

**Focus**

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**BOND'S BROADCAST**  
By HANK BOND

The national media has had a field day with the University of Kentucky basketball team. It's more than any Kentuckian should have to listen to... or read.

The Wildcats shouldn't be treated like they're outcasts.

Many of those in the national media believe the University of Kentucky should not be proud of its accomplishments on the basketball court this season. One national reporter wrote UK is again thumbing its nose at the SEC office by taking pride and doing something about the Cats' finish in the conference this season.

Well I tell you there should be some party in all of this.

"When you have a coach who storms on the court like LSU's Dale Brown does, wants to fight, says anything he wants to the national media in the press room and then nothing happens - it sort of makes the NCAA look silly.

Look, no one wants Kentucky to not pay for the mistakes it made, but there should be the same justice for the rest of these rule breakers out there.

The Tarik at UNLV should have been ejected a long time ago, but Ohhh Now, it's wait until UNLV finishes the season and swoops to a national title, then we'll talk about doing something.

Eddie Sutton has ridden his Cowboys into the national playoffs, with nothing ever said about his part in all of this.

Certainly the NCAA couldn't dig up any dirt on Sutton, but that's okay. He was in charge of the program when all of this came down. The buck should have stopped there, as well.

Don't think that if he was in any other line of work he wouldn't have paid a lot higher price than sitting out a year and jumping back into the national line-up.

There's no arguing Sutton is a fine basketball coach - not my personal favorite - but a good coach.

Why shouldn't he be held under the same restraints as the program he ran?

It wouldn't be fair for the Oklahoma State players to suffer because of this, anymore than it is fair to punish the UK players.

The two UK seniors with great personal disregard to the silly NCAA gave up the potential to play on other teams to show some loyalty to UK - but while four of five SEC teams in the tournament this season (at this writing) have already gone back to class - UK never even got a chance because of what other people have done.

Maybe the whole problem is these writers who want to consistently beat down Kentucky are just a little jealous. Jealous that the people of Kentucky continued to stand behind the program rather than abandon ship like it would have been anywhere else.

I believe there should be something done about the way Intercollegiate Athletics are run, but then what difference would it make?

Those in charge would want to find fault and ridicule the programs who are successful.

Here we are with two of the best overall programs in basketball with UK and Louisville not 100 miles apart and throw in the OVC and NIAA teams and Kentucky is simply a fertile garden of basketball.

Certainly there is more to life than basketball, but why should the schools of this state have to pay the price time after time, while others who more than anything want the success of these programs continue to take pot shots at them?

I think it's time to get back to business and stop this petty blasting.

And so, for another week, thanks and thirty.



The Carlisle Mercury Hank Bond Photo

Over 900 Nicholas County Elementary students, faculty and staff, filled the NCEC gymnasium Monday morning to welcome home Roy Gaunce from Operation Desert Storm. The group sang songs and offered a thundering round of applause when Gaunce was introduced.



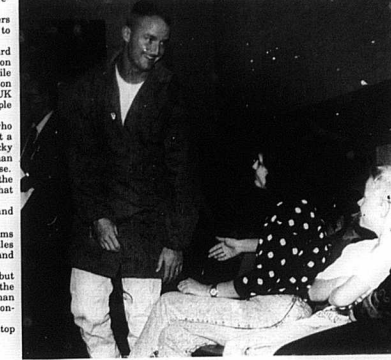
The Carlisle Mercury Hank Bond Photo: On behalf of the Nicholas County Elementary Student Council, eighth grade student Danita Livingston presents Sgt. Roy Gaunce with a NCEC T-Shirt as a token from the school Gaunce had just returned from serving in Operation Desert Storm.

The Carlisle Mercury Hank Bond Photo: Lindsey Hunt, a kindergarten student at Nicholas County Elementary displays a homemade drawing of the American flag during special ceremonies at Nicholas County Elementary, Monday morning for Sgt. Roy Gaunce.

**A Second Welcome**

Equipment Operator Third Class Don Dampier, was also honored in ceremonies at Nicholas County Elementary, Monday. Dampier also served in Operation Desert Storm.

The Carlisle Mercury/William Milion Photo



**The RETURN**  
Nicholas Elementary School students offer welcome, cheers for servicemen

By Susan L. Rolling  
The Carlisle Mercury had CARLISLE, Ky., March 18 - He came home to say Thank You for your support.

"And, I'm proud to be an American." The strains of the refrain of this very popular Lee Greenwood song, which has become a theme song of the Middle East War, flowed from the voices of the year olds, as well as members of every class, teachers, staff and administrators at Nicholas County Elementary.

With the sun shining brightly on his "Old Kentucky Home," it was a day of welcome, for him, and humbler, by him.

United States Air Force Staff Sergeant Roy E. Gaunce, known to many as Reggie, stood before a crowd of Nicholas County Elementary students and faculty hearing cheers of "Welcome Home."

"We're glad you're back."

His hand bowed slightly as he looked at the flag he held in his hand, while God Bless America was sung.

The students, numbering more than 900, waved their flags as they marched into the NCEC gymnasium and the smaller elementary students carried pictures of the flags they colored for the day.

Posters not only decorated the walls of the gym, but were a part of the crowd waving as the ovation continued.

The thrill was evident for the heavy packed into the small NCEC gymnasium, with the truth, justice and emotion of the Red, White and Blue flagging as the happy armed youngsters jumped to their feet in recognition of one who had put it on the line for his country, his state, his people.

Nicholas County Elementary Principal, Gerald Hammons, welcomed the honored guest, his wife Brenda and 3 and one-half year old son, Christopher.

Hammons then spoke of three things that we all need to be successful.

Just as our soldiers had belief, confidence and pride, so must we. They were successful in Operation Desert Storm with one-half million troops.

"That that half million number was made up of individuals. It is not the size of the man in the fight, but rather, the size of the fight in the man."

"Everyone there had belief in themselves and confidence they could do the job and pride in the job they did. We thank God that he has brought an end to the war and our troops coming home."

Phyllis Hammy, assistant N.C. Elementary Principal, introduced SSGT Gaunce to the audience and welcomed him home.

The spectators jumped to their feet in a deafening ovation as shouts of Welcome Home, filled the air along with dozens of flags.

As emotional as the moment truly was, Gaunce, flanked by his father, Roy Gaunce, put his emotions and his devastation of war into the personal perspective of the gathering of students, faculty and administration had wanted.

"I'm glad to be home, and very fortunate to have the support of children like you," he said.

"You're super," he beamed before he lowered his head again in humility.

Waving a small metal object over his head, Gaunce said, "I got a small piece of one of the 72 SCUD missiles that were destroyed and I even got to see one shot out of the sky, by Patriot Missiles."

One of the Patriots destroyed an incoming SCUD less than three miles from where Gaunce was stationed.

"I feel very fortunate and Praise the Lord that none in

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**Find The Fleeting Mercury Contest**

The Sponsor with The Mercury For February Will Be Carlisle PIC•PAC

When you find the hidden Fleeting Mercury, somewhere on the pages of this issue, simply cut it out, and mail or bring to The Carlisle Mercury Office.

The prizes for March will be a ONE WEEK VCR RENTAL, a 12 PACK PEPSI, 6 SERVINGS OF MICROWAVE POPCORN, AND A CERTIFICATE FOR 12 MOVIES from Carlisle PIC•PAC.

The contest will run through the month of March, with final deadline for entries, March 25 at 5 p.m.

Find the SMALL Fleeting Mercury hidden somewhere inside this edition and cut it out. Return the small Mercury you find in The Mercury, and Mercury PLUS along with the following coupon to be entered in this month's contest.

ONE WINNER will be drawn from the month's entries at 5 p.m., March 25 with the name published in the March 28, 1991 edition of The Carlisle Mercury. Don't miss a single chance to win. Enter every week to increase your odds at winning.

Name .....

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**Carlisle-Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce Annual Membership & Prospective Membership Dinner**

You are cordially invited to our annual membership meeting and dinner to be held at the Nicholas County Elementary School Cafeteria, March 23, 1991 at 6:30 P.M. Dinner will consist of Roasted pig, chicken, cole slaw, brown beans, diced onions, corn bread, dessert, tea & coffee.

There will be no charge for the dinner. We only request your acceptance to attend the annual meeting and dinner by either calling the Chamber of Commerce Office at 289-3234 or writing 117 Locust Street.

Please respond by Wednesday, March 20, 1991.

Sincerely,  
Carlisle-Nicholas Co. Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors