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OPENING REMARKS

During the holidays people take time to remember family and friends, to recall past experiences, help others and say "thank-you." I hope this issue of *Kentucky Alumni* magazine represents all of those things.

It's been a real pleasure reading the e-mails and letters we received when we asked you to send us the things you remember and love about UK. Originally we planned to only name 50 items, but the brief essays and lists we received were too good to stop there. In fact, we've created a section on the alumni Web site www.uky.edu/Alumni — a *Things We Love About UK* message board — where you can see the responses to date and add yours to this collection. If you have not already done so, you will need your UK ID number — the first number on your mailing label — to register for the online UK Alumni Community in order to participate. Reading the collection of comments truly reflects the tradition and spirit shared by generation after generation of UK students. It's guaranteed to stir up your memories. In the community, you also will be able to locate friends who played a part in the anecdotes you cherish, and read more Class Notes than we have room to print in the magazine.

Finally, the association thanks you for your membership in the UK Alumni Association. It is your continuing support and participation that enables this organization to contribute to the university's mission and pursuit of its strategic plan, *The Dream & the Challenge*. For your information, you will find the document on pages 7, 8 and 9.

Also, on pages 24 and 25, is the 2002-03 Annual Report of the association that briefly chronicles for you the programs and events held during the fiscal year. Whether the association was rewarding good students — club and association scholarships totaled \$76,040 — or recognizing great service by alumni or great teaching by the faculty, the association kept its overriding focus on continuing its role as the main conduit between alums and the university.

Keep in touch, friend, and have a Happy New Year!

Liz



Kentucky Alumni magazine welcomes Letters to the Editor from its readers sharing their ideas and opinions about the magazine's content. Letters must be signed and may be edited for length and clarity. Mail letters to Editor, UK Alumni Association, King Alumni House, Lexington, KY 40506-0119; Fax to 859-323-1063, or e-mail to ldemora@email.uky.edu

Don Rosa

My mother recently had the good sense and kind heart to forward me a copy of the UK alumni magazine featuring a cover story on Don Rosa. Simply put, I adore Rosa and just about everything that he has ever done. It strikes me that every few years, some magazine in Kentucky will notice that he's practically a celebrity in Europe, but unknown here. It's a shame, because he's one of the finest comic writers and artists ever to come down the pike. I first became acquainted with him when I was about eight years old and he was writing and drawing "Captain Kentucky" for the *Louisville Times Saturday Scene*. As a 31-year-old responsible adult, I still love his work and get a giddy, childlike grin on my face every time his name is mentioned.

I got to meet Don Rosa once. My mother knew that I was a huge fan, so — knowing that he lived in Louisville — tried to track him down. Turns out he was listed in the phone book. He was listed in the phone book!! She called and told him that I was his biggest fan (at least in Louisville) and he invited me to his house. I got to meet Ann and Cleo and he patiently indulged my youthful enthusiasm and inquiries. He even let me touch a copy of *Fantastic Four #1* from his personal collection. I was impressed by his modest, self-effacing manner. Part of that may have been because he didn't have a whole lot of fans in his home town, but I think it owed a lot more to the fact that he was — and is — doing something that he loves. It shows on every page.

Is it possible to contact him via e-mail? Can't imagine what I'd say, but it'd sure be nice to pass along a kind word to him.

— Brian Fannin

Editor's Note: Don Rosa's email address is donrosa@iglou.com