

KENTUCKY Kernel



WEATHER Rainy and warm today, high near 50. Rain tonight, low of 45. Cloudy and warm tomorrow, high near 50.

STILL WORKING Guard Jeff Sheppard takes his team leadership role seriously.

See Close-Up, page 10.



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February 18, 1998
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REFLECTING B(L)ACKWARD Lessons of the past not limited to month

By Brett Dawson
Senior Staff Writer

There's pride in Derrick Littlejohn's voice when he speaks of Black History Month. He's quick to list reasons for its existence, to stress its importance as a teaching tool.

But he's just as quick to point out the downside.

"There are people who will try to lump that history into one month," says Littlejohn, a civil engineering sophomore, "and then think they don't have to be concerned with it the rest of the year if they teach it in February."

But a month is hardly enough to scrape the surface of significant black Americans.

From Martin Luther King, Jr., to Toni Morrison, even the best-known names from black history are more than enough to fill a month of high school or college curriculum.

That's to say nothing of equally significant, if lesser-known figures, including Carter G. Woodson.

The observance of Black History Month owes a great deal to the black historian Woodson, who proposed Negro History Week. First recognized in 1926, the week was intended to honor the accomplish-

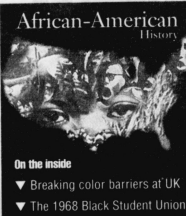
ments of black Americans.

In the early 1970s, Negro History Week became Black History Week, and in February 1976 — selected because former president Abraham Lincoln and author and former slave Frederick Douglass both were born in February — the observance was expanded to Black History Month.

A month still is hardly enough to cover hundreds of years of history. But given the choice, Chester Grundy wouldn't think of giving up Black History Month.

"We always have to give credit to the power of correct information and education," says Grundy, director of African-American Student Affairs. "There's clearly a need for corrective history. For several hundred years now, the history of African people has been erased from traditional history books."

And that revision of history not



On the inside
▼ Breaking color barriers at UK
▼ The 1968 Black Student Union

only impairs blacks' understanding of their own culture, but also hinders the ability of other cultures to communicate with each other.

"I think the greatest benefit (of Black History Month) is that it teaches not only the African-American culture but all cultures about the contributions of African-Americans," says Stefanie Watson, a Spanish senior. "But I don't think that makes anyone think they shouldn't teach that history all year."

At least that was Watson's experience at Cleveland Heights High School, where she says her teachers made every effort to make history cross-cultural.

Littlejohn took African-American History at Male High School in Louisville, but that course wasn't offered until his senior year. Outside of that, he's seen black history overlooked.

"You have European history courses and that's what they're supposed to teach," Littlejohn said. "But to have American history courses that completely ignore the contributions of African-Americans, that's a problem."

And it's not just a problem for black students. White students — indeed, students of all ethnic backgrounds — can benefit equally from studying black history, Littlejohn says.

"I'm not saying you can't have black friends without knowing black history," he says. "But it's helpful if you're dealing with me to see where what I'm thinking comes from. It can help you understand my perspective."

And that understanding is a key to communication, which Grundy sees as an essential part of improving black Americans' relationships with each other as the nation approaches the millennium.

"Until we come to grips with this country's relationships with marginal people, we can't move forward," he says. "We can't carry baggage into the new century. The truth will free all of us."

Senior Staff Writer Jill Erwin also contributed to this article.

Lexington's black history full of tragedy, tradition

By Matt Ellison
Staff Writer

UK officially opened its doors to blacks in 1948, after Lyman T. Johnson's lawsuit challenging the University's discrimination policy succeeded.

But the history of blacks in Lexington goes back to its founding in 1775.

Slaves were among the first inhabitants of this area as they crossed the Appalachians. Since that time, blacks have had a prominent role in the history and culture of Lexington.

"Lexington has a very rich and diverse history in terms of the experiences of African-Americans," said Gerald Smith, director of UK's African American Studies Program. "But because Lexington has a relatively small African-American population, people sometimes assume there isn't much history."

Perhaps the most infamous site in Lexington for blacks is Cheapside Bar

& Grille, located on the east end of downtown near the current Fayette County Courthouse. This area was the home to many slave auctions, because Lexington was a commercial and trade center of early Kentucky.

Smith thinks the location of Cheapside was a key reason for its becoming a massive slave market. "Cheapside was, no question, one of the most important slave market areas in Kentucky," he said. "Most slave markets were located in the heart of cities, and Cheapside is right near downtown." Smith also cited Cheapside as proof of its importance as a slave-trading center in the state.

A slave burial ground is located on Seventh Street between Shropshire and Chestnut streets. Of the cemetery's 4,000 graves, 1,200 have been identified.

In addition to slaves, plenty of free blacks were living in Lexington during

the 19th Century. Many were able to establish successful businesses in black neighborhoods, located just north of what is now downtown.

The central business district for black business owners was Deweese Street, located north of Main and just west of Rose Street. Furniture stores, banks and other businesses run by blacks were all located there.

On weekends and at night, blacks would visit the many taverns and nightclubs along this street. Later, the black-owned Lyric Theatre opened, which would go on to host numerous events in the black community. The Lexington Colored Fair Association, the largest black fair in Kentucky for many years, was held on land just off of Georgetown Road.

Because education was "separate but equal," many black schools were established in black communities. The Chandler Normal School, between Newtown Pike and Georgetown Road,

was the first black high school in Lexington. Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, Smith said, was a real symbol of pride in the black community.

"It was one of, if not the best, black high schools in Kentucky," he said. Smith cited the excellent quality of teachers, successful athletic programs, and its rapid accreditation as reasons why the black community was proud of the school, in addition to the school's role as a cultural center.

"From a cultural standpoint, it was in the center of the African-American community," he said. The old Dunbar school closed its doors in 1967, and is now a community center. Lexington's newest high school, renamed Paul Dunbar, was built in 1990 on Man O' War Boulevard.

A complete listing of African-American historical sites can be found in Heritage: The Lexington African-American Discovery Guide, by Isabelle Mack-Overstreet.

Officials search for possible UK hacker

By Joe Dobner
Staff Writer

Somebody has been doing naughty things to campus computer systems.

A few weeks ago, somebody managed to gain access to an account on a machine in the cslab. The cslab machines run Solaris, a variant of Unix, the operating system most Internet sites use.

Unlike Windows 95 and MacOS, making important changes to Unix machines requires certain privileges only a system administrator has or can grant. Gaining these permissions without the system administrator's knowledge or consent is difficult, but it allows a user to do a great many things with the machine.

The person who attacked the cslab machines managed to gain these privileges, the root privileges. He then proceeded to set up an illicit web site.

"He was running a banner site," said Jeff Upldike, the administrator of the cslab machines. He used the site he set up on the cslab machine to point to other underground web sites, mostly containing pornography or pirated CDs.

"We started seeing some problems about the 8th (of February)," Upldike said. Sysadmins at other sites also had received complaints.

Computer Science professor Raphael Finkel described him as a user of moderate sophistication, and that the cracking happened from outside campus.

"He didn't hide himself completely," Finkel said. "He's cleaned up very carefully after himself, though."

Last Sunday, the culprit managed to break into a machine in the multilab, which is in the computer science department's network. The machines in the multilab run Linux, another Unix variant. He exploited a bug in a common utility to gain root access. From there, he ran a packet sniffer to obtain other people's usernames and passwords on other machines.

The vast majority of the campus networks are ethernet. In an ethernet, machines don't establish connections to one another to talk. They instead broadcast packets of data to all the machines on the network. The machines the packets aren't intended for simply ignore them.

In a way, it's like listening to one conversation in a crowded, noisy room.

The packet sniffer the culprit ran listens to every packet going by. While he couldn't see the entire campus network, he was able to intercept everything in the multilab. That's a tremendous amount of data, and his sniffer processed the information for him.

"We think we stopped him before he was able to retrieve his output file from the sniffer," Finkel said. Sac's sysadmin, Wayne Beech, disabled a number of accounts on the machine yesterday evening.

"It was scary," said Joseph Bogale, a computer science senior, whose account was one of the ones disabled. "I thought I got kicked out of school."

The message that the users with disabled accounts received when they tried to log into sac informed them that their accounts had been disabled, probably because they were no longer students at UK.

"We're still trying to track this down," Finkel said. "The (computer science network) are OK, but there are still places on campus that he could have access."

Upldike said additional precautions were being taken to prevent further attacks.

Finkel recommended users take any precautions necessary to keep their accounts from being used.

NEWSbytes

NATION Clinton sends out warning to Hussein

WASHINGTON — President Clinton, laying the groundwork for possible airstrikes against Iraq, said yesterday that Saddam Hussein has used chemical weapons against his own people. Clinton said a diplomatic solution was still the preferable outcome. But he said Iraq must agree "and soon" to full, unfettered inspections of suspected weapons sites. Saying he still hopes for a diplomatic solution, Clinton said it must be "a genuine solution and not simply one that glosses over the remaining problem."

Midshipman charged with murder

FORT WORTH, Texas — Former Naval Academy midshipman Diane Zamora, who confessed to helping her fiancé kill his one-time lover and then tearfully told a jury she wasn't involved, was found guilty today of murder.

Zamora, 20, automatically received a life sentence on the capital murder count because prosecutors were not seeking the death penalty. She will be eligible for parole after 40 years.

Compiled from wire reports.

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Hippie Heaven



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HOOKAHVILLE Ekoostik Hookah plays at Lynagh's tonight in support of its new album, 'Where the Fields Grow Green.' The show starts at 10.

By Mary Dees
 KEG Editor

Ekoostik Hookah has proven to be a Lexington favorite over the past couple of years. The five-piece rock 'n' roll act has sold out Lynagh's to please young, diverse hippie-like crowds.

Hookah originated in Columbus, Ohio, in 1991, and as drummer Eric Lanese explains traveling is a crucial part of the band.

"Being on the road all the time is difficult," Lanese said. "Everyone gets along really well. It's sometimes hard to deal with being away from home all the time with the constant traveling."

Ekoostik Hookah is constantly traveling. "We leave on Wednesday and travel through Sunday," Lanese said.

However, Hookah does leave for a week or more at a time, traveling to places like Colorado, Chicago, other stops throughout the Midwest and just about any place east of the Rockies.

But Hookah does enjoy the traveling and gets along well despite spending most of their time together.

"We'll travel in a van all day, then play a show together, then stay together in the hotel," Lanese said. "We really don't get sick of each other. Sometimes we laugh about how well we get along."

Ekoostik Hookah shows its diversity through its various music styles. The group blends a heavy amount of rock with a bluegrass and even jazz-influenced sound.

Hookah's sound often draws comparisons to Grateful Dead with its similar rhythms and an uplifting guitar beat and swanky chords.

Although its chief influences are clear, Hookah cites favorite music from a variety of groups. From bluegrass to Aerosmith and Kiss, the band pulls off a wide range of styles, Kiss being a personal favorite of Lanese.

He says in a news release that he started playing drums with a little inspiration from Kiss.

Hookah is set to release its new live album, *Where the Fields Grow Green*. This third release of live recordings is a double-CD helping give the band a fuller image.

"I think the new CD is going to be real attractive to the fans. This is the band you go to see," Lanese said.

Where the Fields Grow Green helps capture the spirit of the band and newcomer, Ed McGee.

Many of the songs are recorded from the signature, biannual concert, Hookahville.

Hookahville originated in Fredricksburg, Ohio, with a gathering of 600 to 800 people. It has been moved to such locations in the past as the Stonebird Amphitheater in Lexington, Ohio and now draws around 11,000 people.

Hookahville consists of three days of partying and one night of music. The Amphitheater opens on Friday evening, with a day of music on Saturday and the kick off on Sunday afternoon.

Although the idea has not been seriously considered or discussed, Hookah

would like to maybe include more music.

"Maybe in the future, it'll be more than one night of music," Lanese said.

Wherever Ekoostik Hookah travels, high energy is sure to follow.

Lanese said the group's favorite places vary. Columbus is good because it's the hometown. The House of Blues in Chicago "because it's the House of Blues." Also Ann Arbor, Mich. and Detroit.

Lexington and Lynagh's are also on the list.

"Lynagh's is definitely a high energy place to play," Lanese said, "the crowd gives off a great feel."

Ekoostik Hookah will play Lynagh's tonight at 10, and Bogart's in Cincinnati on Saturday.

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'Battle of the Bands' tomorrow

Staff report

The Kappa Delta sorority will put on a "Battle of the Bands" tomorrow in the Student Center Ballroom.

The event starts at 6 and

should provide non-stop music until 10.

The four bands participating in the show are Barefoot Charlies, Noisegate, Reaganomixxx and No Regrets For Our Youth.

The bands will play 20-30

minute sets and then Catawampas Universe and The Shuers will play solely to entertain the audience.

The members of Catawampas and The Shuers will also act as judges for the contest.

The winning band will receive time in a recording studio to help further its musical career.

There will also be door prizes for students who attend the event. They include free passes to area gyms, tanning salons and free meals at local restaurants.

Eighty percent of the funds collected will remain in Lexington child abuse prevention programs. The remaining 20 percent will go to the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse for nationwide public awareness programs.

Tickets can be purchased today in the Student Center in advance for \$3.



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Leap of faith

Low-budget film earns high marks

By Dan O'Neil
Associate Editor

In the film industry law dictates that extravagance makes money and subtlety rarely gets made. Fortunately this decree that governs the world of commercial filmmaking doesn't have complete sovereignty over the independent circuit.

Every year a faction of films attempt to give the finger to this rule of thumb, but the thumb usually prevails. This form of art-house insurance does, however, occasionally produce a few films resourceful enough to break enemy lines.

Perhaps this year's most successful uprising comes from Hollywood screen legend Robert Duvall and his spiritual film, *The Apostle*. Duvall plays the role of auteur as actor, writer, director and chief financier of his personal project about a fire-and-brimstone Pentecostal preacher in the South.

His much-documented character study began 13 years ago after he visited a small Arkansas church.

He tells the story of Sonny, a demonstrative Pentecostal preacher from Texas and truly original cinematic creation. Somewhat of a local legend (at least in his mind), we first catch glimpse of Sonny sneaking onto a car accident sight to "save" the victim's soul.

Here the film takes a rare position for a religious piece in that it doesn't take a position at all. Rather, it leaves it up to the viewer to judge Sonny's action as a presumptuous act of arrogance or a minor triumph of faith. This moral ambiguity becomes a consistent theme.

On the surface Sonny, with his flamboyant dress and demeanor, falls somewhere between a rock star and a used car salesman. He holds conversations with God, à la Emily Watson in *Breaking the Waves*, which escalate into one-way shouting matches.

In conversations with his wife, Jessie (Far-



IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER
Robert Duvall's role in *The Apostle* earned him an Academy Award nomination. The film shows at the Kentucky Theatre.

Photo furnished

rah Fawcett), we find out he is a philanderer and, at times, heavy drinker. His zealotry becomes both his attraction and destructive flaw.

This becomes apparent when the emotionally-battered Jessie falls in love with a younger minister and wants a divorce. Sonny's jealousy turns to drinking and rage and, at his son's little league game, the much-loved town character takes an aluminum bat to the young minister's head.

Realizing his actions, Sonny leaves his sick mother and two children behind and flees to a predominantly black Louisiana bayou town. There he meets retired preacher Rev. Blackwell (John Beasley) and sets out to start a new congregation called "The One Way Road to Heaven." To recruit parishioners, he gives fervent sermons over the local radio station, drops anonymous packages of groceries on doorsteps and offers a Sunday mass taxi service in an old red school bus.

What follows is a touching redemptive piece of Sonny winning the enthusiasm of a community while exorcising his own inner demons. But the film is quick to realize Sonny's character comes full of contradictions

and never revels in his reprieve.

Unlike most religious films, *The Apostle* never attempts to pass judgment on the eccentricities or potential hypocrisies of the religion at hand. Always respectful without being reverential, the film offers its support to the idea of genuine belief rather than any specific dogmatic ideology.

After years of drafting and fine-tuning his script, Duvall worked out all the kinks to achieve a remarkably subtle screenplay void of any stale melodrama. On several occasions, sequences looked as if they might head in that direction before Duvall, either by performance or direction, pulled back to provoke thought rather than convince.

Even a closing scene that shows Sonny coaxing the conversion of Billy Bob Thornton's nameless red-neck character, remains within the boundaries of subtle reality despite the contrived circumstances.

As director he is equally concerned with maintaining realism. His semi-documentary look and no-frills style creates an unwavering energy and indigent southern feel. And finally, as actor, Duvall's creation and execution of Sonny represents his richest character to date in career defined by excellence.



MOVIE review

★★★★

(out of five)

'The Apostle'
October Films

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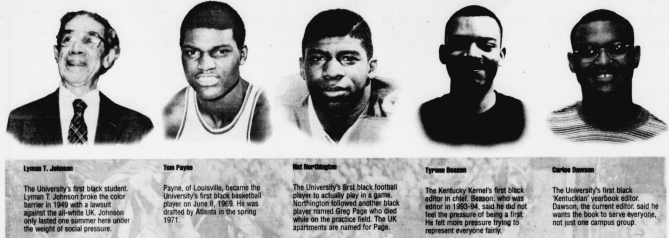
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Voices from the past

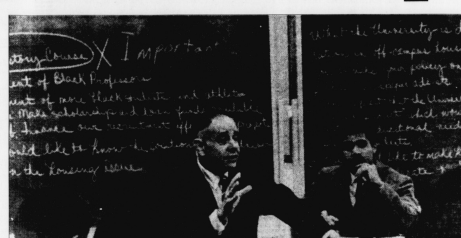


Lyman T. Johnson The University's first black student. Johnson was the only black student to graduate from the University in 1949 with a bachelor's degree in education. He was the only black student to receive a Ph.D. from the University in 1950. He was the only black student to be elected to the Student Center in 1950. He was the only black student to be elected to the Student Center in 1950. He was the only black student to be elected to the Student Center in 1950.

'A sense that we were future players'

By Aaron Sandford
Staff Writer

It was Johnson's courage that paved the way for the others. He graduated from Virginia Union University in 1950, and received his master's degree in education from the University of Chicago in 1954. Johnson enrolled at UK in 1954. After a lengthy and bitter court battle, ever Kentucky's restriction of blacks from the University of Kentucky State, Johnson was admitted to the University in 1954. Johnson was the only black student to be elected to the Student Center in 1954. Johnson was the only black student to be elected to the Student Center in 1954. Johnson was the only black student to be elected to the Student Center in 1954.

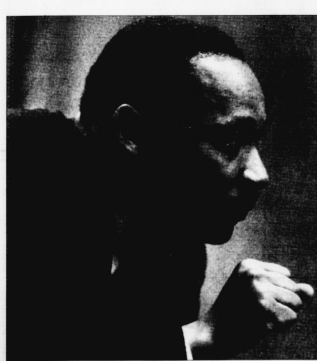


Several 'Blind' lives held at UK's Student Center Free Speech Area in the 1960s to continue dialogue on the black student role at UK. Black students called on the University to discontinue discriminatory practices. Specifically, the students wanted a name on black history at UK. They also wanted to increase the number of black faculty and students.

Black student movement of 1968 transformed UK

By Jill Erwin
Staff Writer

Bill Turner was through four years at UK and never had a class with another black student. Theophilus Berry was to UK, Illinois basketball game and heard the crowd chant, "Get that nigger!" After that, Turner picked every UK home game and sat in the bleachers. Berry was closely with Turner on the front of the movement. In the historic meeting, the BSU members unanimously voted in support of the class, with some raising their fist in a sign of solidarity with other black nationwide. The BSU members in the push for the class were re-elected last Thursday at a presentation titled, "Reflecting Backward: The Black Student Union Movement in 1968." A few weeks after the meeting in early March, UK made a change in its curriculum. As of 1969, Afro-American history and culture was added to the list of classes. It was a pass-fail course, and was to be taught by seven different professors. "In that year, BSU emerged as one of the most important student organizations on campus," said Gerald Smith, director of the African American Studies and Research Program. "I'm doing what I'm doing because of their willingness to challenge the status quo." "We're talking about ten years here, but Smith said.



Are we fulfilling the dream?

By Mike Hoppmann
Staff Writer

February marks the coming and going of one-day holidays like Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day, but it celebrates black history all month long. One of the many features of Black History Month is the constant improvement of race relations. Senior citizens are one way to measure how far diversity and race relations have come. As part of UK's Faculty Oral History Project, former Lexington High School basketball coach Sanford T. Roach participated in a taped interview last summer. Roach discussed his experience at UK while earning his master's degree in the 1950s. He remembers pleasant experiences, but highlighted significant differences between the past and the present. "The only thing I objected to was that the professors called other class members by their first names, but when they got to me they said 'Mr. Roach,'" he said. He quickly turned that around by talking to his professors, but still struggles with an identity crisis from others. "The thing I'm into now is that they call me 'coach,'" he said.

When it was happening, it didn't really matter what color I was," he said. "I still caught all the hell, and I still got very little of the glory." As a journalist, being the first black editor of the *Kernell* meant little to Brown. He said no matter what, he had to be good at his job. But he does recognize the bigger picture. "There was a guy with a conservative viewpoint who wanted to be a columnist, and I wanted him there as a counterbalance. I certainly lived up to that. I caused a lot of trouble between the paper and some readers. There were a lot of readers who thought his viewpoint was less than accepted. At least it got them engaged. There are times you lose control of that, but at least they were talking about the issue." Brown was quick to defend the good part of being in charge of the campus newspaper. "I was a freshman, and that was when I first came on board." "I was convinced that the entire *Kernell* staff was a liberal conspiracy to keep from getting anywhere. Tyrone in his journalistic ethic and his sense of fair play proved otherwise." "I've never really thought about it before," Brown said. "I'm just trying to do the best job I can and get one good look at the future."



1968 BSU photo

February marks the coming and going of one-day holidays like Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day, but it celebrates black history all month long. One of the many features of Black History Month is the constant improvement of race relations. Senior citizens are one way to measure how far diversity and race relations have come. As part of UK's Faculty Oral History Project, former Lexington High School basketball coach Sanford T. Roach participated in a taped interview last summer. Roach discussed his experience at UK while earning his master's degree in the 1950s. He remembers pleasant experiences, but highlighted significant differences between the past and the present. "The only thing I objected to was that the professors called other class members by their first names, but when they got to me they said 'Mr. Roach,'" he said. He quickly turned that around by talking to his professors, but still struggles with an identity crisis from others. "The thing I'm into now is that they call me 'coach,'" he said.

When it was happening, it didn't really matter what color I was," he said. "I still caught all the hell, and I still got very little of the glory." As a journalist, being the first black editor of the *Kernell* meant little to Brown. He said no matter what, he had to be good at his job. But he does recognize the bigger picture. "There was a guy with a conservative viewpoint who wanted to be a columnist, and I wanted him there as a counterbalance. I certainly lived up to that. I caused a lot of trouble between the paper and some readers. There were a lot of readers who thought his viewpoint was less than accepted. At least it got them engaged. There are times you lose control of that, but at least they were talking about the issue." Brown was quick to defend the good part of being in charge of the campus newspaper. "I was a freshman, and that was when I first came on board." "I was convinced that the entire *Kernell* staff was a liberal conspiracy to keep from getting anywhere. Tyrone in his journalistic ethic and his sense of fair play proved otherwise." "I've never really thought about it before," Brown said. "I'm just trying to do the best job I can and get one good look at the future."

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Cats team up to clobber ECU

By Dave Gorman
Staff Writer

Winning a game takes a team effort.

Laphelia Doss' 24 points and 13 rebounds last night for Eastern Kentucky was its total team effort. UK got a total team effort with four players in double digits.

Jaye Barnes had 21 points; Tiffany Wait 20 points; Laura Meadows 15; and Kim Denkins 12. The result: a 76-60 blow out that brought the Wildcats to .500. "It feels great to be at .500 finally," head coach Bernadette Mattox said. "This was a goal that we set for ourselves at the beginning of the year."

Barnes got off to a hot start by scoring the Cats' first six points of the game, leading them to a 10-2 lead at the 16:13 mark in the first half.

Doss' 12 first half points had UK (13-13) looking over its shoulders, though. ECU made a 6-0 run sparked by four free throws from Charlotte Sizemore with 2:55 left in the first half.

The Lady Colonels had their only lead of the game at halftime, 35-34.

"We really got after them in the beginning because we came out with a lot of intensity," Mattox said. "I told them at halftime that we could not relax and that we were allowing them too much

offensively."

After Meadows hit two free throws at the beginning of the second half, both teams traded baskets until the 14:43 mark. The Cats made an 11-0 run, led by Wait's five points, giving the Cats a 58-45 lead. The crowd at Memorial Coliseum got to sit back and watch the Wildcat blowout they had been waiting for all game.

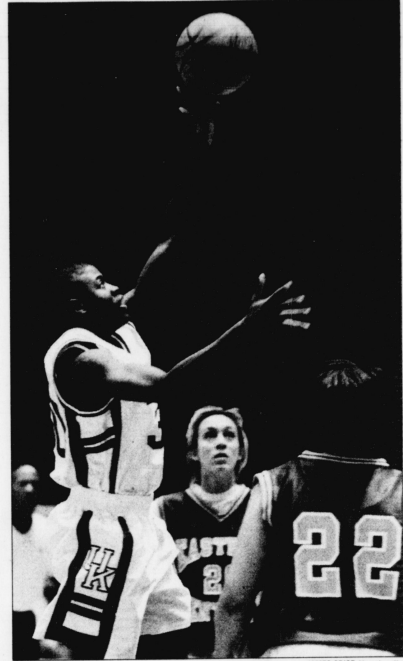
With 3:35 left in the game the Cats made a 8-0 run. Five minutes later with a 71-56 lead, Denkins, a senior playing in her final game at Memorial Coliseum, was taken out of the game and welcomed by a standing ovation from the crowd.

"We needed a win especially because it was Kim's last game. Even more because our team wanted to get to .500," said Meadows, who grabbed nine rebounds. Mattox was pleased with her squad's defense.

"EKU had a lot of good shooters, and we did a super job of containing Chrissy Roberts. She is like No. 1 or 2 in the nation in shooting," Mattox said.

UK still has one more game left in the regular season, as they travel down to South Carolina on Saturday.

In the Southeastern Conference Tournament next Thursday, UK will play Mississippi State in the first round, and a win would give the Cats a second-round date with Tennessee.



NOBLE BARNES UK's Jaye Barnes goes up for a bucket while two Lady Colonels watch in awe. With a 76-60 the Cats upped their record to 13-13.

UK earns wakeup call for Florida

By Jay G. Tate
Sports Editor

Just 17 days ago, Florida pulled off the unthinkable.

They came into Rupp Arena calm. They left in a frenzy.

Leading that euphoric charge was smallest point guard with a big game. Jason Williams, a native West Virginian who traveled to Gainesville to reunite with UF head coach Billy Donovan, did it all against the Wildcats. He hit 8-of-10 from the field for 18 points. He tallied four steals and six rebounds. He

outplayed each Cat assigned to him. But against UK tonight, his game will be considerably less potent.

Williams was suspended yesterday for a violation of athletic department policy.

Though one might think the Cats would be celebrating the loss of Williams, Big Blue was largely disinterested.

"He's a vital part of their team," UK head coach Tubby Smith said. "He's a real talent. But we certainly can't allow anything like the loss of Jason to deter what our goals are — which is to play to

the best of our potential."

"(Williams) is probably their best player," senior Cameron Mills said. "But I'm not going to think about how they're not as good or whatever. We've got to go in thinking they're the exact same team that beat us up here."

The Florida team that beat the Cats at home are the poster boys for perimeter prowess. Despite being ranked last in Southeastern Conference team defense, 11th in rebound margin and 10th in rebounding, the Gators are tearing up the nation with their 10.37

three-point field goals per game. Only seven teams in Division I history have averaged more than 10 per game for a season.

Donovan's 1996 Marshall team was one of them.

"They really like to put it from outside," UK center Nazr Mohammed said. "It's tough guarding the perimeter against Florida, but I think we've improved. You just have to be prepared."

Though Williams is a regular contributor to Florida's air attack, the Gators still have forwards Kenyan Weaks and Greg Stolt on which to lean. The duo, ranked No. 5 (Weaks) and No. 7 (Stolt) in NCAA three-point shooting percentage, combines to score nearly 24 points per game.

Turner's analysis of Florida's chances without Williams?

Two out of three ain't bad. "They still have Weaks and Stolt, so they're still going to be tough," he said. "Williams being out just means it's one less three-point shooter."

Part of the reason UK lost to Florida on Feb. 1 was because of the Cats' woeful lack of three-point defense. Big Blue, despite a mid-season emphasis on defending opponents' perimeter games, still ranks last in the SEC in opponent three-point percentage.

It's those types of problems that prompted Smith to get an early start on a solution.

Six o'clock in the morning to be exact.

Beginning Monday, Smith said, the Cats have held early morning practices to both address some of the team's problems and to re dedicate themselves to the latter stages of the 1997-'98 campaign.

But, Smith added, the practices are not a punishment.

"I'm happy with our players' efforts both on and off the court," Smith said. "(The practice) gets them up and allows them to re focus on these next six to eight weeks. We're just trying to re dedicate ourselves and realize that it is a new beginning ... so they're not seeing that the light at the end of the tunnel is not a locomotive, but that it's really daylight."

Turner said the players' reactions have been mixed. "It got a lot of people's attention," Turner said. "A lot of people are looking at in a positive way, saying that we have to get better and get up and work on some of our skills. Some people are a little disappointed, but they knew we needed to sharpen up for the end of the season."

He went on to say that Smith expected an improvement in his team's play tonight.

"We'd better get it together tonight," Turner said.

Or what?

"I'm not trying to find out."

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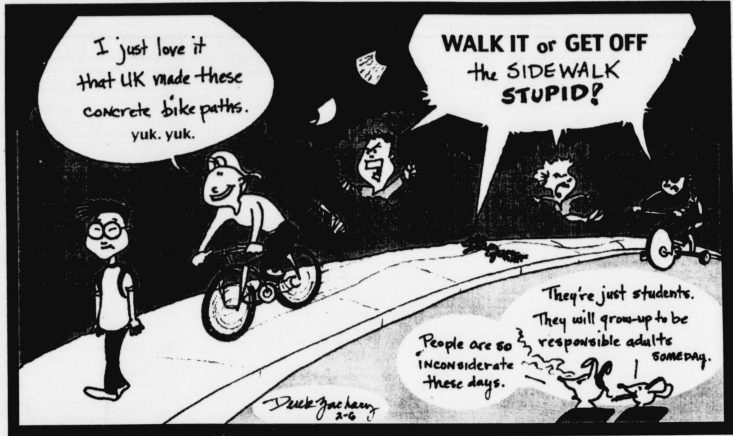
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ViewPOINT



Students caught in tangled web of requirements

University Studies should be an aid, not a hindrance

It's good for you! Growing up, that was always the answer to questions about why we should wear a heavy coat, eat our veggies or read Shakespeare instead of Batman comics. Here at UK, we know that parental guidance doesn't end at the home. Rather it continues under the watchful eye of the University Studies Program, a program intent on dragging us through the goo of a broad liberal arts education.

It's good for us. Isn't it? There are benefits that stick with us long after graduation and there are drawbacks that needlessly waste our time, money and energy, all while confusing the heck out of everyone.

The simple solution is to reduce the hours required by the USP. If only it were that easy! It's my understanding that the USP must contain nearly 50 hours because of agreements with other Kentucky universities to assure an ease of transfer credits from one school to another.

So our task is to create a lean, mean USP that puts those hours to the best use and allows students the freedom to pursue their academic interests while also ensuring a solid scholastic foundation.

However, a number of obstacles stand in the way: The battles between departments that are dependent on funding provided by USP mandated classes (i.e. Com 181 and the foreign languages).

Reducing program complexity without also reducing the options available to students.

Motivating students to participate in the USP debate despite the fact that changes will likely affect future students and not those at UK today.

Further complicating matters are pre-major, major and college-specific requirements that become entangled with the USP. For instance, a student in the College of Engineering needn't worry about additional language courses if he met USP guidelines; however, if that same student were in the College of Communications he would need to complete the fourth semester of a language.

This is part of the confusion that surrounds the USP. Students often compare notes on requirements without realizing that they may be increased from one college to another, despite the fact that a uniform foreign language component is part of the USP.

Just as frustrating, a student might begin his studies in a college that requires no additional foreign language credits and then he switches to a college that does. Unfortunately, he assumes after the switch that the requirement is behind him, only to learn during his senior year that "oops" the second college's policy is different.

Perhaps it would be better if the foreign language component was removed from the USP. After all, how many students really retain a working knowledge of the language a year after completing a measly two semesters?

I know from personal experience that the Spanish curriculum and textbooks are a joke. The introductory classes are poorly designed and teaching assistants are bound by strict departmental guidelines that offer no room for flexibility or creativity in blind pursuit of a pure "immersion" learning experience.

Also out is the cross-cultural requirement, a relic from the early days of politically correct education. I propose to stir up questions of politics in the curriculum.

Finally, we should kill the much hated (by faculty and students) Cross-Disciplinary Requirements. According to the USP it is intended to demonstrate, "how knowledge generated in one discipline is related to knowledge generated in another."

Call me crazy, but I think 120 plus hours of courses at an institution of higher learning will teach us that same lesson without having to specify it as part of an administrative policy.

Of course, we can't do all this cutting without offering a framework for a new USP. I propose a three category: Basic Skills, Universal Knowledge and a Major Specific Requirement.

Basic Skills would include ENG 101/102, an oral communications course and six to nine hours of college level mathematics for a total of 15 to 18 hours.

Universal Knowledge would require completion of six hour pairings from the Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and the Humanities for a total of 18 hours.

Further, crosses from the old Cross-Cultural requirement and African-American Studies could be used to complete the Social Sciences or Humanities component.

That leaves approximately 15 hours to be filled by the Major Specific Requirement and this is the tricky part.

Each major would be allowed to tailor a component of its own to round out the USP program for its students. Not only does this give more control to the individual colleges, but it frees up additional hours for students to use on courses that may have a direct bearing on their areas of interest.

If you want to learn more about the effort to revamp the USP, please contact the individual Director of Undergraduate Studies, at lswitz@pop.uky.edu.

A committee charged with revamping USP meets every other week and he can tell you how to make your voice heard.

As always, students and faculty are encouraged to submit their opinions to the Kernel at kernel@pop.uky.edu.

Editorial Editor Todd Hash is a journalism senior. He can be reached at mtbath1@pop.uky.edu.



Todd Hash
Editorial Editor

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Black History Month is a time when everyone tries to teach about the trials and tribulations of blacks in the past.

Here at UK, complaints run rampant about the lack of opportunities for this group or the whining and moaning of that group. Doesn't everyone see that in order to achieve anything, we need to come together?

Black students on campus have been bemoaning the division of the black community into different organizations. Each college and/or major has a separate association of black students, like the National Association of Black Journalists.

How can anything get accomplished if we are dealing in different circles?

Students on this campus need to come together and work toward a common goal. AWARE was founded a couple of years ago, but student interest has remained lukewarm.

What's the old saying? If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.

Students here are infamous for their apathy. From athletics to academic standards to race rela-

tions, the predominant feeling at UK is: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Well, it's broken. Last week, at the Student Center, there was a forum focusing on the Black Student Union movement of 1968.

Numerous panelists said that if just one student left feeling like they could make a difference, it would feel like they had served their purpose. It was a call to all UK students, not just those in attendance.

Get out and meet new people. Start conversations. Learn about a group you've never been a part of. Visit the Martin Luther King, Jr. Cultural Center. Go to a table filled with strangers at the Student Center. Discuss music. Discuss reading. Discuss terrible professors. Discuss something!

Understanding is not a one way street. You can't expect others to know where you're coming from if you don't let them into your world.

We're all here together, sharing classrooms, residence halls and cafeterias. Your college years are filled with learning opportunities, don't let this one pass you by.

IN OUR OPINION

READERS' forum

Efforts to recover from snow storm kill the foul fowl

To the editor:

Your article last Wednesday inaccurately attributed the recent death of birds on campus to inclement weather and loss of food sources.

A more likely explanation is that the birds were in fact poisoned, although not by pest control chemicals spread by university officials. In all likelihood, the birds died by ingesting too much of the salt that university, city and state officials spread on roads and sidewalks to melt ice.

Birds have very limited capacity to eliminate chemical salts, yet many are attracted to the salt granules that accumulate on sidewalks and roads. Ingesting too much can lead to liver failure and dehydration. The overdose would not

become fatal immediately, many of the affected birds would return to their nighttime roosts, where they would subsequently die.

I will not particularly mourn the passing of a few hundred starlings, a bird that has become a real pest in urban environments. But I find it lamentable that we have such a poor understanding of the impact our activities can have on the environment and ecology around us.

Dag Ryan
visiting scholar
Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce

Trash talking in Frankfort

To the editor:

Enough is enough! Solid waste boards across the state have discovered some two billion containers laying in streams, forests and roads. This is disgusting. Is this "nature's finest" image that we want Kentucky to have? Majority Leader Greg Stum-

bo, a state representative of Prestonburg, is sponsoring a bill (HB 371) that would set up a five cent deposit on beverage bottles and cans. The bill is intended to build on existing recycling programs by placing the counties in the role of identifying what centers will do the redemption of the containers.

The bill provides that money accumulate in a container fund, (that occurs because some 20 to 30 percent of containers are typically not redeemed), to be used first to pay the program's expenses, and that any available funds will be used to provide potable drinking water to rural Kentuckians currently lacking safe drinking water supplies.

Please contact your legislator to establish a container deposit and redemption program intended to encourage recycling of containers, reuse materials and to lessen littering.

If you want a cleaner Kentucky act now.

Christopher J. Clements
Kentucky Conservation Committee intern

TALKback!

Readers are encouraged to submit letters to the editor and guest opinions to the Viewpoint page in person or by mail.

Address your comments to "Letters to the Editor"; Kentucky Kernel Editorial Editor; 35 Enoch J. Grehan Journalism Building; UK; Lexington, Ky. 40506-0042. Send electronic mail to kernel@pop.uky.edu.

Letters should be approximately 250 words; guest opinions should be no longer than 850 words.

All material should be type-written and double-spaced, but hand-written will be accepted if it is legible.

Include your name and major classification (for publication), as well as your address and telephone number for verification.

Check out the Kentucky Kernel on-line at www.KyKernel.com for more letters to the editor.

Kids, what we have here is a failure to communicate

At schools across the country, including UK, there is a problem that no one wants to face.

Much like a family that blackbals an uncle because of time he spent in prison, we choose to overlook the problem and hope it just goes away.

No matter the circumstance, it's time that we go nose-to-nose with a problem that is ailing academics at universities everywhere.

The problem at hand. Professors and teaching assistants that don't speak English. In a nutshell, this is a problem that everyone knows about and talks about in private, but it's also a problem that always goes unnoticed in the public forum. For some reason, students simply don't speak up when someone else's feet will get stepped on, so I guess that once again, I'll have to take the role of party crasher.

I'm not ashamed to admit it. I don't

like it when I have a teacher that doesn't have a solid grasp of the English language. It's wrong for UK, or any other university to force its English-speaking students to sit in a class and try to learn from someone who has a perfect understanding of what they are talking about, but doesn't have the necessary tools to pass that knowledge on to others.

Before you start writing those "Ben Rich hates foreigners" letters, think again. I don't have a problem with being taught by people who are from different parts of the globe. My problem lies in the fact, that we are paying to be educated at the highest and most competitive level, yet many students are robbed of the full learning experience.

When a student has to spend extra time trying to decipher what they were

just lectured about, it interrupts the learning process.

Last year, I signed up for an astronomy class. It was thinking it would be easy. The subject matter wasn't too complicated, after all it was a 100-level class, so I should have been able to get an A. Right?

Wrong. The professor's English was terrible. It took him forever and a day to get his point across because of a heavy accent and poor grammar. I'm not claiming to be a genius and I know that, in Kentucky, you are going to come across bunches of good-old boy types that are just as difficult to comprehend. But when overheads and exams are filled with grammar mistakes, it's impossible to not get frustrated and give up on the class. That's exactly what I did. I am retaking it this semester.

The professor speaks perfect English and I, nor anyone else, needs to play translator at the end of every lecture.

If you think that is bad, I have heard some horror stories from students with science or math based majors. Apparently, there are departments with foreign TAs that have only been in the United States since the beginning of the fall semester.

What makes it worse, is some of these TAs' exposure to the English language began at the same time. It's incredible, that UK would even think of attempting something like this, but these days, nothing surprises me.

If professors and TAs teach classes that leave their students guessing what the question really asks or what the jumbled mess on the overhead means, it's time to do something. Professors and TAs who lack the English skills necessary to communicate with their students on a level equal to other professors, should go back to school.

If UK wants to be fair to all of its students, it would give a written and oral

exam to all of its foreign faculty members. If they can't display the English skills necessary to teach in today's academic world, then they would have to learn them.

Send them to special classes designed to give foreign educators assistance with their ability to communicate with English-speaking students.

Once the classes are over, they can move on to teaching their own classes. Until then, don't stop the educational process until each professor and TA can run with the big dogs.

This is the only way that UK can break the language barrier without harming its students and embarrassing its staff. Think it over UK. The next time you can't understand a lecturer, speak up and maybe something will be done about it.

Kernel Columnist Ben Rich is a journalism junior. He can be reached at brich00@pop.uky.edu.



CHASE-UP

With only two weeks remaining in the regular season, teams like Tennessee and Auburn are making pushes for the NCAA Tournament while Vanderbilt is playing its way out of the tourney.

Capsules by Rob Herbst

Tennessee Volunteers (16-6)

Wins over South Carolina and Arkansas in the past two weeks have suddenly put the Volunteers in a position to earn an NCAA Tournament berth.

At 16-6 Tennessee has its best record since the 1982 season. The main reason for the Volunteers' surge has been freshman point guard Tony Harris. In the wins over South Carolina and the Razorbacks, Harris scored 22 and 21 points respectively.

Considering the Volunteers have already lost two starters and have a freshman at point guard, Tennessee is the surprise of the league.

"I was telling one of my assistants that we have done more teaching in basketball this year compared to any other year and I've been around a lot of years," said Tennessee head coach Jerry Green.

"We are an extremely young team and have been decimated by injuries. But we are playing better now than before in the season."

Tennessee has three crucial games versus SEC East foes that could determine its post-season fate. Vanderbilt and Florida make trips to Thompson-Boling Arena and the Volunteers close the season at Georgia.



Green

Georgia Bulldogs (13-11)

The Bulldogs must have been sick of being the Southeastern Conference's cellar-dweller.

After a horrid start to the SEC season, Georgia has won three straight games including impressive wins over Arkansas and at Vanderbilt.

It's the first time the Bulldogs (13-11 overall, 5-7 SEC) have won three straight games since late November.

So what gives for the sudden surge at Georgia? "It's a reflection of what's going around in the country," said Georgia head coach Ron Jirska.

"It's good as a whole and I think it's exciting for the fans to see one team beat the other." With four games remaining in the regular season the Bulldogs still have a prayer to get a tournament bid. Georgia would need to win at least three of its last four and put on a strong showing in the SEC Tournament.

It won't be easy for the Bulldogs who have an apparent win versus Alabama at home tonight. But trips to Lexington and South Carolina plus a home game versus Tennessee makes a strong finish to the season look difficult.



Jirska

No. 13 S. Carolina Gamecocks (19-4)

After losing two of its first four Southeastern Conference games, South Carolina has quietly put together a nice run, winning 9-of-10. The Gamecocks' only slip-up was at Tennessee.

Despite being nationally ranked, head coach Eddie Fogler is not particularly pleased with his team's performance this year.

"We have not had a great year of playing basketball," Fogler said. Fogler sees a big difference between this year's South Carolina squad and last year's version of the Gamecocks. This year the Gamecocks are a team with a bulls-eye on its back.

"We're the hunted right now and I think our team has actually handled that reasonably well," Fogler said. "We lose at Tennessee and the fans hurt the court and celebrate. Before a win over South Carolina wouldn't really mean that much."

A critical stretch of games awaits South Carolina in the final two weeks. Road trips to Arkansas and Florida plus home games versus Georgia and UK are not the easiest way to finish a season.

USC begins the tough trek tonight at Arkansas. Fayetteville is one of only two SEC towns where the Gamecocks have never won. Oxford, Miss., is the other.



Fogler

Vanderbilt Commodores (15-6)

There was a day when it seemed the Commodores were a virtual shoe-in to make an appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

That day is gone. Vanderbilt was 14-4 and having a solid season. The Commodores have lost 6-of-7 and are currently on an ugly four game losing streak. Now Vanderbilt finds itself in the bottom of the Southeastern Conference's Eastern Division.

"We haven't played as good of basketball in the last three weeks compared to earlier in the season and our record indicates that," said Vanderbilt head coach Jan van Breda Kolff.

He added, "We've got four of our final five games at home and have to take advantage of that — but we didn't do that against Georgia."

The Commodores' most glaring loss came last Saturday when they lost by 19 to a mediocre Georgia squad at Memorial Gymnasium. What happened to "Memorial Magic?"

Vandy does finish off with an easy stretch. Auburn, LSU and Florida all make trips to Nashville in the final two weeks — all very winnable games for the Commodores.



van Breda Kolff

Auburn Tigers (15-8)

At 7-5 in the Southeastern Conference, Auburn could be the final team from the SEC to sneak into the NCAA Tournament. But take a look at the Tigers' schedule, and one will realize Auburn is hating the final two weeks.

Road games at Vanderbilt and Arkansas this week then UK and at Ole Miss next week looks like trouble ahead for the Tigers.

Auburn has lost its last four games at Vanderbilt and has never won at Arkansas' Bud Walton Arena. Despite the rough road ahead for Auburn, it's been a solid season already for the Tigers.

Auburn has its best record in the conference after 12 games in 12 seasons. Pop quiz: Despite being above .500, can anybody really name three players on this Auburn team?

"We've got only nine scholarship players and this is a really a gutty team," said head coach Cliff Ellis.

"If there's a gutty team in the SEC it's gotta be us. None of our players are name players. We have no Parade All-Americans. They just aren't here. But this team has done it with true grit and dedication."



Ellis

No. 16 Arkansas Razorbacks (20-5)

Everything was just fine in Fayetteville. The sun was shining and the Razorbacks were winning. But this past week the Razorbacks made two trips to the SEC East and took two beatings.

Beating number one came on ESPN when the Razorbacks lost by 16 at Georgia. Beating number two came in Knoxville, Tenn., when Arkansas lost 74-71 to Tennessee.

The Razorbacks were looking like a high seed in the NCAA Tournament and still might earn one. But the two losses last week really hurt and head coach Nolan Richardson isn't thinking about getting a good seed.

"The thing we're talking about is just getting a seed — period," Richardson said.

"We don't ever worry about where we're going to be seeded unless you think you're a one, two or possibly a three. It's not important if you're not going to be that high."

Arkansas had a firm grip of the lead in the SEC West but now it sees Ole Miss only one game behind and Auburn two games back. Arkansas plays a huge game versus South Carolina tonight in Fayetteville then plays Auburn and at Ole Miss.



Richardson

Associated Press top 25

Rank	School (first-place votes)	Record	Points	Last
1	N. Carolina (68)	26-1	1,748	1
2	Duke	23-2	1,640	2
3	Arizona (2)	22-3	1,605	3
4	Kansas	27-3	1,587	4
5	Purdue	22-4	1,379	8
6	Utah	21-2	1,331	5
7	Connecticut	22-4	1,306	6
8	Kentucky	22-4	1,182	7
9	Princeton	20-1	1,149	10
10	Stanford	21-3	1,128	14
11	New Mexico	19-3	1,109	11
12	UCLA	19-5	972	9
13	South Carolina	19-4	886	15
14	Michigan State	18-5	796	13
15	Ole Miss	17-5	732	18
16	Arkansas	20-5	660	12
17	Cincinnati	19-5	576	19
18	Massachusetts	19-6	489	20
19	Texas Christian	22-4	479	22
20	West Virginia	20-5	438	16
21	Syracuse	19-5	401	23
22	Michigan	18-7	283	21
23	Illinois	18-8	137	--
24	George Wash.	20-5	136	17
25	Maryland	15-8	129	24

SEC Leaders

- Assists***
- Jason Williams (Florida), 6.7
 - Detrick White (MSU), 5.5
 - Atiba Prater (Vanderbilt), 5.4
 - Kareem Reid (Arkansas), 5.3
 - Melvin Watson (S. Carolina), 4.5
- Three-point FG %***
- Kenyan Weaks (Florida), 52.9
 - Greg Stolt (Florida), 48.9
 - G.G. Smith (Georgia), 43.3
 - Jason Williams (Florida), 40.3
 - Brandon Wharton (UT), 39.1

Player of the Week

Michael White, G, Ole Miss
 ▼ Hit for a career-high 16 points in wins over Vanderbilt and UK.
White's season stats:*

Pts.	Rebs.	Ass.	Stls.
5.5	2.1	3.1	.6

* per game averages

Southeastern Conference statistics

SEC Eastern Division

	overall	SEC	last 10	Home	Away	OFFENSE			DEFENSE			
						PPG	SEC Rank	PPG	SEC Rank	Differential	High scorer	PPG
Kentucky	22-4	10-2	8-2	8-3	8-0	77.9	4th	66.7	5th	+11.2	Nazr Mohammed	12.2
South Carolina	19-4	9-3	9-1	12-0	4-4	71.0	9th	64.7	3rd	+6.3	BJ McKie	17.7
Tennessee	16-6	6-6	6-4	12-2	4-4	73.7	7th	68.7	8th	+5.0	Tony Harris	18.0
Florida	13-9	6-6	5-5	11-1	2-6	79.6	3rd	73.5	12th	+6.1	Jason Williams	17.1
Georgia	13-11	5-7	5-5	8-4	4-4	75.3	6th	70.8	11th	+4.5	G.G. Smith	13.5
Vanderbilt	15-10	4-8	4-6	9-3	4-6	76.3	5th	70.6	10th	+5.6	Drew Maddux	17.6

SEC Western Division

	overall	SEC	last 10	Home	Away	OFFENSE			DEFENSE			
						PPG	SEC Rank	PPG	SEC Rank	Differential	High scorer	PPG
Arkansas	20-5	9-3	7-3	13-0	5-4	82.6	1st	69.5	9th	+13.2	Pat Bradley	14.5
Ole Miss	17-5	8-4	6-4	12-0	4-5	81.6	2nd	67.4	6th	+14.2	Ansu Sesay	18.8
Auburn	15-8	7-5	5-5	11-2	3-3	69.3	11th	63.8	1st	+5.4	Bryant Smith	14.5
Mississippi State	14-11	3-9	2-8	7-3	4-6	71.2	8th	66.3	4th	+4.9	Horatio Webster	17.3
Alabama	11-14	3-9	2-8	6-5	3-5	69.4	10th	69.0	8th	+4	Brian Williams	15.1
Louisiana State	9-13	2-10	2-8	8-6	1-7	62.8	12th	64.4	2nd	-1.6	Willie Anderson	13.7

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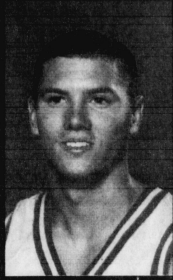


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JEFF Sheppard



Hometown

Peachtree City, Ga. (McIntosh HS)

Height

6-foot-3

Weight

190 pounds

Career highs:

▼ **Points:** 21

vs. Indiana, 12/6/97
vs. Canisius, 12/10/97
vs. Marshall, 12/27/94

▼ **Field goals:** 9

vs. Indiana, 12/6/97

▼ **Rebounds:** 9

vs. Iowa, 12/29/95

▼ **Assists:** 7

vs. Mt. St. Mary's, 3/18/95

▼ **Blocks:** 2

vs. Georgia, 1/14/95
vs. Tulsa, 12/20/97

▼ **Steals:** 5

vs. Marshall, 2/27/94

▼ **Minutes:** 38

vs. Arkansas, 1/17/98



JAMES CRISP Kernel staff

Old-school Sheppard remains confident

By Steven Scrivner
Staff Writer

In the UK basketball media guide, Jeff Sheppard says the thing he likes best about the program is the expectations. Ironically, many think he has failed to live up to the high ones placed on him this season.

Ron Mercer's decision to turn pro last season immediately cast the spotlight on Sheppard and had many fans across the Bluegrass expecting great things from him this year, especially after spending all of last season working on his game while being redshirted.

Instead, Sheppard has played, by all standards, average, chipping in a solid 12 points, four rebounds and three assists per game. A disappointing season? Not according to him.

"I definitely would have liked to have been hitting some shots here and there to have some more points and if I had been scoring some more, the

6-foot-3 Georgia native said. "But I haven't and it's not bothering my senior year, I'm having a good time. I think I'm improving and getting better."

When asked if chemistry was a problem on this year's team,

Sheppard said, "I think the last couple of years had to do with the talent on the teams. We're talking about three different teams the last three years. The chemistry on this team is good and it's the same as it's been in the past. We just don't have the same type of team."

In 1993, Sheppard arrived in Lexington hailed as the next Rex Chapman because of his amazing athleticism and kangaroo-like leaping ability. (His invitation to participate in the ESPN Slam Dunk Championship in San Antonio during the Final Four is testament to that.) As most freshmen do, Sheppard saw little action, playing only eight minutes a game.

"My freshman year was just a learning experience," he said.

His sophomore year provided a preview of what was to come as he started 27 (out of the 33) games at point guard for the Cats. But the loss to North Carolina in the Elite Eight soured the year. "... We had a good season and we should have done a lot better."

The was no bitterness in 1996. Despite seeing his scoring average plummet to just five points and starting only one game, he called winning the national title the greatest moment in his sports history.

"That was just awesome. I think that was one of the best teams ever."

That season proved to be his last under fiery Coach Rick Pitino as he sat out last year's remarkable return to the championship game. He called last season another learning experience, saying he learned a lot while watching the other guys improve.

On playing for Tubby Smith, Sheppard said, "... This year's been fun even with the change with Coach Smith. It's been so fun playing for him and meeting the new guys coming in."

But Sheppard will miss more than basketball when he leaves after this season.

"What I'll always remember is the things that happened off the court, the relationships and friendships that I've made.

"I've just been blessed my whole five years here."

JEFF SHEPPARD
I think the last couple of years had to do with the talent on the teams. We're just don't have the same type of team.

Wildcat Team Statistics

1997-98
KENTUCKY
WILDCATS

	GP	GS	Min	Avg	FG	FGA	FG%	3PM	3PA	3F%	FT%	RPG	A	TO	Blk	St	Pts	Avg
C Mohammed, N.	26	14	548	21.1	129	203	.635	0	0	---	.648	7.7	18	43	48	29	317	12.2
G Sheppard, J.	26	26	718	27.6	107	269	.398	42	120	.350	.675	3.7	73	38	3	33	310	11.9
F Pradgett, S.	26	26	706	27.2	102	216	.472	25	66	.379	.855	6.7	54	61	14	34	282	10.8
G Turner, W.	26	26	726	27.9	93	193	.482	14	36	.389	.635	3.0	103	64	15	42	247	9.5
F Edwards, A.	26	26	682	26.2	85	198	.429	19	73	.260	.586	3.2	82	54	5	32	230	8.8
F Evans, H.	26	0	520	20.0	84	171	.491	10	33	.303	.654	5.1	40	36	7	19	212	8.2
C Magloire, J.	26	12	393	15.1	61	121	.504	0	0	---	.617	4.7	4	31	39	4	151	5.8
G Mills, C.	25	0	259	10.4	36	85	.424	24	53	.453	.933	1.3	14	21	2	6	110	4.4
G Smith, S.	26	0	360	13.8	27	71	.380	9	34	.265	.609	.9	36	21	0	25	77	3.0
F Bradley, M.	20	0	113	5.7	15	19	.789	0	0	---	.348	1.4	5	8	10	2	38	1.9
F Anthony, M.	21	0	132	6.3	12	39	.308	7	17	.412	.583	1.0	5	12	3	2	38	1.8
G Hogan, R.	12	0	50	4.2	4	16	.250	3	7	.429	.500	.7	6	7	0	1	12	1.0
G Masiello, S.	10	0	18	1.8	1	3	.333	0	1	.000	---	.1	2	4	0	2	2	2.2



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