

Thursday
March 3, 2005

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UK Athletics didn't ask for practice facility funds

Ky. Senate allots \$15 million; other priorities lose funding

By Adam Sichko
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The UK Athletic Department didn't lobby state legislators for bonds to help build a basketball practice facility, but officials said yesterday they could use the funding.

Late Monday night, the Kentucky Senate passed its budget proposal, which included a \$15 million allotment to help fund the \$29.5 million facility project. In the same budget, the Senate reduced or eliminated funding for some of UK's "priority projects," including a bio-pharmaceutical complex, a Chandler Medical Center expansion and a renovated student health services facility.

No senator has come forward to claim the budget addition, said Sen. Ernesto Scorsone, D-Lexington.

"We need to respect what the university tells us," Scorsone said. "We shouldn't be meddling and trying to tell the university how to do its business."

Sen. Tom Buford, R-Nicholasville and a member of the Senate's appropriation and revenue committee, said the addition of the facility to the budget was a surprise.

"The \$15 million basketball facility very likely may have been added by Senate Republican leadership at the last minute," Buford said. Buford said he'd been to every committee meeting, and the topic was never discussed.

UK Athletic Director Mitch Barnhart said regardless of whether the Senate's funding is included in the final budget, the facility will be

paid for using only athletics funds.

"No. 1, it's private funding," Barnhart said. "There continues to be a misconception that we're using state money. That's not true and not accurate."

"We do not want to conflict with the needs and desires of this university," Barnhart said. UK President Lee Todd said he doesn't want the athletics department to slow its progress.

"We're trying to drive both engines," Todd said, referring to athletics and academics. "I don't want Mitch to slack off his mission. It complicates my life if he slides."

"Athletics is not a drain on our academics," Todd added.

Currently, one-third of the facility's funding has been raised — putting the athletic department behind in its progress, said Rob Mul-



BARNHART

"There continues to be a misconception that we're using state money. That's not true."

Mitch Barnhart
UK athletic director

lens, executive associate athletic director. "Timing is key," Mullens said. "We're behind in this."

"We need a way to keep this project on time, like getting money now and repaying it later — almost like a mortgage," he said.

See Facility on page 3

UK 73, UT 61

Like always, Hayes lifts Cats when they need it

By Ben Roberts
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

For the last four years, whenever the Cats were in trouble, they turned to Chuck Hayes.

So last night — in Hayes' final game at Rupp Arena — when Tennessee fought back to tie the score at 55, the UK senior was there to bail out his teammates.

After a steal near midcourt, Rajon Rondo got the basketball to Hayes, who streaked down the floor, dunked the ball and drew a foul to give the No. 3 Cats their first field goal in 9:30.

Hayes made the free throw to complete the three-point play, and UK went on to defeat the Volunteers 73-61 in front of 24,206 fans last night at Rupp Arena. The dunk and free throw kicked off a 12-0 UK run, and the Volunteers never got back within 10 points.

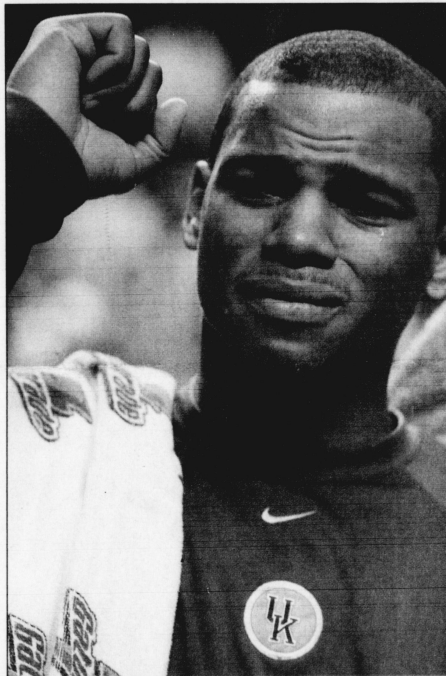
"I just wanted to be aggressive," Hayes said of the play. "I knew he was coming, and my first thought was to go up there and try to dunk it. And if I couldn't — just finish strong. I think that kind of broke them right there."

Held scoreless in the first half after picking up two quick fouls, Hayes had only two points before the play that gave UK (23-3, 14-1 Southeastern Conference) the lead for good.

With his mother and father making the trip from Modesto, Calif., for the Senior Night ceremony, Hayes said he didn't want to disappoint them or the UK fans in his final game in Lexington.

"I wanted to play so well in my last

See Cats on page 5



JONATHAN PALMER | STAFF

UK senior forward Chuck Hayes stands alongside teammates and cheerleaders during the playing of "My Old Kentucky Home" following last night's 73-61 win over Tennessee on Senior Night. Hayes scored 13 points and grabbed four rebounds in his final game at Rupp Arena.

Health service funding cuts anger officials

Director says facilities need expanded

By Shannon Mason
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Health administrators are upset that the Kentucky Senate has proposed cutting funding for a new University Health Services building. Late Monday night, the Senate cut \$24 million needed to fund a new building for University Health Services.

The department is currently located in the Kentucky Clinic, but the proposed expansion would move it to a new facility near South Limestone Street, said Dr. Greg Moore, the director of University Health Services.

Moore said the project has been in the works for about 10 years, but this is the first time the university has been able to make it a top priority.

The expansion is needed because of the size of the

current facility, Moore said. It ranks as the lowest among UK's 19 other benchmarks for square footage per student.

"The facility really functions well," said Dr. Michael Karpf, executive vice president of health affairs. "There is just not enough space."

Karpf said that the area is drastically too small and that students line the halls while waiting for appointments.

The close quarters provide problems with privacy, handicap access and accommodating the number of students waiting to see doctors.

"Some people don't see it as a problem, waiting for a week or a month to be seen by a doctor, but I do," Moore said.

Another issue is the in-

See Health on page 3

Three candidates file for SG president race

By Tricia McKenny
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

On March 30 and 31, students will have several Student Government decisions to make.

After yesterday's filing deadline to run for SG of fice, more than sixty applications have been filed for college and at-large Senate seats.

Three tickets have filed to run for SG president and vice president.

The SG Elections Board will meet this week to ensure the candidates have met all of the requirements to run for office and have attended a mandatory meeting on Friday before releasing the names of all of the Senate candidates.

The candidates' paperwork must be confirmed, and they must attend a meeting at 4 p.m.

Friday in Room 230 of the Student Center in order to be placed on the ballot.

The three presidential and vice presidential tickets are Becky Ellingsworth and Kyle Burns, Will Nash and Michelle Bishop, and Tommy Cunningham and Matt Neff.

Ellingsworth and Burns

are both SG senators who hope their "Educate, Empower, and Elevate" platform will make student rights a priority, expand student communications, improve student safety and increase student services.

Ellingsworth, a corporate communication junior, and Burns, a biology sophomore, have said they hope to begin "a new way of life for UK students."

Nash and Bishop also hope to create change at UK, and they said their "Focusing on You" platform will improve the quality of student life, ensure that students are a priority in the classroom, and guarantee that students receive the most for their money.

Nash, a political science and economics junior, is currently the SG communications director, and Bishop, an accounting and finance junior, is currently serving as an SG senator.

"We are striving to improve the quality of life for all students," Nash said. Cunningham and Neff are not members of SG, but Cunningham has said he

See SG on page 2

Carrier writes his own perfect ending

After four years, the cheers finally came.

When Josh Carrier walked onto the floor for the Senior Night ceremony, Rupp Arena gave him a welcome he had waited for since coming to UK.

The fans that had questioned his ability at times, even booed him, finally embraced him.

That ceremony was just the beginning.

After four years of waiting, the guard from Bowling Green, Ky., made his moment last.

Less than two minutes into his first career start, Carrier found himself in the corner with the ball and an open look at a 3-pointer.

"When you're out on the floor, you try to prove to

Coach why you're out there," Carrier said.

After four years of passing up looks like that, he let it fly.

He buried it, and Rupp Arena got Ashley Judd loud.

"My teammates were getting on me a little bit, saying I was a bit too unselfish," Carrier said. "So I let loose a little bit, and thank God my shots were going in."

Now that's how you draw up a Senior Night celebration.

For four years of hard work and sacrifice, he had earned a night to savor. He earned this, and everybody knew it.

"It was a well-played-out script," said UK head coach Tubby Smith.

"For two young men (Carrier and Chuck Hayes) finishing out their careers in front of their fans ... if you were writing a script, it could not have played out any better."

But Carrier wasn't done.

After four years of rough rims, the ball started cooper-

ating for Carrier.

With UK down five, he drained another 3-pointer.

And again, Rupp Arena showered him with what seemed like four years' worth of cheers.

"A lot of my shots haven't fallen, but they fell tonight," Carrier said.

"This will probably be the game I remember the most."

For good measure, he added another 3-pointer in the second half to total a career-high nine points.

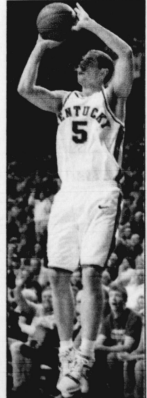
After four years of waiting, it was a night worth remembering for Carrier.

"It's just an unbelievable night," he said. "I can't say enough about it."

It was a storybook ending to a career that had been anything but perfect.

Carrier had endured boos in this same arena earlier this season, and he had never quite lived up to the Mr. Basketball expectations.

He had seen more shots rim out than fall in, and he



KEITH SHIMLEY | STAFF

Senior Josh Carrier scored a career-high nine points.

See Carrier on page 5

Nietzel's status with SMS presidency announced tomorrow

see page 2

Dieting can be dangerous

By Jean Marie O'Mahony
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

With Spring Break just around the corner and New Year's weight loss resolutions in high gear, the desire to be thin is a constant worry for many students.

The thought of fitting into a bathing suit on the beaches of Florida or Mexico motivates many to increase workouts and decrease food intake.

But people need to take precautions so they don't put their health at risk, said Taylor Charron, group fitness coordinator for campus recreation at the Johnson Center.

Though it's important for everyone to exercise regularly, over-exercising can be harmful, Charron said.

"Goals people are trying to achieve can actually be (hampereed) by overtraining," she said.

According to the Nemours Foundation for Health, "excessive exercise can damage tendons, ligaments, bones, cartilage and joints, and when minor injuries are not allowed to heal, they often result in long-term damage." This can happen to both men and women.

Symptoms of this "over-training principle" — exercising and not allowing the body sufficient time to recover between workouts — include fatigue, an increased resting heart rate, slower heart rate recovery, a decrease in strength and constant soreness, Cherron said.

The American College of Sports Medicine recommends

for aerobic exercise to be done three to five times per week for 20 to 60 minutes each time at an intensity where a person can still carry on a conversation without a shortage of breath. For resistance training, the college suggests doing sessions two to three times per week with 10 to 12 different exercises, one for each muscle group.

Along with exercise, diet is also important, Charron said. Regular activity and a well-balanced diet are beneficial to overall health.

Portion control and avoiding foods outside of the food pyramid are components that need to be controlled. On average, according to the Meals Matter Company, a health advising company, a portion size should be about the size of a person's palm.

Eating too little is also a potential problem. According to the Bellott Eating Clinic, eating less than the recommended amount of food per day can cause a person's body serious harm. It can lead to muscle loss, lowered bone density, slower heart rate, dry hair and skin, exhaustion, fainting spells, low blood pressure and extra growth of hair.

It is important to monitor friends' workouts and eating habits. If they get out of control, it can lead to eating disorders and other habits that can cause serious harm to a person's body.

"If the message gets out to increase awareness to let people know that it is a problem and very dangerous and to stop as soon as they can and

Statistics from the National Eating Disorder Association

The average woman is 5-foot-4 and weighs 140 pounds.

The average model is 5-foot-11 and weighs 117 pounds; most fashion models are 98 percent thinner than American women.

Ten million females and 1 million males suffer from eating disorders.

Ninety-one percent of women recently surveyed on a college campus had attempted to control their weight through dieting; 22 percent dieted "often" or "all-ways."

Thirty-five percent of "normal dieters" progress to pathological dieting. Of those, 20 to 25 percent progress to at least a partial eating disorder.

SOURCE: www.nationaleatingdisorders.org.

For more information on eating disorders, visit the National Eating Disorder Information Centre at www.nedic.ca.

For more information on over-exercising, visit the McKinley Health Center Web site at www.counselingcenter.uky.edu/Bo/dy%20image/exercise.htm.

For more information on eating disorders and National Eating Disorders Awareness Week, visit www.nationaleatingdisorders.org.

go into recovery so it will relieve the stress of it and they can have a better life."

E-mail
features@kykernel.com

SG Presidential Candidates

- Thomas Cunningham and Matt Neff
- Becky Ellingsworth and Kyle Burns www.ukstudentsfirst.com
- Will Nash and Michelle Bishop www.nashbishop.com

E-mail
tmckenny@kykernel.com

SG

Continued from page 1

hopes to be able to bring new ideas and experiences to SG.

Cunningham, a mechanical engineering senior who will be attending graduate school in the fall, and Neff, a chemical engineering ju-

nior, hope to increase student involvement on campus and improve the communication and efficiency between students and SG in order to implement student ideas at UK.

"Call me crazy, but 25,000 heads are better than one," Cunningham said.

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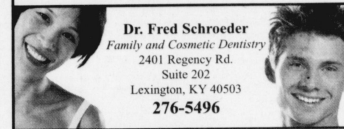
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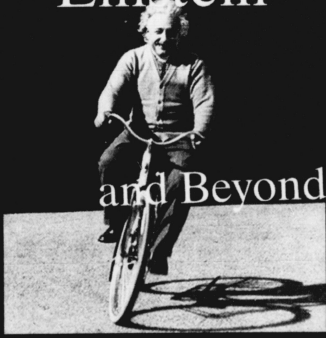


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Facility

Continued from page 1

At best, if the current pace toward construction can be maintained, the facility would be ready by fall semester 2006, Barnhart said.

"You have to look at the long-range effects of this," Barnhart said of the "vital" facility. "It's an absolute priority for us to get this done."

Both Mullens and Barnhart spoke of "finding a funding mechanism" to help pick up the pace. The Senate's offering of \$15 million in bonds is one method for that, Mullens said.

Without the bonds, "that makes it more difficult," Mullens said. "It would be a long-shot; there would have to be a lot done."

"Those bonds are \$15 million we could use to help get this project going."

When asked if the athletic department had any prior indication that the Senate was going to include that funding in its budget bill, Mullens said "I don't think so."

The UK Board of Trustees approved the \$25 million design phase of the facility plan in its October 2003 meeting. The 92,300-square-foot complex will house two basketball courts and two floors of ath-

letic offices.

Currently, the facility is in the last stage of the design phase, Mullens said. The architect hired by UK Athletics is preparing documents for the bidding process, and a construction management firm has already been hired to help install the facility which will be located behind Memorial Coliseum. A commuter parking lot will be removed.

If the state government gives UK Athletics the go-ahead — which the Senate has done with the \$15 million in bonds — construction could begin in late summer or early fall, Mullens said.

"This is the only piece we need to continue to maintain being the No. 1 college basketball program in the country," Mullens said.

Mullens named at least eight major National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I schools — including Southeastern Conference schools Vanderbilt and Florida — who have practice facilities.

"In our opinion, we're the leader of that entire group," he said.

Barnhart said UK is probably second-to-last in its conference when it comes to facility improvements over the past decade.

"The basketball program speaks for itself," Barnhart said. "We hold a dominant position nationally. Our ability to maintain that includes having the facilities to do that."

Currently, gymnastics, volleyball and

both basketball teams compete for time and space in Memorial Coliseum. As a result, UK men's basketball head coach Tubby Smith has often had to take his squad to practice in other gymnasiums at places such as Transylvania University and Lexington Catholic High School.

"Kentucky basketball wants to be the best," Smith said in a press conference Tuesday. "We've got the best tradition, the best fans, the most wins, and we deserve to have the best practice facility."

Nate Rice, a political science junior, said the Senate's decision didn't surprise him.

"It was going to come about, regardless of tuition hikes or project cuts," Rice said.

Whether or not the facility was inevitable, it's pretty clear what the Senate's done, said UK Board of Trustees member Michael Kennedy.

"My reaction is that some people in the Senate substituted their ideas for what our priorities ought to be with what they thought our priorities ought to be," said Kennedy, a geography professor.

"The university works really hard to figure out where they are being spent, what we need. For some members of the Senate to do this ...

"You can't even trust them to come up with a budget, obviously."

E-mail asichko@kykernel.com

Staff writer Troy Lyle contributed to this report.

Nash, Bishop seek input about SG

By Tricia McKenny
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Student Government presidential candidate Will Nash and his running mate, Michelle Bishop, continued their "Focus on You" campaign last night by holding an open forum for students.

Students were invited to ask questions, discuss concerns and contribute ideas to the Nash-Bishop campaign by meeting the candidates in the lobby of Patterson Hall.

"We realize that the lines of communication have not been great, and that is something we want to build upon," Bishop said.

About 40 students met the candi-

dates and asked about topics such as a restructured dead week and open accounting of student-fee-funded programs.

Nash said the University Senate has been looking into a new dead week plan and getting student ideas on it.

He said his campaign's plan calls for a dead week with classes on Monday and Tuesday and a day off on Wednesday, followed by exams from Thursday until the following Wednesday with a study break over the weekend.

Becky Ellingsworth, another SG presidential candidate, has also expressed a desire for a new university policy on dead week.

"We hope it allows time for students to prepare for all of their exams and do well," Nash said.

He also said he hopes to ensure university-wide financial accountability.

"All fees go to fund student programs — the problem is, we don't know how they spend it," he said.

"We need to inform students how the money they pay is being spent."

Nash and Bishop said the forum was a good way to communicate and get student opinions and are planning another one on South Campus.

"If elected, we want this line of communication with any student in the SG offices," Bishop said.

E-mail tmckenny@kykernel.com

SMS announces tomorrow about Nietzel's presidential candidacy

By Adam Sichko
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

UK Provost Mike Nietzel's bid to become president at Southwest Missouri State University was decided yesterday — but the voting committee is mum on who it chose.

The eight members of the SMS Board of Governors — the equivalent of UK's Board of Trustees — met at noon Central time yesterday to vote on whom it would select as its next president. Nietzel competed against John Sellars, a vice president at Syracuse University, and David Belcher, provost at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

Current SMS President John Keiser is retiring in June.

Kelli Wolf, the student representative to the Board of Governors, said the

meeting went well — as did the national search, which began in September 2004.

"So many universities would hire a head-hunter for something like this, but we decided to do this ourselves," Wolf said.

The board meeting was closed to the public, and the group has planned a formal announcement for tomorrow morning.

"There was consensus," Wolf said of the seven-vote count. Wolf, the eighth member of the board, is a non-voting member.

"Everyone's very excited about our future and our candidate," she said.

Wolf declined to comment on whom the board picked as the president, or if the vote was unanimous.

Phone calls to the seven other board members were not returned yesterday.


The presidential search committee announced its three finalists in January, and Nietzel took his official visit to SMS in mid-February.

Chris Curtis, a member of the search committee, said Nietzel was unanimously supported on the search committee as a finalist.

"If elected, we want this line of communication with any student in the SG offices," Bishop said.

E-mail asichko@kykernel.com

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Recycle me please

Cats ready for another shot at Auburn

By Steve Ivey
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Conference tournaments are all about second chances.

And the UK women's basketball team has largely been able to capitalize on those second chances in recent years in the Southeastern Conference tourney.

UK (15-14, 4-10 SEC) won more games than it lost this year for the first time since 1999-2000. But the Cats have won three of their past six first-round tournament games, despite a .424 regular-season winning percentage during that same span.

"To me, it's just like a clean slate," said freshman center Sara Elliott. "Everybody is entering the tournament, and all we can do is go out there and play our best. That's what we expect to do."

UK enters this year's tournament today after snapping a six-game losing streak against Arkansas to wrap up the regular season Sunday. The 10th-seeded Cats will face seventh-seeded Auburn (15-12, 6-8 SEC) at 3:15 p.m. at the Bi-Lo Center in Greenville, S.C.

A loss to the Tigers came amid that six-game losing streak at Auburn Feb. 13. Head coach Mickie DeMoss said her team will have to remain focused for 40 minutes to continue their tournament success.

"I thought we guarded them well in the first half down there, but we got a little discouraged because our shots weren't falling," she said. "I thought the second half, we broke down a lot with the penetration well. That just really got us in a bind."

Senior forward Sara Potts leads the Cats in scoring. Potts said she is focusing more on another chance to beat Auburn, rather than on her waning days with UK.

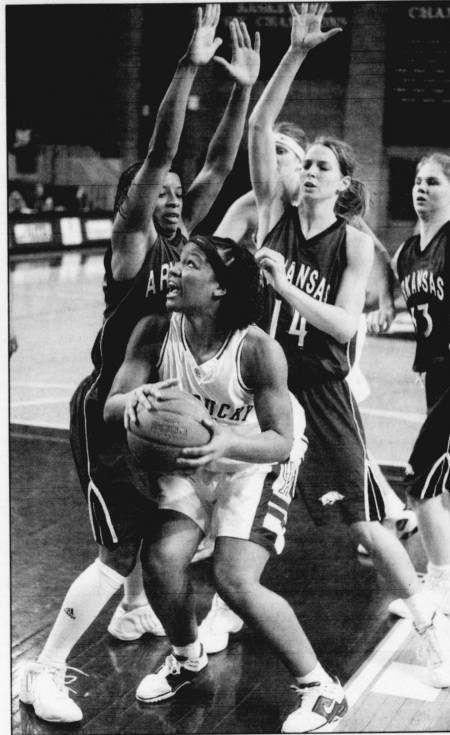
"I think that everyone on this team wants to play Auburn and just get revenge," Potts said.

(Freshman guard Angela) Phillips and I were talking about that as soon as we found out we were playing Auburn. We know that we did not play up to our potential, and we know that (Auburn), if we play as good as we know we can, can be beaten."

Elliott joins two other freshman — forward Chante Bowman and guard Samantha Mahoney — to complement Potts and Phillips in the starting lineup. Elliott said UK's upperclassmen have urged her to stay strong in her post play.

"It's always going to be physical in the post," Elliott said. "Keep working hard. You don't want to be a rag doll out there, because then you don't do much."

DeMoss said the familiarity Auburn



JONATHAN PALMER | STAFF

UK freshman guard Samantha Mahoney works for a shot in the Cats' 73-67 win over Arkansas. Mahoney led UK in scoring in Southeastern Conference play with 12.5 points per game.

gained from a previous meeting with the Cats may not turn out to be an advantage, given UK's youth.

"We have so many new players this year. I don't think it really gives (Auburn head coach Nell Fortner) an advantage, because we still have to go out there and play," DeMoss said. "She's

still got to stop us. She may know what we like to do, but knowing it and stopping it are two different things."

The winner of today's game will face No. 2 Tennessee (23-4, 13-1 SEC) at 3:15 p.m. Friday.

Email
sivey@kykernel.com



UK Today, 3:15 p.m.
TV: FSN
RADIO: 1300 AM

Series Record: Auburn leads, 21-9

Kentucky Wildcats (15-14)

Probable Starters	PPG	RPG
F Sara Potts	13.7	5.3
F Chante Bowman	4.9	3.8
C Sarah Elliott	10.7	5.2
G Angela Phillips	4.7	3.5*
G Samantha Mahoney	10.6	3.3

Auburn Tigers (15-12)

Probable Starters	PPG	RPG
F Louise Ernsage	12.2	6.5
F Alexis Digblin	4.8	3.9
C Marla Payne	8.8	8.2
G Nicole Loudon	10.0	4.6
G Natascha Brackett	17.1	4.4

* Denotes assists per game

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Cats

Continued from page 1

game," he said. "I wanted to give my arm for my family. And I paid for it with those two early fouls."

But — just like always — he made everybody happy in the end. After Hayes' dunk was replayed on the Rupp Arena video screens, his father Charles lowered back into his front row seat with a big smile.

"Big time," were the only words out of his mouth.

That's exactly what his son was in the final five minutes. Hayes scored all of his 13 points in the second half and had seven of UK's points in the late 12:40 run that put the Volunteers (12-16, 5-10 SEC) away.

After four years of watch-

ing Hayes from the sidelines, UK head coach Tubby Smith was not surprised by his senior leader's clutch play.

"Chuck is the type of player and person who's going to reach down and try to do more," Smith said. "That's just his mentality."

"He made the plays down the stretch when we needed clutch scoring. We kept going to him, and he kept delivering."

Fellow senior Josh Carrier — who ended his last home game with a career-high nine points on three 3-pointers — said it was the same type of performance he's been watching since he came to UK.

"He kind of took the game over," Carrier said. "He would take night to get here. He definitely sets the tone for us."

And Tennessee head coach Buzz Peterson — delighted he was facing Hayes

for the final time — applauded the UK senior for single-handedly turning the game around.

"He's got that warrior mentality and he wants the basketball in crucial situations," Peterson said. "When it got down to the end he wanted the basketball and that's what you want from your seniors. He's a tremendous leader for the young players on that team."

While everyone gushed over Hayes, the UK senior sat in a chair in the Rupp Arena media room for the final time, playing with the Live Blue bracelet on his left hand and trying to find the words to describe the occasion.

"I knew this day was coming but I thought it would take forever to get here," he said. "And now it's here. So what do I do now?"

E-mail

broberts@kykernel.com

Tennessee (61)

NAME	pts	reb	ast	blk	stl	ft	3pt
Crump	26	3	0	0	1	4	6
Lofgren	17	11	3	0	2	2	1
Patterson	29	5	7	0	0	1	4
Brinkman	27	12	0	0	0	0	1
Watson	36	2	1	5	2	7	0
Carroll	19	3	0	0	0	0	3
Aspinio	15	3	0	0	0	0	1
Henrich	17	1	0	0	0	1	2
TEAM	200	25	40	8	23	34	15

Kentucky (73)

NAME	pts	reb	ast	blk	stl	ft	3pt
Hayes	22	5	0	0	3	2	4
Sparks	22	5	0	0	0	0	1
Carrier	19	3	0	0	0	0	3
Sparks	28	5	1	4	0	0	4
Moss	10	1	2	1	0	0	0
Perry	9	0	0	0	0	0	2
Allen	10	2	0	0	0	0	1
Bradley	12	0	0	0	0	0	3
Stockton	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lafayette	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEAM	200	28	41	8	20	29	14

Field goal shooting: UK 55.3, UT 41.4. Free throw shooting: UK 68.4, UT 75.0. Technical fouls: Freshmen: UK 17, Kentucky 3, Sparks 3, Aszobake 3, UT 21 (Crump 5, Watson 5). Blocked shots: UK 4, Morris 2, UT 3 (Hendrix 2). Officials: Gerald Brantner, Tony Greene, Mike Stuard. Attendance: 24,205.

Records: UK 23 (14-1), UT 12 (6-10-10)

Carrier

Continued from page 1

had seen more games from the bench than from the floor.

But he knew how to make an exit. "It's been an up-and-down, roller-coaster ride," Carrier said. "But it's been a good ride."

As a Kentucky boy playing in his final home game, Carrier wrote his own perfect ending.

These past four years may not have been all that boy had dreamed about in his backyard, but last night was more than he could have hoped for.

High court mulls religious displays

By Gail Gibson

THE BALTIMORE SUN

WASHINGTON — Seated, as always, below an ornate marble frieze depicting Moses holding a Ten Commandments tablet, the Supreme Court wrestled Wednesday with the emotional and increasingly political issue of when — and how — displays of the biblical laws should be permitted on government property.

Hearing arguments in two cases involving Ten Commandment postings on the state Capitol grounds in Texas and in county courthouses in Kentucky, the justices struggled with the divisive question of whether those displays and hundreds like them across the country amount to harnessing historical items or an unconstitutional endorsement of religion.

In 1980, the court struck down a law requiring the Ten Commandments to be posted in all classrooms in Kentucky.

But its broader history on religion and public life has been more complex, with the court allowing legislative prayer and, in some instances, city-backed Nativity scenes but banning as "unduly coercive" benedictions at public school graduations.

"It's so hard to draw that line," Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, a closely watched swing vote on religion issues, said from the bench Wednesday. "If a legislature can open its session, with the public present, with a prayer, you say it cannot — in the same building — post the Ten Commandments?"

Others on the court plainly were reluctant to force the removal of plaques and monuments in city halls and county courthouses.

Justice Antonin Scalia questioned whether opponents of Ten Commandment displays would also fight holiday proclamations that invoke God. Justice Anthony M. Kennedy called the issue "a classic avert-your-eyes."

"If an atheist walks by, he can avert his eyes and think about something else," Kennedy said.

A key question for the court is whether to fashion a broad rule on Ten Commandment displays or create a case-by-case test that draws on questions about the context of such postings, their purpose and effect.

Within its courtroom, the ceiling-height marble frieze showing Moses with the Ten Commandments is part of an elaborate carving showing other prominent "lawgivers of history."

Health

Continued from page 1

creasing number of students at the university.

"Last year, we saw about 56,000 patients," Moore said. "The student body is growing, and we need to be able to accommodate more students."

The Kentucky House of Representatives approved the \$24 million bonding authority that would be used to build the new facility, but senators took that funding out of their budget plans.

Moore said a conference committee needs to be formed between the House and Senate to discuss what will be done with the budget. In the meantime, the university is still pushing for a new student health center, he said.

If the bonding is not provided to the university, Moore said he will ask the administration if there is any way to shift funds so that at least the designing stage can start.

Karpf said that if funding is not provided, "We will try again next year."

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IN OUR OPINION

Practice facility funding out of bounds

Who knows what's best for UK? According to Gov. Ernie Fletcher, it's not any UK administrator.

The governor recommended Monday night that the Senate appropriate \$15 million for a men's basketball practice facility — a building not even on UK's priority list. In the same session where the governor has ignored UK's top needs, this project went from zero to millions.

The Chandler Medical Center's proposed patient-care facility — which will add 1,300 additional jobs and 240 more beds for patients — was cut by more than half, from \$250 million in the proposed House of Representatives' budget to \$100 million in the proposed Senate budget. Funding for a biopharmaceutical complex shrank from \$40 million to \$32 million from the House to the Senate budget, respectively.

A new University Health Services building and Keeneland Hall renovations were omitted altogether.

But while the biopharmaceutical project would be funded with state bonds, the medical center expansion and health services building would be funded by agency bonds. Agency bonds are bonds issued to and repaid by UK — not the state.

As we pointed out in yesterday's editorial, the state (unfortunately) has to give the nod for UK to spend its own money. The bonds used to build the patient-care facility

center and the health services building would be repaid by the hospital and student health fees, respectively.

But President Lee Todd said UK has no financing plan for the practice facility, which would also have to be funded with bonds issued to UK — not the state.

"It's not clear how we could fund that with bonding right now," Todd said. "Typically, when you bond a project you have to have a revenue stream that you use to pay for it."

Obviously, the governor cares more about the comfort of and revenue made by the Comeback Cats than he does about the health of Kentuckians or the education of the state's youth.

Fletcher suggested the facility after noticing the House had approved two similar projects for the University of Louisville, the Lexington Herald-Leader reported.

"He saw the projects for UofL and wanted to do the same for UK," Fletcher spokesman Doug Hogan told the Herald-Leader.

Steve Branscum, a trustee appointed by Fletcher last year, has talked to politicians

about the need for the facility, he told the Herald-Leader.

"When people think of Kentucky, they think of two things: UK basketball and our horse industry," he said.

Branscum sits on the basketball facility steering committee. He also manages a construction company that in the past has received another of UK's lucrative sports facility contracts — the 1999 expansion and renovation of Commonwealth Stadium. We hope Branscum's priorities, as a trustee, are UK's and not his.

While the men's basketball team has to compete with three other UK teams for space and time in Memorial Coliseum, tough financial times warrant tough decisions by prioritizing.

They also warrant sound decisions by state legislators. This week, members of both the House and the Senate are supposed to meet behind closed doors to discuss the budget. We urge them to side with research and health, not sports.

Thanks for the gesture, but this will do more harm than good if it takes funding away from more important projects. And if

Fletcher is going to play the granted-by-comparison game, let's play it with the state and UK's other favorite opponents: the benchmarks.

UK's pharmacy school is No. 3 in the nation but has outgrown its facility on Rose Street. UK ranks last among its 19 other benchmarks in the amount of square feet in its student health facility per enrolled student.

Don't stand by the 1997 bill urging UK to be "top-20 by 2020" if you are going to come back eight years later and slash funds for research buildings, frivolously spending on a new gym.

Todd has made UK's priorities very clear from the onset. We need a new patient-care facility, bio-pharmaceutical facility, student health facility and animal diagnostic center.

We do not immediately need a basketball practice facility.

The fact that a member of the Board of Trustees — a group of people probably more aware of UK's needs than any other — would go above Todd's head and lobby for this facility is also troubling.

This action shows money is available to fund expanding this campus — put it where it's needed most.

What does a slap in face of education sound like?

A chorus of yeas in favor of putting \$15 million toward this practice facility.

State officials must not forsake important educational projects in order to fund an athletic practice facility.

Top-20 research approach ignores important projects

In the far future, when global warming has transformed the Rockies into primo beachfront property, and apes have finally enslaved humanity after years of bloody conflict, UK will hopefully consider itself a top-20 public university.

Although matters concerning quality of education at a southern college will be of little importance when compared to other, more pressing problems facing mankind at this juncture (Soylent Green is people!), I thought it would be prudent to offer my own suggestions on this topic while there is still time.

At present, the current list of goals laid forth by the Board of Brahmims is hardly adequate to ensure UK's manifest destiny, and it showcases a dangerous rationality that excludes the oft-neglected thinking outside the box.

Sure, there is much talk of attracting distinguished faculty and providing more challenging academics, but nowhere in this grand litany could I find any mention of a bowling alley. And I think we all know how important and how totally, absolutely sweet a student/faculty campus bowling alley would be. "Dude," says future UK student A, "I'm going to be late for my new and improved top-20 physics class."

"But dude," replies future UK student B. "Bowling is physics."

Equally disappointing is the apparent lack of emphasis on keeping the university safe from the impoverished; if there's one thing I've learned about education in this nation, it is, without a doubt, not for dirty poor people.

Just glancing at the average costs of attendance of nearly every major public university should speak volumes of this truth: By keeping costs high, good universities can only admit either a) rich students, or b) filthy rich students, thereby preserving the inherent richness of knowledge.

And it seems as if this egregious top-20 plan has chosen to ignore the one good and honorable thing this school has got going for it: UK basketball.

You don't see Ashley Judd attending your calculus lecture, do you? No, you don't, because an ESPN camera crew doesn't have a reason to be there, so neither does Ashley Judd. I urgently implore the trustees to increase tuition by another 10 percent for the sole purpose of creating a Basketball Studies program (sponsored by Sprite); the student body must heighten its appreciation of men lobbing inflated rubber balls into elevated baskets if UK is to ascend with dignity and grace.

And while we're on the topic of basketball, I'd like to suggest renaming the "Kentucky Wildcats" to the better-apri "Kentucky Fat Cats." This new name would better reflect the current goings-on within the gubernatorial and Senate levels of state administration, as well as allow for the design of a terrific top hat to be worn by the new mascot, Mr. Ernie the Fat Cat.

On this note, I'd like to commend the university for the proposed 14.5 percent tuition hike: it's good to see the hammer come down on the middle class for a change.

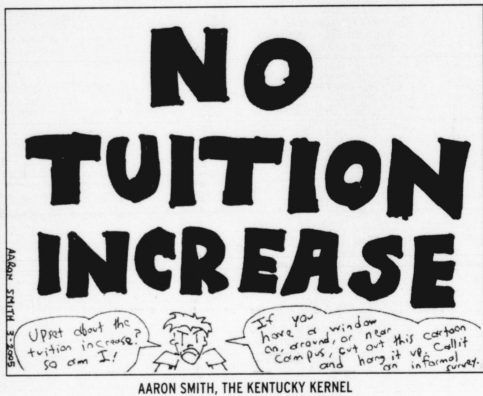
Despite its shortcomings, the top-20 plan does include initiatives aimed at forging a state-of-the-art research facility in conjunction with an increased focus on the scholarly applications thereof. Yet what good is such a facility if the only things to be studied are the likes of "science" and "medicine"? In order to be truly distinguished, UK research must focus its future might on areas as yet untouched by conventional (e.g. boring) research and development.

It seems clear to me that, for UK to become the top-20 research university it covets, it must seriously develop and construct a working, fully functional Millennium Falcon. The endorsement rights with Lucasfilm alone are totally worth it, let alone the ability for President Lee Todd to stake the enviable claim at dinner with other university presidents, "Oh, you mean the Millennium Falcon. Yeah, (nonchalantly) we got us one of those."

Alas, it is with little hope that my appeals will catch the attention of those responsible for leading UK into academic lebensraum; after all, I am just a lowly student forking over innumerable government-loaned dollars to achieve higher education, and I doubt that my opinion can mean very much.

In which case, I consider all of you damn, dirty apes.

Jonathan Meador is a journalism junior. His column appears every Thursday. E-mail jmeador@kykernel.com.



AARON SMITH, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

'Porn Nation' exposed too much

Pornography! This column contains pornography.

Ha, ha. No, I'm just kidding. It got your attention, though, didn't it?

Ah, the thankless, meandering existence of being someone with an important message. Often people don't listen, or they assume certain things about you or your viewpoint that you have to overcome.

And then you feel you either have to speak louder, or do radical things to get people's attention.

It works, sometimes. But in some situations it doesn't.

Like, what if you were giving a speech about anger management. Would you yell at the audience?

Or would you pass out beer bottles at Alcoholics Anonymous to remind people how dangerous it is to be addicted to liquor?

That would defeat the whole point.

But it was very similar to what happened during the "Porn Nation" presentation given by recovering porn addict Michael Leahy at Memorial Hall on Tuesday evening.

When I told people I was going to see that, I got this one joke at least three times.

"What are they going to do?" my brother smirked. "Give out samples?"

"What are they doing?" my mom asked. "Giving out samples?"

Well, they gave out samples. Leahy had a great message, one that most people haven't heard — about how pornography and suggestive imagery are desensitizing our generation to its effects on how men view women and how women believe they must act or dress, in order to attract men.

Because men and women are different. Most men respond to women primarily because of what they see. And women, based on words or ac-

tions. But along with that wonderful, truthful message about the dangers of pornography, came the samples, in the form of large-screen video — Janet Jackson, Britney Spears, shaking female extras from MTV, excerpts from commercials and reality shows. Then, samples of actual porn, with only square centimeters airbrushed or blurred out. Screen shots from porn sites. Photos from Playboy Samples.

I hadn't gone to see samples. Somehow I didn't think that if they were going to talk about how porn negatively affects people, they'd be passing it out to remind you of the definition.

The Kernel reported that someone at the presentation compared pornography to the One Ring, forged by the dark Lord Sauron in the Lord of the Rings trilogy. That ring is inherently evil. It corrupts whoever wears it to the point of obsession, slowly altering his personality and the way he acts around others.

So why pass around the One Ring in an effort to remind people how disgusting it is?

I know. It wasn't like I had never seen stuff like what they showed. Watch any TV station, any commercial, and anyone will see the influence of porn and sex-sells advertising. No one can fully escape that and attempting so would be ridiculous — you'd have to turn into a legalistic, hyper-religious, cave-dwelling hermit.

But in a presentation seeking to inform about our sex-saturated society, those samples were unnecessary.

Like everyone else, I walked in there with a clear definition of what pornography is: visual, audible, written material, intended to result in sexually motivated interest. And if you haven't been living in Saudi Arabia for the past two decades, by this point I'd venture everyone has seen porn, or elements thereof.

In comparison to the really hardcore stuff, I'm sure the Porn Nation videos barely covered — pun unintended — what's really out there. The scary thing is that I know this

wasn't the worst of the worst.

So why does this bother me?

Because seeing more and more of that imagery spoils the surprise. It's not from a self-righteous desire to hammer standards onto people from some lofty position. Some people have done that, and it's disgusting. But also because the very concept of such imagery reduces the values of men and women to mere objects. Not created human beings with hearts, minds, dreams, beliefs, emotions. Instead, they're things to get and use — bodies off an assembly line.

Many of us don't want that mentality in our heads. Even hints of it.

I know it sounds archaic. Today it's becoming almost impossible to believe that. I know you're probably laughing.

But it's true. We simply don't want to think of women that way, even a little. Because we're aware of the slippery slope — even the slightest danger of letting that stuff affect our thinking and our perspectives of women.

I contend that most males can't avoid such imagery. If you claim that, you're probably lying. Or you're somehow endowed with extreme powers of self-will — and I realize some people are like that.

More power to them.

And more power to the guys doing Porn Nation and doing their best to get the message out, even using the methods they feel are best to communicate to the college audience. Yes, sometimes you have to do something radical. Sometimes you have to yell and get attention that way.

But maybe the nation's sex-saturated culture has already done enough to speak for itself.

I'm not the only one who went in there that night already aware of the problem. Let's talk more about the solutions.

And that's all I have to say about that.

Stephen Burnett is a journalism senior. His column appears every Thursday. E-mail sburnett@kykernel.com.

Stephen Burnett is a journalism senior. His column appears every Thursday. E-mail sburnett@kykernel.com.



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FLY ON THE WALL | Feelin' the buzz

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Business suits and briefcases are inheriting a popular dining spot once known for the sounds of Bob Marley and the food of herbivore hippies.



Elizabeth Troutman
KERNEL COLUMNIST

The good news is that Alfalfa is still hippie at heart—and students are always welcome. The restaurant is continuing innovative eating in the genre of healthy, vegetarian-friendly foods.

Perhaps Alfalfa was following the traditional American pattern of life by graduating from its early college-town reputation and putting on its business attire for a job in the heart of downtown Lexington last summer.

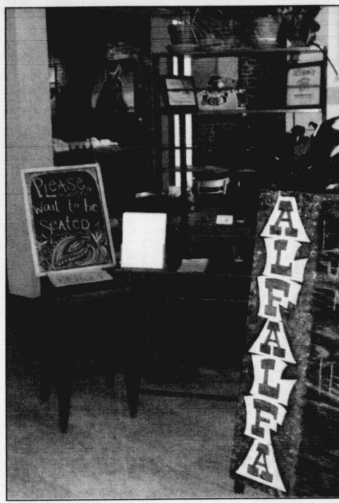
The good news is that Alfalfa is still hippie at heart—and students are always welcome. The restaurant is continuing innovative eating in the genre of healthy, vegetarian-friendly foods.

Unmatched tastes and surprising combinations are what distinguishes Alfalfa foods from an ordinary meal at a downtown venue. The menu incorporates several traditional ideas that are flourished with a twist of molasses or a swipe of avocado. Brave customers may try an intricate vegetarian dish that challenges their taste buds to adapt to unfamiliar sensations.

Dinner options include the popular Avocado Grill, which poses as a grilled cheese sandwich but is loaded with hummus, avocado, tomatoes and cheddar cheese. Staff members agree that the Alfalfa version of Red Beans is a favorite among all customers. The unique dish adds thyme and molasses to spice up the taste.

At lunch yesterday I ventured into the Alfalfa menu to try something risky. Adventurous eaters will find Alfalfa provides several meals that diversify the food lover's anthology.

The Indonesian Tofu Pita is a stacked pita with lumps of



ROBIN BAKER | STAFF

Despite a change of venue, Alfalfa still maintains its earthy charm and vegetarian fare.

marinated tofu, carrots, spinach and sprouts drenched in an Asian peanut sauce. The portion was just enough to leave enough room for a piece of raspberry chocolate mousse cheesecake after lunch. The homemade desserts rival any other sweets provider in town.

Obviously, I recommend both items.

General manager Vanessa Oliver has been with Alfalfa since 1994. She has seen the restaurant atmosphere emerge into a clean, open and business-friendly eatery. She said Alfalfa still maintains its old flavor.

"We tried to bring elements from the old place but bring you into the new millennium," she said. "The rugged look of the old South Limestone location is replaced with a shiny new front window, organized shelves, an open bar and colorful art to contrast with the neutral wall tones. The restaurant now boasts tile floors instead of carpet and high ceilings to give customers a comfortable, spacious feeling."

Oliver said she would like to see the student community return to Alfalfa.

"We miss students," she said. "It totally changes the dynamic. Everyone is now 30 and wearing a tie."

Alfalfa also offers brunch options including breakfast burritos, pancakes and omelets.

International night offers a variety of specials, and live music is played Friday and Saturday nights. Prices stay under \$10.

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Johnson's new album is a day at the beach

By Steve Lopez
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Warm summer breezes, the smell of saltwater and the crash of waves along the coast all come to mind when you listen to one of Jack Johnson's albums. The simple and relaxed attitude of *Brushfire Fairytales* (2001), *On and On* (2003) and the new *In Between Dreams* echoes Johnson's past as a professional surfer, which Johnson's fans have come to love.

Johnson doesn't stray far from the formula that brought him success and a loyal fan base with his first

two albums. *In Between Dreams* has a steady mix of the smooth acoustic surf, inspired sounds one would come to expect from Johnson as well as songs that attack big business and war. In "Crying Shame," Johnson challenges war. "By now we should know / How to communicate instead of coming to blows." While Johnson gets serious on songs like "Staple it Together," "Crying Shame" and "If I Could," the album's tone is much more relaxed than grave.

Johnson experiments with new sounds on his song "Staple it Together," which

takes a blues and jazz tone. He further experiments with something completely new for him on "Belle," which has a distinctly French sound.

Through Johnson's tackling of controversial subjects and experimentation with new sounds, *In Between Dreams* flows smoothly together. This album will instantly put its listeners in a relaxed mood as the mist from an ocean breeze meets their ears with the soothing tones Johnson delivers with every line and note.

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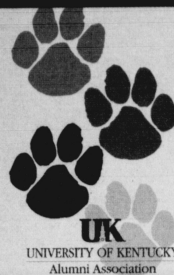
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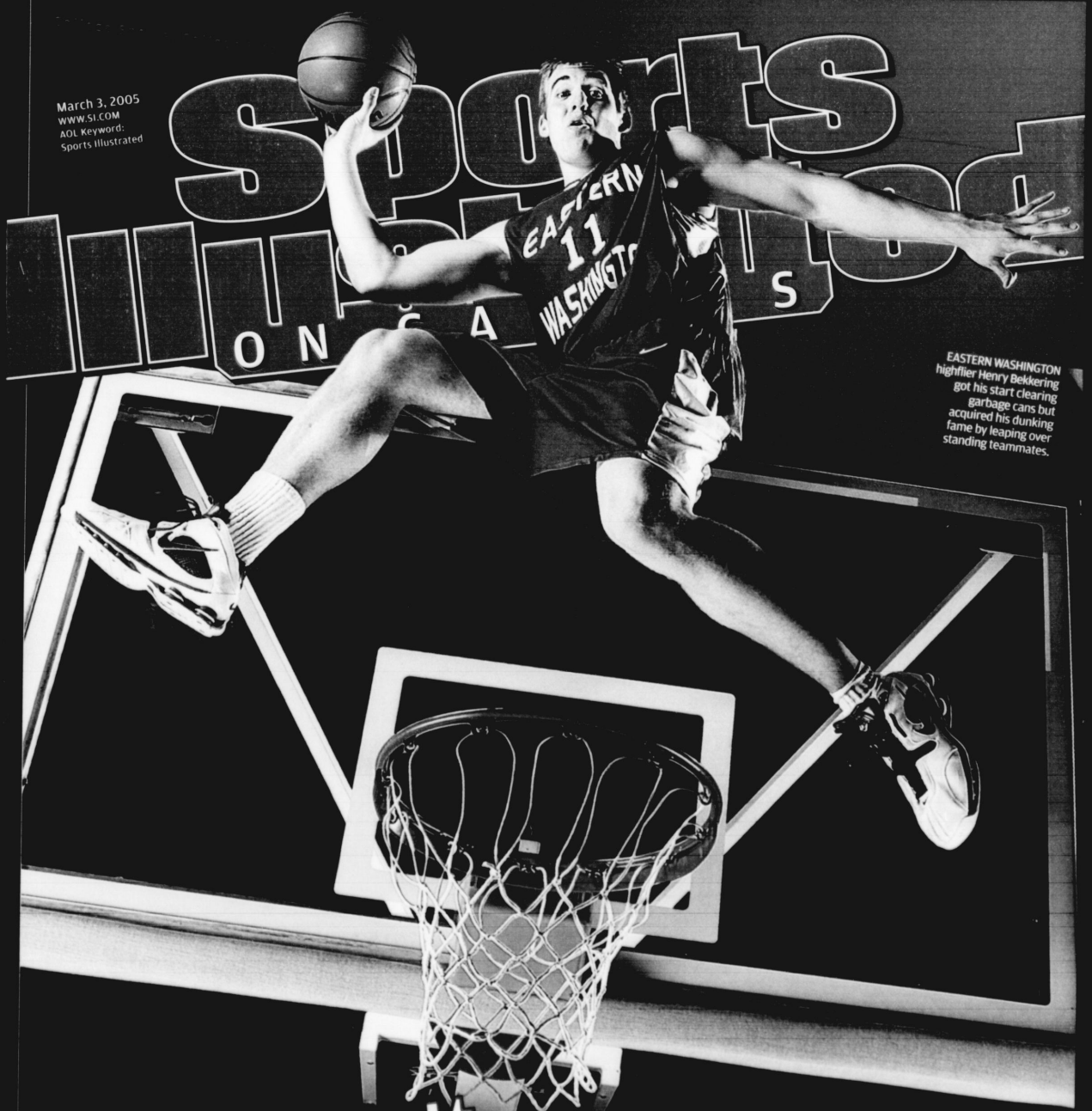
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EASTERN WASHINGTON
highflier Henry Bekkering
got his start clearing
garbage cans but
acquired his dunking
fame by leaping over
standing teammates.

How Does It **FEEL**

To Be a White Guy Who Jump?

TO BE A RECRUITING KINGMAKER?
TO BE STEREOTYPED ON THE BIG SCREEN?
TO BLOW A CRUCIAL KICK ON NATIONAL TV?
... AND MORE P.14

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A COWBOY

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WORK BETTER

IAN ADAMSON
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The First Word on the Big Names and Games

the A list

by ADAM DUERSON

THIS WEEK SIOC

asks, "How does it feel?" and The A List isn't one to be left out. How does it feel to crash and burn at the NFL combine? (Mo Claret: "Rough.") How does it feel to win 700 games? (Jim Boeheim: "A huge relief.") How does it feel to face possible assault charges for throwing elbows in a game, as Valley City State's Matt Klabo does? (Best guess: not good.)

60 SECONDS WITH

VERMONT STAR FORWARD TAYLOR COPPENRATH

ILLINOIS IN THE FIRST ROUND: Why not? We'll take whoever pops up in that spot. **COLLEGE GUYS YOU'D LIKE TO PLAY WITH:** [Utah's Andrew] Bogut, [Kansas's J.R.] Giddens, [Kansas's Wayne] Simien or anybody from Kentucky. [UNC's Raymond] Felton would be great to watch, and hopefully I would get the ball once in a while.

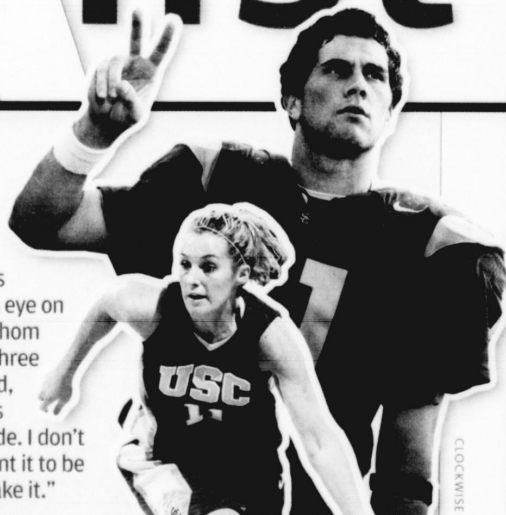
VERMONT POWDER: My high school coach said, "If you ski and I find out, you won't be playing." So I stopped then, and I haven't done it since.

PHISH REUNION? If that's something they want to do, then more power to 'em.



Did You Hear...?

USC QB Matt Leinart has been spotted at plenty of Trojans women's hoops games, and it's not because he's impressed by the team's best season in eight years. He has his eye on 'SC leading scorer Brynn Cameron, whom he's quietly been seeing for close to three months. "He wears a hat and his hood, but most people recognize him," says Cameron, a freshman. "He tries to hide. I don't care that people know, but I don't want it to be a big deal like everyone's going to make it."



Washington fans can pretty much wave buh-bye to Nate Robinson. After withdrawing from the 2004 draft at the 11th hour last June, the Huskies' All-Pac-10 point man is likely NBA-bound this year—and his mama's doing nothing to hide it. During a Feb. 13 loss at Oregon State, UW fans called for "One more year!" Replied Nate's mom, Renee Busch: "This is one more year."

Two Oregon State football players were arrested on Feb. 18 after a Corvallis taxi driver accused the pair of trying to pay their fare with food and, later, "a sandwich bag full of pot." The driver alleges that RB Jimtavis Walker threw a burger at him and long snapper Star Paddock slammed the car door on his knee. Both were charged with robbery, assault and attempted delivery of a controlled substance.

After Minnesota men's hoops coach Dan Monson called for students to wear gold to games, he realized he had no gold in his own wardrobe. So before the Gophers' Feb. 5 game against Wisconsin, he dialed real estate giant Century 21 and donned one of the company's goldish blazers . . . with the emblem still attached. After the Gophers upset the Badgers, Monson said, "I wanted to make sure the kids had a smile on their faces before the game." Smiling at you, Dan. Not with you.

UPDATE: Last Thursday, Lucky Iromuanya, 23, a onetime student at a Lincoln, Neb., business school, was sentenced to life in prison without parole for the murder of Nebraska soccer player Jenna Cooper (SIOC, Sept. 23, 2004).



thefacebook.com

OKLAHOMA ALL-AMERICA RECEIVER MARK CLAYTON (left) isn't all that tough.

He digs cooking and sewing. Take heart, Mark. BC star forward Jared Dudley loves shopping and fashion. **FORMER SOUTH CAROLINA FOOTBALL COACH LOU HOLTZ**, who retired after the '04 season, isn't getting a hero's farewell. Long snapper Scott Morgan and reserve quarterback Mike Rathe are members of the "I'm Not Going to Miss Lou Holtz One Bit" club, along with 13 other non-footballing Gamecocks students. **CAMILLE LEFFALL, A CAL SENIOR MIDDLE HITTER**, slobbers over 6' 6" Serbian ex-crew men.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ROBERT BECK; KYLE TERADA/STANFORD ATHLETICS; BILL FRANKS; TONY GUTIERREZ/AP; DAVID E. KLUTHO

campus INSIDER



Niners will select Rodgers, says SI's King.

from the
PAGES OF **SI**

IN THIS WEEK'S SI, the mag's gurus make the case for the most rootable players in college hoops.

Dee Brown, Illinois '06: "May not be the Fighting Illini's most complete player or their leading scorer, but no player in the nation gives us more 'holy s---' moments."

Jose Juan Barea, Northeastern '06: "Ball comes out of his hand with the quickest accurate release in the game."

Derek Raivio, Gonzaga '07: "Not only does he have eye-popping numbers, but he's been fearless against the nation's elite."

WITH SEVEN WEEKS LEFT until the NFL draft, here's the vibe SI's Peter King was feeling at last week's pro football combine:

The 49ers will exhaust all trade-down possibilities and take Cal QB Aaron Rodgers.



Michigan WR Braylon Edwards won't go lower than No. 4. "He's probably the best player in the draft," says Niners coach Mike Nolan.

Imagine, three years ago, **Maurice Clarett (left)** someday being a sixth-round pick. That's his upside now.

WHICH KENTUCKY, ASU and Buffalo hoopsters fill SI's roster of faves? Which SEC back is racing up draft boards? Find out in **SPORTS ILLUSTRATED** or at si.com/exclusive.

and ONLINE @ **SI.com**

WITH NCAA TOURNAMENT POOL SEASON 10 days away, SI.com's Seth Davis brings the bracket buzz. Three of his March hoop thoughts:

The hottest team headed into the NCAAAs? Iowa State. In Curtis Stinson (right) and Will Blalock the Cyclones have two guards who can score and create for teammates. (Think Ohio State's Scoonie Penn and Michael Redd in 1999.)

Team that helped itself most during Bracket Buster week? Tempted to say UW-Milwaukee, but Nevada's win over Vermont did more to shore up its hopes.

Mid-major that a high seed really wants to avoid? Clearly Southern Illinois. I hope you've checked out the Salukis' Darren Brooks. He's an old-school gem.

MORE POOL DISH? Which team outside the top 25 has the best chance to reach the Final Four? (Think ACC.) Which Big East team is most likely to play its way out of an NCAA bid? Davis has the answers at si.com/basketball/ncaa.



Sports Illustrated
ON CAMPUS

MONEY PICKS

MARCH 3-9

March 3, 7 p.m., ESPN2 The 49ers are a tough nut to crack in a conference full of tough nuts to crack. (Do I hear five C-USA bids to the Dance?) Pitino's Cards are the toughest of 'em all. **SIOC says: Louisville**

March 5, 4 p.m., CBS What a waste. Hakim Warrick stuck around for this? Oh, and something to keep in mind for the NCAAAs: The Orange doesn't want anyone other than Gerry McNamara shooting a foul shot in crunch time. **SIOC says: Connecticut**

March 5, 6 p.m., ESPN Big 12-wise, only Kansas has looked worse than Bob Knight's boys lately. (Suddenly the Red Raiders' double-OT thriller over the Jayhawks on Feb. 14 isn't looking so earth-shaking). Tech's got nobody to battle "Big" Kevin Bookout on the boards. **SIOC says: Oklahoma**



Kansas's Wayne Simien

March 6, 2 p.m., CBS The 'Hawks can't really be this bad... can they? **SIOC says: Kansas**

March 6, 4 p.m. CBS Go back and watch UNC's last possession in its Feb. 9 loss at Cameron Indoor. The Tar Heels couldn't create anything against a buckle-down defense. **SIOC says: Duke**

ALL TIMES EASTERN

Lineup

PAGE 4 | the moment PAGE 9 | faces in the crowd
PAGE 7 | scorecard PAGE 14 | cover story
PAGE 8 | crossword PAGE 20 | the final

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: BRAD MANGIN; AL TIELEMANS; KARL STOLLEIS; JUS PRESSWIRE; TODD ROSENBERG



▶ moment

2.26.05 Mood lighting? An old-school hoops movie set? Nope. Just Kentucky and Alabama fighting for the SEC crown. Using one strobe instead of the usual four, the photographer darkened the foreground and background, thus giving the action on the court a retro feel. Oh, yeah. Rajon Rondo (4) and the Wildcats beat the Top 25 Tigers clinch their 49th SEC title. PHOTOGRAPH BY GREG NELSON

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Ana Beatriz

Edited by GENE MENEZ

scorecard

Opinions, Road Trip, The Crossword, Campus Buzz

> THE VIBE AT BOSTON COLLEGE AND PURDUE

March Madness, March Badness

EAGLES SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS

WAIT. PUT DOWN the clam chowdah. Is that someone camping out in front of Conte Forum? Are those students lined up four hours before the tip? This is still Chestnut Hill, right?

This is the vibe these days outside Conte Forum, home of the Eagles and the best story of the college basketball season. Through Sunday, BC was 23-2 and ranked No. 3 in the country, the highest poll position in team history—and dreaming, dare I say it, Final Four. Games at the Conte are the hottest ticket in town. Oh, what? You think the Celtics are a hotter draw? Puh-leeze.

Go and try to buy a ticket to an Eagles game. Maybe you'll get one on eBay for about \$150. Gone are the days of the Conte Morgue, where the arena was half full on a good night. In are the days of the Conte Crazies and their wicked smart signs: WELCOME TO THE SEAN WILLIAMS BLOCK PARTY, read one during a Feb. 19 win over Syracuse. Another asked, WHAT WOULD JARED DUDLEY DO?

Check out the front row at Conte these days. That's the CEO of the Red Sox, Larry Lucchino; BC's favorite son, Doug Flutie; and Patriots owner Bob Kraft. A bunch of Celtics have shown their faces—probably to see what a championship hoops team looks like. "It's beginning to feel like Fenway Park here with the noticeable buzz," Lucchino said in January.

Just keep the wins coming, and the fans will be there. Early.



Kevin Armstrong, a junior history major at BC, is sports editor of The Heights.

BOILERMAKERS HIT ROCK BOTTOM

WHAT HAS THE basketball season been like at Purdue? This may tell you: Students here in West Lafayette want to know when football season begins. You heard me right—*football* season.

It's March, a monthlong holiday of bracket-filling and buzzer-beaters for hoops-crazed schools. Once upon a time we were one of those schools. Not this year. The program that produced John Wooden has as many wins (seven) as the football team did last fall.

After Saturday's loss to Minnesota, the Boilermakers (7-18) matched the school record, set in 1953, for the most losses in a single season. "We're having a season of hell," coach Gene Keady (left) said after a double-OT loss to Indiana, eight losses ago. "It's like any way we can find a way to lose it, we find it."

How bad has it been? Against Baylor on Dec. 30, with the game tied and 3.8 seconds remaining, senior Brandon McKnight, thinking Purdue was still down by one, fouled Baylor's Aaron Bruce, who then sank a free throw and the Boilermakers.

In the Jan. 15 loss to the Hoosiers, junior forward Carl Landry missed a free throw that would've won the game in the first OT.

On Jan. 26, Purdue lost 73-68 to Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Not Wisconsin. Wisconsin-Milwaukee. It was the first time in 15 years the Boilermakers had fallen to a school with a hyphen in its name.

It wouldn't be so bad if it wasn't the final year for Keady, who is retiring after 25 seasons. Out of respect—or is it pity?—opposing schools have lavished retirement gifts upon him, from a golf club to golf vacations to a humidor. Alas, there haven't been many victory cigars for the coach this year.



John Jeanguenat, a junior management major at Purdue, is a senior writer for The Exponent.

FROM LEFT: STEVEN E. FRISCHLING/US PRESSWIRE; JOHN BIEVER

For a daily dose of lists, blogs and rumors, go to
SI.COM/SCORECARD

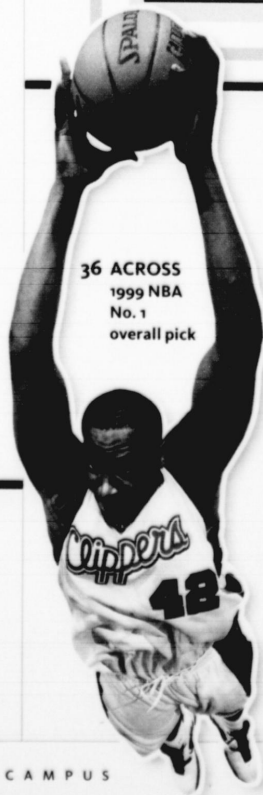
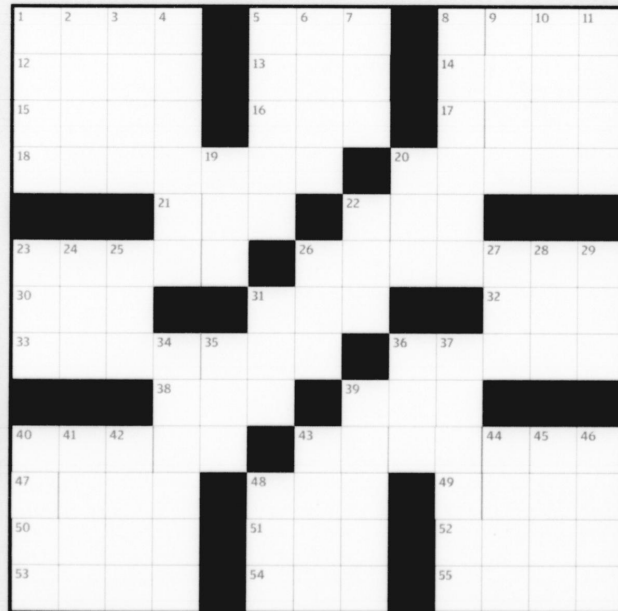
7

We're No. 1

by Bill Syken

A C R O S S

- 1 Goulash, e.g.
- 5 Dutch airline
- 8 Tantrums
- 12 Ronde's twin
- 13 **Rod and Todd's father >>**
- 14 Vegetable popular in South
- 15 Augusta National's ___ Corner
- 16 ___ *Enterprise*
- 17 Chew out
- 18 Club Meds, for example
- 20 Doesn't leave
- 21 Formerly
- 22 What?
- 23 Glossy tech mag
- 26 Hawkeyes football coach
- 30 Peyton's younger brother
- 31 Akron player
- 32 Number of NCAA hoops titles won by Arizona
- 33 New kind of journalist
- 38 Charged particle
- 39 Big boss
- 40 Dozed
- 43 Vans Warped Tour, e.g.
- 47 Classic Sipowicz insult
- 48 Hasselbeck married to *Survivor's* Elisabeth
- 49 In the ___
- 50 Peak
- 51 Keats product
- 52 Elizabeth Berkley's character in *Showgirls*
- 53 Ready to ___
- 54 Pedro Martinez, now
- 55 WSOP broadcaster



36 ACROSS
1999 NBA No. 1 overall pick

D O W N

- 1 Dressing room door decoration
- 2 *Newsweek* rival
- 3 Narrowly wins
- 4 First part of classic sports phrase
- 5 First name of 37-Down
- 6 Sometimes it's more

- 7 Docs
- 8 Second part of phrase
- 9 Catalog referenced in *Fight Club*
- 10 Cafeteria need
- 11 Where to get a deal on a gallon of ketchup
- 19 Illinois's Grange
- 20 South, in Madrid
- 22 ___ cat
- 23 Charlotte's ___
- 24 Sick
- 25 Early Demi Moore flick *Blame It on ___*
- 26 Kind of tree
- 27 One-named Israeli singer
- 28 Spike TV, once
- 29 He dies in *Pulp Fiction*
- 31 School of Buddhism
- 34 Third part of phrase
- 35 *Freddy ___ Fingered*
- 37 Speaker of phrase, former Notre Dame coach
- 39 Hale-Bopp was one
- 40 He said, "Hell is full of musical amateurs"
- 41 Time Inc. founder Henry ___
- 42 2003 stinker Alex & ___

- 43 Near triple-crown winner Funny ___
- 44 *The Dukes of Hazzard* deputy
- 45 Win in a ___
- 46 Torii Hunter is one
- 48 Pats' Mr. Brady



36 DOWN
QB drafted 10 spots after
« 30-Across

GPS	SOFT	DRAW
RAM	CLEO	APSE
APU	HATS	NIKE
DITTO	THUG	
ROB	SETH	
SCHILL	HORROR	
SLAP	ITTO	FARE
PALL	MOB	INDY
ASLEEP	OBESE	
SELL	SAL	
	IFFY	CDROM
DEAN	LEEK	IDA
IPOD	EAST	NIN
DALY	ARCO	GNU

Last week's answers

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: FOX; MICHAEL J. LEBBECHT (IN)BUDICES PHOTOGRAPHY; JOHN W. MCDONOUGH

THE CROWD



LONG THE DOMAIN and porn-star mustaches, competitive bowling is forging a new reputation on campus: the next Big Thing in women's sports by Bill Syken
WITH BULGING WAISTS bad comb-overs
PHOTOGRAPHS BY NY DE LOS

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: FOX, MICHAEL J. TERRECHT (UNDEL'S PHOTOGRAPHY), JOHN W. MCCONOUGH

I HAD TO LOOK. If not in the name of journalism, then out of respect for *Kingpin*. ¶ In the film, you'll recall, Woody Harrelson attempts to sell a bowling-alley manager a gross of fluorescent condoms and is told that the alley's men's room doesn't have a novelty vending machine anymore. Harrelson looks at the manager in disgust and says, "And you

call yourselves a bowling alley?"

So when I found myself at Don Carter's All-Star Lanes in Baton Rouge—which also calls itself a bowling alley—I had to investigate. In the men's room I

learned that the All-Star Lanes also has legitimacy issues, at least according to *Kingpin* standards. In fairness, however, when you see the rest of the joint, with its neon bowling balls and garish casino-

surplus carpeting, it would be hard to accuse the management of putting on airs.

Curiosity appeased, I went back to work, walking past Cub Scout Pack 20 on its Saturday outing, past an eight-year-old's birthday party, past the teenagers twisting away on the *Dance Dance Revolution* machines in the arcade and back to watching the new Vanderbilt women's bowling

GOING B G-TIME?

BOWLING WON'T BE THE LAST women's sport sanctioned by the NCAA. Here are three others waiting for their big day **by Maggie Haskins**

Rugby Like a cappella groups, all-nighters and the walk of shame, rugby is a staple on college campuses. With nearly 350 women's club teams, it's a wonder the sport has never gained NCAA championship status, which would mean thousands of dollars in funding. Surprisingly, that doesn't bother many involved in the game at the college level. "USA Rugby understands the sport because they have played it," says Ann Petko, president of the Penn State women's ruggers. "The NCAA would ruin the sport, we think." Yikes. That's not going to help rugby's cause. But if ever there was a group that would detest oversight, it's these roughhousers.

Badminton While badminton is a beloved recreational activity on many college campuses, its success or failure as a club sport depends on the student body. As the Maryland club's website explains, "The following list of colleges is always notoriously out of date, since college badminton seems to come and go very quickly. Often what worked one year has disappeared the next." The NCAA currently recognizes three women's badminton teams, with a total of 33 members. But SIOC knows that badminton enthusiasts are out there. According to NCAA research, 80 million people play or have played badminton, with more than one million having played at least 25 times last year. We will track you down, find you, enroll you in college and make you pick up a racket if we have to.

Team handball Thought team handball was that game you played in fourth-grade gym class? Think again. Since making its Olympic debut at the 1972 Summer Games in Munich, the sport has captured the hearts and minds of Americans. Well, maybe that's a bit of an exaggeration, but it is a cool sport—one the NCAA would like to see more colleges pick up, especially because of its cheap price tag. All you need is a basketball court, some goals, tape and a general willingness to bruise your elbows and knees as you run, jump and dive all over the court. Only five schools currently have women's team handball clubs, and North Carolina is the reigning power. The Tar Heels captured the 2004 men's and women's Collegiate National Championships, run by USA Team Handball. Granted, the women only competed against Furman, Benedict and two West Point squads, but a title is a title.



team compete in its first big tournament, the Southern Invitational.

That's right, women's bowling. It's the fastest-growing sport in the NCAA. Six years ago there were only five varsity teams; now the number is up to 46. And given both the relative ease of starting a program and the number of schools still trying to get into compliance with Title IX, the total will no doubt increase. In other words, if you're angling for an athletic scholarship, you might want to pick up the game posthaste.

Women's bowling has long been the province of lower-profile institutions; nearly three quarters of the NCAA-member teams are at historically black colleges, and 17 are at non-Division I schools. But an increasing number of major powers now want in. Brian Reese, director of sports operations at Vanderbilt, the second big-conference school to field a bowling team, after Nebraska,

STEPHEN SIGES (RUGBY); JONATHAN FERREY/GETTY IMAGES (BADMINTON); ATTILA KISEBENDEK/ARND BRONKHORST/GETTY IMAGES (HANDBALL)



has been asked by a few administrators from Big 12 universities about the logistics of starting a program. "I think it's an up-and-coming sport that people are going to pay a lot more attention to," Reese says. "If schools are going to be looking at adding sports, this is going to be a popular one."

The big attraction? Athletic departments have one eye on bowling's streamlined costs and the other on a fairly attainable prize: the opportunity to win an NCAA title. The NCAA mandates a minimum of 40 teams in order to hold a championship, and bowling crossed that thresh-

old last year. In the inaugural championship last spring, Nebraska beat Central Missouri State.

At the Southern Invitational it was hard to avoid the thought that somebody was slumming it: With its big-conference provenance, Vanderbilt had the sharpest-looking team in the 18-school field, wearing black tops that fit better than the other teams' baggy men's shirts. What really makes the Commodores noteworthy, though, is that none of these students knew they would be varsity athletes when they showed up for school last August. At an SEC institution,

that doesn't happen very often.

Vanderbilt, it turns out, needed to add a women's varsity sport to meet gender-equity requirements. Athletic department officials considered volleyball, softball and swimming. "But when we looked at building or renovating facilities to accommodate those sports, they just weren't very cost-conscious options for us," Reese says. "That's the reason we looked at bowling." The school could rent local lanes for practices and competitions, and the sport doesn't require much equipment or a large coaching staff, either. So Vanderbilt decided to step boldly into the land of *The Big Lebowski*.

Putting the program together was a mad scramble. John Williamson, the baseball team's operations manager and a rec-league bowler, was hired as coach three weeks into the fall semester. To drum up candidates he placed ads in

school publications and hung flyers in sororities and around campus. He also e-mailed the 30 members of the school's bowling club. Williamson had 12 roster spots to fill, and exactly that many women showed up for an informational meeting on Sept. 20. "We didn't have any kind of tryout," Williamson said. "We kept them all." This first season the team is divvying two scholarships among its athletes, dispensing the funds in the form of a meal plan that includes dinner at the school's deluxe, athletes-only dining hall. (This is no small benefit, given that training table chef Majid Noori is practically a celebrity on campus.) Vanderbilt will increase the number of scholarships as the program develops, Reese says.

The other perk the keggers enjoy as varsity athletes is working out in the athletic department's weight room with its strength coaches—which raises the somewhat touchy question of exactly what condition one needs to be in to bowl. Sophomore Jessica Tower was a nationally competitive youth gymnast; bowling is less intense, to put it kindly. "So much of gymnastics was working out, but we didn't work out at all last semester," Tower says of her new teammates. Many schools let their athletes handle (or not handle) their own conditioning.

At the Southern Invitational there were all types of bodies, from petite to XXXL. Vanderbilt's team was among the most svelte; its best bowler, sophomore Christine Luce, stands 5' 1" and weighs 93 pounds—not much heavier than the four 15-pound bowling balls she hauled to Baton Rouge.

Bowling advocates like to point out that their sport is a highly democratic one: You frequently hear the phrase "anyone

GOTTA PLAY HURT Conditioning is a touchy subject for bowlers, who might enjoy the occasional fry during competition but endure their share of injuries.



THEY'RE NOT PAPE WHAT SPORTS IN PLAY

ALL ATHLETES HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON. BEFORE THEY START
THEY GET MORE THAN JUST WATER. THEY GET THE BARK, THE SEEDS AND
SHELLS. BARK IS GREAT BUT WATER DOESN'T



For Sacred Heart, there are many sessions for Central Division, State (below), Nike uniforms, there are even recruiting wars.

can do it." But the same phrase reminds people that bowling is not only less expensive, but it's also less physically rigorous than the sports Vanderbilt passed up. Brittany Jackson, an athletic-looking freshman who bowled for her high school team, was heckled by a friend on the men's soccer team who, every time he saw her last semester, would shout, "Bowling's not a sport!"

It's a different sport, at least. How many athletes do you see munching down snack-bar French fries during a game, as the St. Peter's team did in Baton Rouge? Some bowlers wore makeup, and one even put glitter on her face. At most athletic events the P.A. announcer will tell you the score; here the announcements were more along the lines of "Janice, you're needed at the snack bar."

For all their resources, the Commodores got clobbered at the Southern Invitational. Vandy was the only team to lose all 10 of its round-robin matches; its per game average of 137 pins was 15 lower than the next-worst

school, Prairie View A&M, and 78 pins behind tournament winner Sacred Heart. But Vanderbilt should be much better next year, because the school's name is already attracting the nation's best high school talent. Frank Parisi, coach of Division III New Jersey City, says Williamson will likely sign the prize recruit from his area, Brick Township (N.J.) High senior Karen Grygiel. The Commodores also have a good shot at 215 bowler Michelle Pelouquin of Enfield, Conn., which is surprising because her father is an assistant for Sacred Heart's team.

In all, Vanderbilt should land five or six of the top players in the country, and it's easy to understand why. At smaller schools athletes sell candy or run instructional camps to come up with a travel budget; in some cases they also have to supply their own equipment. The Commodores, meanwhile, landed a bag and shoe contract immediately, and its players won't be holding bake sales for plane fare anytime soon. Then there's Vandy's stellar academic reputation, which many of your average bowling schools can't compete with.

The coaches of the smaller schools say they want more Vanderbilts in the sport, even if it means they lose out on the best recruits. As they see it, every big conference school brings another dollop of credibility. So tell the birthday gathering and the Cub Scout troop at next year's Southern Invitational that they may have to slide down a few lanes. This sport is only going to get bigger. **B**



BE

“How does it feel?” How many times have you heard a postgame interviewer ask the question? *You just got spanked by the Trojans in the Orange Bowl. How does it feel? You air-balled the potential game-tying free throw. How does it feel? Coach Knight wants to see you in his office. Alone. How does it feel?* The responses always blow, but it's not the athletes' fault. They've often just experienced the peak, or nadir, of their athletic careers. How eloquent would you be if Jill Arrington were waiting with a microphone outside your physics final? SIOC sought enlightenment into moments both big and small. And our respondents had the luxury of time, and reflection, before answering that most-asked of sports questions and providing us with the feel-good (as well as -bad, -happy and even -abandoned) story of the year.

TO BE A WHITE GUY WITH HOPS?

Henry Bekkering

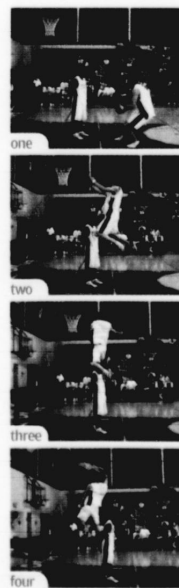
EASTERN WASHINGTON '08
BASKETBALL

“WHEN PEOPLE FIRST see me, they don't have any expectations. They're like, Oh, it's just a white kid. I'll play along like I'm a normal white kid who can't really jump, and then I'll surprise them with a crazy dunk. After that people always want to see me dunk. I'm like that *NBA Jam* arcade machine: All anybody wants to see are the crazy dunks.

“People really started to notice me after I was in a dunk contest my senior year of high school. The contest was taped by Hoop Life, and my highlights were all over the Internet [hooplifeca.com/videoclips.asp]. When everyone is watching you and cheering you on, your adrenaline is going so fast that you do things you never thought you could. In the contest I had this one dunk where I jumped off of two feet from the free throw line. I never thought I could do that. The other dunk everyone was talking about was when I

jumped over another player (*right*). I actually started practicing that dunk back in the ninth grade. I would go out to the court with my brother and put a garbage can in front of the hoop and see if I could jump over it. Then I would have my brother sit down in front of the hoop and I would jump over him, and I kept doing it until I dunked over him while he was fully standing. He's six feet tall.

“They had me on *The Best Damn Sports Show Period* last year and wanted me to dunk over Brian Bosworth. My back was really hurting at the time; I wasn't even practicing. But I still wanted to go for it and take advantage of the opportunity. I didn't jump my highest, but I did hit the dunk; I also hit him in the head with my knee. Still, I jumped over him and made the dunk, so it was all good.” —Arash Markazi



FSN/BEST DAMN SPORTS SHOW PERIOD (SCREEN GRABS); RICH FRISHMAN

TO BLOW A GAME-TYING KICK ON NATIONAL TV?

Alexis Serna,

"IN THE SEASON OPENER against LSU I'd already missed my first two extra points by hitting the uprights. Do you know how hard that is to do, hit the uprights twice in a row? So now we're in overtime and we've just scored a touchdown to get to within a point. I remember going out there thinking, 'We're going to put this kick through and go into the second OT.'

"As soon as I hit it, I knew I'd missed. I remember ripping off my helmet and throwing it to the ground. I just wanted to crawl into a ball, wanted to hide. The other team's kicker got to me first. He tried to console me. I remember cameras everywhere. [Offensive guard] Roy Schuening put his arm around me and walked me off the field. Someone from ESPN asked me a question and I sort of remember answering it, but I don't remember what I said.

"Inside the locker room I sprawled on the floor, just crying. Then a coach told me, 'Pick yourself up. Go take a shower.' I didn't realize ESPN had a camera in our locker room and everyone could see me crying. I didn't feel safe in the locker room. Guys were yelling at me. Other players were holding them back. I didn't know what they were going to do. Didn't want to find out.

"The only saving grace was that school wasn't in session yet. I don't know if I could have gone to classes on Monday and faced everyone. I remember watching a kicker miss a field goal or an extra point on ESPN and hearing the announcer say, 'He pulled an Alexis Serna,' and that's when I stopped watching ESPN. What a long week.

"But after the way the season started, I couldn't have asked for it to turn out better. I didn't miss another extra point the rest of the season, and I made 16 of 17 field goals. I didn't go to too many parties, but I went to a party a week after the Civil War [Serna kicked a school-record-tying five field goals as the Beavers beat Oregon 50-21], and I got swarmed. Girls were coming up to me and saying, 'Aren't you Alexis Serna?' It was pretty funny. I had no idea anyone would recognize me."

—John Walters



Serna (13) was greeted with support from Schuening but had to face a hostile locker room moments later.

PHOTOGRAPH BY
GARY BOGORN



HOW DOES IT FEEL?

TO TAKE A TEST ON THE ROAD?



Gerry McNamara

SYRACUSE '06, BASKETBALL

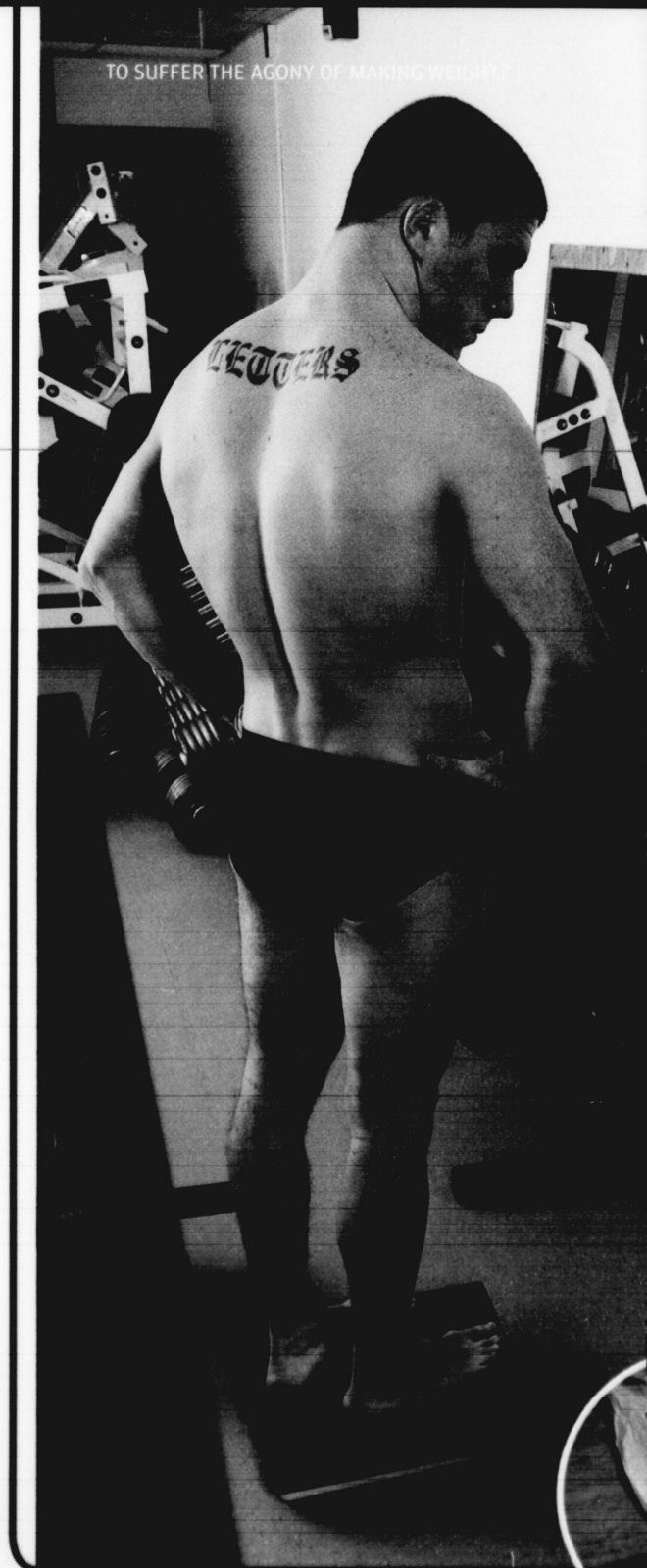
"Because we're constantly traveling for away games and tournaments, the team ends up having to take tests on the road, usually at hotels, on top of having hourlong study sessions every day. The setup for a test is pretty formulaic: If we're in a hotel, they'll set up a room and the team academic adviser will sit with you while you take your test. One-on-one. It's not a normal situation in any way. You can't get an extension on anything. You can't ask the professor questions. You can't blend in. In a lot of ways it's actually harder than a normal student would have it. People think it's easier—they think you can fudge it; they think you can cheat. Not when it's just you and an academic adviser.

"There are so many presumptions about athletes and academics. I'll be at home and a friend will say something really sarcastic, like, 'Oh, yeah. You had to take a test. Right.' Of course hearing something like that is not going to shake me. Nothing does. But it builds in the back of your head. It's one of those things people will never understand about being an athlete. If I had the choice, I'd rather go to school like a normal student does. In a heartbeat." —Adam Duerson

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAMELA CHEN

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TO SUFFER THE AGONY OF MAKING WEIGHT?



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: GEORGE TIEDMANN/GT IMAGES; AL TIELEMANS; GEORGE TIEDMANN/GT IMAGES; AL TIELEMANS



For Cooperman (left and bottom right) and Letters (far left), sweating off the pounds means going heavy on layers and light on meals.

Cory Cooperman, LEHIGH '06, WRESTLING Troy Letters, LEHIGH '06, WRESTLING

CORY COOPERMAN IS FOUR pounds over, with 24 hours to sweat it off. The Lehigh wrestler is pulling a hooded sweatshirt over two other sweatshirts and securing the hood over a knit beanie. He's jogging in small circles, biking, shadowboxing, stumbling around with imaginary opponents. His pores are glistening. The more you sweat, the less you weigh, and Cooperman has to get down to 141 pounds. "By the time you get to weigh-in, you're drained, you're light-headed, your body is like Jell-O," he says. "And then you have to compete an hour later." Cooperman's face is red, and he looks like a Siberian refugee buried in all his layers. "My girlfriend gets tears in her eyes when she skips a meal," he continues. "She says, 'But I'm hungry; I haven't had lunch,' and I sit there and say, 'Yeah, imagine what we feel like.' We want to put holes in the wall."

The thermostat in this Lehigh gym is set to an NCAA maximum of 80°. The actual temperature ranges from 86° to 90°, depending on how many bodies are jumping rope, sparring or drilling each other into the gym floor, which is covered by a wrestling mat sticky from excess sweat. It's the evening before the Mountain Hawks' Jan. 14 match against Cornell, and the team is prepping for its fourth weigh-in in eight days. Team members are pressing into each other relentlessly, grimacing with every takedown. They've been starving all day. All week. All season. Their bodies are sinewy but worn. A weight management handout written by the coach instructs, "Don't eat because it tastes good. Don't be a victim of your desires." And should they desire a chicken wing, a slice of pepperoni or even a large glass of water, well, they'd be out of luck, because this is wrestling—the only sport in which good coaches spend half their time with their team supervising nutrition. If they don't, the consequences can be deadly: In 1997 wrestlers from Campbell, Wisconsin-LaCrosse and Michigan died within a six-week period trying to make weight, the first deaths in wrestling since 1928. As a result the NCAA banned the use of saunas, rubber suits and artificial dehydrators such as diuretics and laxatives and moved weigh-ins to one hour before dual meets from 24 hours before.

"You have a match before you have a match: You have a match with the scale," says Troy Letters, the nation's top-ranked wrestler at 165 pounds. "You have to win the weight battle before you even get out on the mat."

After practice Letters and Cooperman drive to a convenience store and carefully select "dinner"—each gets a sesame bagel with a dollop of cream cheese. At

home they sit down at the kitchen table and pull out a canister full of a seltzer concoction that the two meticulously measure into eight-ounce tumblers.

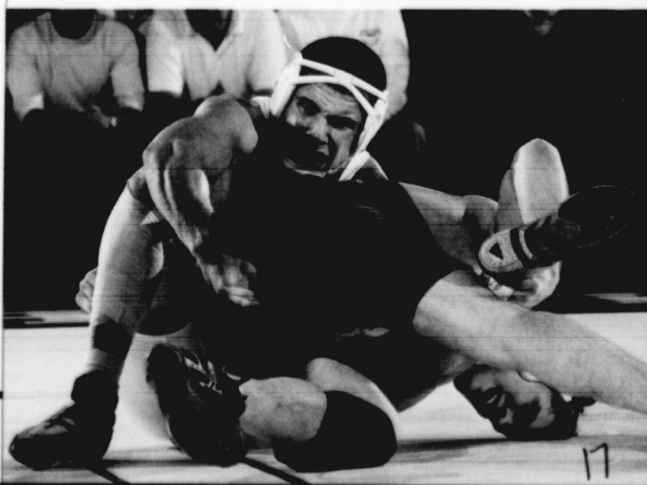
"Coop's been in three weight classes since he transferred [from Minnesota]," Letters says. "He's pretty good with nutrition even though he can't make weight." In 2003, after winning the Eastern Intercollegiate title in the 133-pound class, Cooperman gained 22 pounds in the 12 days before his next competition, the NAAs. On the day of the meet he was still three over. "I wasn't sitting there eating friggin' pizzas. I was just drinking water," he says. "It was the most embarrassing thing that's ever happened to me. I had to watch from the stands, and I sat there thinking, I'm better than that kid." His voice elevates. "Not making weight is like your tailback being busted for drugs the day before a big game."

The bagels go half-eaten, but the tumblers are drained. Cooperman pours another glass of bubbly and offers it to Letters, who backs away from the liquid as if it's gasoline. Cooperman looks at the glass and spits in it, then pours it down the drain. "Someday I would like to watch the football game with a bunch of beers and some honey barbecue wings from KFC," Cooperman says. "Instead we'll be watching the game with some water. Last year for the Super Bowl I made a veggie platter, and we were all sitting there thinking, Sweet—carrots."

Finding activities to mask the stomach pain and distract from the dizziness and mental fatigue is half the battle in making weight. "We go to bed as early as we can before competitions so we can kill those hours by sleeping through them," Letters says. An avid fly-fisherman, Letters spends hours making lures; Cooperman spends hours watching Letters make lures. "We fantasize about things, and that's how we get through it," Letters says. "Like, when we're in the off-season, we enjoy a beer like no one else would enjoy a beer."

"In high school I used to take diuretics and laxatives, and my body took a licking," Cooperman says. "I didn't know what I was doing. Some people still take the easy way out. I'm not religious, but I pray and I know that because of what we do, God's going to be good to us when it comes to nationals. I know that because we're doing it the right way; we're not taking any shortcuts."

It is 10 p.m. The two excuse themselves to get ready for bed. When they wake up and step on a scale, they discover, to their great joy, that they now have mere ounces to overcome. Both jog and drill in the early morning, then head to the gym. They peel off their layers to near nudity and easily make weight. The reward? Another bagel, a piece of fruit and a glass of water, and seven minutes on the mat with an equally ravenous opponent. "I've seen people after they make weight. They gorge, and it hits them while they're wrestling and they throw up," Letters says. "Their bodies can't handle it." As Letters prepares for his match, he's asked how anyone could go into battle starved and mentally drained. He shrugs and says, "A hungry dog fights harder." —Jaime Lowe



TO PLUNGE FROM A 10-METER PLATFORM?



Pohorenc,

"I'M ACTUALLY AFRAID of heights a little bit. Every time I go up there I'm scared. Before I dive I like to look at the water and reassure myself that the water is there. When you're standing up there, there's an adrenaline rush—and your mind is going a million miles an hour. While you're doing the flips in the air, it feels like a roller coaster—your entire body is weightless. Your body takes over and your mind really doesn't think anymore.

"I've hit the board or the platform with my feet and my toes, but I've never come near with my head. I've seen people hit their heads before, and it's traumatic when you're the next person to go. Last year I was practicing a new dive on the lower platforms, and when I went up to the top one, my hands were shaking so much. When I came off, I did the twist right, but I didn't land on my hands or my head; I landed right on my stomach. It was horrible. I got a concussion. The wind got knocked out of me, I had bruises on my leg, and my neck got jarred like I had been in a car accident. I couldn't breathe at first. It took me a while to recover, and I haven't tried that dive since." —A.M.

TO BE A RECRUITING KINGMAKER?

Alex Holmes
USC '05, FOOTBALL

"I'M THE VAN WILDER of USC. It seems like I've been here forever, but it's only been five years. Regardless of who you are at the university, I've probably had some sort of relationship with you or someone you know. Because of my personality and the way that I network, I've made so many relationships that I'm able to do so much that others can't in terms of going out in L.A. Take a look at our roster—I've recruited every top player

on it. I got [Matt] Leinart, Mike Williams, Shaun Cody, LenDale [White], Reggie [Bush]. Basically if you're a Number 1 recruit, I got you.

"I always tell [prospective recruits] that there are things USC offers that other schools can't. I've hosted about 40 guys, and the only one I missed on was Adrian Peterson. On his official visit I took him to the Spider Club in Hollywood and introduced him to Puff Daddy and Leonardo DiCaprio. He loved it. He told the coaches he was coming, and he still tells me today that he would like to be here, but out of respect for his dad [who is in prison in Texas] he decided to stay closer to home." —A.M.



TO BE STEREOTYPED ON THE BIG SCREEN?

Texas Cheerleaders

TEXAS'S BOUNCY spirit squad piled into Austin's Galaxy Highland on Theater on Feb. 23 for the local premiere of *Man of the House*, a new comedy that has Tommy Lee Jones wrangling five of UT's finest—and flightiest—cheerleaders. After

the movie, SIOC sat down with four real Texas pom-pom pushers to set the record straight: Are all cheerleaders that stupid? Stylish? And do they really strip down to tube tops, panties and hair curlers while dancing to *Gonna Make You Sweat*? Here's what our girls thought of *MOTHS*' Longhorns gals.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GREG NELSON

TO LIVE IN A SPEEDO?

Brett Ormsby
UCLA '05, WATER POLO

"The Speedos aren't that comfortable; they're a little small and tight, but I don't think about it at all during games. We try to use it to our advantage during practice: There's a huge lawn right at the pool, and there are always a bunch of girls laying out. We like to throw the ball toward them and then get out of the pool and chase down the ball in our Speedos." —J.L.



TO PLAY FOR THREE COACHES IN THREE YEARS?

Brandon Brooks
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS '05 BASKETBALL



"FIRST OF ALL you're kind of surprised that it happened so fast. At the same time you see somebody moving up and doing better things. We're happy as a team because we really helped it happen for them. It was a lot tougher when Coach Painter left [for Purdue] because we had just lost Coach Weber [to Illinois] the year before. It felt like, 'Man, ain't nobody wants to stay here.'

"The systems are the same, but getting to know three different personalities in three years is tough on anybody. Coach Weber didn't yell a lot; he was mainly a teacher. Coach Painter was more aggressive with us; he was more of an X-and-O kind of guy. Coach Lowery is a lot more aggressive; if he doesn't get perfection, you are going to run it until you get it." —Maggie Hawkins

- Bruce Weber
- Matt Painter
- Chris Lowery

MYTH 1: Tommy Lee Jones explains that he's a Texas Ranger, and a cheerleader asks, "Do you know Derek Jeter?"

CANDACE POWERS: The whole "stupid" thing—it's annoying, but we're used to it.

AMBER PRATT: I think we all came into the movie expecting that part to be way worse.

LAURA BINGGELL: They had to exaggerate it to make it funny. That's satire. But we understand that if we all got together, someone might see us that way. We're another animal when we get together; we get really silly. Silly, not stupid.

VERDICT: False, but we'll excuse the misunderstanding.

MYTH 2: The girls go Ron Artest on Jones when he bans sports bra and panties combos in the house.

ALEX LEACH: We don't wear sports bras to class, but we wear less clothes than normal people—

AP: —because we used to it. That's what we wear to practice.

LB: And we just generally have really nice bodies, so we're not as worried about it. Cheerleaders have really good style. We had a party downtown a while ago, and just about any boy would have dropped dead if he'd seen how good we looked.

SIOC: So that male fantasy about underwear only pillow fights is just a bitchy comment away from reality?

LB: Yep. But make sure to print that we're naked. We don't want to ruin any dreams.

VERDICT: Keep dreamin', boys.

MYTH 3: A bubbly cheerleader tells Jones to put on a "happy face."

CP: Oh, that was awful.

LB: My God. We saw them filming that, and that's when we started to get worried about the movie.

AL: That, and when it took Tommy like five takes to get his [hook 'em] Horns right.

CP: But that "happy face" line is what really got us worried. We heard them doing that scene, and it became, like, Uggghhh!

VERDICT: I like, no way. Double ouch.

MYTH 4: The girls oversee Jones's date via hidden camera and advise him on the coolness of candles.

AP: We pretty much stay out of the lives of our coaches.

AL: Except for one coach. He was dating someone for six months—

LB: —and we were in Pasadena for the Rose Bowl this year and he got dumped. The Day. Be. Fore. The. Game. It totally brought us down. It was New Year's Eve. Oh, my God.

CP: She text-messaged it to him. SIOC: So you are involved, then?

AP: The day before, he had asked some of us what portion of your salary is supposed to go into a ring.

LB: I guess our coaches' lives are kind of our lives, too.

VERDICT: Real. Very real. —A.D.

the final

To be honest, a few of us here at SIOC had never heard of it before last September. Not before our cover shoot for the "Best College Football Week-ends" issue, for which we had assembled an ardent army of Tennessee football players, cheerleaders, fans and even Smokey the mascot. Our older-than-25 editors, upon seeing the photos, were geeked.

However, it was then that writer Matthew Waxman, 25, pointed out a hand signal Vols wide receiver Derrick Tinsley was flashing. Tinsley had raised his index, middle and pinkie fingers in the air. The tip of his ring finger bent forward to touch his thumb.

"Eh, you know what that is, don't you?" Waxman asked, and then proceeded to enlighten us, much to the amusement of his young compadres.

Seriously? we replied. *No! Are you sure?* Those of us old enough to remember E.T.'s aroused index finger had assumed Tinsley's gesture was innocent as well. Maybe the latest hip-hop sign that we had yet to catch on to. (That Q-Tip, he's da bomb!) Someone else suggested that Tinsley was flashing a peace sign with a pinkie promise thrown in for good measure.

Holy hand signals, Batman, how naive were we? We searched for words to de-

Got a comment for John Walters? Send it to sioletters@timeinc.com



scribe our reaction: Addled. Agape. Aghast. Agog. And that was just the A's.

Obviously, we could not run that photo. Even if that was not what Tinsley meant—maybe it was a tribute to Dale Earnhardt—it's the interpretation that matters. After all, many of the students raised one finger in that same photo, but nobody raised only their middle one. (Some things are best left obscene and not heard.) We replaced this cover photo with something tasteful and refined: a topless male torso, body-painted orange, emblazoned with a white T.

Contretemps avoided. But then, as the academic year progressed, a strange phenomenon began to unspool:

degrees of toplessness and that symbol (as if they'd combined our two cover concepts)—although Sun Devils loyalists swear it represents a pitchfork. Or there, on the cover of the Houston men's basketball media guide. There's Cougars coach Tom Penders flashing his pearly whites and . . . that symbol (even if that also happens to be Houston's Cougar paw sign, which has existed since 1953).

Enough? No. Just last month that bastion of liberal erudition, *The New Yorker*, introduced the term into the literary consciousness. In a profile on the founders of Collegehumor.com, it was reported that the site has taken out a patent on a variation of the foam finger. ("Yeah, Mom, it means 'We're Number 3!'") In a little over a year they have sold nearly 20,000 units at a net profit of about \$200,000. And meanwhile, you're sitting there trying to scrounge beer money on partypoker.net. In the ad the product is touted as "Not yet obscene to the general public" as well as a "great Mother's Day gift!"

Really? And yet, as dexterously distressing as this gesture may be, it is also the Great Underground Joke on campus. In fact, there's even a university located in the heart of the heartland that employs both the gesture and its title for its sports teams. Some school in Kansas. Around Wichita, I believe.

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LISTEN UP! RANT? RAVE? We want to know. Tell us what you think about this issue of **SI ON CAMPUS** today at sioncampusfeedback.com. Don't worry, we can take it.

FROM TOP: JEFFREY A. SALTER; UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON; RICH FRESHMAN

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