

KENTUCKY WARRIOR



WEATHER Chance of showers today; high 55. Showers likely tonight; low mid-50s. Warm with rain tomorrow; high 70.



KILLER TURTLE Japanese monster movies add a new face to their line of destructive characters. See Review, page 2.

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February 28, 1997

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ESTABLISHED 1894

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

INDEPENDENT SINCE 1971

Committee to decide fate of student tickets

Brian Dunn
Staff Writer

A vote today decides whether or not fewer students will watch men's basketball games in Rupp Arena and take in home football games in Commonwealth Stadium stands.

This morning at 11:30, the ticket committee is scheduled to meet at the Boone Faculty Club to vote on Athletic Director C. M. Newton's proposal that 1,700 student basketball and 2,000 student football tickets be directly sold to the public and faculty because students weren't using all of their allotted tickets.

The committee is made up of representatives from throughout the University. Whitney Hale, director of governmental affairs for the Student Government

Association represents the student body, and David Stockham, dean of students, will vote for Student Affairs in place of committee member.

James Kuder, vice chancellor for Student Affairs. Stockham said he applauded the athletics department's and committee's efforts to put the proposal before the University because the University had not been as well informed with previous ticket decisions.

He views his role as in

which he communicates to the committee the opinions that have been brought to him by students. Some of these include reasons for decline in student ticket sales like schedule and lottery times and that part-time students are not allowed to purchase tickets.

"I think the proposal is plausible and merits very serious consideration," Stockham said.

SGA President Alan Aja said he understood the Athletic Department's point of view from a business standpoint, but he felt that wasn't enough.

"I'm honestly not very happy with it," he said. "It seems that the students are constantly getting the shaft. The UK basketball team belongs to the students."

But only about 1,800 students per game are picking up tickets from the 6,700 allotted, according to the Athletics Department report. On average, more than 800 tickets aren't picked up at all.

Newton said the department needs to sell those tickets because it is self-funding.

Assistant Dean of Students Jake Karnes, who serves as a liaison between the athletics office and Student Affairs, said he understood the Athletics Department has a business to run.

Because student attendance may change the number of student tickets given to the public each year, Karnes said he had no problem with the proposal as long

as the students can get the tickets back.

"If the students don't pick up the tickets, then (the public) should be able to pick up the tickets," he said.

Newton said a passive fan, one who would rather watch the games on television or follow the team on computer, was emerging.

But Aja said there were several other factors that were leading to declining student participation. Students don't want to pay the \$5 charge, they don't want to go to the 8 a.m. ticket lottery and they don't like the weak home schedule, he said.

Also, Aja thought the four games over the holidays affect the statistics.

Most importantly, students don't feel like they're a part of Rupp Arena because students

exiled to the upper arena bleachers, he said.

"The UK basketball team belongs to the students," he said. "Students may be at fault, but the system is at fault, too. Maybe the whole process itself of Rupp Arena and basketball needs to be looked at."

Ryan Johnson, a history sophomore, said he understood why the Athletics Department was proposing the change.

"It's just sad that the students aren't filling the seats they have," he said.

Kelly Killebrew, a nursing freshman, said only a few days for students to pick up the tickets wasn't enough.

"The ideal situation," Johnson said, "would be to move the students down there where they have the rich alumni."

Ticket committee

▼ The Athletics Department ticket committee meets at 11:30 this morning at the Boone Faculty Club.

▼ The proposal will reduce the number of student basketball tickets by 1,700 and football tickets by 2,000.

A cyclist's obsession

By Jay G. Tate
Weekend Sports Editor

March 23, 1996 — Franklin, Tennessee

"Good luck, Eddie," the competitors grumble as he makes his final preparations before the race begins. Pull a strap here. Tighten a joint here. Check the tires. Fill up on water. Scan the opponents. Visualize the race.

Shortly after, UK junior Eddie Church rolls along, placed nicely inside a pack of cyclists. It's like any of the other 50 races over the past year. He's where he wants to be — drafting off the riders in front, conserving energy for the last push which will come in an hour or so.

Things feel good. His legs feel even better. It's a good race.

It feels like a winning day.

May 12, 1996 — Paducah, Kentucky

Eddie's home looks roughly the same since his last visit. It's a place he's been many times, a place where he feels comfortable.

And comfort is in high demand. Eddie is home for the first time since March, having spent the last month and a half wondering if

he'd ever get here again.

The Nashville race is largely absent from his temporarily beleaguered short-term memory. There had been an accident. A dog had run out on the course, and there was nowhere to go.

He had been "asleep" for five days. Eddie doesn't call it a coma — says it's too dramatic.

There had been damage to his brain and as a result, the left side of his body wasn't working. It was the kind of damage which pointed to the possibility of life in a wheelchair, problems with mental organization, struggles with the most basic things in human experience.

"That was a time when ignorance was bliss, I guess," Sara Church, Eddie's mom, says now, nearly one year after the accident.

"I didn't want to face the severity of the injury.

"I had always told him to do his best at everything and this was no exception. I knew he would give it his all. I knew he would make it."

She was right. Only one month after being told he may never walk again, Eddie was up and about. He was talking. He was aware.

"I wanted to prove all the doctors wrong," Eddie says. "There was never any doubt — I wanted to get back to cycling."

But getting back into a sport so physically demanding was a tall order. Cyclists by trade are at the peak of physical fitness, often riding 20 miles or more per day.

After 47 days in hospitals, days when Eddie's legs would no longer move on command, his body was not what it used to be.

His leg muscles, long hardened and toned as the result of thousands of miles of road racing, hadn't been worked in a while.

And it showed.

"People would come up to me and say, 'you look good,'" Eddie says. "And that was really hard. It's not like 'I'm some kind of invalid.'" Eddie still has problems with

his left side. Though it's improving, his left leg continues with its cantankerous ways. It still has the tendency to move along clumsily, which has obvious drawbacks to a cyclist. Each leg needs to push the pedals at full strength and at the moment, that's not happening.

"All I can do is keep working," Eddie says. "I'm a person that loves routine. My life is cycling and whatever needs to be done is what I do. I don't do anything half-assed."

In keeping with his drive to return to competitive cycling, Eddie immediately set out to begin the long road back. One of the most popular therapies for people with similar injuries is aquatic recreation.

The pool challenges a wide variety of muscle groups and serves as an ideal way to help regain a patient's lost strength and coordination.

It's a great idea. Only one problem.

Eddie didn't know how to swim.

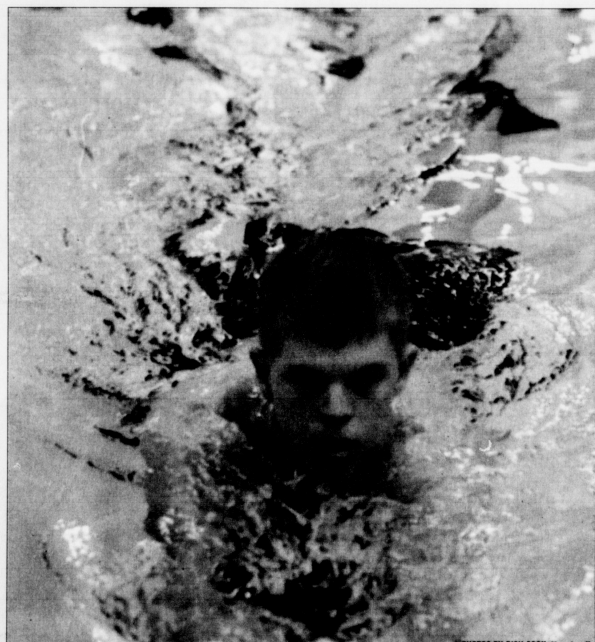
"I was terrified of water," Eddie explains. "I had never learned to swim and truthfully, I wasn't really wanting to learn how, either."

The passion that accompanies those devoted to their craft will lead them to do anything to progress. So Eddie jumped — er, eased — into the idea of swimming to help him reacquire his lost skills.

Accepting the challenge was one thing. Overcoming his fear of water was another.

That's where Margo Lynch comes in. Lynch, a 1995 UK graduate who is now local swim coach, got a call from Paducah explaining how Eddie needed someone to help him learn to swim. Without hesitation, she accepted.

"I'm here to help him get comfortable with the water," Margo says. "He came in here and told me, 'you just tell me what to do —



HEAD FIRST Junior Eddie Church swims in the pool at the Lancaster Aquatics Center weekday mornings as part of his rehabilitation from a cycling accident.

"I'll do it."

"He's really easy to work with because he wants to learn. He wants to improve."

The improvement has been remarkable. It was only early February when Eddie began to feel comfortable in the water. Now, he swims in water far above his head without hesitancy.

And on a recent day with temperatures in the mid-60s — perfect weather in which to ride — it was the Lancaster Aquatics Center that got his attention. He felt the pool would be of more benefit that day.

"He's so motivated," Margo explains. "He comes in here for lessons at 7 a.m. — a time when

most people don't do much — and he does something (he) hates so he can improve. It says a lot about what kind of person he is."

So what kind of person is Eddie? Focused. Determined. Tough-minded. Confident.

But after the crash, there was a

See CYCLE on 3



PHOTOS BY JAMES CRISP/Kentucky Staff



Splash into me

Members of the Kappa Alpha, Phi Kappa Tau and Kappa Delta synchronized swimming team performed during Delta Gamma/Sigma Nu Anchor Splash last night (above). Tara Pachmeyer, journalism sophomore and Miss Alpha Gamma Delta, waits between swimming events. The swimming events capped a week of activities which raised \$1,000 for Service for Sight. The overall winner was the Sigma Chi and Pi Beta Phi team. Second place went to Phi Sigma Kappa and Kappa Alpha Theta. Delta Sigma Phi and Chi Omega placed third.



Speaker recounts journey

By Chip Bright
Contributing Writer

Anthony Cohen awed the Worship Theater crowd last night with stories from his personal experiences tracing the Underground Railroad.

Cohen began his journey last May in Sandy Springs, Md. ending at the Howard-Holland family reunion, descendants of a refugee slave family, in Ambersburg, Ontario two months later.

Now his journey takes him from elementary schools to college campuses to government agencies in an effort to educate the public about the Underground Railroad.

"He has turned, what I and many others thought, a piece of African-American history into just American history," said Jon Hall, co-chairman of the Student

Activities Board Multicultural Committee.

During the presentation, Cohen said, "I want to show people that this is a very diverse piece of history full of legend and lore involving many different races and beliefs."

Although not on the run from slave hunters, Cohen faced many obstacles during his trek of the historical trail.

He covered the 1,200-mile trip by foot, train and boat, sometimes walking up to 25 miles a day.

Cohen's unique approach to the journey offered interaction with people via the World Wide Web.

"I had a web page where people could e-mail me, and offer me any further information regarding my quest," the 33-year-old historian said.

Cohen hopes to publish a book from excerpts of a diary he kept while traveling.

A documentary of the journey is also expected, which Cohen said all proceeds from will help start a national foundation for the Underground Railroad.

Spectators from campus and the community gathered after the show to discuss personal feelings about the topic.

Rev. John Reece, a board member at the National Underground Railroad Museum in Maysville, said the Underground Railroad was a spiritual journey for the slaves with only the Northern Star and God to guide them.

"Without any knowledge of who or where they were looking for, the slaves attained their freedom through raw faith," said Reece, also a part-time student at UK.

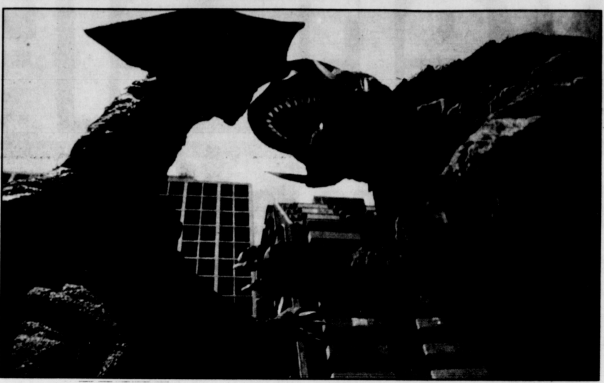
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Monster Movie Mania

By Josh Herr
 Staff Critic

There is something oddly appealing about monster movies. They aren't works of art by any stretch of the imagination, but it is somehow satisfying to the internal misanthrope in all of us to see a major metropolitan area destroyed by a rampaging puppet in the form of a nuclear mutation. Surely at some point we have all wished that a big green thing would come trampling through our world, taking out the annoying bureaucracy that plagues us all.



TURTLE POWER The giant fire-breathing turtle fights his arch-nemesis in the Japanese-monster flick *Gamera*.

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Sunday, March 2
 Tournament play

1st Game at 10 a.m.

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On top of that, it's great to watch and see exactly how bad the special effects, writing, and acting possibly can be. And of course you can't go wrong with horrendous dubbing, which in the case of this movie was intentionally bad.

You have to give a monster movie the same sort of leeway that you would give to, say, a Jackie Chan film or a B-grade horror movie. When all is said and done, it's not a Merchant and Ivory production by any stretch of the imagination, but it's a lot of fun.

And what, you might ask, is *Gamera* exactly? Good question.

In the fine tradition of Japanese monster movie mutations that brought us a giant lizard, a flying perodactyl, and a huge ravenous

nerdy chick to stop the beast before it is too late.

Like most of the latter-day monster movies, a few more monsters get trotted out for some awesome monster for monster brawling. In the mix it gets kind of difficult to remember who it was we were supposed to be rooting for. Of course, in the end, everything ends up okay, and the beloved humans are saved, but who cares. As far as special effects are concerned *Gamera* seems to almost revel in its cheesiness, as

MOVIE review
 ★★★
 (out of five)
 "Gamera: Guardian of the Universe"

Thrush makes auspicious label debut

By Brian R. Gilbert
 Contributing Critic

If simplicity served as a goal for this Canadian foursome when entering the studio, then they most certainly left successful.

Sweet Homebreaker is the first major label release for Thrush Hermit, a power pop/rock group from Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Demonstrating their diverse taste in music, Thrush Hermit takes you on a 14-song roller-coaster ride of simple, guitar-driven rock and pleasant, dreamy

melodies. Stating that they have been influenced by bands like AC/DC and the Beach Boys, *Sweet Homebreaker* clearly shows how these influences have affected Thrush Hermit.

With grinding guitars and scream-like vocals being the sign of the times (i.e. Marilyn Manson, Rage Against The Machine), Thrush Hermit offers an alternative sound that relies on lucid melodies, flashy guitars and off-key vocals to carry their songs.

The first single off the album, "North Dakota," begins with a

driving guitar groove, but then slows and almost silences as the vocals appear. This change occurs continuously throughout the song. As vocals combine with guitar and drums in the chorus, a full, solid sound entices one to sing along.

Possibly the greatest downfall to the song is the cheesy lyrics, which accompany the music. Lead vocalist and guitarist on the song, Joel Plaskett, sings in a standard pre-pubescent voice, which fits perfectly with the clanging guitars, it is just what he sings that bothers me.

"The state of North Dakota has to fill its quota/ and separate the girls from the boys/ keep the trouble out of Illinois." Simple rhyming lyrics fill most of the songs on the album and rarely make much of a point.

Thrush Hermit has wondered why they have been labeled "young and cute" in the past. Obviously, they haven't looked at their lyrics for an answer.

One interesting aspect of the band is that they utilize multiple lead vocalists. Plaskett, guitarist Rob Benvie and bassist Ian McGettigan all sing on different tracks and combine on some also. This helps add to the diversity of songs on the album. Plaskett wails on most of the guitar-led tracks, while Benvie sings on the softer, melodic tunes. Both have similar voices, but the style in which they sing provides the variety.

"Strange To Be Involved" is a

slow, poetic song in which the band most effectively demonstrates their writing talent. Benvie sings in a gentle, restrained voice and correctly conveys the emotion that the music creates. As he croons, "And it is so strange to be so involved, where nothing's resolved. And I don't mind at all," the peaceful guitar and drums lull you into a tender, dreamy state.

Again the lyrics are questionable as to having a point, but then I'm sure there is a deep meaning that is just soaring over my head.

The song "At My Expense" is extremely upbeat and contains a chorus which will rattle in your head, and both "Heart Wrenching Man" and "Darling Don't Worry" are the most radio friendly pop songs I have heard in a long time.

The opening and closing tracks "Skip the Life" and "Come and Went" are noteworthy also. "Skip the Life" opens the album with a bouncy feel, and "Come and Went" ends *Sweet Homebreaker* with a seven-minute tour-de-force of the band's musical ability.

On whole, *Sweet Homebreaker* is successful in its simplicity.

Thrush Hermit's first attempt at major label stardom is commendable, but the band does struggle in defining a sound all their own. If you enjoy power pop along the lines of Weezer or Nada Surf, this is an album you might consider picking up.

MUSIC review
 ★★1/2
 (out of five)
 Thrush Hermit
 'Sweet Homebreaker'
 (Electra)



THRUSH PUPPIE The Nova Scotian power pop band Thrush Hermit released its first major label album in *Sweet Homebreaker*.

DIVERSIONSbytes

And the Grammy Award goes to...

- ▼Record of the Year — *Change the World*, Eric Clapton.
- ▼Album of the Year — *Falling Into You*, Celine Dion.
- ▼Song of the Year — "Change the World," Gordon Kennedy, Wayne Kirkpatrick and Tommy Sims.
- ▼Male Pop Vocal Performance — "Change the World," Eric Clapton.
- ▼Female Pop Vocal Performance — "Un-break My Heart," Toni Braxton.
- ▼New Artist — LeAnn Rimes.
- ▼Pop Performance by a Duo or Group — "Free as a Bird," The Beatles.
- ▼Pop Instrumental Performance for an Orchestra, Group or Artist — "The Sinister Minister," Bela Fleck and the Flecktones.
- ▼Pop Album — *Falling Into You*, Celine Dion.
- ▼Traditional Pop Vocal Performance for Solos, Duos or Groups — "Here's to the Ladies," Tony Bennett.
- ▼Producer of the Year — Babyface.
- ▼Male Rock Vocal Performance — "Where It's At," Beck.
- ▼Female Rock Vocal Performance — "If It Makes You Happy," Sheryl Crow.
- ▼Rock Performance by a Duo or Group — "So Much To Say," Dave Matthews Band.
- ▼Metal Performance — "Tire Me," Rage Against the Machine.
- ▼Hard Rock Performance — "Bullet With Butterfly Wings," The Smashing Pumpkins.
- ▼Rock Instrumental Performance — "SRV Shuffle," Jimmie Vaughan, Eric Clapton, Bonnie Raitt, Robert Cray, B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Dr. John and Art Neville.
- ▼Rock Song — "Give Me One Reason," Tracy Chapman.
- ▼Rock Album — *Sheryl Crow*, Sheryl Crow.
- ▼Alternative Music Performance — "Odeley," Beck.
- ▼Female R&B Performance — "You're Makin' Me High," Toni Braxton.
- ▼R&B Performance by a Duo or Group — "Killing Me Softly With His Song," Fugees.
- ▼R&B Song — "Exhale (Shoop Shoop)," Babyface.
- ▼R&B Album — *Words*, The Tony Rich Project.
- ▼RAP Album — *The Score*, Fugees.
- ▼Rap Solo Performance —

"Hey Lover," LL Cool J.

▼Rap Performance by a Duo or Group — "The Crossroads," Bone Thugs-N-Harmony.

▼Country Album — *The Road to Exenada*, Lyle Lovett.

▼Female Country Vocal Performance — "Blue," LeAnn Rimes.

▼Male Country Vocal Performance — "Worlds Apart," Vince Gill.

Compiled from wire reports.



SPORTS

Cockfight to relocate in Rupp

USC, UK battle for SEC title Sunday, honor seniors

By Chris Easterling
Sports Editor

No. 3 versus No. 6.
Senior Day.
For the Southeastern Conference Championship.

Win, and the Cats capture the school's 39th conference title, sharing it with USC. Lose, and the Gamecocks capture the SEC title for themselves for the first time since joining the league in the 1991-92 season.

UK enters the contest at high noon on Sunday with a 27-3 record overall and a 13-2 mark in the SEC. South Carolina is some number-6, but more importantly, 14-1 in conference play.

The Cocks also won the only game played this season, winning 84-79 in overtime on Feb. 4 in Columbia.

If the Cats win, they would also clinch the number one seed in the SEC Eastern Division for the conference tournament which begins Thursday at The Pyramid in Memphis, Tenn.

Win or lose, UK will be playing its first tourney game next Friday.

But the SEC Tournament is the least of the two team's worries right now.

"I sure hope it's one of the marquee games this season," said South Carolina Coach Eddie Fogler of Sunday's game. "Right now, the two teams who are on top with wins and losses overall and in the league. It will be a very difficult game for us, to go into Rupp Arena — where it is very difficult to win — on Senior Day to say the least."

"I think Kentucky is an outstanding basketball team," he said. "I marvel at the job Rick (Pitino) has done with his team; losing Derek Anderson and yet developing others to take up the slack. They are very, very difficult to play."

In the first meeting between the two teams, UK was short-handed due to an ankle injury to Jared Prickett that sidelined the senior forward for two games.

Despite this injury, the Cats jumped out early on Gamecocks, taking the lead into the locker room at halftime.

But the tremendous backcourt trio of B.J. McKie, Larry Davis and Melvin Watson blew through the Cats in the second half.

The trifecta helped give Carolina a 11-point lead a one point in the second half.

Pitino's squad wasn't done yet, though. They rallied back, even taking a four-point lead late in regulation before letting USC tie it at 75. Ron Mercer's jumper at the buzzer rimmed out and the teams were heading to overtime, where Carolina eventually took control.

"We played an outstanding game here (in Columbia)," Fogler said of the first contest.

"They played well here although they played without Prickett. They get (him) back (for Sunday's game)."

Sunday will mark the final game in Rupp Arena for four Wildcat players — three seniors and the NBA-bound Mercer. Prickett, Anthony Epps and Anderson will be honored in the traditional pregame ceremony.

Mercer will get a special recognition immediately following the

S. Carolina at Kentucky
Sunday, noon
Rupp Arena

UK (27-3, 13-2 SEC)
National ranking: No. 3

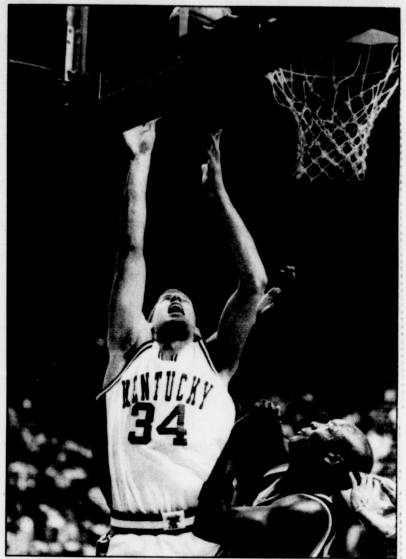
Probable Starters: Ptc: Reb: Min: Pts: Fg%
 G Anthony Epps 32 5.0 12.0 11.0 47.6
 G Ron Mercer 18.1 5.3 10.0 11.0 51.1
 C Jamal Magloire 5.7 4.8 10.0 11.0 51.1
 F Scott Padgett 10.1 3.8 10.0 11.0 51.1
 F Allen Edwards 8.0 4.1 10.0 11.0 51.1

Reserves: C Nazr Mohammed, 8.2 ppg; F Jared Prickett, 7.6; G Wayne Turner, 5.0; G/F Cameron Mills, 3.3; G Stephen Masiello, 0.9

S. Carolina (22-6, 14-1)
National ranking: No. 6

Probable Starters: Ptc: Reb: Min: Pts: Fg%
 G Melvin Watson 10.9 4.7 17.4 3.9 27.0
 G B.J. McKie 16.5 4.1 10.0 11.0 51.1
 F Ryan Slack 8.0 4.1 10.0 11.0 51.1
 F William Galman 8.5 6.5 10.0 11.0 51.1

Reserves: C Nate Wilbourne, 6.0 ppg; F Herbert Davis 4.0; F Arthur Carlisle 3.6; F Bud Johnson, 2.7; G Hagen Roese, 1.1.



GRAB IT Scott Padgett, averaging 10 points per game, attempts a rebound.



UKstats

Team statistics

UK	Opponents
.472	Field Goal Percentage .398
.687	Free-Throw Percentage .665
.362	Three-Point Percentage .318
83.5	Points Per Game 61.6
39.9	Rebounds Per Game 33.4
15.2	Off. Rebounds Per Game 12.4
20.0	Assists Per Game 12.5
15.1	Turnovers Per Game 23.4
5.2	Blocks Per Game 2.6
12.6	Steals Per Game 6.7

BACKCOURT

Unless you've been under a rock for the past ten weeks, you've heard about the South Carolina backcourt. Point guard Melvin Watson has emerged as one of the country's most explosive and crafty floor leaders, dishing out the assists per game and scoring in double figures. North Carolina transfer Larry Davis rounds out the backcourt. Meanwhile, UK will likely run sophomore Wayne Turner at point, while senior Anthony Epps will spend some time at the two-guard.

FRONT COURT

On a team dominated with superior guard play, USC's frontcourt personnel perhaps doesn't get the attention it deserves. The Gamecocks rely heavily on Ryan Slack and William Galman for an inside presence. Though they combine for only 10.6 points per game, it's rebounding that matters — they haul in 10 boards per game. The Cats look to Scott Padgett for an enticing mixture of inside and outside power.

BENCH

The cream of the USC lineup averages upwards of 30 minutes per game, which leaves the bench to carry relatively light load. However, the UK press will likely force South Carolina coach Eddie Fogler to use his bench — namely Herbert Davis. Davis' 37.1 three-point percentage will command some looks from the UK defense.

ETC.

This is the big one. Though No. 6 USC leads No. 3 UK in the division standings, a Cal win would actually catapult Big Blue into the SEC's No. 1 seed slot for next week's conference tournament. Fogler is looking to become the first SEC coach to win conference title with two different teams. Pitino looks for his third conference crown.



SOUTH CAROLINAstats

Team statistics

USC	Opponents
.451	Field Goal Percentage .423
.687	Free-Throw Percentage .673
.377	Three-Point Percentage .323
75.0	Points Per Game 66.1
37.4	Rebounds Per Game 33.8
13.8	Off. Rebounds Per Game 13.0
13.5	Assists Per Game 13.2
14.0	Turnovers Per Game 14.5
3.3	Blocks Per Game 3.1
7.2	Steals Per Game 7.3

Women enter SEC tourney play

By Rob Herbst
Weekend Sports Editor

One could speculate that nine squads have something to play for in the Southeastern Conference Women's Basketball Tournament this weekend in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Some teams like Georgia and Alabama are playing for seeds in the upcoming NCAA Tournament. Then there are the proverbial bubble teams like Arkansas, Ole Miss, and Auburn who need a good showing.

Then there's UK (8-18, 2-9). The Wildcats would need a miracle run through the SEC Tournament to advance to the NCAA Tournament.

Tenth-seeded UK will take on 7th-seeded Arkansas (17-9, 5-7) in the first round of the SEC Tourney at 3 p.m.

Arkansas head coach Gary Blair said, "We're a bubble team. We need to win against Kentucky to make it hard for the committee and that's the number one thing."

"If we don't make the NCAA Tournament, we may be the only team in the history of men's or women's basketball that's been in the Top 25 in both polls all year and not make the NCAA Tournament."

Currently ranked No. 23, Arkansas has fallen on hard times. The Lady Razorbacks have lost 5-of-7 to put their NCAA hopes up for grabs.

UK and Arkansas met each other in January in Fayetteville. Arkansas gave the Cats an 88-55 drubbing.

"Kentucky is playing very well right now," Blair said of UK, losers of six of their last seven. "We handled them pretty easy in Fayetteville. That could be in our favor or it could work against us. Obviously we cannot overlook anyone."

The Wildcats enter the SEC Tournament on a modest one-game winning streak. UK won its conference closer against South Carolina to earn the 10th seed in the tournament.

"I want my team to play like they did last Saturday night against South Carolina," said UK head coach Bernadette Mattox. "They executed, they played great defense and they attacked right from the beginning of the game."

If they Cats pull off the upset against Arkansas, they will have the honor of playing Alabama on Saturday. The No. 2 seed Crimson Tide (22-5, 10-2) receive a first-round



LAST CHANCE The Wildcats bring their losing conference record to Chattanooga this weekend for the SEC women's tournament.

bye in the SEC Tournament.

Coming into Chattanooga, Alabama would have been thinking about a possible No.1 seed in the NCAA Tournament had it not been for North Carolina-Charlotte.

Alabama lost to the 49ers last Tuesday.

Cyclist

Crash victim works his way back in to sport

From PAGE 1

change. Though much is the same, Eddie believes the crash hardened him up a bit and gave him an edge that hadn't been there before.

"Some people say I'm different, but I don't really see it," Eddie says. "I may be a little more up front and I'm less patient than I used to be. But I'm pretty much the same from my point of view."

Eddie became interested in cycling around age 15. He bought a bicycle (with his own money, as he likes to point out) and simply rode several miles to a friend's house. He grew to enjoy the rides and decided to begin racing in the amateur circuits a year later.

But people don't just cycle up hills in the country for hours at a time for idle pacification.

Eddie credits his mother for being "the rock," the motivation

behind what he does. She was there when Eddie missed the cut for the high school baseball team. She was there when he competed in his first collegiate race.

Though the bikers look like blurs as they fly by the spectators, Sara goes to the races for those few seconds as he streaks by.

The crash was particularly hard on her. This was her only son. It was a freak accident. This wasn't supposed to happen.

As she began to realize Eddie was going to get better, she elected to rearrange how she dealt with her son and his racing.

"I just don't want anything else to happen to my son," Sara explains. "I used to help him make decisions. But now, he has to lead the way and I'll just follow along."

With Eddie at the lead, the path will always somehow end up at a race or a video tape of the Tour-de-France or another ride in the country or another lesson in the pool. Racing is his life and seemingly every action is another step toward competition.

Obsession works like that.

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- After the third Gamecock is introduced yell: "Who's That?"
- After the fourth Gamecock is introduced yell: "Go Home!"
- After the fifth Gamecock is introduced yell: "Welcome Home!"
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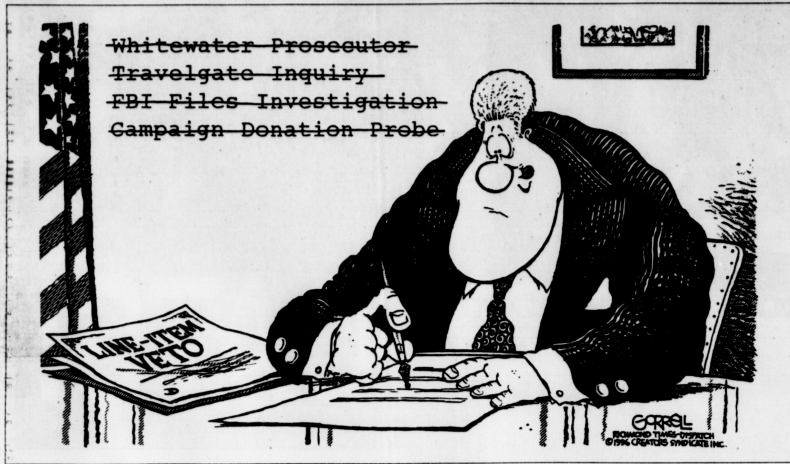
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Welcome back to the dark ages. At an institute of higher learning one would think that enlightenment might come how seep into the minds of this University's hierarchy. But sadly the situation at UK remains dim. Latinos — students of Latin American descent — at UK are neither officially recognized as a minority on this campus nor in Kentucky. And just for the record Asian Americans, Native Americans and Indian Americans fall into the same category as Latinos.

states in the nation, which does not officially recognize Latinos as a minority. Though Latinos don't make up a significant portion of the official population total, try driving by horse and tobacco farms and see how many Latinos make up the working class in Kentucky.

Even though the Latino population in Kentucky doesn't meet the state's standard for declaring this ethnic group a minority, that should not keep UK from doing the right thing by giving minority scholarships to this and other ethnic groups.

The University should take the lead on this issue and dole out money fairly. The state's standard should not govern UK's standard.

If funds are available, then UK needs to show deserving minority students the money, just as it does for black students. (Blacks are the only official minority recognized by the state.)

At the very least, the University should look in to partnerships with organizations that give scholarships to Latino students.

UK needs to ensure a level playing field for everyone, regardless of state statistics and standards.

IN OUR OPINION

The end result hits these students where it hurts, in the pocketbook.

UK awards more than \$3.3 million in scholarship money each year, but students who have the aforementioned heritage see none of the funds.

For an ethnic group to be officially recognized as a minority by the state, it must make up a certain minimum percentage of the total state population. According to the 1990 census less than 20,000 Latinos reside in the Kentucky. That comes to less than one percent of Kentucky's total population.

Kentucky isn't alone. It is just one of many

Mercer — may the Force be with you as you go to pros

There are many things in life a young man must think through in order to make the right decision.

Should you wear briefs, or boxers?

Eat at Long John's or Fourth Quarter?

Drink caffeinated or decaffeinated?

Tastes great or less filling?

Watch Leno or Letterman?

Window seat or aisle seat?

Butter or margarine?

Jenny McCarthy or Pamela Anderson? Smoking or non-smoking?

Stay in college or go to the NBA two years early?

The latter is what seemed to quench Mercer's thirst Wednesday when he announced he would leave the Bluegrass to pursue his dream of playing in the NBA.

That decision to me is a no-brainer, especially under the circumstances he was in.

If I was playing side by side with future NBAer Derek Anderson, my dreams of playing at the next level would seem that much more in reach.

And then, to see him go out with a season-ending injury like he did, I would be thinking go pro as Mercer has.

Maybe even get an insurance policy...

You can only keep a player of this magnitude locked up for so long.

It's time for Mercer to take off the sunset of professional basketball.

Time to run endlessly up and down the court free of the knee-braces of college life like Forrest Gump.

Like a bird with newly developed wings, he needs to be set free so he can fly high in the NBA skies above and drop bombs on the Gary Paytons and rain thunderously on the Shawn Kemp's down below.

Hey Ron, don't believe in all that hocus pocus, "Curse of the Bluegrass" crap.

We don't want that to disturb your flight.

Seems to me the only thing that could be standing in the way of Ron's future is INJURY.

I hate that word Ron, no jinx intended, unfortunately it's true.

That was the only problem with Kenny Walker and "Sexy Rexy" Chapman, and the fact they played for the Washington Bullets.

Unless Ron gets drafted by the Bullets he should be injury-free.

If you do Ron, beg for a trade.

Don't go to practice or show up at the games until the offer is

on the table. Hold out like a girl on her first date, (just kidding.)

Better yet, get traded to Boston. Reunite with Antoine Walker.

If Chris Webber and Juwan Howard can try to achieve success in Washington, then you guys can become the dynamic duo of the future. (Just wait until Scottie Pippen and Michael Jordan retire.)

Even better Ron, get this. After you lead the Cats to a second consecutive national championship

dropping his potential head coaching job at Wright State and bring him to Boston.

Brooks will just have to give M.L. Carr the boot.

Regardless of where Ron plays in the NBA or how many tangents I go off on, he will have a big impact on the NBA his first year.

He'll make UK fans proud.

He'll provide himself as

a role model for young kids across America.

Children will be dancing in the street singing, "If I could be like Ron, Ooohh I want to be like Ron."

There will be commercials all over the television with Ron Mercer drinking a can of Surge saying, "Be like Ron, drink Surge, ahhhhh!"

Kids will be wearing his new shoe called, "The Mercer" playing pickup games dreaming of one day wearing the lucky No. 33.

Ron will have sports agents fighting over him screaming to him over the phones, "Show me the money, I love black people!"

Mercer will be so rich he will be able to finally help UK build the on-campus arena people have been talking about this year.

What Ron has reached all of you at home is in life you need to plan your work and work your plan.

In Mercer's case, he practiced what he preached.

Before he even stepped foot on the court of Rupp Arena he already had his itinerary planned out.

He wanted to leave UK with an NCAA Championship and end up being picked in the top five in the NBA draft.

I looks as if Ron will get his wish and then some. Count the days because he won't be here for long.

So similar to the figure you might have after losing 20 lbs., enjoy it while it lasts.

Kentucky Columnist Dave Gorman is a journalism freshman; his views do not necessarily represent those of the Kentucky Kernel.

question if you are hunting a group of bores coming along a lake, you must be strong. You have to plan it, you have to organize it."

Archaeologist Hartmut Thieme, whose crew made a discovery of 400,000-year-old wooden spears.

It's time for Mercer to take off the training wheels and ride free into the sunset of professional basketball.

READERS' forum

Getting smarter not a Mercer priority

To the editor:

I read with interest your article about Ron Mercer's decision to skip his final two years of eligibility and jump to the NBA. First of all, I would like to commend Ron for his dedication to a game to which he is truly gifted, it has been a pleasure to watch him in Kentucky blue for two years. My confusion lies in Chris Easterling's interpretation of Mercer's three goals: (1) getting an education, (2) winning a national championship and (3) getting to the NBA.

Easterling boasts that Mercer is about to complete the third of his three goals after leaving UK at the end of the season. When

was the first goal reached?

Ron must have been taking extra night classes in order to complete a degree in two years, especially in light of what I must assume to be a rigorous schedule.

I'm not saying that it is a wrong decision for Mercer to be making — if I had any athletic talent I wouldn't be in my eighth and final year of college! My problem is the way we are led to believe high profile athletes are truly interested in completing a degree while at school.

They are here to showcase their talent and sign a contract as soon as their agent can put it together. In today's market, they are probably making the right decision, but let's stop pretending we don't know what's really going on.

Bryce Tremblay
dentistry senior

TALKback!

Readers are encouraged to submit letters to the editor and guest opinions to the Viewpoint page in person or by mail in response to articles or columns published daily by the Kentucky Kernel.

Address your comments to "Letters to the Editor", Kentucky Kernel Editorial Editor; 035 Enoch J. Grehan Journalism Building; UK; Lexington, Ky. 40506-0042.

Send electronic mail to Kernel@pop.uk.edu. Letters should be approximately 250 words; guest opinions should be no longer than 850 words.

Material should be type-written and double-spaced, but handwritten will be accepted if it is legible.

With the letter, please include your name and major classification.

Frequent contributors may be limited.

Without a telephone number for verification, no letter can be published.

We reserve the right to edit all material.

NBA history too rich in legacy for Ron Mercer to be there

Sophomore player not ready for league

Oh, Ron... are you listening? I'm talking to you, bub.

I'm supposed to convince you why you should stay another year at UK. I have to admit, I'm having trouble coming up with reasons.

The NBA scouts are biting at the bit over you. You have an explosive (although sparty) offensive game. Your defense is so good that you made Tim Thomas change his dandy diapers.

Some companies are drooling at your athletic (and probably stinky) feet.

And just think, you could be playing side by side with George Muresan!

Considering that you could take my slow, clumsy, big goofy butt to the hole any day, I'm not going to talk about your game.

Nor will I try to bash the reasons why you want to leave.

But I would like to take this little moment of your time to tell you and the good readers of this column about a little tidbit of information that you and coach Pitino may have overlooked.

And you should be afraid. Be VERY afraid.

It's the "Curse of the Bluegrass."

There have been several players who have left before their four-year span on UK's basketball team was up.

For some supernatural reason, these players never live up to their full potential.

And we still haven't figured out why.

The coaches encourage the early transitions to the NBA Draft.

The fans, sad to see the player go, salute the player and suddenly favor the team that he gets drafted to.

The fellow players wish the star good luck in the future. And yet, by some divine intervention, that player who left early does not become the superstar he wants to be.

Let us look back in time to your predecessors, Ron:

▼Rex Chapman — The shooting guard who put up excellent numbers on UK's stats and wooed the hearts of teenage girls.

He left early and was drafted by a struggling Hornets team. While he was healthy, he played very well.

That is, WHEN he was healthy: Chapman has had more problems with his knees over the years.

Currently on the Suns, "Sexy Rexy" (as he was once called, but not now with the balding crew

cut) makes an excellent backup two-guard.

Unfortunately, due to his past injuries, that's all he'll ever be.

▼Jamal Mashburn — The "Monster Mash" almost led Kentucky to a national title while in school.

Mashburn was drafted by Dallas and in his first season was in contention for Rookie of the Year.

Combined with Jimmy Jackson and Jason Kidd, he was expected to produce major numbers with the Mavericks.

However, due to bad team chemistry and cheek injuries, "Monster Mash" was looking more like mashed potatoes.

Currently at Miami, he's scoring 11.2 points per game, but is shooting only 38 percent from the field. Not good.

These may be general examples, Ron, but here's the kicker: ▼Kenny Walker — "SkyWalker" — the slam dunk contest and that's about it. After a decent

rookie season, Walker had injuries and lackluster play.

I saw him once on the roster of the Washington Bullets on the Sega NBA Live '95 game. I didn't even know that he was still playing professional basketball in 1995.

The sad thing about Kenny's professional career is that in college, he was SO awesome. He was as talented, maybe a little less, than you are, Ron.

What, Ron? Look at Antoine Walker, you say?

OK, he is playing stellar basketball. But look who he's playing for: Boston.

Boston's management does not know how to create a playoff contention basketball team, so you know that Walker's wishing for a trade when his contract is up.

So you see, everybody who has left Kentucky early runs into bad luck.

Blame their own luck, blame the unknown, even blame Bill

Gates (who probably has a part of this conspiracy).

But the fact remains: The Curse of the Bluegrass will fall upon you, and you will have no money, with no friends, LIVING IN A VAN DOWN BY THE RIVER!

I hear your teeth chattering with fear, Ron. I see that absolute look of terror in your eyes.

I see the beads of sweat forming on your forehead.

Have I convinced you that the NBA is not for you, not now?

Oh. You're just scared of posting up against Dennis Rodman and Dennis liking it too much would just call in sick if I would have to play the Bulls.

Anyway, good luck in the NBA. And tell big George Muresan I said "hi."

Kentucky Columnist Christopher Emmick is a computer science sophomore; his views do not necessarily represent those of the Kentucky Kernel.



Christopher Emmick
Kernel Columnist

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BEAUTIFUL, QUIET HOME with utilities, lovely furnished bedroom, living room, kitchen, and laundry. \$295. Call 278-7864.

ROOMMATE WANTED. Campus Downs Condominiums. \$275/mo. Utilities paid except phone and cable. Call 252-9321.

STUDENT CO-OPER HOME complete with kitchen, washer/dryer. Private bedroom. Southland area. \$190 total. 278-7373.

NEED HELP with any math, science, or economics course? Call me! 277-1855.

HELP WANTED

PROOFREADING - \$5 per hour. Each person is paid according to an incentive program. Job description: Complete nomination forms from teachers and professors with a computer program for accuracy of spelling and correct address. Part-time or full-time, mornings, afternoons, weekdays and/or weekends. Flexible schedules. Work up to 40 hours per week. Create your own schedule according to your availability. Prefer 2 years of college. Apply in person at: 2077 Plumtree Drive, Monday to Friday 8:30-5:30.

PERSONALS

111 BRING YOUR SMILE ALONG! Yearbook portraits. Call 272-6286. 112 BRING YOUR SMILE ALONG! Yearbook portraits. Call 272-6286.

WANTED

NEEDED: Tickets to the UK game on Sunday! Student or guest. Call 271-5664 ask for Phyllis.

ROOMMATE WANTED

1 MALE roommate needed to share new 4 bedroom apt. near campus. \$275 - \$300. Call 272-9481.

FREE PREGNANCY TESTING. Abortion Information. Confidential Companionate Help. AA Pregnancy Help Center. 1309 S Limestone 278-9469.

FREE PREGNANCY TESTING. Abortion Services. 278-0214. CONFIDENTIAL PREGNANCY ASSISTANCE. Birthright. 2134 Nicholasville Rd. 277-2635.

Black History Month Series. A GRIPPING STORY. AN INSPIRING AND HIGHLY CHARGED DRAMA. Friday, February 28 and Saturday, March 1. Worship Theater, 7:30 p.m., \$2.00/Plus Account. FREE POPCORN!

USA and UK Boxing Team's. The Natural Academy. Monday, March 3, 1997. 8:00 p.m. The Continental Inn (Winchester & New Circle Roads). Student Admission \$3.

CALLIE AND JOSH appearing tonight at "The Coffee House". 163 N Ashland Ave. Doors open at 8pm. \$2 Cover.

FREE PREGNANCY TESTING. Abortion Services. 278-0214. CONFIDENTIAL PREGNANCY ASSISTANCE. Birthright. 2134 Nicholasville Rd. 277-2635.

SPRING BREAK '97. LAST CALL!! Jamaica & Cancun. From \$399. Endless Summer Tours. 1-800-234-7007.

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SPRING BREAK '97. LAST CALL!! PANAMA CITY BEACH!!! From \$129. Endless Summer Tours. 1-800-234-7007.

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