



Life

## When good times go bad

During the course of every day, bad things happen to good people. I've noticed these things throughout my life, and now when I look back at them, or hear other people's similar stories, I almost can't help but laugh. Let me relate several of the "Good Times Gone Bad" stories I know.

While playing wiffle ball as a young child, I watched as my friends tormented the neighboring girl by kicking the ball from her. The girl became very frustrated and took a swing at the ball with the bat. My friend, at this very same instant reaches down to pick it up so she wouldn't get it and CLOCKS! She drilled him with the bat. He got caught across the face and hand and was laid flat on his back. It took a good two months for his broken finger to heal - his fear of women and wiffle ball bats still lingers.

Everyone has, at one time or another, called "shotgun" in an attempt to avoid incarceration in the back seat of a small car. While I was with a group of friends at the mall one guy decided to call shotgun as we were leaving (Note: shotgun must be called outside). Therefore, a mad dash through the mall ensued. We fought one another through the doors and we burst outside. All of us frantically screamed "SHOTGUN" in a panic. One lady who was about to enter the mall screamed and began crying. Each slowly realized that the impression given was not of stupid guys but rather of an armed robbery or hostage situation. Oops!

Bike riding, while fun, can be hazardous. While trying out his new bike, a friend (who shall remain nameless) was forced to come to a sudden stop by a car while crossing the street. The car came around the corner; he locked up his front brakes and proceeded to cartwheel over the handlebars into the street. This situation was made even funnier by how clumsy he was to begin with and the large group of cute girls across the way who saw it began laughing. I doubt his pride will ever be intact again (at least not as long as I tell the story).

It may be serious at the time, but there will always be stories that get better with age. -Jared Whalen

rail\_editor@hotmail.com

## THE '41'

Tomorrow's weather



**55 46**  
Hi Lo

Rain, it is always rain!

Kentucky Kernel

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# KERNEL

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## YOU'RE ON CAMERA

# UK women say no shame in 'Playboy'



Kim Mizuno, a contributing photographer for *Playboy*, shoots polaroids of a prospective UK model for a special edition of the magazine, *Girls of the Southeastern Conference*, slated to be released in August.

## Competition: More than 50 show up for try-out

By Tracy Kershaw  
NEWS EDITOR

The tall blond hesitated before taking off the plush white rope. "I've got little boobs, does that matter?" she asked *Playboy* photographer Kim Mizuno. He tells her it's fine, and shuts the door so the photo shoot can begin.

In the other room of suite 1512 in downtown's Hyatt Regency, four UK students are waiting for their turn in front of the camera. It will only be a few shots with a Polaroid, but the pictures will determine who will represent the school in *Playboy's* *Girls of the Southeastern Conference* pictorial.

Most seemed nervous, thumbing through the special college editions on display or making small talk with Cynthia Kaye, the photo production coordinator whom overseas make-up, hair and wardrobe for models.

Mizuno said every woman he shoots comes in nervous.

"They're all a little intimidated," he said.

Playboy could choose around 10 women from the 50 or 60 UK students who tried out on Tuesday and Wednesday. Each posed in a swimsuit or bra and panties for

several Polaroid photographs.

Stephanie Rauch, a 21-year-old journalism junior and one of the hopefuls, said posing for *Playboy* is something she's always wanted to do. So when her friends and boyfriend told her the magazine would be in town, she knew it was something she had to try.

"It's a college experience," she said. "It only comes around once in a long time."

Rauch, who said she is comfortable with herself and her body, thinks any female who has that confidence should not be criticized for posing nude.

"Who ever gets it should be applauded for being comfortable with herself," she said.

Earlier that day, Rauch's adviser mentioned that some employers might not approve of her being in *Playboy*. "If they want to judge my credibility, they should look at my work, not what I do in my spare time," she said.

Today the staff will review the photos and could choose to do a shoot in Lexington, perhaps at a fraternity house with some of the fraternity members in the photographs, Kaye said. They'll try to get a variety of looks from the school, blond, brunette, black and

Asian, she said.

One student hoping she has that look is sophomore Kristen Wilson.

"It's something interesting to say about my life," she said. "And a little flattering, too."

Out in the hallway, Hal Jankowski waited on his best friend who was inside for the try-outs. Jankowski thinks much of the criticism is unfounded.

"She's not any less of a person because she'd doing this," he said. "This doesn't make her stupid. She's a biology major."



## DEBATE

# BSU dissents from GPAC with Ochse

## 'Close': Platform made the difference

By Sterling Rouse  
STAFF WRITER

If the Greek Political Action Committee is judge and jury in Student Government elections, then the Black Student Union has given its dissenting opinion.

After a spirited debate, the BSU endorsed Alyshia Ochse and Josh Walton Tuesday evening as its choice for SGA president and vice president.

"We are definitely excited," Ochse said.

She noted that the timing of the endorsement was perfect with SGA elections beginning today.

"It shows our desire to work with everybody on campus," Walton added.

A platform centered on a grassroots approach to fostering student involvement in SGA decision-making appeared to make the difference with BSU members.

Following timed introductions, the candidates were given one minute to respond to questions asked by students in the audience.

At the outset of the debate, the candidates explained their stances on traditional issues, such as improving communication within SGA and with UK students in general.

However, student questions soon shifted the focus to more specific topics, such as the allocation of scarce budget funds, affirmative action, and relations with

black student organizations.

Each candidate expressed support for the preservation of affirmative action programs related to education, as well as a commitment to establishing quality relationships with student organizations.

Overall, the candidates were pleased with the debate, and viewed it as a learning experience.

Ochse was impressed with the format of the debate, in particular the strict time schedule, which she felt made candidates speak more candidly.

Following the debate, BSU members engaged in a rather lengthy deliberation before returning with their endorsement.

"It was close," said BSU President Keisha Carter, "but we feel we made the best choice given what we know about the candidates."

## ELECTION TIME

# Galbraith tips his hat to Robinson ticket

Lexington lawyer Gatewood Galbraith talks with a student outside the Student Center on Tuesday afternoon. Galbraith endorsed the Robinson/Harralson ticket for the SGA election.



Here's to you: Galbraith said he was impressed by candidate's platform, campaign

By Mark Boxley  
STAFF WRITER

Donning the wide-brimmed hat that has become his trademark, Gatewood Galbraith gave his Student Government Association presidential candidate endorsement Tuesday afternoon at the Free Speech Area. The ticket that now has the backing of Galbraith is that of Tim Robinson and Caroline Harralson.

According to TJ Litafik, Galbraith's former congressional race campaign manager, Galbraith has a long history with UK and he is very concerned with students' rights. Litafik said that Galbraith was a student at UK during the Vietnam War when protesting was at its height. Litafik went on to assure that Galbraith's support was not politically motivated.

"He's (Galbraith) not here to promote Gatewood, he's here because there is one particular ticket that could best represent all of UK," Litafik said. Litafik also noted the symbolism behind speaking at the Free Speech Area because students' free speech is an issue that Galbraith holds dear.

Another issue that Galbraith spoke on was parking. "That (parking) was a problem back in the '60s when I was in college, and they haven't fixed it yet."

Gatewood Galbraith was very blunt about the ticket he is now endorsing.

"It looks like a darn good choice to me," Galbraith said. Galbraith said when he was speaking to Robinson about endorsing the Robinson/Harralson ticket, he was impressed with the intelligence of Robinson. As for the ticket in general, Galbraith said that he was impressed with the group's coalition, one that includes 15 at large and 28 total senators, their focus and their commitment to the race.

"I didn't have as good a structure for my campaign for congress as this campaign has," Galbraith said. "I just like what they stand for, and I'm here to give my endorsement."

Eric Mills, a first year UK law student and the communications director for Robinson and Harralson, said the candidates did not focus on one group in general on campus.

"We are a platform for all students," Mills said.

Tim Robinson, a second-year UK law student and SGA presidential candidate, said Galbraith and he met through a mutual friend who noticed similarities to their respective platforms.

Robinson's platform includes dealing with reform in legal services, problems with landlords not respecting students', especially foreign students', rights, and the police coming down on students unfairly. According to Robinson, his platform has one main goal, unity.

"Bringing people together is the most important thing," Robinson said.



## Inspection time

Cadet Kyle Davis, a marketing freshman, is checked to make sure he is wearing his uniform properly by Cadet Lisa Shyrich, a chemical engineering freshman, at Administration Field on Thursday for a retreat in the Air Force ROTC. The cadets retire the colors in this way periodically throughout the semester. Scholarships are available to all students interested in Army and Air Force ROTC.

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS

# The Low-down

## At least eight dead from train collision

**PECROT, Belgium** — A crowded commuter train slammed head on into an empty locomotive Tuesday in central Belgium, killing at least eight people and seriously injuring at least eight. The death toll was expected to rise as workers cut into the carriages that were turned into a pile of twisted metal. News reports put the death toll as high as 12. One of the trains was empty and the other was crowded with rush-hour passengers when they collided near the village of Pecrot, said Leen Uytendaele, spokeswoman for the national SNCB-NMBS rail company. The accident occurred at 8:45 a.m. about 16 miles east of Brussels on the line between the university towns of Leuven and Louvain-la-Neuve.

## President lays out economic vision

**BILLINGS, Mont.** — President Bush was offering a cautiously optimistic assessment of the economy Tuesday, calling it "winded, but fundamentally strong" and contending that his policies on education, energy and free trade were critical for its continued health. Bush was sharpening his arguments for his package of tax cuts and restrained federal spending in a state-of-the-economy address in Kalamazoo, Mich. The sweeping overview was designed to spell out what the president views as the economy's strengths and weaknesses, and make the case for his tax cut proposals. Bush was also reminding the nation anew that the economy began to cool before he took office. Bush's has proposed 10-year, \$1.6 trillion tax reduction. In recent days, the White House has signaled willingness to make the income tax components retroactive to swiftly pump up the economy.

## Regulators consider increasing rates

**SAN FRANCISCO** — California's top energy regulator is considering raising rates by almost 50 percent to send a message to "electricity hogs" to ease up on power usage. Ratepayers have labeled the plan a "rip-off" that would hit 10 million homes and businesses fighting to stay cool amid rolling blackouts and spiraling energy costs. The higher rates could be in effect as early as Tuesday, after the Public Utilities Commission hears its president's plan to raise prices by an average of 3 cents per kilowatt hour.

## West pressures Macedonia, rebels

**TETOVO, Macedonia** — The European Union's security chief on Tuesday reaffirmed his push for a peaceful solution to end Macedonia's ethnic Albanian insurgency, urging the rebels to let the political process run its course. "You have to achieve a solution to these problems — not by



**CROWING:** Academy Award-winning actor Russell Crowe was to arrive at Princeton University on Tuesday to begin filming his new movie. Crowe will star in *A Beautiful Mind* with Ed Harris, another nominee for the best actor award, and Jennifer Connelly. Ron Howard will direct the film.

weapons, but by negotiations, by participation in the political process. This is what Europe is all about," Javier Solana said after meeting with ethnic Albanian leader Arben Xhaferi. Solana declined to comment on proposals put forth by Xhaferi, whose Democratic Albanian Party is a partner in the coalition government. But Xhaferi told reporters he would like the constitution to be changed to create a multiethnic state, proportional representation in political bodies and a new census.

## Military crashes leave two dead

**WASHINGTON** — The crash of a U.S. Army reconnaissance plane in Germany and the disappearance of two U.S. Air Force fighter jets over Scotland are the latest in a string of tragic military mishaps in recent weeks. An Army RC-12, a twin-engine propeller aircraft used to detect, identify and locate enemy radar and electronic communications, crashed Monday in a forest about eight miles from Nuremberg, killing the two pilots on board. Army spokeswoman Hilde Patton said from 5th Corps headquarters at Heidelberg. At roughly the same time Monday, the Air Force disclosed that two F-16C fighters were overdue on a return flight to their home base at Lakenheath in southern England after conducting low-level flight training in Scotland. With no word from the two pilots nor any confirmation of their fate, the lack of communication suggested a strong possibility that they had crashed in the mountainous terrain, officials said.

## Train heads for German dump

**DANNENBERG, Germany** — Protesters trying to obstruct a nuclear waste shipment Tuesday attached themselves to a rail bridge over a river as the transport rumbled through Germany in the first such shipment in four years. Police in rubber boots tried to persuade the roughly half-dozen Greenpeace activists who were dangling by ropes from the underside of the bridge to come down. The bridge is about 15 miles from the Gorleben nuclear waste dump in northern Germany where the 60-ton waste shipment was headed. About 30 more activists took to the river in boats. Four police helicopters hovered overhead. The train crossed into southwestern Germany from France late Monday, delayed by about an hour by small groups of demonstrators who were cleared from the tracks by police.

## Man charged with murder

**PIKEVILLE, Ky.** — A man was charged murder after allegedly causing a two-car collision that resulted in the deaths of a pregnant woman and her unborn baby, authorities said. Charles Christopher Morris, 28, of Zebulon, was arrested by Kentucky State Police Wednesday. He was lodged in the Pike County Detention Center, police said. Veronica Thorsburn, 22, of Kimper, and her unborn child died Sunday afternoon in the wreck on U.S. 119 near Buckley Creek, state police said.

Compiled from wire reports.

THE ISSUES

# Conference back for third year

Take a look: Women's Studies Conference to address the topic of gendered violence

By Jenny Mackiewicz  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

They're back. And this time the issue they are tackling is gendered violence.

The Women's Studies Graduate Student Conference will make its third appearance this year on the UK spring agenda, with women as the focus and diversity as the key.

Women's Studies, in cooperation with several other departments on campus, has planned the upcoming conference based on the topic "Gendered Violence: Epistemologies and Practices."

The purpose of this conference is to promote campus unity under a common goal by binding together the interest of learning and growing in ideas. The promoters hope to receive attention from UK as a learning community with participants from across departmental and organizational lines.

"This really is a global conference and is such a great forum for constructing an interactive dialogue on gendered violence here at UK," said Sara Sahni, an English senior and vice president of the UK Feminist Alliance.

Scheduled sessions range from "Dangerous Women: Witches, Masochists and Lesbian 'Killer Males,'" to a workshop arranged by the founder of the Men for Gender Justice: Rus Ervin Funk, entitled "Creating a Coordinated Campus-Community Response to Men's Violence."

The talks will surround a wide array of subjects based on a foundation of violence against women. The topics of discussion include technology,

environmental degradation, hate crimes, prisons, science, poverty, violent media, discourses and representations and a montage of others all associated with gendered violence.

Also making an appearance at this year's conference is Geeta Patel, from the Women's Studies Department at Wellesley College. Patel has been on staff at Wellesley since 1994, when she left the University of Iowa. The focus of her research is sexuality and colonialism in South Asia, as expounded in her new book *Lyrical Movements, Historical Huntings: On Gender, Colonialism and Desire in Miraji's Urdu Poetry*. She will deliver the keynote address, "Marking 'The Quilt': Veil, Harem/Home, and Sexual Subversion Within 'The Quilt'."

Kristi Branham, a graduate student in women's studies and the chair of the conference organizing the committee, is excited about the high standards the program promises to meet. She said she hopes this program will "increase awareness of gendered violence, to expand our worldviews, to provide a comfortable space for students to explore ideas and share research and to bring recognition to the University, its programs and its departments."

## Conference

The third annual Graduate Student Conference takes place this weekend. This year's theme is Gendered Violence: Epistemologies and Practices. The event is sponsored by the Women's Studies Program. For a complete list of the events see page 5.

See WOMEN on 5

I wasn't playing that badly. It's not like I was missing cuts every week... That's the game. It's fickle." — Tiger Woods, after ending his so-called slump (and picking up a \$1.08 million check) at the Players Championship Monday.

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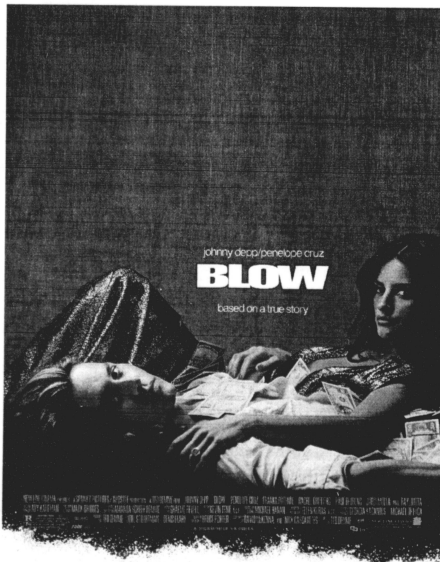
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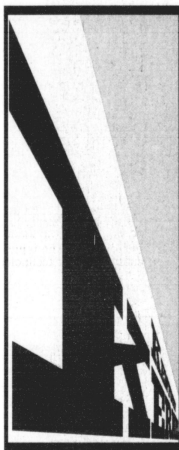
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TECHNOLOGY

# DVD means movies

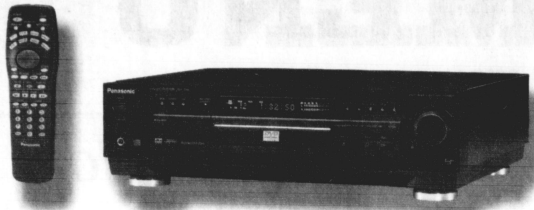


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**Hi tech**

Bridging the gap between home entertainment and personal computing is the new Panasonic DMR-E10 DVD recorder, which records onto a removable DVD-RAM disk. Key benefits of this first-of-its-kind product include high-resolution video quality, superb audio quality, fast random access memory, enormous storage capability, rewritability and playback of DVD video discs, DVD-RAM discs and video and audio CDs.

**Giving another look:** New DVD features are looking more and more like the future with deleted scenes, outtakes and special features

By Patrick Avery  
ASSISTANT SCENE EDITOR

Home theater crossed into the new millennium along with the rest of the world by moving DVD into the mainstream. DVD, a far superior way of watching movies at home, has recently become more affordable to the average movie audience.

Since money is not an object, more people are snatching up the discs and spending hours searching through the endless number of special features — audio commentaries and behind-the-scenes documentaries for example.

Here are some of the best-looking DVDs available now.

• **Magnolia: New Line Platinum Series:** Love it or hate it, this movie is an epic treasure. The disc contains the best behind-the-scenes documentary out right now and some great Tom Cruise outtakes.

• **Seven: New Line Platinum Series:** David Fincher's

best movie shines in this incredible two-disc DVD package. One of four audio commentaries include David Fincher, Brad Pitt and Morgan Freeman going over the ends and outs of the entire movie, clearly made better by the fact they have had several years to think over one of the most grisly serial killer movies of today. Other goodies included the original ending.

• **The Last Temptation of Christ: Criterion Collection:** A Martin Scorsese masterpiece is brought to life by an audio commentary by Scorsese and star Willem DaFoe. Scorsese's passion for this project shines in this Criterion disc that also includes an interview with Peter Gabriel, the composer of the movie's score.

• **Rushmore: Criterion Collection:** This film, starring Bill Murray, was a treat for the few that caught it on the big screen. But it has forever found a home with this DVD.

The greatest pleasure of this disc is the fictional plays the main character puts on during the film, and the disc captures each and every one of those at full length.

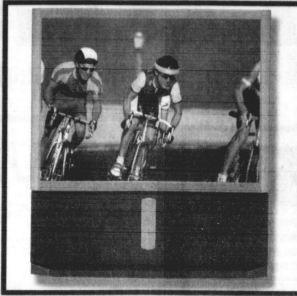
• **Chasing Amy: Criterion Collection:** Arguably Kevin Smith's greatest film, Ben Affleck and Jason Lee star in a film that is truly blessed by Criterion's DVD treatment. The outtakes and deleted scenes are introduced by Smith and the crew and are just as entertaining as the scenes themselves.

• **Do the Right Thing: Criterion Collection:** This recently released two-disc set is best described as incredible. The film quality has never been better and the endless extras include footage of the first read-through and the music video of Public Enemy's "Fight the Power."

When you have these in your collection, you can't go wrong.

AMUSE YOURSELF

# Home theaters make the jump into digital age with both feet



Sony now offers 53- and 61-inch Hi-Scan 1080i rear-projection televisions to display NTSC programming that approaches high-definition, plus the ability to display high-definition broadcasts when paired with a digital set-top box with HD component inputs. Now shipping, the KP-53HS10 and KP-61HS10 (pictured) incorporates the latest generation of Digital Reality Creation technology, which converts analog signals to near-high definition quality, resulting in clean, vibrant images. The KP-53HS10 and KP-61HS10 sells for about \$3,200 and \$3,700 respectively.

PHOTO FURNISHED

**Make it yours:** Home theaters, while expensive, are attainable

By Alan Stone  
STAFF WRITER

You're starving. You haven't had money for soap, laundry detergent or copies for your classes in weeks. You didn't buy books, and you can't put gas in your car, much less pay the insurance.

But at least you have a sweet DVD player and surround sound system in your room.

"Surround sound receivers are really hot right now," says Stephen Melvin, a home theater designer for Ovation of Lexington. Surround sound, along with affordable DVD technology, has brought the experience of the big screen into the living rooms of families (and college students) everywhere.

In the last couple of years Digital Video Discs have pushed their way into the mainstream of home electronics. Gone are the days of VCRs screwing up tapes and tracking poorly — nevermind less-than-perfect audio.

Melvin, a former UK student, suggests that people start out piecing together systems instead of buying everything at once.

According to Melvin, a complete system including a DVD player, surround-sound receiver, six speakers and all the cabling can run you between \$1,700 and \$2,000, not including a TV.

Why surround sound and DVDs? Surround sound systems, such as Lucasfilm's THX or Dolby, are exactly what brings the

theater experience into the home. The technology behind these audio formats (previously only used in theaters) is what takes advantage of DVD's — the digital encoding is an exact copy of what was recorded in the studio. Analog tapes like VHS allow for tape speed and wear on the tape heads, creating inferior sound and picture quality.

What if you're looking for a TV? The two hottest TVs right now, according to Melvin, are High Definition and Plasma Flat Screen. Another new entertainment toy to join the digital revolution, HDTV's uses are somewhat limited currently. While DVDs and other recorded forms are able to take advantage of its crisper images, the only broadcasts that are HD in the Lexington area are those from a home satellite provider, such as DirecTV or Primestar. Most everyone in the local broadcast arena, however, will come "online" within the next few years. And, with the prices in the multiple thousands, HDTV is usually out of the grasp of most college students.

As for Plasma Flat Screen TVs, the appeal is sheerly in their size, being ranging from three to six inches thick, these TVs can be mounted anywhere from a wall to a ceiling. While looking cool, nothing is cool about their price tag — almost \$10,000 a set, again putting this technological gem outside almost every college student's grasp.

So, if you're wanting either a movie theater experience without having to shell out six bucks every time, or just want to impress your neighbors, DVD and surround sound is the way to go. Just leave yourself enough money to buy a few good movies — instead of being left with *Ernest Goes To Camp*.

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For more information, contact the UK Behavioral Research Center at 257-5388. Investigators will return your call to discuss eligibility.

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HEALTH

# STDs, an unwanted visitor from break

**Oh no: Where you can go and what you can do**

By Carl Hoekelman  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Sunny beaches, free-flowing alcohol and sleeping in until noon. Spring Break was a great chance to kick back and blow off stress for many students. Unfortunately for some, sand might not be the only thing still stuck in their swimsuit.

Students on Spring Break are known to take chances they might not normally take during the school year, including behavior that increases students' chances of being exposed to a sexually transmitted disease.

"The American Social Health Association reports that one out of every 20 Americans will get a STD this year, and one out of every five already has one."

"The two most common STDs on [UK's] campus are chlamydia and HPV," said Dr. Spencer Turner, director of the University Health Service. HPV stands for Human Papillomavirus.

"Anyone who was exposed to a disease over break is just now coming into the time frame where symptoms will become apparent and we can test for an STD," Turner said.

Just because you have concerns about a sexual partner from the break doesn't mean a test can be done now. Some STDs take weeks, even months, to incubate.

The University Health Service can do free testing and exams for full-time students. Part of full-time tuition costs includes a health fee that entitles you to most services at University Health without additional cost. Part-time students can pay the fee or use the service on a fee-for-service basis.

If you start to show unexplained symptoms or have knowledge that a partner has possibly exposed you to a STD, University Health might be one place to seek help.

However, students should be aware that a single negative test doesn't put them in the clear. Each STD has a separate test, and during the incubation period, a student might test negative but be carrying the illness from exposure three nights ago.

At University Health, a clinician will talk to the patient, get a

history, determine what symptoms they might be exhibiting, do a physical exam and then administer the appropriate test.

This makes testing for diseases you may have gotten on Spring Break all the more difficult because you have no idea what you have been exposed to, and even worse, might have contracted.

**Know the risks**

• **HPV**  
Human Papillomavirus is the virus that causes what are known as genital warts. The warts may take months or even years to appear; the symptoms of HPV are generally limited to the appearance of bumps on or around the genitals.

• **Chlamydia**  
Symptoms generally appear 14-21 days after exposure, and take the form of burning and itching in the genitals, and an unusual discharge from the tip of the penis or the vagina.

• **Herpes**  
Caused by one of two types of viruses. The second is Herpes Simplex Two, which usually causes genital herpes. Symptoms generally appear within two weeks, which include characteristic sores that look like fever blisters. Flu-like symptoms, painful urination, along with mild itching, burning or tingling sensations in any exposed mucous membrane, including lips.

• **Gonorrhea**  
This STD infects about one million Americans a year. Both sexes can have an infection of the throat from oral sex. Redness, painful and/or frequent urination, yellowish discharge and unexplained bleeding are the

symptoms in both sexes.

• **Hepatitis B**  
Hepatitis B, one of the four types of this disease that can attack the liver, is 100 times more contagious than HIV/AIDS. There is a vaccine for the disease, but no "cure." Some people get the disease and never know it; others are incapacitated by its virus-like symptoms. These include nausea, tiredness and dark urine.

• **Syphilis**  
On average, it takes about three weeks after infection for a chancre (a big, open red sore) to appear. The chancre appears in the exact spot the bacteria first makes contact with you. This includes fingers and lips.

• **Trichomoniasis**  
Trichomoniasis or "trich" infection is caused by a parasite. It is usually transmitted through sex, but can also be transmitted by wet clothes or towels. Men usually have no symptoms.

Among women the symptoms are a heavy yellow-green discharge that has a foul odor, pain during intercourse, itching and abdominal pain.

• **Help**  
University Health is located on the first floor of Kentucky Clinic in Wing C. Appointments can be made by calling 323-APPT.



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## WOMEN

Continued from page 2

The conference will take place this Friday and Saturday. The conference is free but registration is encouraged. You can register at the Student Center. For more information call the Women's Studies Program office at 257-1388.

**Friday, March 30**

9:30-11:00 a.m. Registration and Reception  
Commonwealth House at the Gaines Center

Opening session and keynote address  
12:00-2:00 p.m., 230 New Student Center

Welcome

Joan Callahan, the director of Women's Studies and professor of philosophy, and Howard Groch, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

Keynote address

Introduction: Paola Bacchetta  
Geeta Patel, will give an address entitled: "Marking 'The Quilt': Veil, Harem/Home and Sexual Subversion Within Them"

Reception:

2:00-2:45 (location TBA)

Session 2: 2:45-4:15 p.m.

Session 2A

"Dangerous Women: Witches, Masochists and Lesbian 'Killer Males,'" 230 New Student Center

M. Michael Schiff

"Smooth Impenetrables: Inscriptions of Violence and Horror on Gendered Bodies of Knowledge"

Jessica Venning-Datema

"Sadomasochistic Fantasies, Submerging Subjectivities" and Wanda von Sacher-Masoch's "Supplemental" Writing"

Erin Abner

"LaFonda Fay Foster: The Death Penalty and Fear of the Un-Feminine"

Session 2B

"Problematising Praxis: Contextualizing Gender, Ethnicity, Race and Sexuality," Bingham Davis House at the Gaines Center

Oliver Leaman

"Violent Death as a Spur to Sophistication in Talking About Death: Some Anglo-American Comparisons"

Phyllis H. Ramsby

"Bag Lady(s) Packing Light: Hermeneutics and Healing"

Tara O'Dowd

"Confession, Resistance, and Domination: The Complexities of Discourses on Female Genital Mutilation, 1975-1985"

Dinner break

Session 3: 7:00-9:00 p.m. Center Theater, Old Student Center

Showing of the film *Earth*, followed by a roundtable discussion with the UK Feminist Alliance

**Saturday, March 31**

7:45-8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast, 211 New Student Center

Session 4: 8:30-10 a.m.

Session 4A

"Normalizing Practices: Symbolism, Schoolboys and Jokes," 228 New Student Center

Kimberly Star

"Uncovering Violence Against Women: Problematising the 'Doxa'"

Marcus Hightower

"Symbolic Violence: The School vs. Boys"

Joann Toth and Michelle Bemiller

"What do you do if your dishwasher breaks down? Slap her": The Perpetuation of Gendered Violence Through Sexist Jokes"

Session 4B

"Facilitating Rape: Rock 'n' Roll, Silence and the State," 206 New Student Center

Erin Kenny

"Woodstock's Stock: Big Business, the Outdoor Music Festival and Sexual Assault"

Robin Barrow

"The 'draught and glow' of Sexual Violence in Jane Eyre"

Tara Hefferan

"Politics of Terror: State-Sponsored Rape in Haiti, 1991-1994"

Session 5: 10:15-11:45 a.m.

Session 5A

"Consumption: Tobacco and Food," 228 New Student Center

Shireen Lalla

"Rebellion or Oppression: The Targeting of Women by the Tobacco Industry"

Margaret Marquis

"When de Notion Strikes Me": Body image, Food and Desire in 'Their Eyes Were Watching God'"

Session 5B

"Poverty and Patriarchy Across the Globe: Azerbaijan, the U.S. and India," 230 New Student Center

Ruziya Ramazanova

"Poverty as Gendered Violence"

Garen Murray

"Disciplining the Welfare Mother: Public Assistance as Violence Against Women"

Dr. Ratna K. Bandila

"Poverty as Gendered Violence"

Lunch break

Session 6: 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Session 6A

Workshop: Creating a Coordinated Campus-Community Response to Men's Violence, 230 New Student Center

Rus Ervin Funk

"Social Work, National Catholic School of Social Service"

Session 6B

Colonial Violence: Tribal erasures and homosocial utopias, 206 New Student Center

Seetha Veeraghanta

"Silenced Voices: Reclaiming the Histories of Adivasi Women"

Rebecca Weaver

"Colonial Island Narratives and the Masculine Violence Of/Toward Men"

Session 6C

Representing Violence: Lynching and Gothic Spliffs, 211 New Student Center

Chad Barbour

"Gothic Violence: Gender and Whiteness in Harriet Wilson's Our Nig"

David Magill

"The Politics of Lynching: Walter White, Ernest Hemingway and 1920s Racial Violence"

Session 7: 2:45-4:15 p.m.

Session 7A

Embodied Perversions: Actual, Imagined and Sadomasochistic, 228 New Student Center

Dr. Ann Dowd

"SoulSearch: Incest, Memory and the Power of the Maternal Voice"

Ann M. Ciasullo

"Deviance and Desire: The Lesbian in/and the Women's Prison in Popular Culture"

Giola Marie Kerlin

"Pleasure-Bound: Structures of Sadomasochistic Power Exchange Between Ana Ozores and Fermin de Pas in Clarin's La regenta"

Session 7B

Violent States: Rwanda, the U.S. and Indonesia, 230 New Student Center

Victoria Thur

"Killer Women: The Active Participation of Women in the 1994 Rwandan Genocide"

Christine Metz

"Masculinity, Violence and the Rallying of a Democratic National Identity"

Sari Faizah

"Rape of the Nation: An Analysis of Gender, Race and Class in the Case Study of Chinese-Indonesian Women"

Plenary Session 8: 5:00-7:00 p.m. Phyllis Wheatley Center, 647 Chestnut Street

"Voices of Protest, Voices for Change: Transforming the Discourse on African-American Youth Violence," Rosalind Harris, Aminata Baruti, George Moorman, Denise Brown and Hendrick Floyd.

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IN THE AIR

# Air passengers grounded by Comair pilots strike



Comair pilots react to an announcement of Comair's rejection of a contract proposal last Tuesday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Off we go: Comair pilots say they want a company-funded retirement plan, higher pay and more rest time between flights**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HEBRON, Ky. — Comair and its pilots broke off talks Sunday on a new contract, and the regional airline said it canceled most of its flights scheduled for Monday in preparation for a possible strike by the pilots.

Comair spokeswoman Meghan Glynn said negotiators were told by union leaders Sunday that they were unable to compromise on the major issues. The Air Line Pilots Association, which has said it may go on strike at 12:01 a.m. Monday, did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

She said the airline, the second largest regional carrier, is canceling the flights "to ensure that its customers and employees are taken care of in the event union leadership chooses to call for a work stoppage."

The cancellation involves flights scheduled from 6 a.m. through 6 p.m. Monday, about 750 of the airline's 815 daily departures in a system that serves about 25,000 passengers daily. The company said it will announce later what it will do about flights scheduled after that.

She said Comair was trying to provide customers with alternative transportation on

its parent, Delta Air Lines, or other airlines. "We are disappointed that the union leadership had decided to cease negotiations," Comair President Randy Rademacher said in a statement. "We believe it is in the best interest of everyone involved to get back to the table quickly and to continue talking."

Rademacher had gone to Washington Saturday to join talks with federal mediators and negotiators for Comair and the union.

Union spokesman Max Roberts said that he understood from union negotiators that the company left the table Sunday afternoon.

"We are still ready to negotiate, and as I understand it, the company has not responded to a contract proposal we gave them on Friday," Roberts said. "Our negotiating team is still in Washington, and we don't even know much at this point."

James C. Lawson, leader of the Comair pilots union, reported to members late Sunday that the group's executive council had recommended that pilots walk off their jobs if no agreement was reached.

He said that a message had been sent and that Comair's pilots were being classified as re-

jected pilots. "You are airline pilots. I will go forward and so will we all until we make it so at Comair," Lawson said. President Bush, who intervened this month in a dispute between Northwest Airlines and its mechanics, hasn't indicated whether he will get involved. "I haven't made a decision yet," he said on Sunday in Washington.

Bush could appoint an emergency board that would extend the cooling-off period 60 days and make recommendations on a contract.

Comair's 1,350 pilots say they want a company-funded retirement plan, more rest time between flights, higher pay and the right to be paid for all hours they are on the job, not just actual flying hours.

A contract offer that pilots rejected Monday would have given the pilots a company-funded retirement program, extended last year to Comair's other employees. It also would have increased the pay of top-scale pilots from \$66,000 to \$96,000.

But only about 40 Comair pilots who have at least 18 years of experience would have been eligible for that top pay, union leaders have said. There are about 420 pilots with two

years of experience or less paid less than \$30,000 annually, he said.

Comair, which also has a hub in Orlando, Fla., serves 95 cities in the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Bahamas and carries more than 8 million passengers annually. Comair was founded in 1977.

Travelers on Sunday already were being affected by the labor situation. Charles Mottram, 46, of Pittsboro, N.J., was going to Philadelphia from Lexington, Ky. on Comair.

"Every flight to Cincy had been canceled. After waiting in line for a while, they told me there were no other flights into Cincinnati. They offered to send me to Atlanta and then to Philadelphia, but I assumed I could walk there faster than that."

About 200 to 300 pilots and their family members began gathering about 7 p.m. Sunday near the Cincinnati-area airport.

Paula Goschke, whose husband, Kent, is a Comair pilot, said she was a little nervous. "I think everyone I talk to, including wives, is nervous, but we are committed to holding firm for what's right," she said.

Goschke's 15-year-old daughter, Michelle, also admitted some nervousness. "I'm sort of scared, but now my dad is not home much. If they get the right kind of contract, he would be home, and that's important."

**Jon Meacham**  
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LIGHT UP

## Tobacco devastating women's health

**Getting smoked by nicotine: Women now account for 39 percent of the nation's 400,000 smoking-related deaths each year, report says**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Women who smoke like men die like men, the surgeon general said Tuesday in an exhaustive report that finds tobacco became a leading killer of women in just two generations. The report urges a major nationwide push to fight back.

Federal regulation of a tobacco industry that spends nearly \$1 billion an hour promoting its products could help, said Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, but that will require Congress to act. Women now account for 39 percent of the nation's 400,000-plus smoking-related deaths each year, a proportion that has more than doubled since 1965 — giving new meaning to that old cigarette ad "You've come a long way, baby."

One woman dies from smoking every 3 1/2 minutes. Yet women may not fully realize the threat: Lung cancer caused by smoking is now the top female cancer killer, claiming 27,000 more women's lives each year than the breast cancer that women dread so much, said Surgeon General David Satcher.

About one in five women

smokes, a rate that hasn't changed much in a decade. Worse, more teen-age girls — 30 percent — are smoking now than 10 years ago.

Add a dramatic jump in tobacco marketing, to a record \$8.2 billion in 1999, and without a major change the nation won't meet its goal of cutting female smoking in half by 2010, Satcher said.

Satcher pointed to industry ads that lure girls by featuring skinny, sexy women, including a new R.J. Reynolds' campaign that says, "Until I find a real man, I'll take a real smoke."

"What starts out as a simple puff is turning into a death sentence," added Thompson, pledging to travel the country to preach the "evils of smoking" as his office hunts new anti-tobacco strategies.

The last big federal attempt to curb smoking — Food and Drug Administration tobacco regulation to prevent cigarette companies from targeting minors — failed in a Supreme Court challenge.

"Speaking only for myself, I think tobacco should be regulated," Thompson told reporters Tuesday. But because of the court action, "It's up to Congress to pass legislation."

Legislation to reopen FDA regulation is pending.

Philip Morris, the world's largest tobacco company, supports the surgeon general's efforts to alert women about smoking's risks, as well as FDA regulation, said spokesman Michael Pfeil.

"We don't market to children," he insisted, noting that the industry's \$252 billion settlement of state anti-tobacco lawsuits in 1998 included programs to fight youth smoking. "Everyone agrees that kids shouldn't smoke."

Satcher's report sparked an immediate congressional move to help women kick the habit. Sens. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and Sam Brownback, R-Kan., introduced legislation to allow Medicaid to pay for anti-smoking drugs and other cessation therapy for poor women, and to allow elderly Medicare recipients access to smoking cessation counseling.

Quitting dramatically reduces chances of smoking-caused illnesses — eight types of cancer, heart disease and other lung diseases that hit women and men alike.

But women smokers face some unique additional risks:

menstrual irregularities and earlier menopause; infertility; bone-mineral osteoporosis; arthritis; cervical cancer; and dangerous blood clots if they use birth control pills.

That's in addition to the dangers of smoking during pregnancy, which include low-birth-weight, stillbirths, miscarriages and sudden infant death syndrome.

And "if you really want to get your surgeon general upset," take a baby into those crowded airport smoking lounges where 50 people puff at once, Satcher said. Exposure to secondhand smoke causes asthma and other illnesses in young children and adults.

Some states are effectively fighting female smoking, Satcher said, urging more to follow suit:

— In California, a combination of higher cigarette taxes and massive education caused lung cancer to drop almost 5 percent among California women in the last decade even as it rose by 13 percent elsewhere.

Powerful ads in Massachusetts show a cigarette pack with a real smoker's photograph, saying, "WARNING: Pam Luffin died from smoking at 31. How old will you be?"

— And a Florida campaign by teen-agers educating other teens reduced smoking by middle-school girls from 18.1 percent in 1998 to 10.9 percent last year.

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THE MIDDLE EAST

# Peace nowhere in sight



An Israeli soldier loads his automatic rifle with a rubber bullet next to burning tires set on fire by Palestinian demonstrators during a small-scale clash in the divided West Bank city of Hebron, Tuesday. Tension was high in Hebron, after Palestinian snipers killed a 10-month-old Jewish girl and injured her father late Monday in the Avraham Avinu neighborhood.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Fighting continues: Latest victim of violence is also the youngest; Sharon under pressure with death toll at 435

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HEBRON, West Bank — A 10-month-old Jewish girl became the youngest victim of six months of Palestinian-Israeli violence Monday when Palestinian gunmen shot her dead in the arms of her father in the tense, divided West Bank city of Hebron.

The shooting put Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on the spot. Elected in February with a pledge to restore security to Israel, Sharon was trying to avert an explosion of violence in advance of both Tuesday's Arab League summit meeting in Jordan and a potentially explosive observance Friday by Israel's minority Arab citizens.

The baby, Shalhevet Pass, was shot in the head, and her father, Yitzhak Pass, was wounded in the leg by gunfire from a hill in the Palestinian-controlled part of Hebron, just across from a Jewish area.

The Israelis fired tank shells at the neighborhood shortly after the baby was killed. Seven Palestinians were wounded. Thick smoke rose from building hit by an Israeli shell on a hilltop in the Palestinian neighborhood.

Hebron is the only West Bank city di-

vided into Israeli and Palestinian zones. About 400 Jewish settlers live in three enclaves in the middle of the city of more than 100,000 Palestinians.

Pass, his wife and baby daughter were in a playground in front of their house when the gunfire erupted. Eyewitnesses and army commanders said it was carefully aimed and not a random spray of bullets.

There was no immediate reaction from Palestinian officials.

Also Monday, police safely disarmed an explosive device in the city of Petah Tikva, near Tel Aviv. Israeli army radio reported that it was apparently an attempted terrorist bombing. And in Gaza, three mortar shells were fired at a Jewish settlement. No injuries were reported.

After the shooting, the Israeli military clamped a curfew on the areas of Hebron under Israeli control, confining about 20,000 Palestinians to their homes, and closed off entrances to the city.

Justice Minister Uzi Landau said Monday that it was a mistake to give Palestinians control of part of the city. He said that Israel gave the Palestinians rifles to control militants, but instead, "they are firing at us

from there with the same rifles."

Settlers demanded that the Israeli military retake the hilltop from where the gunmen fired. Settler spokesman Noam Arnon said, "All this territory be recaptured and the terrorists there be wiped out. There is no other solution."

Timing is a factor in Sharon's planning. He wanted to preserve a measure of calm while in the United States last week and before Tuesday's Arab League summit, expected to condemn Israel for its role in the current violence.

On Friday, Israeli Arabs mark an annual protest against land confiscation.

They have identified with the Palestinians in their current conflict, and a sudden escalation might trigger violence during the Friday observance.

In a statement, Sharon blamed Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority for the killing of the baby, and the military charged that the "despicable murder" amounted to a "step of escalation."

Hebron settlers, among the most militant in the West Bank, were planning demonstrations, and Israeli officials appealed to them not to take retaliatory action.

In six months of fighting, 435 people have been killed, including 356 Palestinians, 60 Israeli Jews and 19 others.

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

# Child pornography ring busted by joint operation

## Blue Orchid: Despite arrests, Russian authorities face nearly impossible task

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW — Despite a successful Russian-U.S. operation to shut down a Web site that sold child pornography, police on Tuesday decried legal chaos that leaves them virtually powerless against Russian child pornographers who peddle their products worldwide.

Operation Blue Orchid, a joint effort by the U.S. Customs Service and the Moscow city police, has led to criminal inquiries in 24 nations against people who ordered child pornography videotapes from the Russian Web site.

The police operation was named after the Web site, which was shut down in December. Many of the tapes were bought by people in the United States; others went to Germany, Britain, France, Denmark, China, Kuwait, Mexico and scores of other countries.

But Russian investigators said Tuesday the operation nabbed only a few of the legions of child pornography producers who run international distribution networks from Russia with near-immunity.

"According to estimates by foreign experts — and though it pains us to hear this, it is true — Russia is turning into a kind of Malaysia or Thailand, where the main flow of child pornography now is coming from Russia," said investigator Eduard Lapatik.

Under Russian law, possession of pornography is not a crime. Production and trafficking are illegal, but the law makes no distinction between child pornography and pornography involving adults — treating both as lesser crimes punishable by a maximum of two years in prison, the same punishment for petty theft or shoplifting.

Deep poverty drives scores of children in the Russian hinterlands to flee their homes and their often-abusive parents, and travel to Moscow. Once there, the children become easy victims. "Some are paid for these activities, others just get food," investigator Alexander Bynenko told a news conference Tuesday.

Even when the children fall into the hands of police, there is little the cash-strapped authorities can do. Since the start of the year, some 5,000 teen-agers have been detained in Moscow for various offenses. Of them, only 98 could be placed in orphanages; the rest were sent home, and probably ran away again, Lapatik said.

During Operation Blue Orchid, police seized some 600 videotapes, 200 digital video disks and many boxes of photographs. Bynenko displayed stacks of graphic photographs involving hundreds of children, but said authorities were unable to track the fate of each child.

Four people have been arrested in the United States and 15 search warrants have been issued as part of Operation Blue Orchid. At least four people have been arrested in Russia and two suspects have committed suicide — nor out of fear of long prison terms, but of the treatment sex offenders get from other inmates in Russian jails, investigators said.

Adding to the difficulty of fighting child pornography in Russia, the country's age of consent is 14 — but even offenders convicted of having sex with younger children face a maximum of four years.

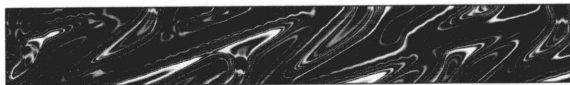
The light punishment has stoked sex tourism to Russia, police said.

One such alleged U.S. tourist, Glenn Martikean of Portage, Ind., was arrested Jan. 31. American officials were led to Martikean after a search of a Russian Web site operator's apartment.

Video footage filmed by a concealed police camera in a Moscow hotel room and shown at the news conference, appeared to show Martikean weeping and saying he wanted to see "the kid" with whom he allegedly tried to have sex before Russian police intervened.

The boy was 14, and Russian police were unable to press charges.

Martikean was arrested by U.S. customs agents after he flew home and was indicted Friday by a grand jury in Indiana on charges of importing child pornography and interstate and foreign travel to engage in sexual activity with minors, customs said.



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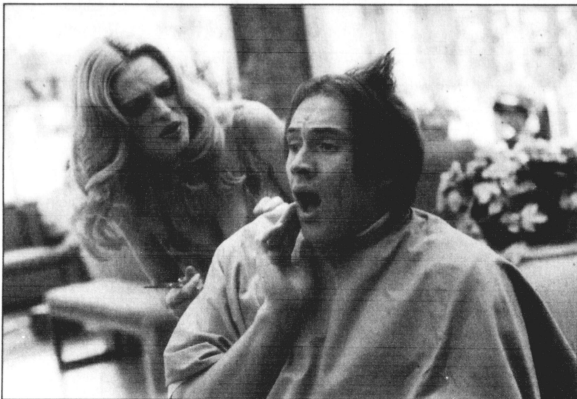
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# 'Say It Ain't' the same film



**Bloody sunday**

Heather Graham stabs Chris Klein in the neck in the latest Farrelly Brothers-produced film. But don't go jumping to the theaters for this one. Stay home and watch *Dumb and Dumber* or *There's Something About Mary*.

PHOTO FURNISHED

**Nothing new here:** The latest entry into the gross-out film genre proves to be boring sight gag after boring sight gag

By Bryan Marshall  
STAFF WRITER

Comedy is one of the hardest things to pull off in movies. Filmmakers constantly have to discover what makes an audience laugh, while being inventive and fresh at the same time. Unfortunately, the new Farrelly Brothers-produced comedy, *Say It Isn't So*, fails to be original or even humorous. The gross-out film is directed by James Rogers and written by Peter Gaultke and Gerry Swallow, but every aspect seems stolen right out of the Farrelly Brothers' previous efforts in this tired genre. The incest-inspired narrative follows Gilly (*American Pie's* Chris Klein) as he tries to win back Jo (Heather Graham) who was mistakenly identified as his sister. The outrageous premise has promise and certainly might have made an entertaining movie,

but nothing ever completely works. Sight gags galore are present throughout with everything from a cow receiving a rectal exam to a cat pleasuring a main character. The gags barely make you crack a smile and some even leave you wondering what the filmmakers were thinking when they wrote the script. After every pathetic attempt at shocking the audience, what was meant to cause laughter only brings silence and bewilderment. The past Farrelly Brothers' efforts have succeeded for a couple of reasons that include an underlying love story in the script that adds sweetness to the film and remarkable casting choices. However, both of these crucial elements are absent here even though the writers try to present a forced and uninspired romantic relationship between Gilly and Jo. Former choice actors in Farrelly comedies like Jim Carrey, Ben Stiller and

Woody Harrelson are replaced this time with Klein and Graham. This casting blunder hinders the film since both of these young thespians couldn't act if their life depended on it. Surprisingly, the only bright spot in the cast is 7-UP spokesman Orlando Jones as a Jimi Hendrix look alike named Dig McCaffey who, as a legless pilot, helps Gilly to get Jo back throughout the film. It is shocking to see that the wonderful Sally Field decided to take part in this disappointing venture as Jo's mean, gold-digging mother. While Field is competent in her role, hopefully she will make better choices in the future. In the end, *Say It Isn't So* not only isn't funny but is occasionally offensive with several jabs against characters suffering from physical disabilities. It would be nice to see fewer gross-out films released since the majority of them are not entertaining, but if you crave movies in this genre, you would be better off renting *There's Something About Mary* or *Dumb and Dumber* rather than paying to see this horrible film.

Grade: D

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

# Author changes path with 'House'

**Not about the law:** John Grisham's latest novel set on an Arkansas cotton farm

By Paul Maker  
STAFF WRITER

The literary world has come to expect it every spring — an enthralling novel chronicling the story of a young, inexperienced lawyer who discovers a life altering case takes hold of the No. 1 slot on the New York Times' best-seller list and remains there for weeks. Abandoning the lawyer stories fans have come to expect, John Grisham changed things this year. First published as a series in the magazine Grisham became publisher of in 1994, *A Painted House* doesn't have a single lawyer, judge, jury or trial. No wills being contested, no unemployed law school student stumbling upon a case that makes millions. Instead of courtrooms and law offices, the novel is set on an Arkansas cotton farm during the fall of 1952. Instead of an eager lawyer, the story is told through the eyes of seven-year-old Luke Chandler. The story begins as the Chandler family is searching for people to help pick their cotton crop. They hire the Sprulls, "hill people" from the Ozark Mountains, and Mexicans. As they settle into the daily routine of picking cotton before the sun rises until the sun sets followed by listening to the St. Louis Cardinal game on the radio, the Chandlers begin to feel that it could be a good crop. A good crop is the least of Luke's worries as trouble begins. Luke witnesses a fight between Hank Sprull and a local that ends in the local's death. The manslaughter is the first of many secrets Luke learns and is forced to keep from his family, friends and the local police. The Korean War lingers in the back of the Chandler's minds because Luke's 18-year-old uncle, Ricky, is overseas fighting. Ricky's past indiscretions come back to haunt the Chandler family, adding to the secrets that no seven year old should know. As the secrets accumulate and a feud erupts between Hank and one of the Mexicans, the Chandlers worry more and more about the rain and whether they will make enough to live through the winter. A cousin from up north and his snobby wife are included in a humorous chapter that plants the seeds that will change the lives of Luke and his parents. The old adage is "Write what you know," and Grisham certainly does that, basing the tale on his childhood experiences on a cotton farm. He works in humorous anecdotes about the gossip of a small-town and a rivalry between the Baptists and Methodists that could only come from living in a rural Southern town. Taking risks can be disastrous but in the case of *A Painted House*, the risk worked. Grisham surprised long-time fans by writing a top-notch novel that is actually superior to many of his others. While he will probably continue to write law novels, with this latest novel, he has proven that he doesn't have to rely solely on them.

Grade: A

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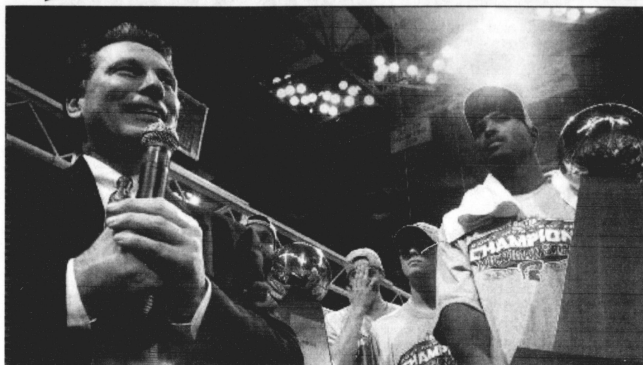
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**Will Messer**  
ASSISTANT SPORTSDAILY EDITOR

# Despite last seasons title Spartans are overlooked



**Coach Tom Izzo and senior forward Andre Hutson celebrate last season's National Championship after the Spartans defeated Florida. Izzo and Hutson are back again this year and poised to become the first team to win back-to-back titles since Duke in 1992.**

FILE PHOTO

## Substance over style: Spartans have plenty of talent, but win the old-school way

It doesn't make much sense to feel sorry for a defending champion, but doesn't Michigan State deserve some attention?

Despite their third straight trip to college basketball Mecca the Spartans linger in the shadows while the media has opted to use its spotlight to hype Duke, Maryland and Arizona.

The other schools are, admittedly, surrounded by intriguing storylines.

Duke and Maryland will meet for the fourth time this season and both are members of the ACC. But last season Michigan State and Wisconsin represented the Big Ten in the Final Four amid little fanfare.

Arizona coach Lute Olson has brought his squad to the Final Four despite the January

death of his wife and his team recovered from a 9-5 start to win 22 of its last 24 games — two storylines that make the Wildcats the human interest story of the Final Four.

All MSU has done, meanwhile, is win.

The Spartans are in position to become the first school to win consecutive National Championships since the Duke teams of 1990-91 and 1991-92, but could be labeled underdogs.

Check out ESPN.com's tournament page, for example. Yesterday's "Today's Best" featured four articles, one about Maryland, one about the Maryland/Duke match-up and a third about Illinois, who was bounced from the tourney last weekend. The fourth article was a link to an ESPN.com poll.

There was no mention of the most dominant team in college basketball over the last three seasons. No mention of coach Tom Izzo and his 16-2 NCAA Tournament record. His winning percentage of .899 is first amongst active coaches.

Why is this? Maybe because the Spartans don't have individual stars like Duke's Jason Williams and Shane Battier or Maryland's Jaun Dixon.

On the other hand, it could be that MSU was last year's story and, therefore, old news.

Most likely, however, it's because Izzo's squad, like its coach, is a blue-collar team.

They don't rely on perimeter shooting. All-Americans or a 7-footer to win.

They win because they out-pounce, out-work and out-hustle their opponents.

Oh, the Spartans have talent — as much as anyone in the nation. Guard Jason Richardson is a perfect example.

But the Spartans can win even if their studs struggle because of their three cornerstones: defense, rebounding and senior leadership.

The Spartans have held opponents to 34.7 percent from the field this season and out-rebounded opponents by a margin of 18.5 rpg.

By comparison, tournament favorite Duke's opponents shot 42.3 percent from the field and the Blue Devil's out-rebounded opponents by only 1.3 rpg.

Michigan State's five seniors — led by guard Charlie Bell, who has picked up where Mateen Cleaves and company left off last season — have won four Big Ten regular season titles and are the most winningest class in Big Ten history.

Numbers don't lie, but a lack of attention can definitely mislead. Either way it should be no surprise if the Spartans repeat as champions.

### IN BRIEF

## Sportsbytes

### GymKats head to NCAA's

After scoring a 195.850 at the Southeastern Conference Championships, the UK gymnastics team overtook Michigan State for the No. 5 spot in the Central Region and qualified for the opening round of NCAA gymnastics action.

The No. 26 GymKats will travel to Tuscaloosa, Ala., for the regional championships on Saturday, April 7. Joining UK will be No. 4 Alabama, No. 9 Arizona State, No. 16 Minnesota, No. 20 Kent State and No. 21 Ohio State.

"We are very pleased with

our performances and are glad to be in," coach Leah Little said. "This will be our third time competing on Alabama's equipment. This season we have performed well each time, and being in front of their crowd, I think their fans will support us as another SEC team."

"This field is strong, and we have already seen Bama and ASU. We are just excited to be here and will be ready to compete."

Only 36 teams qualified for regional competitions, and the top 18 were seeded and distributed among the six regions. As a result, No. 18 Louisiana State

was sent out of the Central Region to the North East Region, while ASU was placed in the Central from the South Central and Minnesota came from the North Central.

UK has faced the Crimson Tide twice this season. On Feb. 24, the GymKats nearly pulled off the upset, leading the Tide going into the fourth rotation. However, UA put together a strong score on the floor exercise to top UK, 195.90-195.025.

The two teams ran into one another again this past weekend at the SEC Championships where Alabama scored a 197.425 to finish second, while UK's total of 195.850 was good for fifth.

The GymKats and Sun Devils met two weeks ago at a quad meet at ASU. UK finished third in the meet scoring a 194.350 while ASU totaled 195.575. In that meet, UK topped No. 12 Iowa, a team that also qualified for national competition.

### Volleyball team begins spring play

The UK volleyball team opened up their spring season on Saturday, March 24, at the University of Dayton by participating in a round-robin tournament with Dayton, Pittsburgh, Xavier and Bowling Green State University.

Playing under the new scoring format adopted by the NCAA, which will be used in the fall of 2001 season, the Cats came away from their first competitive experience with a strong overall performance.

UK finished the tournament 2-2 with wins over Dayton and Xavier and losses to Bowling Green and Pittsburgh.

UK will travel to Indiana University on Saturday, March 31 to participate in a six-team round-robin tournament.

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