

THURSDAY KENTUCKY KERNEL

Barfly talks
to Dave
Attell about
the art of
bar hopping
| PAGE 4



October 23, 2003

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Sunflowers and silence: Students relax at Arboretum

The Arboretum is still blossoming after six acts of vandalism over the summer

By Rob Oakley
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Mike Johnson sits on a shady bench, strumming and swaying to the music he plays on his guitar.

To him, blaring horns, loud people and other typical noises on the UK campus are a distant memory.

As Johnson, a business sophomore, plays, he has only the sound of his guitar to think about.

He is secluded in his own world, surrounded by several lush trees.

He seems free of all academic responsibilities. Johnson isn't far from campus, though.

He's at the UK Arboretum, across from Commonwealth Stadium on Alumni Drive.

Johnson, along with people from all over Kentucky, comes to enjoy an excursion from everyday life.

Johnson comes to the Arboretum to "relax, play his guitar and get away from the city."

"It feels like you're out in the country," he said.

The Arboretum was first opened in 1991 in a joint effort of UK and Lexington for educational purposes, said Marchia Farris, director of the Arboretum.

It sees an estimated 70,000 to 80,000 guests a year — more than double UK's population — she said.

It's a place to go to get a feel of nature in the city.

There are an estimated 1,500 species of plants at the Arboretum, and most of them are native to Kentucky, Farris said.

The UK Arboretum is a beautiful place, not only for students but for people of all ages, visitors said.

Local schools in Lexington take field trips to the Arboretum. It also hosts events, such as lectures, bird house displays and weddings.

Plant enthusiasts can also make some of the Arboretum's soil their own.



Rachael Zeilmann (left), a Gatton graduate student and Jean Ellen Higer, a Martin graduate student, care for flowers at the UK Arboretum.

There are 40 individual plots that people adopt during the growing season to plant flowers and show them off, said Judy Royse, a volunteer at the Arboretum.

This summer, the plots and other areas of the Arboretum were vandalized six times, police said.

Bleach was poured in the ponds, killing hundreds of fish. Trails and gardens were trampled. A rock wall was destroyed.

No one was ever arrested, and damages have been estimated to be more than \$11,000.

Hundreds of volunteers rushed to repair the damage, and people donated fish and plants.

Farris said security has been increased. Still, the Arboretum is always vulnerable to more acts of vandalism, she said, because

See ARBOR on 2



Haley Bates, 13 months, plays with a cat near a shell of a tree.

Housing deal to help retain employees, diversify campus area

Live Where You Work plan will help faculty buy homes and could ease parking problems at UK

By Lindsey Keith
STAFF WRITER

A new deal to give monetary assistance to UK employees who choose to move downtown will help retain faculty and give them aid in becoming homeowners, the vice president of campus services said.

"It's a great program that can help people who would not be able to buy homes become homeowners," said Ben Carr, who worked on the new Live Where You Work plan.

The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, UK and Samaritan Hospital started the program in an effort to increase downtown home ownership.

Employees from the hospital, UK and the government are affected by the plan.

Under the program, UK employees can get up to \$15,000 through the financial assistance program if they move to a home between Cooper Drive and Sixth Street. In addition, the plan provides housing information and numerous financial options.

Carr said UK wanted to make downtown neighborhoods a good place for everyone to live.

"We want a good balance of homeowners and renters," Carr said. "Unbalanced, it is a transient neighborhood."

It will also keep the downtown area strong.

"This is just another tool we're creating to get more people living in the downtown area so that pressure to build suburban developments in rural areas is reduced," said Harold Tate, president of the Lexington Downtown Development Authority, in the Lexington Herald-Leader.

Along with the development authority, the Fannie Mae agency stepped in, which was recommended in 2002 when a study was done on prospective developments near downtown and UK.

The program's goals are to help businesses attract talented workers, increase the number of homeowners, help balance the rental property surrounding UK and decrease commuters and the parking problem downtown and on UK's campus.

Any UK worker who qualifies can receive up to five percent of the total purchase price of the home, condo or duplex. Loans are not to exceed \$15,000. Down payments, closing costs and renovations can be covered by the forgivable loan, according to a release from UK public relations.

However, the loans are only forgiven if the employee continues as a full-time employee at their participating employers.

The program is available to instructors, assistant professors and non-management staff only.

"Live Where You Work will greatly aid UK in its efforts to attract and retain superior faculty and staff, as well as serve as a catalyst for revitalizing neighborhoods contiguous to the UK campus," President Lee Todd said in a press release.

According to the release, applicants must complete a homeownership education program, which puts focus on credit maintenance, budget planning and maintenance of their new homes.

E-mail kernel@uky.edu

Fraternity finds a new way to advertise

Kappa Alpha Phi members use bench for exposure; bench has the Greek organization's name on the back

By Megan Boehnke
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Members of the Kappa Alpha Phi fraternity have a new place to congregate when they sing their fraternal hymn every day at noon.

Last Friday, members unveiled a new fire-engine red metal bench outside the Student Center.

One of eight black Greek organizations on campus, the Kappa Alpha Phi fraternity presented the university with the bench as a

means to "show recognition for the presence of our fraternity and all black fraternities on campus," said Corey Brown, the record-keeper for Kappa Alpha Phi.

Since many of its 11 members live off campus, and the fraternity does not have a house, members searched for a way to make their presence known on campus.

"We wanted a mark on campus to not only distinguish us from other fraternities but also to merely estab-

lish our existence," said Vice President Nathan Owens III.

The bench isn't just for fraternity members.

"The bench is for everyone to come together and use," Brown said.

The bench, which has the name "Kappa Alpha Phi" cut out of the back, is located by the free speech area.

The fraternity members decided to put the bench where students would see it.

"A lot of people sit, relax and do homework (outside of the Student Center)," said member Rolandas Byrd. "We thought it was the best place for everyone's use."

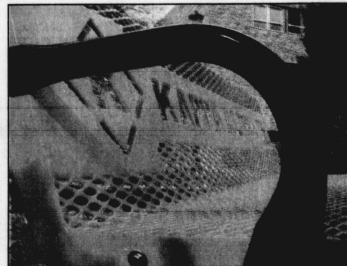
Soon, the area will be shaded. The physical plant department donated a tree that will be planted alongside the bench, said John Herbst, director of the Student Services.

The idea to donate the bench evolved over the summer, Brown said.

"We always wanted to do something like that, but didn't know how to go about it," he said.

After seeing such symbols on the campus of Kentucky State University, the members of Kappa Alpha Phi decided the bench was best, since it was "some-

See BENCH on 2



Kappa Alpha Phi purchased this bench to put on campus because it was "something that hadn't been done before."

Extended Forecast

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy
56 44	64 45	62 43
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW

For more weather check out kykernel.com

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Campus buildings lose power because of fire | PAGE 2

Cool Cats ready for league play | PAGE 8

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The Low-down

Fire makes 20 campus buildings lose power

A fire in a manhole located in the parking lot of the Gluck Equine Research Center resulted in a loss of power to 20 campus buildings Wednesday, said UK administrators.

UK Police reported that the fire started underground in a high voltage wire, said UK spokesman Brad Duncan. At 12:42 P.M., fire department personnel responded to a call. The fire was apparently caused by a short in a 12,000 volt wire underground, UK police said. Shortly after, power was restored to 17 buildings using generators.

Power was not restored to the Gluck Center, the Barnhart Agricultural Engineering building and Cooper House until between 6:30 p.m. and 8:45 p.m. last night. The power in those buildings also came via generators.

No injuries were reported and no damage has been found in any of the buildings, police said. One generator was reported damaged, police said. There was no word on the cost of repairs to the wire underground or any other related systems.

Kernel looking for students, faculty with 'nasty' cars

If you think you or someone you know has the "crappiest car on campus" send us a photo or e-mail kernel@uky.edu and tell us about it. We'll showcase many of the cars in the Kernel and talk to the owners about what makes their car well, crappy. We want to know all about it, from the terrible noises it makes to the hodgepodge of colors it's been painted. We'll also do a non-scientific vote on what car is the worst. Let us know before Nov. 5. Call 257-1915 or e-mail kernel@uky.edu.

SOURCE: KERNEL STAFF WRITERS

Corrections

A picture on the front page of Wednesday's Kernel incorrectly identified the student, Tyler Roberson. Roberson was a mining engineering student before leaving UK.

To report an error call *The Kentucky Kernel* at 257-1915.

BENCH

Continued from page 1

thing that hadn't been done before.

"I think it's a cool idea to let their name be known because Greek life is such a big part of being on campus," said Jessica Jordan, an agricultural education freshman.

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The fraternity plans to continue to make themselves known on campus by community service.

"We are all about community service and fellowship," Owens said. Although he recognized it was a possibility, Brown said that they are not planning any other physical symbols of their fraternity on campus as of now.

ARBOR

Continued from page 1

cause "we are always open."

Cmdr. Travis Manley of the UK Police Communications and Information Services agreed.

"It's nearly impossible based on the Arboretum's sheer size to cover all of it," he said.

No more acts of vandalism have been reported since the increase in security.

And with the weather cooling, tourists are still coming out to enjoy what the flowery park has to offer.

Julie Long 22, from Guelph, Ontario, visits the garden because "other arboretums don't have this much color."

A spectacular two-mile trail that takes visitors through different regions of Kentucky attracts visitors as well, some said.

The two-mile trail takes visitors to all the different regions of Kentucky by showcasing plants from all over the state.

"I like to go to the Arboretum, because I like to see interesting plants from all over the state," said Chris Paul, a telecommunications freshman.

Ray Hamilton a 1953 UK graduate calls it "a lovely place to walk and see."

The Arboretum is a beautiful and relaxing place for everyone to visit and escape from their busy lives, many said.

Most go to find time to just relax while enjoying nature, or in Mike Johnson's case, jam to some tunes on a perfect day.

"It is almost like being inside a secret garden because you are completely surrounded by flowers," said Jackie Shircliff, an undeclared freshman.

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Arboretum Events

Here's what to expect at the Arboretum. Call 257-6955 for more information.

Nov. 6 - Herbal Gifting. Join Candace Harker at 10 a.m. as she demonstrates the use of herbs in sachets, potpourri and bath salts. Call 257-6939 to register. There is a \$5 fee and Friends of the Arboretum receive a discount.

Nov. 8 - Bluegrass Woods Restoration. Workday. Come from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to help eradicate invasive species and restore these woods to its native ecosystem. Please bring work gloves. Refreshments will be served. Meet at the Arboretum East entrance to the Bluegrass Woods at 9 a.m.

Dec. 6 - Environmental Tree Extravaganza. Help the Arboretum get into the holiday spirit and decorate one of our evergreen trees for the birds.

Ways to donate

Here is a list of gifts to give or events to host that gives money to the Arboretum.

- Identification Labels for plants — \$25
- Shrubs — \$50
- Tree — \$100
- Tree for Dedication — \$500
- Tree for dedication with plaque — \$1,000
- Bench for Dedication — \$1,500
- Event Workshop, or Symposium — \$2,000
- Student Intern Fellowship — \$3,000
- Building Fund — any amount

SOURCE: HTTP://WWW.UKY.EDU/ARBORUM

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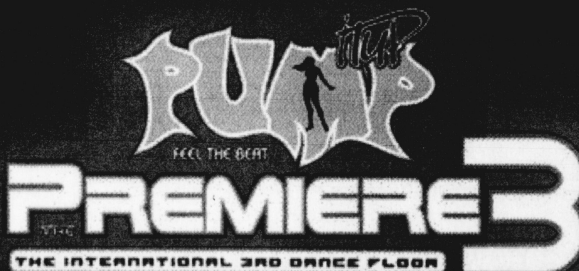
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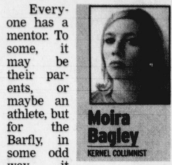
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THE BARFLY

Candor, enlightenment from the ultimate Barfly



Moira Bagley KENTUCKY CORRESPONDENT

Every one has a mentor. To some, it may be their parents, or maybe an athlete, but for the Barfly, in some odd way, it would have to be Dave Attell. Host of Comedy Central's late-night Barfly-esque show, "Insomniac," and renowned stand-up comedian, Attell has glorified the slacker lifestyle of debauchery I figured he might be able to give me some tips on how to be a better Barfly. Here are some excerpts from our chat. Do you have any tips for being a better Barfly? "Pants down, then defecate. Hmm... interesting. Next question. How long have you gone without sleep? "Three days." Wow, what's that like? "It's like a drug; you start seeing and hearing some crazy stuff." One of my friends caught a glimpse of you in the background of a 1990s Saturday Night Live skit. "Ah, yes, that was me. We call those sightings "pot sightings" because the people that usually stay home all day watching Comedy Central are usually either pot-heads or strippers... or journalists (laughs)." I guess I just fall into the latter category. So you were a writer for SNL? "I was indeed. I did that alongside my stand-up routine in the early '90s. But I'm

not much of a writer." What's the worst experience you've had in a bar? "Well, I guess you could say the occasional bar fight, but you always come out with a cool story. No one ever talks about winning a game of football. So I guess you could say my worst bar experience was a fight—and she kicked my ass."

If you weren't a comedian, what do you think you would be doing?

"Working as a professional locksmith. It would be great to work on your own hours, or at any hour of the day really. I would want to help people who are stuck in a bad situation, unless I decided to use my skills for my own personal entertainment."

Do you have any advice for college students?

"Don't be embarrassed about drunk hook-ups. You know when you take someone home from the bar and wake up wondering how you got there? Don't get down on yourself. Think about it—you could have been sitting at home masturbating, but instead you got a taste of the real thing."

If you could be any animal, what would it be?

"A porn bird."

Really?

"No. When my friends ask me what I want to eat or something, I'll say a porn sandwich or something like that."

I get it. So you would be a porn bird? Is there such a thing?

"Probably not. I guess I would be a mix of two things: a parrot because they can talk and say whatever they want and don't get in trouble for it."



PHOTO FURNISHED

Dave Attell will be in Louisville on Friday night with Lewis Black.

It's the owner that always gets the blame. Or I would like to be a turtle. They may be the world's most boring animal, but it takes a lot of focus for them to do anything and they're really good at hiding. Think about it. The ones that hid survived."

How do you fend off the ladies?

"I show them my truck."

And that scares them away?

"Oh, no. That's how I pick them up. How do I fend them off? Well I don't really have to, because once the cameras get turned off, the women do too. Yes, we women love cameras, and men love guys who can get them on camera."

Have you ever been to Kentucky before?

"No, Friday night in Louisville will be my first time. I also hope to come back for the Derby next year. So, why do you think people come to see your stand-up routine?"

"I don't know why people come to see my stand-up. I guess because it's dirty and people need that sometimes." (At this point, a television comes on in the background)

"Shut that porn off!"

Last question: Is the hokey-pokey really what it's all about?

"Is the hokey-pokey really what it's all about? Hmm. No. Definitely not. That's what they tell us when we're little though, but then we get older and realize that mortgages and bills and that sort of thing is what's all about. Maybe they should change it to say "The hokey-pokey is the beginning of what it's all about."

The Low-Down Dave Attell will be performing his stand-up routine with Lewis Black at the Palace Theater in Louisville on Oct. 24 at 7 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased through TicketCity. Prices range from \$32.50 to \$37.50.

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Game against Buffalo farewell for UK seniors

By Chris Fisher
STAFF WRITER

Friday night, five seniors on the UK men's soccer team will face the University of Buffalo Bulls in their final game at the UK Soccer Complex.

UK's corps of seniors has been in two Mid-American Conference regular season and tournament titles, including UK's first MAC regular season title in 2000 and an undefeated MAC season in 2001, as well as two NCAA Tournament berths on their way to 44 wins over four seasons.

Defender Chris Austin, who was named to this week's Soccer America's men's team of the week, has anchored the UK defense for the last four seasons. He has started 52 of 67 games in his career, including all 14 games this season.

The Marietta, Ga., native was selected to the All-MAC Tournament Team last season and played an integral role in UK's defensive unit that allowed a paltry 15 goals in 2001.

One of Austin's career highlights came in 2000. After going scoreless through four overtime periods, Austin connected on one of UK's four penalty kicks. The unseeded Wildcats defeated then-No. 9 Saint Louis 4-2 on penalty kicks to send the Cats to the second round of the NCAA Tournament for the first time in school history.

As a defender, Austin

said he doesn't seek individual recognition.

"It's the midfielders and forwards are getting praise, that usually means you're winning," he said.

"That's the most important thing. I know that when we win and record a shutout the back four (defenders) have done a great job and we get congratulated by our team and coaches."

Fellow defender Steven McLay, in his first full season with the Wildcats, transferred from Virginia Intermont College in Bristol, Va. There, he was selected first-team All-Appalachian Athletic Conference in 2000. McLay has started eight of 14 games this season.

"Steve is a dominant force in the back for us," head coach Ian Collins said. "He is a great communicator and organizes players well."

For senior forward Brook Pearse, his hallmark of consistency proved vital as one of only four Wildcats to appear in all 19 games last season while starting in 11.

Pearse, who attended the prestigious Adidas Soccer Academy, scored UK's lone goal during an overtime loss to Coastal Carolina in the finals of the UK Invitational Tournament last year. Pearse, a Bradenton, Fla., native, has started nine games for the Cats this season.

"He has gotten better every year since being here and that is due to the fact

that his work rate is second-to-none," Collins said. "Brook has a real impact on the field."

As a defender on UK's back line, Craig Pykett appeared in 16 games for the Wildcats in 2002, making 10 starts including the final nine games of the season. Pykett has started 13 of 14 games this season for the Wildcats.

"After coming in as a walk-on, he has definitely become a force within our program," Collins said. "He is a premier leader on our team and one of the most consistent, reliable players we have."

Forward Brian Carmany, in his second year with the Cats, played in eight matches during his first year at UK. Carmany transferred from Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y., where he played two seasons.

"This is Brian's second year here at UK since transferring," Collins said. "His game really came on in the spring. He has great skill, great pace."

Collins said this year's Wildcat seniors will be sorely missed, but he said he can revel in the success each has brought to UK soccer.

"It's going to be sad to see this group of guys go," said Collins. "I hope we can send them out the right way. Being apart of four championships in their careers here, they are part of the life and soul of this program."

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It's going to be sad to see this group of guys go ... They are part of the life and soul of this program."

- Ian Collins, UK men's soccer head coach on the team's five seniors

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QUOTE OF THE DAY "Pants down, then defecate."

— Dave Attell, comedian and host of Comedy Central's "Insomniac," offering a tip for the Barfly



IN OUR OPINION

Speak up during keg tag delay

On Tuesday the Lexington Fayette-Urban County Council voted unanimously to delay the final vote on the proposed keg registration ordinance until Nov. 20. That gives students a great chance to take time, gather their thoughts and then make them known.

The ordinance, approved last week by a committee by a 6-1 margin, would require anyone who buys a keg to register it in his or her name. The keg would then be tagged, and the person whose name it's registered under will be held responsible for underage drinking violations connected to the keg.

While this proposal has concrete merits, there should be further discussion on the issue before any law is approved by the council. There are too many unanswered questions.

What happens if four roommates decide to pitch in together and buy a keg? Does one person have to take the blame for a violation since the keg is registered in just one roommate's name? What if a keg is stolen? These are just a few of the relevant concerns.

Underage drinking is a festering problem, and preventing it is a laudable goal. A keg

tagging ordinance might work, but the ramifications of such a law must be addressed before it is adopted. The City Council has done the right thing by delaying the vote so this issue can be fully explored. Council members have demonstrated that they care about student input by allowing us time to get involved in the process.

Along with the council, Student Government is to be commended for their efforts. President Rachel Watts and other members were present at Tuesday's meeting and encouraged the council to vote for a delay.

The council should use the delay to make sure this ordinance maximizes the police force's ability to combat underage drinking while ensuring that legal drinkers aren't unjustly burdened.

Furthermore, students should justify the council's decision to delay the vote by making their opinions heard. There will be several chances to attend council meetings and add to the debate. Students can also write to the dialogue page with their views. This is your chance to speak up.

Only the politically correct enjoy tolerance

John Hoedeman
GUEST COLUMNIST

Tommy Trojan, the University of Southern California's stone mascot, stood over Hahn Plaza on Friday, keeping a straight face and a guarded demeanor despite the chaos around him, which centered on a mock wedding between two same-sex couples that was put on by the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Student Assembly and the Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Transgender Support Center.

Across the plaza, a few people marched with large signs containing Bible verses against homosexuality. Although most students who passed by this odd scene exhibited only amusement, the support of those who cared to observe the goings-on was overwhelmingly given to the gay rights group.

In fact, a small group of students matched the Christian protesters step for step, trying to intimidate them into retreat. The protesters continued unfazed.

Suspend judgment on the issue of gay rights for a moment, if you will, because the actions and methods of the gay rights activists are telling.

For one, the mock-wedding for same-sex couples was set up as a public protest of Marriage Protection Week, a national campaign, which, according to Donald Wildmon, Chairman of the American Family Association, serves to "promote traditional marriage between a man and a woman as the God-ordained building block of the family and bedrock of a civil society." Those who wielded signs in protest of the mock wedding were simply staging a counter-protest.

Why, then, were the counter-protestors so visibly harassed by the attending students? The simple message was that one group is allowed to protest while another is not, and the right to protest is distributed only among those who follow a politically correct, socially liberal agenda.

Anyone who tries to protest these protesters will be systematically harassed, verbally abused and subject to accusations of intolerance.

Whether you love or hate their ideas, the Christian fundamentalists had a right to protest, and this right cannot be withheld while an opposing group is allowed it.

To their credit, the Christian counter-protestors con-

tinued to march, despite the vitriol coming from a vocal part of a student body committed to tolerance — tolerance for groups with their views.

Even the fliers promoting the mock-marriage ceremony showed a candid mug shot of President Bush, face contorted, with one word in boldface below: "Hater."

Clearly, this is a group of people ostensibly committed to tolerance, but ready and willing to reduce the people who make up their opposition and the whole of their beliefs to a single word. Ironically, this shows no tolerance whatsoever for the data or reasoning behind the opposition's viewpoint.

Actually, the viewpoint of the opposition to gay rights and gay marriage consists of much more than one word or an emotion embodied by a contorted president's head.

Many Americans, including millions who are just as sophisticated as the protesters in Hahn Plaza, oppose gay marriage on the bases of religious, ethical, societal and child advocacy grounds, along with other considerations.

To reduce all of these considerations, however well reasoned they may or may not

be, to a single word shows a remarkable lack of respect for anyone with a differing view.

The gay rights crusaders get away with it without mass outrage, however, because of their politically correct status. After all, if the opposition to gay rights used the same strategies of protest, fliers would be posted with epithets targeting all people who support gay marriage, civil unions and gay rights. Imagine the indignation if such a tactic was actually used.

But just like using epithets for all in favor of gay rights, calling all those opposed to gay marriage "haters" is intolerant and narrow-minded, which is a strange ideal coming from a group that claims to advocate tolerance. Such a double standard has no place in a serious debate on the issues.

If the politically correct are allowed to silence the opposition, what happens to diversity of thought?

If diversity of ideas is thrown away in favor of a society that simply conforms to the politically correct, that society is unable to view issues in a rational way.

This column appeared in the Daily Trojan (University of Southern California).

Campus Democrats should back Dean

At a certain point in politics, it becomes necessary and wise to temper political idealism with a small dose of reality. I was reminded of this truism during the anti-Bush rally, which for those of you who didn't attend, was about the best downtown party Lexington's had in years. Hundreds of people, young and old, came out to express their views. This wasn't a cabal of rabble-rousing liberals, either: opposition of Bush had come into the mainstream.



Andrew Grossman
KERNEL COLUMNIST

Of course, the liberal campus groups were well-represented, and I was a bit troubled to find them organizing support and advertising for Dennis Kucinich.

For the 90 percent of you who have no idea who he is, Dennis Kucinich is a presidential candidate, one from Ohio, and one who regularly polls at seventh or eighth in a nine-member field of Democratic contenders. He's a liberal's liberal, or at least that's what the supporters are chanting about, but political affinity can't trump one indisputable fact about Kucinich: He isn't going to win.

That isn't to say he won't beat Bush. Kucinich doesn't have a metaphorical snowball's chance to even be the Democrat selected to face Bush in 2004. This is hardly a radical assumption: Kucinich has never polled over 10 percent in any poll. Usually he's closer to five percent.

The Republicans may be evil and unsavory, but one must hand it to them — they certainly know how to toe the line. Republican unity behind Bush has been stellar, and as a result he's been highly successful pushing his radical agenda forward. Unfortunately, no such unity exists among progressives. This was demonstrated in the 2000 election, when the progressives supporting Nader took just enough votes away from Al Gore to secure a Bush victory, albeit a dubious one.

This time around, with a handful of front-runners emerging from the wide Democratic field, the progressives have been divided between Kucinich and Vermont Governor Howard Dean. Dean, unlike Kucinich, has a very good chance of winning the nomination, but he needs plenty of support to secure it. Joe Lieberman and Wes Clark, who are Dean's chief rivals at this point, are considered "moderate" Democrats, meaning they agree with half of the president's agenda and, absent their Democratic label, would be considered conservatives.

With campus activist groups, who are always potent weapons in the liberal electoral arsenal, supporting Kucinich, it is much more likely that a more conservative candidate will win the nomination.

Kucinich supporters are, in my humble opinion, sapping strength and resources away from the much more realistic progressive candidate, Dean. Just as Nader supporters who wanted a more extreme candidate turned the election to Bush, these Democrats may well turn the nomination to a more conservative candidate.

It would behoove the campus progressive groups and students to consider political reality before rushing behind the latest liberal bandwagon. Kucinich has shown himself fiery but incompetent in the debates, suggesting an off-the-cuff cut in Pentagon funds and appearing to not have a firm grasp on how the executive branch operates.

This reality has led 95 percent of Democratic voters to support someone else, and if Kucinich makes it as far as our primary date, it will lead Kentucky Democrats to choose someone else. If these groups are genuinely concerned with bringing about progressive change, they would be well-advised to support Dean, a progressive candidate who stands a substantial chance in the primary.

I'd rather see a progressive candidate who doesn't go far enough run against President Bush than an arch-conservative like Kucinich.

Andrew Grossman is a political science senior. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel.

CAMPUS VOICES

Support local foods and farms by attending tonight's concert

A free concert will be held tonight on campus in the amphitheater behind Memorial Hall. The lineup for this "Homegrown Jamboree" will include three local bands: Green Genes, Vu Ja De and Chitarrs Rhythm Section. The event will begin at 6 p.m. Music will go on until 10 p.m.

The concert will be promoting locally grown foods in an effort to integrate more local food into the campus cuisine menu, as well as encouraging more local food options in grocery stores in the Lexington community. Terrapin Hill Farm, Blue Moon Farm and Good Foods market will all be selling produce that was grown right here in Kentucky. The Community Farm Alliance will also be present in support of buying local food.

Buying local food is beneficial to Kentucky's struggling economy. Also, it preserves family farms that are being threatened every day by agribusiness and urban sprawl. Today, many local farmers face the decision of replacing their farms with agribusiness. This unsustainable solution will have a devastating and permanent effect on our precious bluegrass. As conscious consumers, we should all be aware of the direct and drastic consequences that buying non-local food has on Kentucky's farmland and economy.

The event is being sponsored by UK's Greenthumb environmental club, which is the largest student environmental organization in Kentucky. Meetings are at 7 p.m. every Tuesday in Student Center room 106. Supporting local farmers and preserving Kentucky farmland is only one of Greenthumb's goals. It is a small step among many that are being taken on our way to becoming a sustainable planet.

JOSEPH STROBEL

PRESDICENT, UK GREENTHUMB ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

Cool Cats face Falcons in league opener

Hockey looks to improve league play this season

Ben Roberts
STAFF WRITER

Coming off last season's disappointing league finish, the Cool Cats will be looking for a fresh start when they travel to Bowling Green, Ohio, this weekend.

UK had a record of 4-6 against Tri-State Collegiate Hockey League opponents last year, finishing last among five teams and failing to qualify for the league tournament.

After missing their chance at playing in the post-season, the Cool Cats were left wondering what their effort in the regular season accomplished.

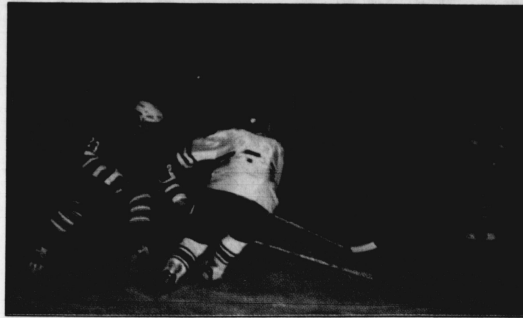
"Not playing in the tournament definitely hurt us," said sophomore defenseman Chris Zaremski. "It's something you look forward to; it's the reason we play all the league games all year. When you don't play in the tournament, it kind of makes you feel like there wasn't a whole lot you were skating for all season."

Last season's league debacle is something the Cool Cats do not intend to repeat. With the arrival of a new coaching staff and a more disciplined style of play UK players feel they are ready for whatever obstacles stand in their way.

"I think we're a closer bunch of guys," said goaltender Justin Clark. "We have a better work ethic and we're more of a team this year. We're getting better and better every week."

This new sense of teamwork will be important if the Cool Cats are to succeed in league play.

Team captains Colin Hoss and Justin Smither and junior defenseman Rob Den-



Poke check

Junior defenseman Justin Hellard skates between two Middle Tennessee State Blue Raiders in the Cool Cats 5-5 tie Friday night. UK travels to Bowling Green, Ohio, this weekend to begin league play.

JONATHAN PALMER | KERNEL STAFF

nis will all probably miss the first four league games with injuries.

"We didn't really have any problems with injuries last year," Zaremski said. "Having some of that senior leadership out on injuries is hurting us."

In the absence of Hoss, Smither and Dennis, a handful of newcomers have emerged to give the Cool Cats a much-needed boost, players said.

Promoted after the injury to Smither, transfer junior forward Mark Martise is second on the team in goals and points while freshmen forwards Adam Engels and Lee Napier have impressed their coaches with their play on the defensive end of the ice.

UK (5-4-1) will head into the league schedule on a high note after Saturday's 3-2 win at Middle Tennessee State. Before that contest, the Cool Cats had been winless

in their last five games. Head coach Mike Sosnowski said the win was important for the team's morale but the Cool Cats still have work to do.

"It wasn't a season-maker but it definitely felt good to win," Sosnowski said. "We still need to work on defensive positioning and executing on the power play. This season's going to come down to how well we execute."

The Cool Cats first in-league test will be against the Bowling Green Falcons, last year's league tournament champions. The Falcons (4-1) defeated UK in both matchups last season at the Lexington Ice Center. This year's games will be held on Bowling Green's home ice and the Cool Cats will be looking to return the favor.

"They've beat some good teams this year, but last year we had a lot of teams we didn't expect come into our

house and beat us," McConnell said. "So we're going to go up there and try to turn the tables."

If the Cool Cats want to compete with Bowling Green this weekend, Zaremski said they need to play with more emotion.

"Our intensity just isn't what it should be," he said. "We're going to need a whole lot of intensity if we're going to expect to play with them."

While the players will have to worry about intensity, Sosnowski said the coaches will continue to drill the Cool Cats on fundamentals.

"We're not going to change a thing," he said. "We're basically just working on the basics and trying to get those down so we can get to the point where we don't have to think where we're going, we just automatically go there."

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Wednesday, Oct 29 Johnson Recreation Center Lobby area 3 to 7 p.m.	
Thursday, Oct 30 Lexington Community College Academic Technical Bldg. Lobby 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Friday, Oct 31 Hall of Fame, across from Big Blue Deli Kentucky Clinic Building 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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Sports Illustrated

ON CAMPUS

Greek Life

Takin' the Year Off,
Livin' on the Beach,

Training for
Athens
in 2004:

The Stories of Eight
College Olympians



Dear Team,
You've Been
Eliminated

Page 18

▼
WATER
GLO
THALIA
MUNRO
and
AMBER
STACHOWSKI



Through. Around. Over. Whatever. The unstoppable Terrell Owens wears the Nike Pro Vent top.

COVER INSET: DARRON CUMMINGS/JAP. THIS PAGE, OP TO BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT: KELLY GLASSCOCK/STUDENT PUBLICATIONS INC.; RCA/AMAZON.COM; REGAN BOOKS; JOE RAYMOND/JAP; GARY BOGDON; PHIL SANDLIN/JAP

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Sports Illustrated
ON CAMPUS

big week

The Faces, The Places, The Buzz



FAMILY AFFAIR

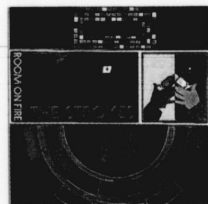
DAD'S WEEKEND, Washington State, Oct. 24-26. Some Oregon State player will ask "Who's yer daddy, b-----?" during the Beavers' tilt in Pullman. The answer will be: "The big gentleman in the 12th row." Michael Moore and Jay Leno will perform for Cougars daddies.

INTRAMURALS

INNER TUBE WATER POLO, Kansas State, season starts Oct. 29. Co-rec fraternity and sorority teams bumpin' bods in a big pool of floating donuts? Wasn't that a beer commercial once?

FLAG FOOTBALL

NOSEBOWL, Florida, Oct. 26. In its 50th go-round, the Tau Epsilon Phi-Pi Lambda Phi match claims to be the oldest fraternity flag-football game around. The Lambdas don't shave for two weeks leading up to the game; they were kicked off campus from 1997 through 2000. We'll assume the two are unrelated.



MUSIC

THE STROKES' NEW CD, *Room on Fire*, is released, Oct. 28. In 2001 they asked, *Is This It?* Hell yes, it was. And if the New York fivesome's college-radio-friendly debut was *It*, then expect this one to be the s....

LECTURE



WRESTLING AND WRITING: Have a Nice Day with Mick Foley, Iowa State, Oct. 29. Don't you dare get caught snoozing during this free discussion with *Mankind*, the former WWE champion and best-selling author.

HOT SEAT



ESPN FOOTBALL ANALYST BOB DAVIE. Unless you're Clyde Frazier, use the word *trickery*, Bob, not *trickeration* (as the stiff ex-Irish coach did numerous times during ESPN's telecast of the Purdue-Wisconsin game last Saturday).

CORRECTION: On page 20 of the Oct. 21 issue, a photograph of Auburn linebacker Karlos Dansby (right), the driver of an '89 Cadillac Coupe DeVille, was mistakenly replaced by that of Miami defensive back Sean Taylor. We regret the error.



GAMES TO WATCH

10.25 PURDUE AT MICHIGAN, 3:30 p.m., ABC. Michigan has outscored opponents by 179 points in the Big House. **SIOC SAYS** Michigan 38, Purdue 24. **NORTHERN ILLINOIS AT BOWLING GREEN**, 4 p.m., ESPN2. Lately, NIU's upset of Alabama on Sept. 20 doesn't look so impressive. Lately, Bowling Green's upset of Purdue on Sept. 6 does. BCS proponents breathe a deep sigh of relief after this one. **SIOC SAYS** Bowling Green 27, Northern Illinois 19. **OREGON STATE AT WASHINGTON STATE**, 6:30 p.m., Fox Sports Net. Who'd have imagined one half of bad football against Notre Dame would be all that lies between new Wazoo coach Bill Doba and an undefeated season? **SIOC SAYS** Washington State 38, Oregon State 23. **ARKANSAS AT MISSISSIPPI**, 7:15 p.m., ESPN2. Houston (Nutt), we have a problem. We couldn't possibly predict a third straight loss for Arkansas, could we? Eli Manning's got these Rebs looking whooo, pig, soo-weet; so, yes. **SIOC SAYS** Mississippi 30, Arkansas 29. **AUBURN AT LSU**, 7:45 p.m., ESPN. Is LSU as mediocre as it looked against Florida? No. (Chris Leak is just that good.) Is Auburn as good as it's looked as of late? You'd better believe it. **SIOC SAYS** Auburn 23, LSU 20.

LAST WEEK'S RECORD: 3-2; SEASON RECORD: 17-7

COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER READ MILLER

SI ON CAMPUS 10.28.03 16

Oct. 23, 2003

► the moment

10.18.03

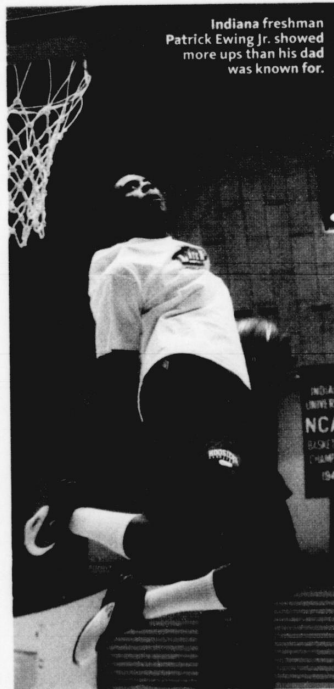
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
Syracuse be on a collision course to meet in next spring's NCAA lacrosse Final Four? Too early to tell, but midfielder Craig Bishop (bottom) and the Irish got the better of Geoff Keough and the Orangemen in the exhibition Algonquin Cup Invitational, 7-6.

PHOTOGRAPH BY
JIM ROGASH/WIREIMAGE.COM

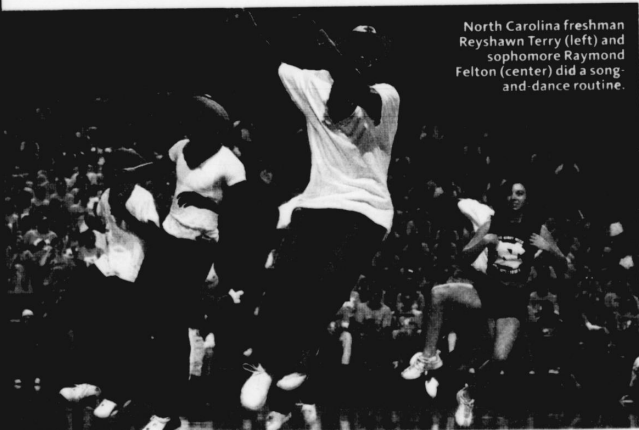


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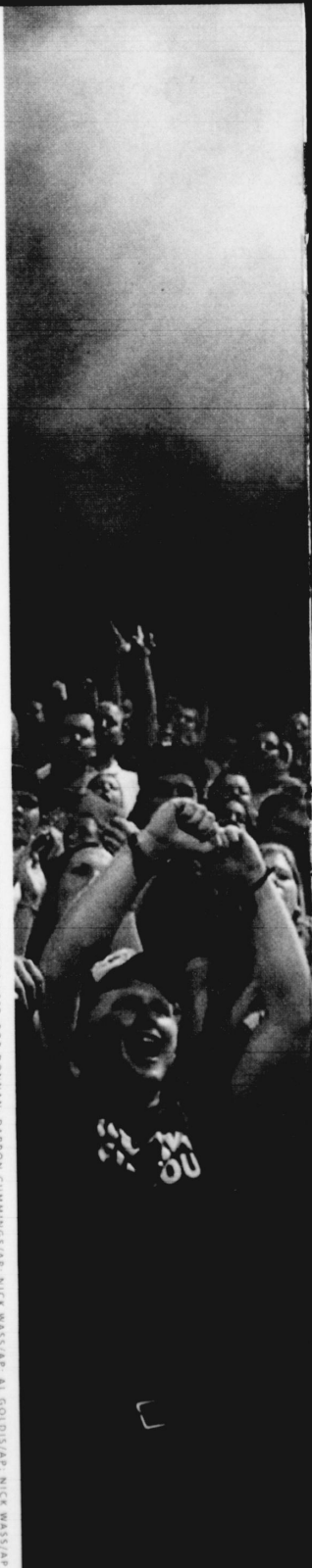
10.17.03 MIDNIGHT MADNESS When the clock struck midnight last Saturday morning, dozens of basketball programs around the country capped off a festive evening with their inaugural practice. For thousands of hoopheads, the moment could not have arrived sooner. Even famously intense coaches (see *Williams, Gary*) participated in the fun and games for one night, but the next day teams hunkered down and began preparations for the road to San Antonio, site of the 2004 Final Four. For more on college hoops, see page 7.



Indiana freshman Patrick Ewing Jr. showed more ups than his dad was known for.



North Carolina freshman Reyshawn Terry (left) and sophomore Raymond Felton (center) did a song-and-dance routine.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BOB GONKAR; GARRON SUMMERS/CFAP; NICK WASSIAP; AL GOLD/ISI/CFAP; NICK WASSIAP



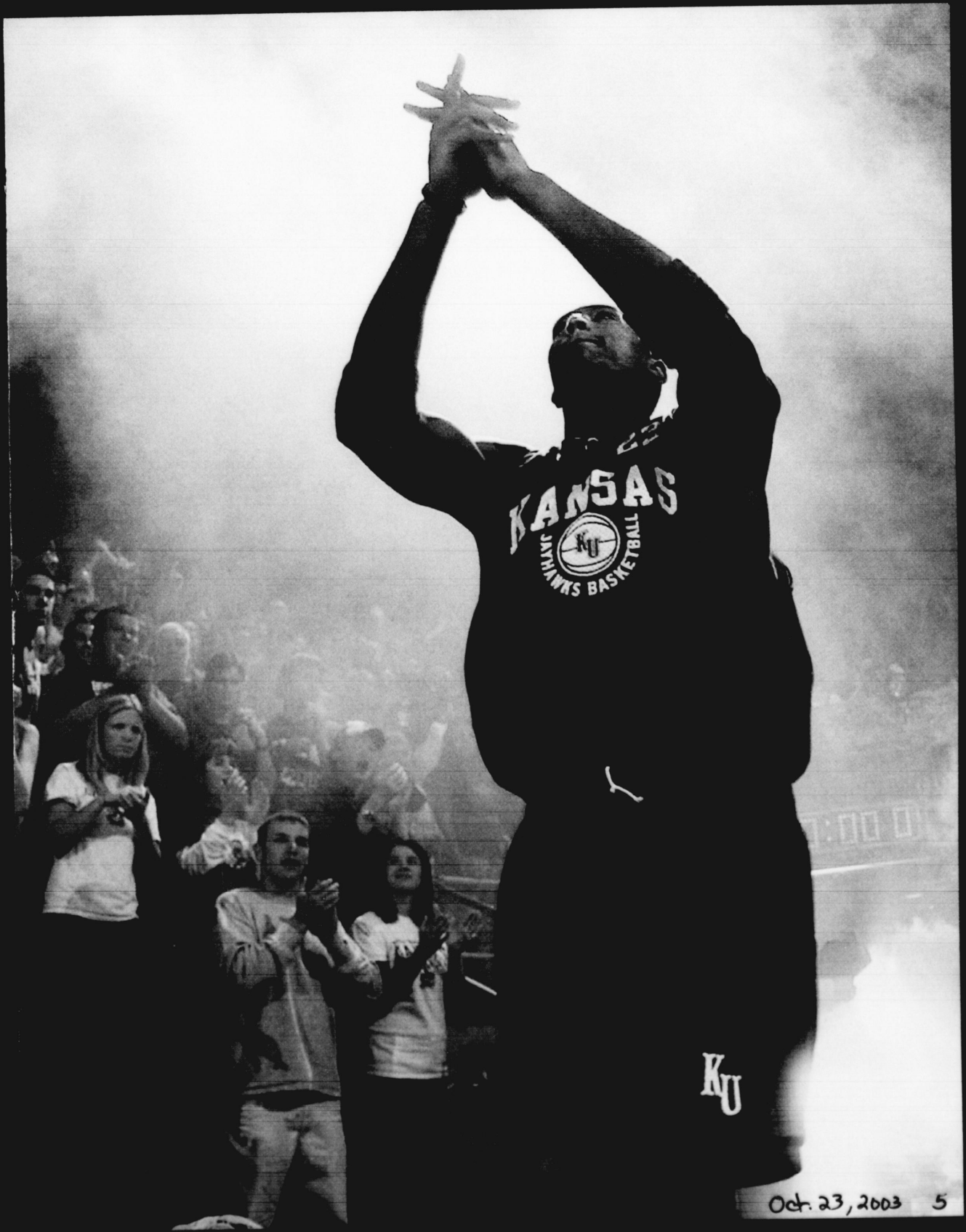
Maryland's D.J. Strawberry, son of Darryl, is another big name frosh with serious upside.



Maryland coach Gary Williams cut loose by riding in on a Harley.



Michigan State coach Tom Izzo (with his wife, Lupe) played Davy Crockett.



Oct. 23, 2003 5

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6 Oct. 23, 2003

scorecard

this week
OCTOBER 27, 2003 ISSUE

PRO BASKETBALL
The NBA preview features in-depth scouting reports, plus a how-to package for NBA players and, of course, LeBron (below).



COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Almost 300 college basketball coaches gathered last week to draft a code of ethics, and Steve Rushin was there.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
Georgia's best offensive player, QB David Greene, and its best defensive player, DE David Pollack, have been teammates since peewee football.

FOOTBALL
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> THE WORD

Hoops On

Had your fill of football? Rejoice: Basketball is back



PUH-LEEZE. Stop kidding yourselves. Save for you Sooners fans, college football season is over. Unless we're talking about Fruit Loops, the Sugar Bowl is just an invitation for humiliation.

But take heart. In the wee hours of the morning, on the very same day Oklahoma was thumping Missouri 34-13, students were finding salvation in a Magical Journey at Michigan State, Big Blue Madness in Kentucky or just plain old Midnight Madness virtually everywhere else.

That smile on our face? College hoops is back.

Back is the operative word, here. Colorado freshman Keith Smith is back in action after missing his senior year of high school to a Dana Carvey-esque mishap. Doctors removed a bone from his right heel in 2002. He had asked for the left.

At scandal-plagued Michigan, school spirit is back thanks to coach Tommy Amaker, who gave season tickets to 477 students. And Muppet-

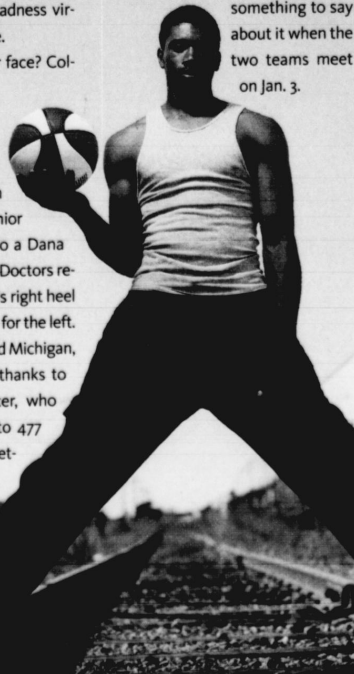
headed Wesley Stokes, who caught our attention at Missouri in 2001 but sat out last year after transferring to San Diego State, is back on our radar.

Last year the UConn women's team had only one player back. But that player was Diana Taurasi, and the Huskies won it all. With all five starters returning this year, UConn is the team to beat—though the silky-smooth Alana Beard of Duke might have something to say about it when the two teams meet on Jan. 3.

Others went back to their roots. Coach Roy Williams left Kansas for North Carolina, where he spent 10 years as an assistant. The Jayhawks then replaced him with Bill Self, a former KU assistant.

Just about the only person we won't welcome back is Carmelo Anthony, who showed last March that he was ready for the NBA. There's a good chance we'll be saying the same thing shortly about Cal's frosh Leon (the Show) Powe, who might have been known as the best player in his class were it not for a certain kid from Akron.

So, as you watch this season unfold, do us one favor: Savor the eminently makeable 19'9" three-pointer, which guarantees that no game is ever really over and holds a place in the sport for guys like Maryland's Steve Blake. Because after this year the NCAA is moving the line nine inches. Back, of course. —Adam Duerson



Fans will be stoked to see Stokes (top), while Beard (above) and super frosh Powe have their programs on the right track.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: JOHN BIEVER; AL TIELEMANS; LM OTERO/AP; JEFFERY A. SALTER/SABA

> THE PLACE TO BE

ROAD TRIP

BOULDER, COLORADO

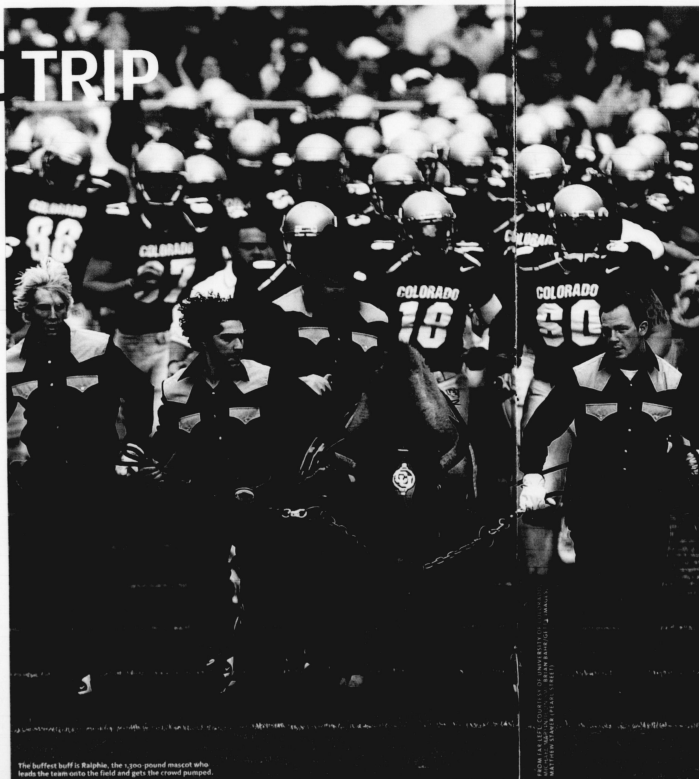
BY J. M. WOODMAN



BOULDER MIGHT BE the closest a college town is to heaven—and not just because it is located at 5,430 feet of Rocky Mountain High altitude.

Sweetly shrouded from Denver to the southeast and bordered by the foothills of the Rockies to the west, Boulder is, as its residents are quick to proclaim, 27 square miles of relief from reality. If the city's mountainous scenery fails to steal your breath, its adventure-boy lifestyle will. In Boulder—where world-class triathletes, mountain bikers, snowboarders, kayakers and rock climbers are ubiquitous—if your vehicle doesn't have a roof rack, people stare. And the Boulder Boulder, an annual Memorial Day 10K run that finishes inside Folsom Field, now draws more than 45,000 runners, nearly half the town's population.

That figure is dwarfed on fall Saturdays by the crowds that come out to see the CU football team play in the stadium, one of football's most scenic settings. Of late, however, the best sports action is found



The buffet buff is Ralphie, the 1,300-pound mascot who leads the team onto the field and gets the crowd pumped.

WHEN & WHERE

The 48-Hour Guide to Boulder

FRIDAY
10:45 p.m.
THE HILL Head to the Hill, grab a beer and listen to the band. The Hill is a low-key, laid-back dive, or bump and grind to a little music at The Players Club.

SATURDAY
12:45 p.m.
COLORADO VS. OKLAHOMA First, make a stop in the field house to sing the fight song, then head to the stadium to watch the game. The bar scene bustles all weekend.

SUNDAY
12:45 p.m.
PEARL STREET MALL A place for shopping or just a sunny walk of home by night. Thursdays are football, but the bar scene bustles all weekend.

ILLEGAL PETS
 Home to the best burritos in town, Grab one (\$5-6) with all the fixins, then drive up Flagstaff Mountain for a scenic picnic.

indoors, at the Coors Events Center, where the perennial powerhouse women's hoops team and the men's squad—which has appeared in consecutive Sweet 16s—toil. Many of those fans are college-aged. Some 28,000 University of Colorado students call this idyllic place—which practically invented the seven-year plan—home. The

campus, easily distinguishable by its Italian architecture complete with red-tile roofs, is the heart of town. The edifices are a perfect marriage of form and function, as the flagstone jutting from the walls makes a platform to practice rock climbing.

Then again, wouldn't you rather get your rocks off on the

The Rockies climb 'em or just admire 'em as the Buffs' backdrop.

real thing? The Flatirons, a triptych of sandstone boulders knifing 1,400 feet skyward, are just a five-minute drive west of campus. The town's trademark postcard shot, the Flatirons are taller than the Empire State Building and more taxing to climb.

If "on the rocks" means something entirely different to you, look no farther than the Pearl Street Mall. A paradise of perambulation, Pearl Street is replete with eateries, microbreweries and live entertainment. A little farther south and across Boulder Creek you will find the Hill. Whereas Pearl Street has something for adults of any age, the Hill attracts students with its coffee shops, cheap-rolls joints and bars where you can regurgitate the highlights of your last night out or get the ax on the next one. And in Boulder there is always a next one. The Princeton Review recently rated CU, which throws its annual Kinetix bash at the Boulder Reservoir every spring, as the nation's No. 1 party school.

Would you expect anything less from this heavenly campus?

RULES OF THE ROAD

5 Boulder Questions for Rick Reilly

Si's "Life of Reilly" columnist is a CU alum.



- 1 GAME DAY IN BOULDER: WHAT DO YOU DO?** "Eat a Sink Burger at The Sink, where the hippies planned the revolution."
- 2 "NO. 1 PARTY SCHOOL..." AT 45, HOW PROUD ARE YOU?** "I swell with pride. The university tried to put in a program to prevent that from happening. It was like climbing Mount Everest in flip-flops."
- 3 AS A C.U. GUY, HOW MANY DOWNS ARE THERE IN FOOTBALL?** "Not enough this year. They lost to Baylor!"
- 4 YOU ROOMED WITH SPORTSCASTER JIM GRAY ... "Only on the road. We called Lady Buffs basketball games. He did play-by-play; I did color. I got in about two weeks in as many years."**
- 5 THE SI OFFICE IN N.Y.C. HAS FREE BAGELS AND COFFEE ... AND YOU WORK FROM COLORADO!?"** "But we've got powder, man."

The Vitals

- ▶ **BEST LODGING:** The Millennium Hotel, 100 yards from campus.
 - ▶ **BEST MUSIC:** The Fox Theater books big names, like Dave Matthews.
 - ▶ **BEST WEEKENDS:** Nov. 8 vs. Missouri; Nov. 28 vs. Nebraska.
 - ▶ **DISTANCE FROM:** Columbia, Mo.: 247 miles; Lincoln, Neb.: 927.
- Next Week's Road Trip: South Bend, Ind.



ELITE EIGHT

Hurled Objects

Quarterbacks throw passes. Refs throw flags. It's only natural that fans get in on the action. Here are our favorite fan-thrown projectiles.

7 **LIVE CHICKENS** 1980s Kansas at Kansas State basketball. And you thought hiding a flask in your shorts was tough.

2 **FISH** Harvard at Cornell hockey. There has to be a Phish Album Demolition Night in the making, no?



3 **TORTILLAS** Arizona State, BYU and Texas Tech football. Personally, we throw 'em 'cause they get stuck in our teeth.

4 **MARSHMALLOWS** Michigan football. Lloyd Carr is glad they halted it, because he didn't want the marshmallows on the field upstaged.

5 **PEOPLE** Cal football. Beat the crowd out by bodysurfing over the edge of Memorial Stadium.

6 **CELLPHONES** Kentucky hockey. Sure it was accidental, but the 'Cats were penalized for it last week, nonetheless.








7 **TOAST** Penn. football. Toasting the team with booze was outlawed. This was the next best thing.

8 **TOOTH PASTE** Cornell hockey. Get it? Thank god that Austin Peay doesn't have a team.

> MATCHUP

THE BIG EAST vs. 'N SYNC

AS THREE TEAMS WAVE Bye, Bye, Bye to the Big East, we're left wondering: Isn't this all a little familiar? Dreams of bigger and better things lead to a supergroup's demise? Hello ... 'N Sync! If Miami is the Big East's Justin (biggest name, most certain to leave), that makes Virginia Tech its JC Chasez (sure, he could do well ... we guess). And Boston College? As with Joey Fatone, it's hard to really care. Here's the breakdown. —A.D.

BIG EAST	RECENT SUCCESS	'N SYNC
 <p>Miami is No. 2 in football Top 25; UConn men and women basketball are preseason faves.</p>	<p>RECENT SUCCESS</p>	<p>2001's <i>Celebrity</i> is No. 2 on the alltime list for first-week sales; perpetual MTV Video Music Awards preseason fave.</p>
<p>Syracuse (men) and UConn (women) hoops won their respective national championships.</p> 	<p>RECENT SUCCESS BY A MEMBER NOT SUSPECTED TO BE DEPARTING</p>	<p>The term is used loosely: Joey (<i>right</i>) came out in <i>My Big Fat Greek Wedding</i>, joined <i>Rent</i>; Chris Kirkpatrick started clothing line, FuMan Skeeto; Lance Bass contemplated space travel.</p> 
 <p>Breakup talks date back to the mid-90s when rumors swirled of Miami and/or Syracuse leaving. ACC commissioner John Swofford, however, said his league was "comfortable with what it is."</p>	<p>FIRST SIGN OF TROUBLE</p>	<p>Breakup talk stems from recent solo projects. Jive Records refused to publicly acknowledge Justin's solo effort up until shortly before its release. Later, he commented, "I'll never turn my back on them."</p>
<p>Miami and Virginia Tech announced they would indeed depart the Big East in 2004-05 to join the ACC.</p>	<p>FIRST TO LEAVE</p>	 <p>With <i>Justified</i> a critical and sales success, Justin's departure appears imminent.</p>
<p>Second fiddle BC announced last week it would leave the Big East by 2006.</p> 	<p>THE FOLLOWERS</p>	<p>Second fiddle JC announced he would release a solo album, <i>Schizophrenic</i>, this month, but it was bumped to 2004.</p> 
<p>Slim. Football will struggle without two of its most competitive teams. The 2004 addition of UConn—which will give the conference six teams until BC leaves—won't help much.</p>	<p>CHANCES OF SURVIVAL</p>	<p>Another album has been promised, but as of yet, no studio activity has been reported. We liken their fate without Justin to remaining—Big East member Rutgers on a good football day: still no chance in hell.</p>

> ASK MILO



Building the Perfect Sports Beast

If Milo were to build the ultimate college sports monster from existing competitors, which body parts would he take from which athletes? —Jordan, Utah '05

So you want to build a sports Freak-enstein, eh? The right arm of B.J. Symons seems the obvious choice, but this is his first year as a starter, so Milo will take Hawaii QB Timmy Chang's more time-tested howitzer (11,008 career yards). On the other side, the lanky left arm of 6'4" Wright State pitcher Casey Abrams (158 strikeouts in 114.1 innings in 2003) will do just fine. For the right leg, Milo's got a fetish for the foot of Maryland kicker Nick Novak, who hit the ACC's longest FG this year, a 54-yarder. To complement it: the left foot of Southern soccer's Ashley Boutte, who's scored 20 times in nine games. Up top, Milo's got his eyes on the lightning-quick peepers of Old Dominion soccer goalie Sam Cameron, who just had a nine-game shutout streak, and the brains of upset-minded Gonzaga basketball coach Mark Few. As for the rest of our gross anatomy: Milo will take Arkansas OT Shawn Andrews's 370-pound posterior.



GOT A QUESTION FOR MILO? Ask him anything at askmilo@soc.timeinc.com.

MATCHUP (LEFT TO RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM): BOB ROSATO; ELIAQUITY MARSH; STEVE GRANITZ/WIREIMAGE.COM; ANDREW SHUTTER/THE DAILY PROGRESSOR; JIVE RECORDS/WARNER BROS.; JUSTIFIED; REED MARON/AP; BILL FRANKS (LEFT); RIGHTS: ILLUSTRATION BY PETER MOBY

TALK

Cold Hottie



KIT HOOVER LOVES ROAD TRIPS (she was on season one of MTV's *Road Rules*). SIOC loves road trips! Kit Hoover loves sports. SIOC loves sports! Match made in heaven, right? We only wish. Still, it gave us an excuse to chat up the sexy, 33-year-old host of ESPN2's new morning sports talk show, *Cold Pizza* (live on weekdays from 7 to 9 a.m. and replayed from 9 to 11 a.m.). —A.D.

How much of a sports background do you bring to this show? "Let me just say thank god I've got [cohost] Jay Crawford at my side. He brings all the sports credibility. He's the real deal and I'm sort of his jackass companion. I told him I'm going to jump on his back and he can carry me."

What the hell are you doing in that promo on ESPN? "They've got me doing some dance, but that was an outtake! My mom saw it first. She called and said, 'Honey, you were dancing and doing some sort of striptease.' Sure enough. And they call me 'wild and unpredictable'? They couldn't

only lasted two years because of all my 12-ounce curls. [Track] interfered with my partying. I knew that when they said, 'For spring break we're going to be training and blah, blah, blah.' No, no, no. For my break I'll be in Jamaica with some fruity drink with an umbrella. It was time to bow out."

After *Road Rules* you must be a road-tripping expert. What's your ideal excursion? "You start with the SEC and hit the Swamp. It's totally barbaric. You're in your tank top and you're sweating. It's just insane. Then you go to Carolina. It's a

“You start the road trip with the SEC and hit the Swamp. It's totally barbaric. Then you go to Carolina. Then you head to Michigan State. I've never seen a tailgate like they do it there.”



say 'credible and Emmy Award-winning,' so they went with that."

Well, what's the most "wild and unpredictable" thing you did as a student at North Carolina? "My friends and I drove to New Orleans for Mardi Gras with no money and stayed a week during exams. We would go to a hotel room, hold the door open for people and say, 'Let me help you get your luggage out.' When they left their room, we'd go in, shower, order room service and go party all night again."

You ran a little track in college. Tell us about your competitive days. "That

totally different experience. The girls will be dressed up, and boys will be wearing their ties. From there I think you head out to Big Ten country ... Michigan State. I've never seen a tailgate like they do it there. All the freaks come out."

And your road-tripping rules? "One: Always keep the beer in the fridge cold 'cause you never know when you'll need it. Have back up. Two: Designate one person in your RV to dump the crapper. It's not fun. On *Road Rules* they always made me do it. Then, stay steady and keep it on the road." ☺

FROM TOP: ESPN; LORENZO BEVILAQUA/ESPN

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Oct 23, 2003

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12 Oct. 23, 2003

faces

THE CROWD

Olympic Year Abroad

THE OLYMPICS are not only the pursuit of a lifetime, but also, it turns out, they're a perfect excuse to miss class. College students training full time for the 2004 Games in Athens dream of peak performances and unforgettable tales to bring back to school from the XXVIII Olympiad.

by Jo'el Rouse

Cat Osterman

TEXAS

Sport: Softball. **Where she's training:** Austin, with monthly team training camps at the ARCO Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif. **How she's training:** Light pitching and running workouts four times per week and weightlifting three times a week.

What will you miss most about college? "Just being around my teammates and being there for games against our Big 12 rivals. I'll see my teammates in the fall, but

PHOTOGRAPH BY DONALD MIRALLE/GETTY IMAGES

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by the springtime I'll be too busy." **What will you miss least?** "Going to class." **What's something you can find in Austin that you probably can't find in Athens?** "A lot of live music, and I'm thinking different styles of restaurants." **What's your favorite Olympic moment?** "The U.S. softball team's [gold medal] at the last Olympics. Winning every game they needed to get in [the medal round] was pretty spectacular." **Where would you get a tattoo of the Olympic rings?** "If I make the Olympic squad in January [when the official announcement is made], I plan on putting a tattoo of the rings on my lower back." **If you return an Olympic hero, what cereal would you like to endorse?** "Cocoa Puffs." **What do you hope to gain from the Olympic experience?** "Not just gaining knowledge of USA Softball, but also having an incredible experience to bring back to Texas and build on."



WHY SHE MATTERS

College highlights: Two-time Big 12 Pitcher of the Year, Led Longhorns to Women's College World Series in 2005, when she was 31-6 with a 0.38 ERA.

Olympic prospects: Tossed a perfect game in the gold medal contest of 2009 Pan Am Games.



Kameron James, Fencer

Three Women Who

THEIR NAMES AND IMAGES may not carry the cachet of Catherine Zeta Jones in *The Mask of Zorro* or Madonna in *Dir. Another Day*, but these three women one-up those stars in an important way: They don't need stunt doubles to handle their weapons.

Yale's Sada Jacobson, Stanford's Iris Zimmermann and Princeton's Kameron James have just college on hold to devote their time to the quest to get to Athens.

Jacobson is the first American woman to be ranked No. 1 in the world. The two-time NCAA champion won



Sada Jacobson, Sabre; Iris Zimmermann, Foil

back-to-back World Cup events in June and placed fifth earlier this month at the world championships in Havana. Now training outside Atlanta, the sabre specialist has an excellent chance to become the first U.S. fencer to win an Olympic medal since Peter Westbrook took bronze in the men's sabre in 1984. Zimmermann, a 2008 Olympian and the younger sister of two-time U.S. Olympian Felicia Zimmermann, finished 24th in Cuba. But she was the first American to earn a world title (under-17 women's foil in '93) and to earn a medal at the senior world (bronze in '93).

James is the top-ranked U.S. junior in epee. Though she placed sixth at worlds as the No. 3 American, she did win a bronze in the junior world championships last April.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER GREGOIRE (LEFT)



Dave Stephens

HARVARD

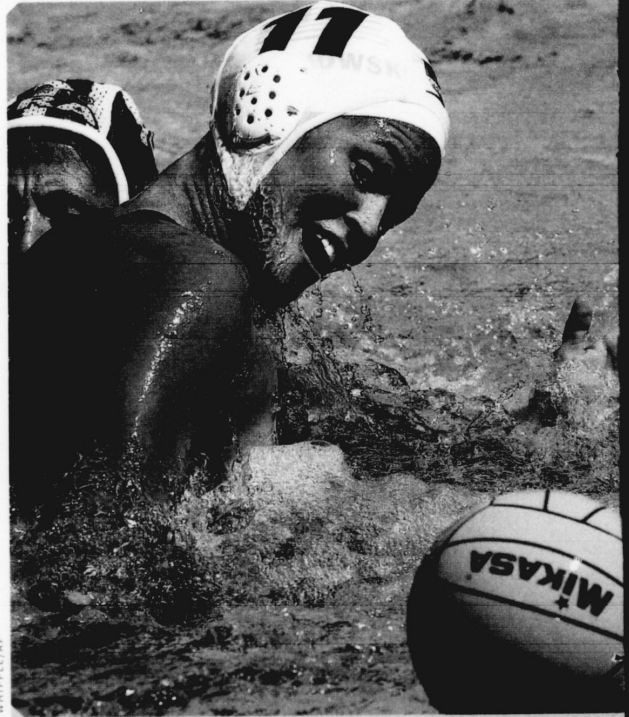
Sport: Rowing. **Where he's training:** Victoria, B.C., with the Canadian national team. **How he's training:** Rowing in 90-minute intervals two or three times per day, six days a week, plus two sessions of weightlifting a week. **What will you miss most about college?** "Just being down there [at Harvard] training with my teammates." **What will you miss least?** "I don't miss studying." **What's your favorite workout music?** "Van Halen's *Right Now*. It just gets me going." **What's something you can find in Cambridge, Mass., that you probably can't find in Athens?** "Finagle A Bagel. I really like the Santa Fe Melt." **In what other sport would you like to be an Olympian?** "Cycling. I think cyclists are some of the best-conditioned athletes in any sport." **What's your favorite Olympic moment?** "Canada winning the men's eight gold medal at the '92 Olympics." **If you return an Olympic hero, what cereal would you like to endorse?** "Vector. Do they have it in the States?"

Athletes' village or athletic dorm? "Athletic dorm. There are no loud girls around partying, but more important, there are no Big Macs all over the place like I've heard there are in the village. I'm a lightweight and we have to make weight for competition, which means I basically can't eat. Who needs the temptation?"

WHY HE MATTERS

College credentials: Member of Harvard lightweight crew that won the 2003 national title.

Olympic prospects: Won a gold medal in lightweight pairs at the 2002 under-23 world championships.



Thalia Munro UCLA

Sport: Water polo. **Where she's training/How she's training:** Follows the same regimen as her roommate, Stachowski.

What will you miss most about college? "I have so many close friends on the team, and I'm one of the senior class members, so I won't be graduating with a lot of the girls I came in with." **What will you miss least?** "I don't miss school at all. Right now I live two blocks from the beach and love waking up to the smell of salt-water instead of all that noise in the city."

What's something you can find in Westwood that you probably can't find in Athens? "They have McDonald's in Athens but not an In-N-Out Burger." **What's your favorite Olympic moment?** "Kerri Strug landing that second [vault] that helped the women's gymnastics team win [gold in 1996] after injuring her ankle on the first one." **What do you hope to gain from the Olympic experience?** "I'd just like to soak it all in and enjoy the experience of traveling the world, doing my best and meeting so many different people from different countries."

WHY SHE MATTERS

College credentials: Honorable mention All-America in 2002.

Olympic prospects: Helped U.S. to its first world championship in July and to Pan Am Games gold in August.

FROM LEFT: HARVARD ATHLETICS/SPORTGRAPHICS; ELLIUS GENE/AP/GETTY IMAGES; BRAD MANGIN; DICK WHIPP/LEAP

Oct. 23, 2003

Sport: Water polo. **Where she's training:** Full-time with the national team in Los Alamitos, Calif. **How she's training:** Two-a-day practices, six days a week: conditioning in the morning (weightlifting, interval training on a bike, swimming), practice in the afternoon. **What will you miss most about college?** "My teammates. I've grown up with half of them. Since most of the girls on the national team are older, I'll definitely miss being around girls my own age." **What will you miss least?** "The schoolwork. With the national team you get time to relax. In college you go straight from class to practice to homework." **What's something you can find in Westwood that you probably can't find in Athens?** "Shopping. I like just having it all in one place. As athletes, we never have time to go out shopping and sightseeing." **What has put a bigger black eye on the Games, Olympic committees or Olympic athletes?** "Olympic

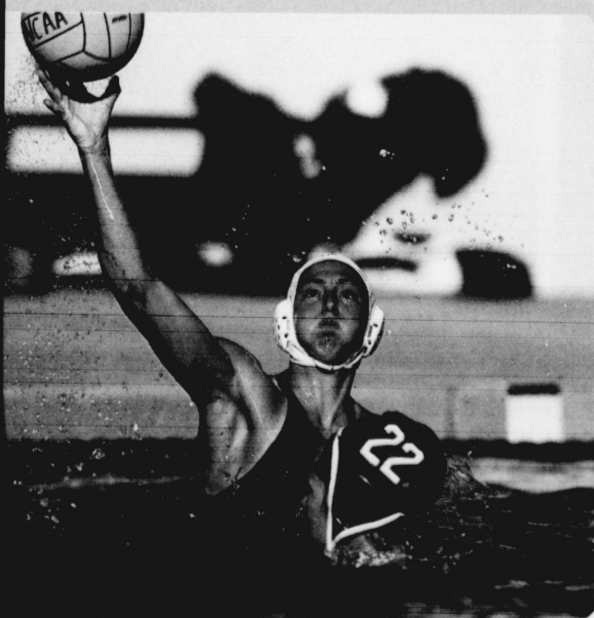
WHY SHE MATTERS

College credentials: First-team All-America in 2002, when she had seven two-goal games.

Olympic prospects: Helped U.S. to world title in July, Pan Am Games gold in August.

athletes. For a lot of us, the drug testing is the most annoying part because they basically just sit there and watch you [urinate]. But it's something they have to do nowadays. **What's your favorite Olympic moment?** "The U.S. women's water polo team achieving the silver medal [in Sydney], when the sport was contested for the first time."

Amber Stachowski
UCLA



Steve Mocco

IOWA

Sport: Freestyle wrestling. **Where he's training:** Splits time between Iowa City and the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. **How he's training:** Practices three times a day with a mix of drills, weightlifting, sparring and tape study. **What will you miss most about college?** "Just wrestling for the Hawkeyes. There's so much tradition and fan support, and the coaches are incredible. Iowa wrestling is just a very unique program." **What will you miss least?** "Not having to worry about a paper or a test for a while will be nice." **What's your favorite workout music?** "Lots of heavy metal. I like Guns 'N Roses." **What's something you can find in Iowa City that you probably can't find in Athens?** "Hawkeyes fans." **Where would you get a tattoo of the Olympic rings?** "My chest. I'd like to show it off out in the open where people could see it." **In what other sport would you like to be an Olympian?** "Boxing. There's a lot of the

same training and tactics involved. Plus, I like the one-on-one aspect of the sport."

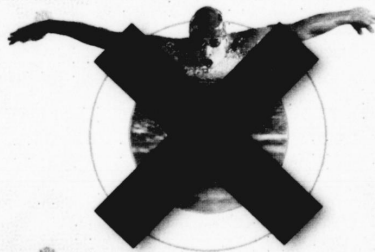
What pro wrestler would you like to face? "Brock Lesnar. Before he went pro, he beat my boy Wes Hand [a former Iowa heavyweight] at the 2000 NAAs. I'd beat him as a payback." **What's your favorite Olympic moment?** "Rulon Gardner beating Alexander Karelin [in Sydney]." **What do you hope to gain from the Olympic experience?** "A gold medal." **G**

WHY HE MATTERS

College credentials: 2003 NCAA heavyweight champ.

Olympic prospects: Must outlast a field that includes '03 world silver medalist Kerry McCoy.

Dear Team, We're Out of Money, You're Out of Luck...



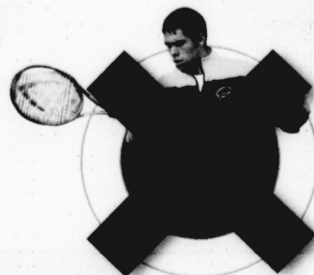
Northern Illinois
 MEN'S SWIMMING



UMass
 WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS



Toledo
 MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD



Canisius
 MEN'S TENNIS



UMass
 MEN'S WATER POLO



Iowa State
 BASEBALL

THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SCOTT WALSTROM/NUU; MICHAEL CORNE/UMASS; CANISIUS ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS; IOWA STATE MEDIA RELATIONS; UMass; UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO.

NO MATTER HOW you get the news, it hits you like a sucker punch. Massachusetts gymnast Nicole Groccia read it on the Internet in March 2002; Ball State runner Patrick Bush heard it from his girlfriend one morning in July. For West Virginia shooter Nicole

Allaire, the moment of truth came when she walked into what she thought was going to be a routine meeting with school compliance officers last April. That's when athletic department officials dropped the bomb on Allaire and her five returning teammates: Their sport was being eliminated. The Mountaineers' rifle team, which had roots going back to the 19th century and had produced 13 NCAA team champions, 16 NCAA individual titles, 12 Olympians and 168 first-team All-Americans, including Allaire, would cease to exist, effective immediately. "We were all shocked," recalls Allaire, now a senior. "We were like, You're cutting the rifle team? We're the best team you guys have!"



West Virginia
RIFLE



West Virginia
MEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY



The Citadel
MEN'S SOCCER



West Virginia
MEN'S TENNIS



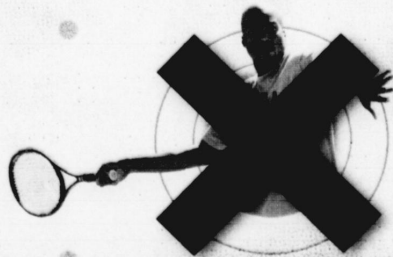
Canisius
FOOTBALL



UMass
WOMEN'S WATER POLO



Ball State
MEN'S TRACK



Kansas
MEN'S TENNIS

...You've Been Eliminated

Often sudden, always traumatic,
the decision to cut a college
athlete's program has
become painfully routine
BY KELLI ANDERSON

From the 1988-89 school year through 2001-02, the last season from which statistics are available, NCAA Division I institutions dropped 917 varsity teams (see chart on page 22). And try as you might, it never serves to attempt to discern the logic in program cuts. The budgets of the five teams that were axed at West Virginia on April 16—rifle and men's cross-country, indoor and outdoor track and field, and tennis—totaled \$591,000, or less than 2.5% of the athletic department's \$24 million budget.

The operating budget for the three teams cut at Ball State—men's cross-country and men's indoor and outdoor track and field—comprises 3.6% of the

athletic department's budget and is roughly 1/10 of the football team's budget. UMass shuttered seven teams—men's and women's gymnastics, men's and women's water polo, men's indoor track, men's tennis and women's volleyball—saving the school \$1.1 million. The football team, meanwhile, was running \$2.5 million in the red.

Whatever the reasoning behind them, sports cuts affect their victims—at these three schools alone, 246 student-athletes were in effect job-eliminated—in fairly predictable ways. Coaches who have made promises to recruits feel like liars, athletes feel betrayed. Coaches leave for other jobs if they are lucky

THIS PAGE, TOP ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: DALE SPARKS/AP; DAN FRIEND/WU PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES; RUSSELL K. PACE; MIDDLE ROW: DALE SPARKS/AP; PRO PHOTOGRAPHY; CANISIUS ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS; MICHAEL COYNE/UMASS; BOTTOM ROW: BALL STATE PHOTO SERVICES; JEFF JACOBSEN



enough to find them, and teammates scatter. Financial problems arise. Harsh life lessons are learned. The process of dealing with such a loss is not unlike the five stages of grief Elisabeth Kübler-Ross describes in her book *On Death and Dying*: There is denial, followed by anger, bargaining, depression and finally acceptance.

In between, sometimes insult is added to injury. West Virginia has already begun the process of rubbing out the memory of the rifle team. A large picture of a Mountaineers shooter that used to hang near the athletic director's office has been removed, and rifle coach Marsha Beasley has been asked to find a new home for the contents of the trophy case outside the rifle range, which includes a host of trophies, plaques and other hardware that the school's most successful program had accumulated. "I was told there was no point in putting it in storage," she says.

The rifle range itself? Even though West Virginia spent \$480,000 to renovate it a little more than two years ago, it too is doomed. Now the school is considering turning the space into athletic department offices.

Given how deeply ingrained riflery is at West Virginia, Allaire thought there was some hope of appeal. The athletic department was bombarded with pleas from her team and from outside supporters. In the week after the cuts were announced, one Internet petition garnered nearly 1,900 signatures. Even Governor Bob Wise said he'd like to see the team reinstated if private funding could be found. But nothing short of a \$3.5 million endowment would move the athletic department. "All we wanted to do was say we were a varsity sport without a dime from them, and they wouldn't do it," says Allaire. "They just wanted to wash their hands of us."

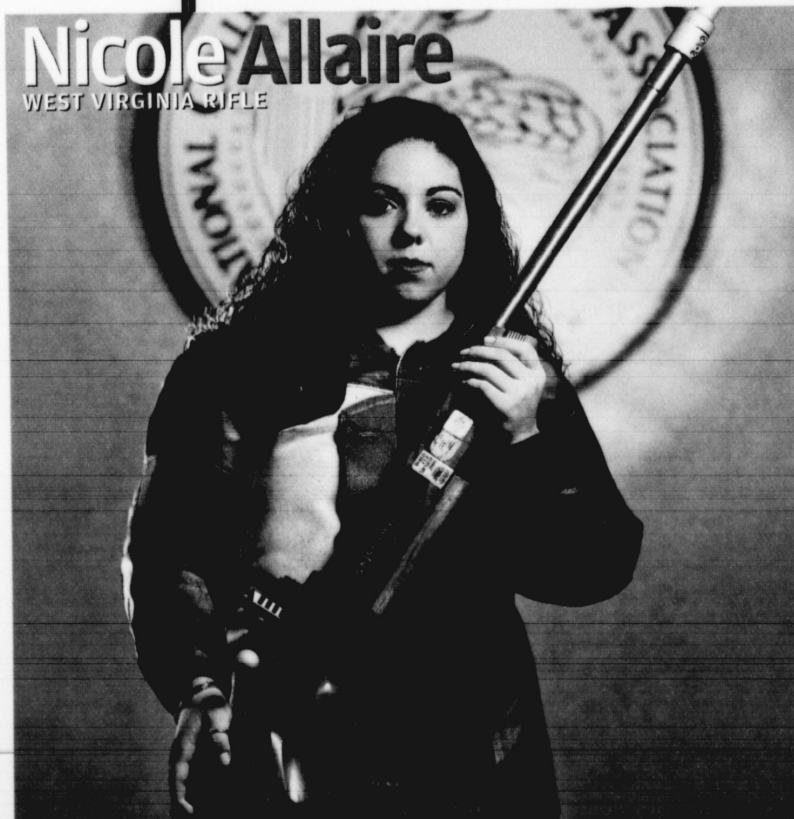
Says West Virginia associate athletic director Terri Howes, "When the decision was made, we felt there were obligations to the student-athletes that needed to be met. Number 1 was financial. All of those affected will maintain their scholarships for the remainder of their athletic eligibility. We feel everything we've done has been in the best interest of the students, not necessarily in the best interest of the particular sport."

In the past, when teams were being chopped to bring schools into compliance with Title IX, the 1972 federal statute which mandates that educational institutions receiving federal funding maintain opportunities roughly equal to the university's gender breakdown, athletic directors would announce cuts at least a year in advance. That courtesy allowed athletes a full season to find a new home. Now, however, with budget concerns driving much of the paring, students are given little notice before being told that they will have to suspend or give up their lifelong

"All we wanted to do was say we were a varsity sport without a dime from them, and they wouldn't do it. They just wanted to wash their hands of us.... Being a club is worlds away from being a varsity team. You do feel a loss of status."

Nicole Allaire

WEST VIRGINIA RIFLE



THE ART OF STAYING AFLOAT

EVEN IF the athletic department is ready to trim already limited dollars from your team's budget, all is not lost. Many athletes have found the resources to keep their programs fully operational by exercising a little creativity. Herewith, a quickie guide to making a quick buck.

1 POOL YOUR RESOURCES. After it was announced a year ago that the Dartmouth men's and women's swimming and diving teams were to be cut, the boyfriend of one of the swimmers put the team up for auction on eBay. The "item" generated 25,000 hits and loads of publicity before eBay removed it, and a six-week, \$2 million fund-raising effort by alums, parents and swimmers ultimately spared the program.

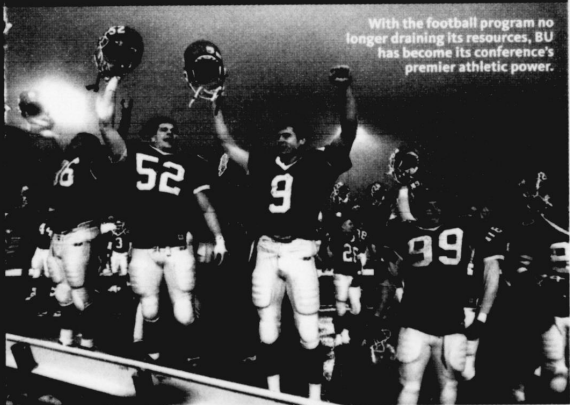
2 TURN CARTWHEELS FOR CASH. Each year the Michigan State cheerleading squad must raise its own funds (this year's price tag: about \$16,000) in order to compete in national competitions. The solution? Members perform stunts for money at local promotional events and alumni gatherings.

3 HAVE OPERATORS STANDING BY. When then Minnesota president Mark Yudof announced in April 2002 that \$2.7 million was needed to keep the Gophers' men's and women's golf and men's gymnastics teams alive, a committee of business and community leaders called Save Gopher Sports sprang to action and raised the entire amount in 10 months. Included in their efforts: a telethon-auction that landed \$673,000.

4 CULTIVATE FANS WITH DEEP POCKETS. Shortly after Virginia considered a tiered system to determine funding for its teams—a plan ultimately scrapped—anonymous donors gave \$2 million to the school for a new baseball stadium. —K.A.

PHOTOGRAPH BY WALTER P. CALAHAN

WHO NEEDS FOOTBALL AFTER ALL?



With the football program no longer draining its resources, BU has become its conference's premier athletic power.

IN 1997, SHORTLY AFTER Boston University cut its football program, a photographer from *The New York Times* strolled the campus in search of displays of student agitation. An hour later he returned to the athletic offices to report that he had spotted no signs, real or metaphoric, of student protest.

"That," sports information director Ed Carpenter informed him, "is exactly our problem."

BU's decision to run out the clock on its 91-year-old pigskin program was handled crassly. The team was notified at midseason, right after its homecoming game, and then chancellor John Silber haughtily noted that the "University of Paris, University of Oxford, University of Cambridge have gotten along remarkably well and never had football." Still, Boston University's self-mutilation was a matter of self-preservation; at the time the Division I-AA Terriers gridders were hemorrhaging more than \$2.9 million annually.

"It's no fun on Saturdays watching the Boston College [football] caravan going down Commonwealth Avenue," says BU junior Steve Moore, sports editor of *The Daily Free Press*.

"But we've always had a problem here with student apathy."

Instead of devastating BU's 23-sport athletic program, the elimination of the football team—and its cumbersome deficit—has galvanized the department and provided a model for other foundering athletic departments to emulate. (It's instructive to note that nearly half of Division I football programs lose money.) In each of the past two years the Terriers have won the America East Commissioner's Cup, which rewards the conference's most successful athletic program.

With its newfound surplus the school has built or renovated several facilities. The pièce de résistance: a new multipurpose arena set to open in January 2005 and named after BU's most famous athlete, Harry Agganis. Which is odd, because Agganis was a baseball—and football—star. —*John Walters*

STEPHAN SAVOIAN/AP



Patrick

BALL STATE TRACK AND FIELD

dreams. "They don't have a year to prepare, to figure out what they'll do next," says Towson (Md.) gymnastics coach Dick Filbert, who now coaches Groccia. "They have a month. It puts incredible anxiety and stress on the kids. Obviously they are the last people considered in the whole ordeal."

Allaire briefly thought of transferring. But the horrible timing of the West Virginia cuts—on national signing day, no less—meant that most schools with scholarships to give were in the midst of handing them out. Besides, Allaire had already transferred once, in the fall of 2001, after two All-America seasons at Nebraska, to be closer to her Kearny, N.J., home, and none of the remaining schools with top-level NCAA rifle teams offered her major, sports psychology. "That meant I would have had to spend at least another two years in school just for one year of competition, and it wasn't worth it," she says.

So Allaire and her teammates put together a club-level rifle team for the year. They will compete against many of their old foes but have to raise money to cover their own ammunition, transportation and entry fees (at the moment they have raised \$4,000 of a projected \$10,000 budget), and their scores won't be recognized by the NCAA. The team is not eligible for a 14th NCAA title, and Allaire can't earn All-America honors for a fourth time. "Being a club is worlds away from being a varsity team," she says. "You do feel a

“It’s sad. It was a great situation here. It wasn’t like we were the top program in the conference or anything like that, but it was a lot of fun.”



Nicole Groccia
UMASS GYMNASTICS

FAILING TO MAKE THE CUT

IN THE 14-YEAR PERIOD from 1988 to 2002, NCAA Division I institutions eliminated 917 varsity teams, affecting tens of thousands of student-athletes. The following is a year-by-year breakdown.

YEAR	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
1988-89	69	52	121
1989-90	47	36	83
1990-91	38	28	66
1991-92	39	28	67
1992-93	48	31	79
1993-94	18	11	29
1994-95	26	14	40
1995-96	47	10	57
1996-97	70	27	97
1997-98	77	25	102
1998-99	32	6	38
1999-00	45	14	59
2000-01	17	7	24
2001-02	43	12	55
Total	616	301	917

“I thought my life was over. Gymnastics had been my life since I was three. It had always been my dream to earn a Division I scholarship, and it was being taken from me.”

loss of status.”

Bush has decided to redshirt what would have been his junior season at Ball State—this is the last year of competition for the eliminated Cardinals programs—and will look into transferring to Indiana

State, Indiana or some other school that could use his 400-meter speed. After Bush's surprise seventh-place showing in the Mid-American Conference outdoor championships last spring, his star was on the rise. Now he will not run at all this season. “I've been told by a lot of coaches that most schools are not going to go for a guy who has only one year of eligibility left,” says Bush. “It's sad. It was a great situation here. It wasn't like we were the top program in the conference or anything like that, but it was a lot of fun. I'm not bitter toward the athletic department; they had to do what they had to do, and my coach had to do what he had to do.” (In July, after initially accepting the head coaching job at Campbell, Jim Sprecher returned to UNC Wilmington, where he coached before going to Ball State.)

Now Bush has to do what he has to do. “It's really hard to leave your friends,” he says, “but this is the goal of my life, to be the best I can be.”

Groccia came to a similar conclusion. When she first learned of the cuts at UMass, just before the end of her freshman season, she was devastated. “I thought my life was over,” she says. “Gymnastics had been my life since I was three. It had always been my dream to earn a Division I scholarship. I had done that, and now it was being taken from me.”

A few of her teammates transferred, some stayed on in Amherst without gymnastics, and a few joined the UMass cheerleading squad. At first Groccia thought she would remain too, but with just a week left in school, she decided she wanted to continue competing. She wrote letters to a few coaches, including Towson's Filbert, who agreed to take her as a walk-on as long as the admissions office would accept her application so late. “Going from varsity to walk-on was really, really hard,” says Groccia, whose parents went from paying nothing at UMass to scraping up \$22,000 to fund her walk-on year at Towson. “I felt that I had to prove myself every single day, every time I was in front of Coach.”

That is the silver lining in her story. Groccia worked so hard that she blossomed into a much better gymnast than she had been at UMass. She now competes in the all-around and is on a full ride once again. Her goal of reaching her potential in an ever-shrinking sport was only deferred, not thwarted entirely. “It worked out for me,” she says. “I was lucky.”

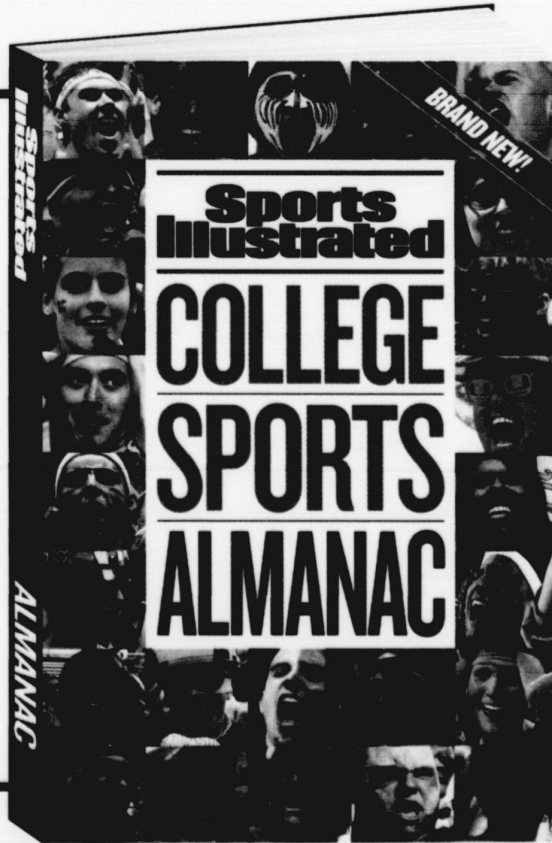
ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY Andrew Beckner, Mike Marzelli and Cole McGrath

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the final

IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT

Every weekend is a playoff round in college football, so enough with the madcap ideas on how to fix the sport's championship system

BY JOHN WALTERS ~ ILLUSTRATION BY TIM BOWER

COLLEGE FOOTBALL. That's my game. I've loved it since I was a little boy, when my mom would serve me a bowl of steaming-hot soup as I watched the Ohio State-Michigan tilt on TV. We lived in Phoenix. It was 95° outside. Hey, I was going for a mood.

I love college football. Love it. I reiterate that because each year about this time, scores of pundits, talk-radio windbags and columnists who went to football-as-afterthought universities (I'm talking to you, Wilbon) decry the sport's lack of a "playoff system" in order to determine a "true national champion."

I am here to tell them this: Do NOT mess with my game.

The critics, by and large, come from one of two camps. The first is the "I'm not a college guy, I'm an NFL guy, but"—Stop right there. Zip it. We don't want to hear it. A lot of people I know prefer the NFL to college. Fine. You know what they all seem to have in common? They're involved in fantasy leagues. NFL Guy cares less about who wins (Packers fans, you are the exception) than he does about Joey Galloway—whom he activated for today's game—taking it to the



hizzouse. The NFL is horse racing.

The second camp? College hoops disciples who think theirs is a legitimate playoff. March Madness? Really? Where in order to have your One Shin-

ing Moment, you must go 6-0 and risk losing to a vastly inferior squad in a subregional in Pocatello? How is that more legit than a vastly superior Miami squad coming within one play

of squandering its season against West Virginia during the regular season?

Every weekend has huge consequences in college football. As my pal, ESPN's Rece Davis, says, "In college football the regular season is the playoffs."

Exactly. Hey, College Hoops Guy, if it'll make you feel better, we'll call it Autumn Insanity.

Yes, college football's method of determining a national champion is abnormal and idiosyncratic. Guess what? The best things in life are. Do you want to straighten out the Tower of Pisa or San Francisco's Lombard Street?

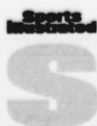
My man Rece advocates a four-team playoff. But how long, I ask him, until the avarice of college presidents expands that tournament to eight, 16, 64 teams to play in games pitting Vanderbilt against UTEP? March Madness now has 65 teams. Paris Hilton is more discriminating.

"I'm not going to sit here and lie to you about that," says Davis, who pilots ESPN's Bristol desk each autumn Saturday. "If you told me that 20 years from now we'd have a playoff system but that the passion and pageantry of what I see every Saturday would be lost, then I'd say, 'Let's keep it as is.'"

Exactly. **G**

next week's issue

THE SCARY ISSUE
On Halloween weekend, SIOC celebrates everything spooky about college sports, from strange superstitions to scary-good athletes.



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