

Kentucky Kernel

Vol. XCII, No. 129

Established 1894

University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky

Independent since 1971

Tuesday, March 21, 1989

Casey joins Sutton in resigning post at UK



Dwane Casey announced his resignation as a UK assistant basketball coach yesterday. Casey is named in several of the allegations against the men's basketball program.

Casey's dream of coaching in collegiate ranks dashed

By TOM SPALDING
Sports Editor

Saying that his dream of coaching "has been destroyed," UK assistant basketball coach Dwane Casey resigned yesterday, following in the footsteps of UK head coach Eddie Sutton, who stepped down Sunday.

"My dream of coaching at this University and eventually as a head coach at a major university has been destroyed," Casey said in a statement released through his attorney, Joe Bill Campbell.

"It is with much sadness and regret that I leave the University of Kentucky," Casey said. "I love this University, its basketball program, players, students and fans."

Casey, 31, who came to UK April 18, 1986 after serving five seasons as an assistant basketball coach at Western Kentucky University, was upset over his resignation, Campbell said.

"The pain he feels is beyond description," Campbell said. Casey, a native of Morganfield, Ky., and a 1979 graduate of UK, filled the vacancy on the staff left by Leonard Hamilton, who became head coach at Oklahoma State University.

"I leave this University knowing that I have done my best," Casey said. "I have never intentionally or knowingly violated any NCAA rule or regulation. I have conducted my professional and personal life with dignity, honor and pride."

On April 14, 1988, the Los Angeles Daily

The Casey File

Age: 31

Personal: single

Years at UK: 1986-89

Education: 1979 UK graduate

Hometown: Morganfield, Ky

Other coaching positions:

✓Graduate assistant under

Joe B. Hall 1979-80

✓Assistant coach Western

Kentucky University, 1980-82;

1983-86

Playing Days:

✓Guard on UK's 1976 NIT

championship team.

✓Co-captain, guard on UK's

1978 NCAA championship team.

ELIZABETH C. MOORE/Kentucky Graphics

News reported in a copyrighted story that employees of Emery Worldwide Overnight Service said they saw a package which had come open in transit, revealing twenty \$50 bills. The package was sent by Casey to Claud Mills, the father of their-UK recruit and now UK freshman Chris Mills.

Casey denied sending any money, and the Millses denied receiving any. The NCAA, however, charged UK with the violation and opened up its investigation soon after.

Casey's name is also mentioned in several of the other 18 allegations of wrongdoing charged by the NCAA against the UK program, including charges that he promised money and cars to recruits and misled NCAA officials when questioned.

But upon his leaving yesterday morning, Casey again claimed his innocence.

"I did not put any money in any Emery package," Casey said in the statement. "I did not offer any players money or cars; I have never asked anyone outside the University structure to assist me in recruiting, and I have not provided the University or the NCAA with any false or misleading information."

"I am confident that the NCAA hearing will vindicate me," the statement continued. "I appreciate the support I have received from the many fans, friends and supporters of UK's basketball."

Sutton, Sutton resigned under pressure, saying it was in the "best interests" of the University for him to step down. The move came two days before a UK Athletics Board meeting that was to decide his future.

In a 30-minute news conference following his announcement on national television, Sutton said that his assistants should step down as well, so that a new coach could come in with a new staff.

"I would hope that they can continue coaching," Sutton said. "They're outstanding young people, and I'll do everything I can to help them."

See CASEY Page 5

Players say Sutton's resignation best for basketball team

By BARRY REEVES
Senior Staff Writer

In light of Eddie Sutton's resignation Sunday afternoon, UK players Derrick Miller, Reggie Hanson and Sean Sutton held a news conference yesterday to let their feelings be known.

In general, the feeling around the players is that they are sad to see their coach leave UK, but they believe that it was the right decision for him and the UK basketball program.

"Obviously, I'm disappointed that it had to come to this," said sophomore guard

Sean Sutton. "I've tried to prepare myself for this all year. He just wants what is best for the University of Kentucky."

The players are hoping that Sutton's resignation would send a message to the NCAA Infractions Committee, so the penalty, if there is one, will be less severe.

"I hope it will send a message to the NCAA and I hope that nothing severe will happen," Miller said. "We want to at least help this program in the right direction."

"I think he did the best possible job and he handled the pressures in the best possible way," Miller said. "People don't real-

ize the pressure involved and how big the program is."

Coach Sutton resigned from UK on national television after firmly saying — only 24 hours before — that he would not resign.

He called a special family meeting Saturday night, following the state tournament, to discuss his future, according to Sean.

"We (the family) told him that we just wanted what was best for him and what will make him happy," Sean Sutton said. "I think that the story on Friday really hurt him. I think it was the final straw."

WLEX-10 reported Friday that Eddie

Sutton told UK president David Roselle that he would fire his entire staff to save his job. Roselle and Sutton refuted the report, saying that it was "totally untrue."

"Anyone who knows Eddie Sutton knows how much the word loyalty means to him," Sean said. "I think it hurt him more personally than anything that has happened so far."

There has been much speculation about whether all the players will return to UK because of NCAA allegations and the resignation of their coach. The general consensus is that most of the players are going to wait and see who the new coach is

and what penalties, if any, are handed down from the NCAA.

"I'll be here. The only way I won't be playing for Kentucky is if Kentucky doesn't play," Miller said. "I don't believe in leaving a job unfinished."

"I wanted to play (basketball) for the University of Kentucky and I want to be around to help build UK back up," Hanson said.

"Right now, my gut feeling is that I will be back at the University of Kentucky," Sean Sutton said. "This was my first choice and still is."

See PLAYERS Page 5

SEC coaches react with sadness to Sutton's UK resignation

Associated press

Southeastern Conference coaches have reacted sympathetically to former UK basketball coach Eddie Sutton resignation Sunday afternoon and wish him best of luck with his future.

"I'm sad for coach Sutton. I hope that athletic directors around the country realize that there is a great coach out there" University of Mississippi coach Ed Murphy said.

"Eddie and I are good friends. I hate to see him resign. On the other hand, I hope he finds a job real-

soon. The guy that is leaving (UK) is one of the best (coaches) around," Murphy added.

Mississippi State University's coach Richard Williams does not really have a reaction to Sutton quitting, but thinks that is a quality coach.

"I'm not sure (how to react). I know Eddie professionally," Williams said. "He's been nice to me. I think he is an outstanding coach. I don't know that much about what is happening except what I read in the papers."

University of Alabama coach Wimp Sanderson was sorry to see the UK coach leave.

"I'm sorry to see it come to that, and I wish him well," Sanderson said.

Hugh Durham, the University of Georgia's coach, thought that the SEC was losing more than just a coach.

Durham referred to Sutton as "one of the top coaches in the country" and "I think the SEC is not only losing an outstanding coach, I feel personally he's a friend."

Louisiana State University coach Dale Brown said in a statement that he also felt sorry for Sutton and his family and criticized college athletics.

"Perhaps, this sad occurrence will cause us all to re-examine a system which demands victory and profit and in which the individual is sacrificed without thought or

care," Brown said. "It is obviously a system riddled with hypocrisy."

University of Vanderbilt's coach C.M. Newton understands why Sutton made the decision resign.

"I think it was something that Sutton had to decide," Newton said. "I can understand why Sutton made this decision. I think he stated it best. I have great respect for Eddie Sutton, and my reaction is it was the decision of the coach."

The resignation of Eddie Sutton also will be most important to Newton who becomes the UK athlete director on April 1.

He said, "I'll have the major responsibility of hiring the next coach."

In addition to SEC coaches, ESPN analyst Dick Vitale called Sutton's resignation "a shame, because it's one of the great, great programs in the nation. It looks like it's going to really be set back."

Former UK standout Rex Chapman, who was recruited by Sutton and who left for the National Basketball Association after two years with UK — just after the NCAA investigation began — said when contacted Sunday that he had not heard of Sutton's resignation.

"I'm sure that was a tough decision to make," Chapman said. "He was a great teacher of the game. In fact, I never played for a better teacher."

Information for this story also was gathered by Assistant Sports Editor Brian Jent.

Number of candidates for SGA president reaches six; debate planned for Thursday

By ELIZABETH WADE
News Editor

Six candidates — the largest field in recent memory — are running for Student Government Association president.

Four candidates are running for vice president in the election, which is being held March 29-30.

Last year only three presidential tickets ran for election, and in 1987 two tickets ran.

John Floyd, a biology and chemical engineering senior, and Brian Rice, a marketing senior, are the most recent entrants into the SGA race. Neither student is involved with SGA, although Rice was once a member of the Freshman Representative Council.

Four candidates — Jeff Ashley, Sean Lohman, Kennedy James and K.A. Mo-

berly — already have announced their candidacies for president.

Keith Evers, Paige Foster, Pat Hart and David Skidmore also have announced their candidacies for vice president.

"I am not running with anyone," Floyd said. "I feel I could work with whoever wins the vice presidency."

Floyd, whose parents are teachers, said his platform focuses on higher education.

"I have a lot of ideas for lobbying," he said. "I'm not politically motivated. We need to start with higher education, but we can't neglect secondary and elementary education. Being a leader takes initiative."

Although Floyd, 22, has not been involved in SGA, he has had several offices in many campus and state organizations including: standards chairman

and coordinating secretary and Greek Political Action Committee representative for Sigma Nu fraternity last year.

"I recognize the presidency of the student body as a student ambassador to take ideas to the administration and the Board of Trustees. I believe I could talk to people from diverse backgrounds."

Rice, 21, does not have a platform or a running mate, and he said he did not know if he would have one.

"I'm mainly interested in giving students another choice," Rice said. "I've run before (for senator) and lost. I don't want to get into the politics of it. I just want to help students. I feel I can run for the students and not worry about politics."

George Hagan, SGA election's board

See SGA Page 5



Presidential Candidates

NAME	MAJOR	CLASS	HOMETOWN
Jeff Ashley	journalism	senior	Louisville, Ky
John Floyd	biology	senior	Louisville, Ky
Kennedy James	ag. economics	senior	Chicago, Ill
Sean Lohman	political science	sophomore	Louisville, Ky
K.A. 'Angel' Moberly	sociology	senior	Lexington, Ky
Raymond Rice	marketing	senior	Lexington, Ky

ELIZABETH C. MOORE/Kentucky Graphics

TODAY'S WEATHER

75° - 40°

Tod: Rain mixed with sleet
Tomorrow: Chance of flurries

See Page 3

SPORTS

Columnist comments
on NCAA tourney

DIVERSIONS

Borrowed elements
don't save 'Leviathan'

See Back Page

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SPORTS

Tom Spalding
Sports Editor
Brian Jant
Assistant Sports Editor

UK is not in 'Final 16' but consider the five SEC teams choking in first game of tourney

It seems a bit strange that, just days before play resumes in the 51st NCAA Tournament, UK is not one of the 16 teams left in the hunt for the national championship.

When the selection committee pulled somewhat of a shocker last week by selecting five teams from the Southeastern Conference to play in its tournament, of course, the Wildcats weren't among the 64 picks. With a 13-19 record after losing in the second round of the SEC Tournament, the Wildcats simply didn't deserve a bid.

But doesn't it strike you as odd that a team like UK (no matter what the experts predicted before the season began) isn't even in the running? Not unnatural. After all, UK had played in the NCAA nine straight times, and hadn't finished a season this early in 14 years.

Yet, no matter how undeserving UK might have been, no matter how much better the five teams from the SEC that went in UK's place were than the Wildcats, you get the feeling that UK would've done better than its counterparts.

In case you missed it, the five teams that were invited (Louisiana State University, Vanderbilt Uni-



Tom SPALDING

versity, the University of Tennessee, the University of Florida and the University of Alabama) were all knocked out in the first round.

Ouch. Of the five, UK swept Tennessee and beat Vanderbilt in Lexington, but was soundly defeated at least twice by the others. That includes a 19-point loss to LSU, and 30 and 14-point losses to Vanderbilt.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure this one out (only someone willing enough to use hindsight), but would UK have lost by 24 to Colorado State University (as Florida did), get embarrassed by the University of Texas El-Paso (as LSU did) or upset by the University of South Alabama (as the Crimson Tide did)?

I don't think so. That attitude, no matter how one-

sided, is what this UK-watcher will remember from a season that seemed to last forever.

UK, of course, was bounced down in Knoxville, Tenn., last week to the tune of 77-63 by Vanderbilt. Statistically, it was the worst season in over 60 years.

UK, of course, knew the odds well before the season began. It had lost Rex Chapman, the super sophomore who epitomized what has always been the downside of UK basketball (hero worship) and Eric Manuel, the forgotten man of this almost year-long NCAA investigation.

Throw in speculation about what the NCAA's decision will be, the fact that the athletic director and the head basketball coach resigned, and it creates a headache for an already embattled basketball team.

UK, was, of course, picked in the second division of the SEC in the regular season. It finished tied for sixth with an 8-10 record.

The Wildcats were expected to lose to the heavyweights: Louisville, Indiana, Notre Dame and Syracuse. They did.

Kentucky was, at least, expected

to win its own invitational, the UKIT. It finished third.

Simply put, the NCAA investigation created long odds, and UK didn't overcome them.

Throw in that pot these messy but important statistics: a six-game losing streak (third-longest in UK history), most losses in one year (19) and a disappointing 8-6 record at Rupp Arena.

One thing will definitely stick in my mind, however, when I watch this weekend's NCAA Southeast Regional at Rupp. The idea was epitomized by a Clay County basketball fan sitting in the upper deck at Rupp, watching the Sweet 16 State High School boys' tournament. Her team had gone to the state finals six consecutive times, and like UK's times in the NCAA, was almost a fixture.

"They can't hold it here without us!" the fan's shirt said. That may be true for Clay County in the Sweet 16. But not for UK in the NCAA Tournament, which is a shame.

Sports Editor Tom Spalding is a journalism sophomore and a Kernel columnist.

Tennis team loses in weekend UCLA match

By KIP BOWMAR
Staff Writer

lost to UCLA's Billy Barber 6-7, 6-4, 6-4.

The loss dropped the sixth ranked Cats to 9-3 for the year. According to head coach Dennis Emery, the competition in college tennis is intense.

"It's a lot harder to win a national championship in tennis than in, say, basketball. In the last 12 years only three teams have won the national title," he said earlier in the season.

Before the UCLA debacle the team had been on a roll, coming off three consecutive home victories. UK crushed the University of Illinois and then Tennessee Tech University by scores of 8-1 in each match.

Then the team entertained the University of Alabama in their home SEC opener. Things did not start well for the Cats as number one seed Malik lost to Clinton Ferreria 6-7, 6-4, 6-4, and number two Benson fell to John Simpson 7-6, 6-4, 6-3.

UK only managed to win one set off the Bruins when Sam Stimmel, in the No. 6 position,

lost to UCLA's Billy Barber 6-7, 6-4, 6-4.

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Bevy of candidates for SGA president sign of discontent

With six candidates for president, the Student Government Association has more candidates for its top office than Central America has coups in a week.

To be sure, this burst of candidacies is something more than slightly on the comedic side.

But this sudden surge in interest in SGA's highest office is both troubling and refreshing.

It is troubling because these candidacies signal an obvious discontent with the current operation of UK's student government. Never, in recent memory, have we had more than four candidates for SGA president.

Six candidates is an obvious statement of unhappiness with the state of student government. That is obvious, in that, for the most part, these candidates are outsiders in terms of experience with SGA.

Their candidacies suggest the need and desire for change in student government.

And to a large extent, this discontent is justified. The SGA Senate, in particular, has been plagued by budgetary problems — just plain stupid spending.

Leadership from the SGA presidency is needed to steer the Senate in a clearer direction to better serve students.

But SGA should take some solace in the fact that the number of candidacies suggests that there is something more out there than just overwhelming student apathy.

Obvious discontent also is a sign, in at least this case, of obvious interest on the part of these candidates — something we have not always seen much of in student government elections.

With less than 15 percent of students voting in the annual spring elections, student government elections have often been little more than playgrounds for greek-sponsored candidates. There's nothing wrong with that. If greeks are the only ones showing interest, they should be the ones holding office.

But in that process, what you wind up with is a very narrow form of representation from our student government.

A number of different candidates at least shows that some students out there think student government can be more than just a group that sends its members on a number of nice trips each semester.

Student government can, and should, serve the UK student body. Perhaps with more interest in SGA's election process, change may indeed be on the horizon.

Wearing your seat belt is worth the trouble

Although Adam Goldberg's column ("Unbuckled: Government cannot force people to wear their seat-belt") Goldberg did not dispute the fact that seat belts save lives and lessen injuries (on the average), he does feel that a seat-belt law is not in the best interest of the people, for it restricts their right to choose.

The three main arguments he gave against a seat belt law were:

➤ Wearing (or not wearing) a seat belt affects only oneself and does not affect the occupants of the other car involved in the accident.

➤ The answer to traffic accidents involving unbelted people is a state-funded seat-belt education program.

➤ Seat belt laws are almost completely unenforceable and totally ignored.

I strongly disagree with those arguments.

First, wearing (or not wearing) a seat belt can very well affect the occupants of the other car involved in an accident, as well as the occupant of one's own car and pedestrians.

Often in car accidents (especially side impacts), the unbelted driver is moved by inertia out from behind the wheel, making his vehicle an aimless object ripe for causing impacts with other objects (including cars and people).

A belted driver in the same situation will remain behind the wheel, and if alert, still have some control. This information comes from the *Official Kentucky Drivers Manual*. Maybe the state of Michigan didn't offer this information in its manual to Mr. Goldberg.

Next, in regard to Goldberg's insistence that a state-funded seat belt education program is a better answer for getting people to buckle up, I again disagree.

The federal government has spent millions of dollars trying to get the public to use seat belts. They have used repeated public-service commercials and published studies on the effectiveness of seat belts.

GUEST OPINION

The media is already flooded with information on seat belts. A state-funded project would only cause the spending of \$2 (where one would have sufficed) and give journalists (or people who call themselves journalists) material for a column.

The point that Adam Goldberg makes about seat belt laws being almost completely unenforceable and not by actual argument against such laws.

A seat belt law is not intended

The main purpose of (some) laws is to deter by threat of prosecution and not by actual fines . . .

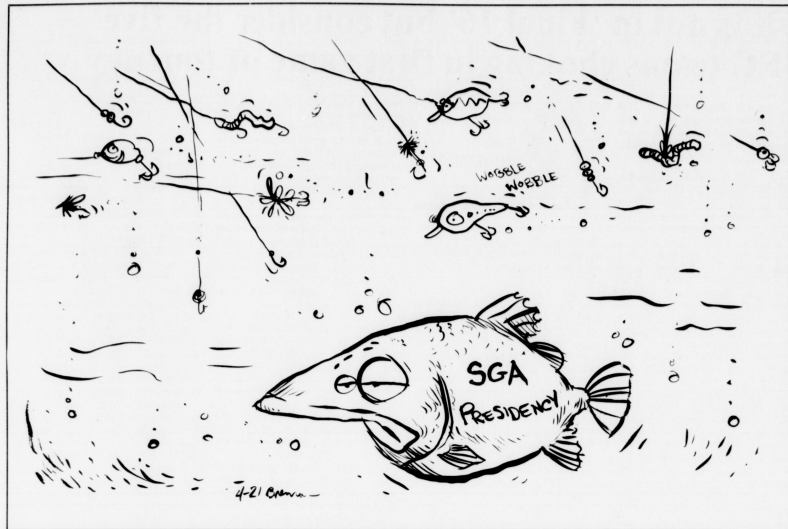
to produce revenue for law enforcement, but rather to produce public awareness. There are laws against jaywalking, prostitution, gambling and smoking marijuana. They all go mainly unenforced.

The main purpose of those laws is to deter by threat of prosecution and not by actual fines, jail terms or other punishments. I doubt very seriously if a seat-belt law is passed that many people will get more than a stern warning from an officer.

As to being ignored, seat belt laws have definitely raised the percentage of seat-belt wearers in places where they are passed, such as Ohio. Sure, not everyone wears one, maybe not even the majority, but if more lives are preserved then maybe that belt is worth thinking twice about snapping on.

But then I almost forgot, preservation of life has not been a strong point in many of Goldberg's articles.

Anthony Wilson is a undecided junior.



Leave me alone

Individuals should be able to decide their own actions

Would you presume to send me to jail for having a cigarette or a beer? How about for taking an aspirin?

No, probably not.

If I am an American citizen, 21 years or older, able to drive, drink, smoke and take over-the-counter medications, then why may I not have a Quaalude or smoke a joint if I want to?

I was watching TV a couple of weeks ago and I saw a story about a man with glaucoma that needs to smoke marijuana to counteract the blinding effects of his disease. He is in jail for growing his own medicine.

"Illegal drugs are a scourge on this country. They're corrupting our youth!"

Yeah, right. Just because a teen-ager wants to smoke a joint once or twice a week doesn't mean that his or her precious "moral fiber" has been corrupted. Yet the "Just Say No" folks grow in size and power. There is no end in sight.

Who is behind this crap? It's the same people on the same moral high horses I've ranted and raved about frequently — they have yet another stranglehold on American "morality."

In fact, these jerks have appointed a "Drug Czar" to counteract the so-called destructive influences of drugs.

Amusingly enough, William Bennett — the chief anti-drug dude — used to smoke two packs of cigarette a day. He himself is addicted to a "harmful" drug.

Look at it this way: It's my body. I'm going to do with it what I please.

If I have a joint, I'm not endangering other people by driving my car. I'm not influencing children by having a joint in the privacy of my own home. Why is that illegal?

having a joint in the privacy of my own home. Why is that illegal?

Because some all-knowing prima donna deems it immoral or just plain "wrong" for me to do what I want with my own body.

People like the Partnership for a Drug-Free America seem to think that they have the right to prevent me from trying an egg on my brain. God (or some other self-righteous being) thinks that she/he has the right to appoint them my keeper.

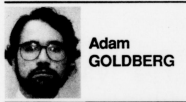
It is also difficult to blame Sutton for "running off talented players." Irving Thomas was a Joe Hall recruit, and was never happy at UK.

Reck Chapman was the first Kentucky player in recent memory with a legitimate chance to start for an NBA team early in his college career. It was a choice between enduring this season's investigation or making \$600,000 a year. Tough decision.

Possibly the most offensive paragraph in Mr. Harvey's column dealt with certain "players" Sutton has signed. Is there a question as to their qualifications as basketball players?

Richie Farmer, John Pelphrey and Jonathan Davis were all top players in their home states, and Mike Scott played solid ball his freshman season at Wake Forest. All have displayed admirable effort this season. Having seen Mr. Harvey play at the Seaton Center further negates his criticism of these players.

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Adam GOLDBERG

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The fact that UK has done as

Does this seem right to you?

Whatever happened to the right to privacy? The last time I read the Constitution it said "... and the right to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

I'll guarantee to you that I'll be a lot happier if I weren't afraid of going to prison for exercising my rights to liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

If we taxed and regulated the so-called "illicit" drugs, look at all the neat things that would probably happen:

➤ Drug-related shootings would

ouance of regulated and inspected marijuana at the drugstore on the corner for \$30, why would I pay a dealer \$80 for it?

➤ If drug dealers don't exist, and drugs are sold through drug stores (hence the name), children will have a much harder time getting it. When I was under 21 it was much easier for me to get a joint than a beer, and the beer was legal.

➤ If drugs were legal and taxed, the billions and billions of dollars that are now being funneled into central and south America would be kept in the states — providing American jobs, and helping to pay off Reagan's debt.

So, tell me again why the government is attempting to legislate morality?

It is not only self-righteous, but counter-productive and inherently circumscribed.

I mean, it's my body! It's about time somebody told the self-righteous jerks to keep their damn hands off of it — and maybe raise some revenue in the process.

Adam Goldberg is a political science sophomore and a Kernel columnist.

Eddie Sutton deserved fans' support

well as it should be this season should have been a tribute to Eddie Sutton's ability to coach. With a young, inexperienced team and problems off the court, expectations should have been minimal this season.

Instead of writing off Sutton, he ought to have been allowed to pull UK out of its current situation. There needs to be some loyalty between a university and its employees.

It is also incorrect to compare UK to UCLA. UCLA was phenomenally successful under John Wooden, but struggled before and after. Kentucky has maintained a successful program through three

coaches. That is a sign of a truly great basketball program.

It's obvious the Kernel has enhanced Mr. Harvey's stock as a journalist. I wonder if the students at UK could say it the other way around.

There has been more than enough negative criticism of Eddie Sutton and the basketball program. There needs to be some positive support from fans in order to survive the current investigation and continue the tradition of Kentucky basketball.

Charles VanLahr is a management sophomore.

Letters Policy

Readers are encouraged to submit letters and opinions to the Kentucky Kernel.

Writers should address their comments to: Editorial Editor, Kentucky Kernel, 035 Journalism Building, Lexington, Ky. 40506-0042.

Letters should be 350 words or less, while guest opinions should be 850 words or less. All material must be typewritten and double-spaced.

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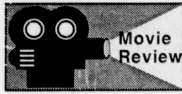
Rob Seng
Arts Editor

'Leviathan' does nothing new with its borrowed elements

By ROB SENG
Arts Editor

Having made highly derivative action films such as "Rambo: First Blood Part II" and "Cobra" (nice to know there's somebody besides Brigitte Nielson that's got a Sly Stallone fixation), director George Cosmatos decided that he wasn't about to change his style for his latest movie.

As a result, we've got "Leviathan," the second underwater "Alien" rip-off in the last couple of months (the other being "Deepstar Six").



Movie Review

Let's see if this sounds at all familiar. There's this group of miners stationed five miles beneath the sea who are drilling for silver for some big conglomerate. While out drilling, one of the crew members gets lost and, when they go to search for him, stumble across a sunken ship.

Up to this point, the makers of "Alien" could pretty much sue for plagiarism but then "Leviathan" decides it would also like to borrow liberally from John Carpenter's version of "The Thing."

The ship turns out to be a Russian trawler that was conducting some pretty weird genetic experiments which, when they got out of hand, caused the ship to be sunk by a Russian torpedo.

We know that he's not really dead though because we see something moving underneath those sheets. It turns out that the creature in "Leviathan" is capable of genetically altering its host into a form of marine life.

Although it is capable of creating a few suspenseful moments, "Leviathan" would have been much better than the slick, packaged thriller that it is if attention had been paid to style and not just plot elements of the movies that it borrows from.

"Alien" worked because of Ridley Scott's visual flair. Carpenter's remake of "The Thing" established a sense of claustrophobic paranoia that was built on for the entire film.

"Leviathan" has some first-rate character actors in its cast. In addition to stars Peter ("Robocop") Weller and Richard Crema, there's also super-gorgeous Amanda Pays, Ernie Hudson (the black Ghostbuster), Daniel Stern ("Diner," "D.O.A.") and Hector Elizondo, who gave a terrific performance as Matt Dillon's dad in "The Flamingo Kid."

However, it's relatively easy to figure out which of the characters is going to buy it, which turns out to be the movie's major cardinal sin. In "The Thing," we never knew which of the characters had been infected because the organism was able to completely assume the identity of its host. Here, as soon as someone wanders off by himself or starts looking pasty-faced, you know it's time for the special effects boys to start earning their keep.

"Leviathan," Rated R, is now playing at Fayette Mall and North Park cinemas.

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The Kentucky Kernel is published on class days during the academic year and weekly during the summer session.
Third-class postage paid at Lexington, KY 40511. Mailed subscription rates are \$30 per year.
The Kernel is printed at Standard Publishing and Printing, 534 Buckman St., Shepherdsville, KY 40165.
Correspondence should be addressed to the Kentucky Kernel, Room 035 Journalism Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0042. Phone (606) 257-2871.

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