceweekly.com.