Celebrating 33 years of independence

Softball team splits with WKU on a rainy afternoon Page 6

Targeting Top 20: Health Services needs a check-up Page 8

SG court upholds Nash disqualification

Elections Board of Claims now expected to certify Becky Ellingsworth as president

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daims now expected gsworth as president the election in favor of the tunnersup. The telection in favor of the tunnersup. Becky Ellingsworth Alf Kyle becky Ellingsworth is campaign in the tool of the tool of the tunnersup. The tunnersup from Ellingsworth is campaign in the court threw out the 1,307 velocity to the the town of the tunnersup from the tunnersup from the town of the tunnersup from the town the tunnersup from the hearing. The students viole was silenced, "Bishop said after the verdict was announced. In a split decision, the court "affirmed the opinion of varying conflicts of interest."

and to move on With His eags-ment.

Miller urged the court to look at precedents set in previ-ous elections when looking at the punishment the board handed down to Nash and Bishop.

"There is a long history of precedents where violations See SG on page 2



The students' voice was silenced."

– Michelle Bishop, former vice-president-elect, after the SG Supreme Court upheld the disqualification of her and running mate Will Nash last night.

As senior tennis star's stock rises, she fixes her focus on a bright future

By Derek Poore

Aibika Kalsarieva laughs it off, but she means it. She's good. She tries to contain herself, but relaxing in the lounge of UK's Boone Indoor Tennis Center, she smiles and tells it like it is.

How great has her ason been?

How great has her season been?

"I mean, I'm not really in a flow, but I just expect to win," the marketing senior says.

And does anyone blame her? Winning at tennis is about all she knows, At 13, Kalsarieva was No. 1 in her native garnered a No. 1 International Tennis Pederation (ITF) junior ranking before she came to college.

Women's continuous tennis coach Mark Guilbeau vouches for her with pride and certainty. He she's hear a high standard."

This year, Kalsarieva.

dard."
This year, Kalsarieva is the fifth-best player in college tennis and is regarded within the UK

tennis organization as its best player ever. Her team is ranked second nationally. It won UK's first Southeastern Con-ference women's tennis title and is on pace for one of the best records in school history.

FOUR HOURS A DAY, pretty much every day. That's how much Kalsarieva has put into her tennis game since she fell in love with the

she fell in love with unsport.
Kalsarieva, like most collegiate student athletes, has lived and breathed her sport for a majority of her life. Born in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, her parents wanted her to get in shape, and when she took to tennis, her first coach saw overflowing

When gas prices go up, drivers pay

By Jeeinba Watts
THE STRUCK SIEGE.

Some local delivery
diverses said they might
soon be giving up their
gas prices. The cost of filiing up the tank is taking
too much of a chunk out
of their tips, they said.

"Hardening of gas
prices has turned magainst delivering," said
Jon Burba, a hospitality
management and tourism
pulnor who works at Pila
Pit Dimerage gas price
in Kentucky is now \$2.56
per gallon, according to
the American Automobile
Association. That's up 23
cents from a month ago
and 34 cents from a year
ago.

Since the gas prices
have increased, Burba has
had absolutely no interest
in Said.

He usually makes

pitas and gets a regular
wage, Howeve, when Pita
Pita lended drivers, Burba
was the gut by the was delivering. The was beginned to fill
pit file of the menous properties. The said of the suide of t

pitas and gets a regular wage. However, when Pita Pit needed drivers, Burba was the guy they would call on. But when Burba was delivering, he was paying for gas with tip money. "Without some com-pensation, it's not worth it," he said. "I feel the em-ployers should compen-ployers should compen-

German cardinal's book hints at quest for papacy

By Tracy Wilkinson and Richard Boudreaux LOS ANGELES TIMES

VATICAN CITY — When he led the fu-neral Mass for Pope John Paul II, he spoke emotionally of his departed brother and quoted Jesus: "Follow me." Every day since, he has been seen di-recting the business of a fatherless

recting the business of a fatheriess church.

And on Wednesday, a newspaper published excerpts of his latest book, Values to Times of Upheaval, ruminations on the best of the property of the

Conclave.

By all accounts, many of the 115 voting cardinals have not yet made up their

nds. But in the secretive world of papal pol-

tites, and with cardinals officially sworn to silence. Vatican-watchers must content themselves with telltale signs and semi-deducated guesswork. And on Wednesday the buzz swirled around Ratzinger, the German-born conservative theologian who has served as chief enforcer of church doctrine for more than two decades.

Vatican experts at several of Italy's leading newspapers reported that Ratzinger was gaining support among his red-hatted colleagues.

Luigi Accattoli, writing in Corriere della Sera, Italy's largest daily, said that Ratzinger had won the support of about 40 cardinals in pre-conclave jockeying — still short of the two thirds majority needed.

Ratzinger represents the camp of car-

ed.
Ratzinger represents the camp of cardinals who advocate hewing closely to John Paul's most traditional policies. An opposing bloe of cardinals is said to prefer change and "collegiality" which refers to decentralization of Vatican power and the restoration of more independence to local discesses.

inger, who turns 78 on Saturday,

also may appeal to those seeking an older pope and a shorter "transitional" papacy that would give the church time to calm the waters and absorb John Paul's legacy before charting a longer-term future.

The cardinals are meeting in daily closed-door sessions and exchanging ideas "on the situation of the church and the world," said Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls. Ratzinger, as dean of the College of Cardinals, usually directs the meetings.

On Wednesday, for example, he re-

On Wednesday, for example, he re-ceived official condolences from diplo-mats representing some of the 174 coun-tries that have relations with the Holy See.

them.

All of the "princes" of the church are technically candidates for the papacy.

"We are still getting to know each other," said one cardinal from a Latin American country, who spoke to the Los Angeles Times this week despite a news blackout imposed by the prelates last week.

Tenth-inning single lifts Cats over Cards



UK pitching coach Gary Henderson (right) and junior catcher Justin Scutchfield met with freshman pitcher Alex Jorden. The Cats used eight pitchers in a 10-inind 4-3 victory over Louisville last night at Cliff Hagan Stadium.

By Chris Johnson THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

NE ENTICY EISE.

Nyan Wilkes had the situation Little Leaguers dream about in their back yard.

Up to bat for UK. The score tied. Two outs. A 3-2 full count and the bases loaded in the bottom of the 10th inning against Louisville.

Wilkes knew his job was just to make contact.

"I just had to put if play," the short stop said.
"I had to make it happen."

Cliff Hagan Stadium.
"This is my first game-winning hit."
Wilkes said. "Caldwell) did a good job getting down the line."
"I knew that anywhere Wilkes hit the ball in the infield, he'd have a chance to beat it out." UK See Cats on page 7



presidency in elections March 30 and 31. Last night, the SG Supreme Court

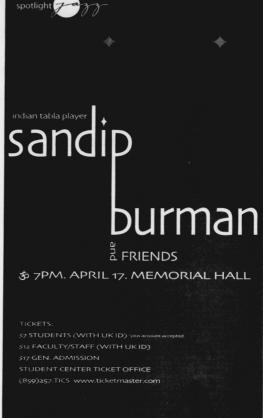
tial candidate Tommy Cuningham.

Corey Fannin, a member of the Board of Claims, presented the board's finding story the difference between felony and misdemeanor via the disqualification of a candidate or the mullification of an election, "Miller as addefence that Nash and allows a candidate or the mullification of an election," Miller as addefence that Nash and allows a candidate or the mullification of an election, "Miller as addefence that Nash and so the court. He said the board did not sufficiently just the difference between felony and misdemeanor via campaign signs, had gone over the spending limit of \$900 and the Supreme Court issued punishments to other candidates for violating similar elections rules. The second of the expenditure is the summary fine counted for, the Nash/Bishop violations of the other candidates and the Supreme Court issued punishments to other candidates for violating similar elections rules. The said of the cases, the punishment was either a monetary fine or community service.

"We urge you to look at precedent to determine whether the punishment fits the crime in this situation, and we believe it does not," Miller sold the court.

"If we can't rely on limitation, and we believe it does not," Miller sold the court.

"It is statement, the board with the combination of the them at one of the service where a counted for the service were accounted for the service where a counted for the se



Deliveries

the price of his pizza going up a few cents to cover the gas prices.

To John Blickenstaff, a delivery worker at Jimmy John's, the cost of gas "ire not making enough money." he said. At Pizza Hut of South Hough.

Ryan Bowers, a manager at hizar Hut on South Limestone Street, could see Howers, an English sopho-

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JOHN KNADLER KAPPA ALPHA ORDER

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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY GREEK ALUMNI HALL OF FAME 2005: JACK GUTHRIE 2005 THE GARRY BEACH SAFETY AWARD: FARMHOUSE

GREEK SERVICE WEEK
OVERALL WINNER: PHI GAMMA DELTA STOMP-A-PALOOZA WINNER: PHI GAMMA DELTA SIGMA SPIKE WINNER: SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LADIES OF PANHELLENIC COUNCIL FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING YEAR.

Race a factor in organ availability

By Mark Kenneth Matthews

MIGGAL TO THE ANIINOME USA

Last May When Elizabeth-Ann Mohammed learned that ther kidneys were failing, she was given two choices by her doctor: endure years of dialysis or find someone to donate a kidney.

But because she is black, finding a kidney wouldn't be easy. On average, black patients wait nearly five years for a kidney transplant—about 18 months longer than their white counterparts.

The reasons for this disparity, experts say, involve genetics, economics and donor rates. Regardless, the numbers reveal a harsh reality, which was a second of the same than the state of the same than the state of the same than the state of the same than the same

avoided.
Patients without kidney function must either go on a dialysis machine, which filters the body's waste, or seek a kidney donor. Organs can come from live donors (humans have two kidneys but need only one), such as family members, or patients can join a national waiting list for kidneys and other organs susually donated by the deceased. Although kidneys are the most commonly transplanted organ, with thousands of operations performed each year, about 61,000 Americans needed a kidney as of March 11. About 21,000, or 35 percent, were black, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing, a nonprofit organization under contract with the US. Department of Health and Human Services.

nonprofit organization under contract with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

UNOS. based in Richmond, Va., keeps a list of patients waiting to receive organs from those who have volunteered their organs after they have died. UNOS helps determine who gets an organ through a formula that examiness such factors as blood type, time spent on the waiting list, and the distance between the potential recipient and the second of the secon

donations easier.

We've "increased the number of ethnic minorities receiving transplants annually with only a very slight decrease to allocation" to whites, says Dr. Winfred Williams, who heads UNOS's minority-affairs committee. Trying to make the system fair, he adds, is "a consistent of the American Society of Multicultural Health and Transplant Professionals, says progress has been made, but there is still much to be done.

"If it's a four-lap race," he says, "we've got around the first lap."

The UNOS waiting list is not the only obstacle for blacks who need an organ transplant williams, a kidney-transplant specialist at Massachusetts of the organ transplant williams, a kidney-transplant specialist at Massachusetts of the organ transplant williams, a kidney-transplant specialist at Massachusetts of the organ transplant williams, a kidney-transplant specialist at Massachusetts of the organ transplant williams, a kidney-transplant specialist at Massachusetts of the organ transplant williams, and kidney-transplant specialist at Massachusetts of the organ transplant williams, and kidney-transplant specialist and the state of the organ transplant williams, and kidney-transplant specialist and the state of the organ transplant williams and kidney transplant says. And because black Americans are disproportionately poor and are less likely to have insurance and are less likely to have insurance black community especially hard.

Even with insurance, a patient could face other impediments, Williams adds. Deductibles may be too expensive. Or in some cases, the insurance policy will pay for the surgery but not for the essential post-transplant medication.

"These are systematic barriers to transplantation," he says.



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House vote repeals estate tax; contentious Senate debate ahead

WASHINGTON — The House on Wednesday voted 272 to 162 to permanently repeal the estate tax, throwing the issue to the Senate where negotiations have begun on a deep and permanent estate tax cut that can pass this year, even if it falls short of full repeal. The House wote pitted repeal proponents, who held that a tax on inheritances is fundamentally unfair, against Democrats, who questioned how Congress could support a tax cut largely for the affluent that would cost \$280 billion over 10 years, in the face of record budget deficits.

"This is reverse Robin Hood." said House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Dealf. "We te taking money from the middle class and giving it to the super"The depth of a family member."

D-Calif. "We're taking money itous us-middle class and giving it to the super-rich."

"The death of a family member should not be a taxable event, period," sald Rep. Kenny Hulshof, R-Mo, the bill's sponsor.

By a 194 to 238 vote, the House re-jected a Democratic counteroffer, which would have shielded \$3.5 million of an estate's value from taxation, enough to exempt 98.7 percent of es-tates from the inheritance tax, accord-ing to the Urban Institute-Brookings Institution Tax Policy Center.

Members then approved the mea-sure, strongly backed by the White House, that would make a full repeal permanent. The repeal is currently scheduled to take effect in 2010, then disappear in 2011.

"The real flight will come in the Sen-

scheduled to take enter in some in the Sen-disappear in 2011.

The real fight will come in the Sen-ate, where repeal supporters still ap-pear just short of the 60-vote majority needed to break a promised Democrat-

The Republican leadership, backed by Senate Finance Committee Chair-

man Charles Grassley, R.Jowa, has authorized Sen. Jon Kyl. R.Ariz, to strike a death and the will win 60 votes.

"He's got wide latitude to see what he can get," said Mitch McConnell, R.Ky, the Senate majority whip.

For the Democrats, Sen. Charles Schumer, NY, is leading negotiations, which have raised the prospect that the long-standing stalemate on the estate tax could be broken this year. President Bush's 10-years 13.35 trillion tax cut in 2001 included a slow phase-out of the estate tax by 2010, but the tax is reinstated in 2011 when the entire 2001 tax law expires.

President Bush's 10-years 13.35 trillion tax cut in 2001 included a formation of the state tax by 2010, but the tax is reinstated in 2011 when the entire 2001 tax law expires. Some family-owned businesses and affluent heirs have begun appealing to lawmakers for a deal that would provide estate-planning certainty, even if it means setting aside full repeal.

Grassley has thrown his weight behind that effort. "Whe need certainty," a Republican Finance Committee aide said. "We cannot continue on with this course."

course."
That uncertainty has begun splitting the once-steadfast coalition of affuent families, small business groups and farming organizations that have pushed full repeal for more than a decade.

decade.

Lobbyists from Patton Boggs, backed by the heirs of the McLean, Va.based Mars candy fortune, among others, are pushing the lowest estate tax rate they can get.

Small-business lobbyists want the

Small-business lobbyists want the highest exemption they can get. In deference to both those positions, the Republican starting position would set the value of an estate excluded from taxation at \$10 million, with a 15 percent tax rate for estates larger than that.

House could ease oil drilling restrictions

By Tom Hamburger LOS ANGELES TIMES

By fom Hamburger

10.5 NORLIS TIMES

WASHINGTON — Despite rising
complaints that a common oil and gas
drilling technique threatens drinking
water supplies, the House Energy Committee appeared poised Wednesday to approve legislation exempting the practice
from future regulation.

The technique, developed by Halliburton Co., involves injecting pressurized fluids deep underground to encourage oil and gas to rise to the surface. For
years, Halliburton and other energy
companies have been fighting efforts to
regulate the practice under the Safe
Drinking Water Act.

The practice, known as hydraulic
fracturing, is generally considered safe.
But there has been growing concern as
its use has proliferated.

On Tuesday, the House Energy Committee rejected proposals by Democrats
to modify the proposed exemption. The
first, by Rep. Diana DeGette of Colorado,
would require a scientific study of the
practice before the exemption goes into
of California, would prohibit use of
tiesed flue in underground injection.

Both amendments were defeated on
party line votes.

Republican Reps. Heather Wilson of
New Mexico and John Sullivan of Oldhom argued that fracturing is safe and
there is no evidence of problems.

Oil companies and their backers
point out that the United States' three
leading fracturing companies, Halliburton, Schlumberger Technology Corp.,
and BJ Services Co., have signed an
agreement with the EPA promising not
to inject diesel fuel in future fracturing
operations.



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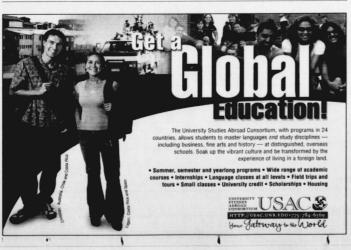
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China: no more rights abuses

BEIJING — The Chinese government, frequently criticized over its human rights record, declared Wednesday that it has brought rights violations "under control" by prosecuting more than 1,500 officials accused of abusing prisoners or holding them without legal grounds.

The assertion came it is study to the state of t

"In total, 1,595 government functionaries suspected of criminal activities were investigated and prosecuted, thus effectively bringing under control offenses of infringement on rights," the report said.

Human-rights organizations are processed of criminal activities were investigated and prosecuted, thus effectively bringing under control offenses of infringement on rights," the report said.

Human-rights organizations of criminal support of the procession of feeligion as a whipe or venichal at chinese rule, and the remain under control of the government and Communist Party, depriving citizens of recourse to an independent authority in case of official abuse.

Kadeer had been setenced to an eight-year prison term under legislation making it illegal to reveal "state information" to foreigners, including that contained in clippings from censored newspapers that she sent to her husband in the United States.

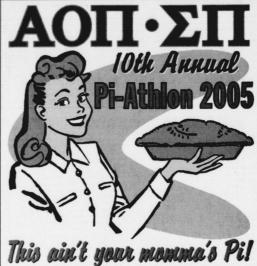
Her supporters said that, in fact, she was prosecuted forment in the speaking out against gower than the sent to her husband in the United States.

Her supporters said that, in fact, she was prosecuted forment in the speaking out against gower than the state of the rights and the state information "to foreigners, including that contained in continuous distance of the principle of the principl



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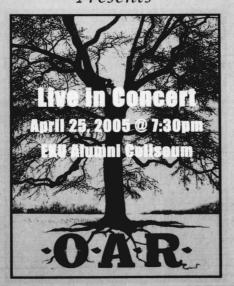
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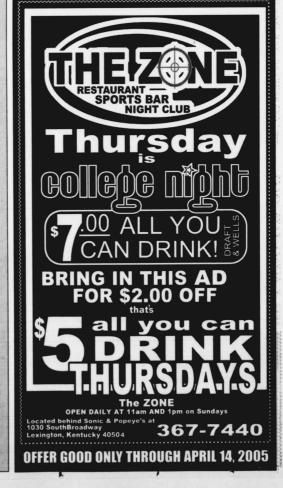
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Warm up to Cozy Burger

Burgers are not cozy.
They are hearty and beefy, thick and juicy Messy slabs of meat fired up and stacked with toppings and condiments, then squeezed into a bun. They complement a summer afternoon in the park beside a plate of watermelon and fries.

They are full of a factor of watermelon and fries.
They are as American as apple pie. They are full of a faint do are a faint of the faint of the



the charcoal beneath the grill.
Not cozy
Kittens are cozy Hot
chocolate with toasted marshmallows is cozy. Warm banana bread is cozy. Fluffy
pink icing on top of a vanilla
cupcake — that is cozy.
So how does Cozy Burger
on Nicholasville Road manage to make its burgers warm
and fuzzy?
About being com-

and fuzzy?

Cozy is about being comfortable, and being comfortable, and being comfortable means engaging in an activity that puts you at ease. The thought of driving through McDonalds (swhich and the means of the



Cici Zeynalzadeh, one of the owners of Cozy Burger on Nicholasville Road, prepares one of the many available burgers.

Record prepares one of the names of Cozy Burger on Nicholasville
Record prepares one of the many available burgers.

Taining traditional quality
and heartimess.
Perhaps I am biased because of my longtime harter
of the American hamburger I haven't had a real hamburger I haven't had a real hamburger in ages. I am hesitant to admit atm "fly assistant" was the one to interpret the taste of Cozy Burger ground beef to me, while I enjoyed the taste of the Garden Burger.
I am skeptical of the hamburger beauting the most offers salad options and strength of the cozy Burger for edivery or call in the missing out on anything until now.

Fresh, crisp fries go perfectly with any version of the cozy Burger for delivery or call in the missing out on anything until now.

Fresh, crisp fries go perfectly with any version of the cozy Burger for delivery or call in contract the cozy Burger for delivery or call in Language from the support of the cozy Burger for delivery or call in the cozy Burger for delivery or call in Language from the support of the cozy Burger for delivery or call in t

seems that I have not been missing out on anything until now.

Living as a vegetarian for two years prohibited my hamburger intake and restricted my indulgence in other type and the concerned with where their meat comes from or how it was processed, but I was.

Cozy Burger takes pride in quality products and fresh USDA ground beef. The open kitchen allows customers to watch as their made-to-order burgers are grilled and prepared on the grill.

Even a nonvegetarian may find the Cozy Burger's all their made their made to-order the control of the control of their many find the Cozy Burger's all their made their made to order the control of their made to order their made their made to order their made their made

not into vegetarian alternatives.

Fresh, crisp fries go perfectly with any version of the Cozy Burger. The restaurant also offers salad options and turkey sandwiches. Prices range from \$8.56 to \$5.95. Students may order the Cozy Burger for delivery or call in for carry-out.

I had lost all hope for the American burger before realizing that maybe it can adapt to my preferences. Cozy Burger revitalizes the burger and proves that even ground beef can snuggle up to the American appetite.

Cozy Burger

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The MANIBROOM FOR IN THE MANIBROOM STATE OF T

pavilion.

Images of these unlikely structures — they are elegant, economical, environmentally attuned and quite solid—have cemented Ban's global reputation as "the paper architect."

reputation as "the paper ar-chitect."
"I hate to be called that," he says with a grimace.
In fact, the Japanese ar-chitect builds with bamboo, wood, metal and glass as well. But his unconventional work with paper is central to his

Intest achievement.

Ban's signature contribution is humanitarian; refuge housing constructed with paper tubes.

After the 1995 earthquake in Kobe, Japan, Ban responded with ingenious designs for temporary houses and a community center, all with cardboard tubes. His "Paper Log House" design was adapted successfully in Turkey and Irdia after earthquakes struck those countries in 1999 and 2001, respectively. Pictures of Rwandan refugees struggling to survive with little more than plastic sheeting sparked another Ban design; a framework of cardboard tubes to turn sheeting into tents.

His newest concern: Sri Lanka. A neat pencil sketch outlines a square building, which will replace 100.

Humanitarian architect builds houses of paper

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Rainy afternoon ends with split for Cats

Cold, wet and messy.
Not ideal conditions for softball, but after a short rain delay. UK hosted Western Kentucky yesterday in a doubleheader at the UK softball

beheader at the UK softball combeheader at the UK softball combeheader at the UK softball combeheader and behavior and the start for the Cats in the first game, pitching 6.2 innings and surrendering seven hits for five runs and recording three strikeouts. The highlight of the game came in the bottom of the fourth linning, when jurior left fielder Lori Melchi hit a two-run shot deep to left center field for her first homer un of the season. "It felt good," Melchi said. "(The pitcher) was coming inside on me, and i turned on it. I wanted to hit a line drive somewhere, but a home run was fine with me." Still. the Cats (18-32) felt to

One out later senior center fielder Jessica Nance batted in another for the second score. Sophomore catcher Calling and the second of the seco

the game came in the bottom of the fourth inning, when it is the various for the fourth inning then it is defined in the case (18 cm of the center field for her first home run of the season.

"It felt good," Melchi said. "The yitherly was coming inside on me, and I turned on it. I wanted to hit a line drive somewhere, but a home run was fine with me."

Still, the Cats (18-32 felt to the Hilltoppers (22-13) 5-2. Fellow freshman pitcher Kristi Warneke relieved Allen in the sixth and finished out the sixt



play as they chase a spot in the SEC Tournament. "Basically we have to be-lieve in ourselves," Kovacs said. "We gotta do it together, all 20 of us. Its attainable; we just have to go get it."

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SPORTS BRIEFS

UK signs 7-foot center

Kentucky All-State center Jared Carter signed his na-tional letter of intent to play basketball at UK, head coach Tubby Smith announced yes-terday.

"We're very happy that Jared will be joining our pro-gram." Smith said. "He's a ta-ented player who will fit well-into our system. It's always exciting when we can bring in a young man from Kentucky who understands how impor-tant Wildcat basketball is to this state."

this state."

Carter chose UK over
North Carolina, Illinois and
Georgia Tech.

(859)257.4981

He was a first-team All-State selection in 2005 after guiding Scott County to a 24r record and the 22nd District title. He averaged 16.3 points, 9.8 rebounds and 6.4 blocks per game as a senior. He also had a state-record 200 blocks this season. Carter was recently select-ed to play in the 2005 Adidas.

Carter was recently selected to play in the 2005 Adidas Kentucky Derby Festival All-Star game, which takes place on April 16 in Louisville's Freedom Hall. The game showcases 25 of the top basketball prospects in the courtry each spring.

Carter will join Adam Williams as a freshman in the fall of 2005. Williams signed in the fall of 2005 and attended prep school at IMG Academy in Florida this past season.

Volleyball signs two

Canadian Tess Edwards and Louisville native Alisa

Pierce have signed national letters of intent to play UK grain Turner in the 2005 fresh-woodleyball, head coach Craig Skinner announced Wednesday. Grain Carbon Company of the Company of

Skinner announced Wednesday

"Tess and Alisa fit the
mold of athletes we are recruiting to help us win championships at Kentucky." Skinner said. "We couldn't be happier with our first recruiting
class."

Edwards, a 6-foot setter
from Ottawa, Ontario, is a
two-time member of the Ontario Provincial team and is
the captain for her club team
at the National Capitals Volleyball Club this season.
Pierce, a 5-foot7 senior at
Pleasure Ridge Park, played
outside hitter in high school
out will shift to a defensive
role at UK. Pierce is a twotime first-team All-State selection and a standout club player at the Kentucky Indiana
Volleyball Association.
Edwards and Pierce join

The second time in Season and second time in Season in the Collecter of the Season in the Season in

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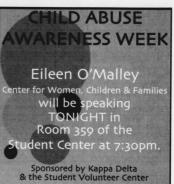
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Focus

Continued from page 1

Continued from page 1

Sometimes she couldn't find hitting partners who could keep up.
"She was so into it, and the coach said she had talent, so she started doing private lessons," Kalsarieva's sister, Madina, said representation of the control of the control

New York City reconnected the two sisters.

"When we came here, we got closer, because we didn't know a lot of people here."
Madina said. "I went to see her play i love to see her play, and I always went to see all her matches."

her play I love to see her play and I always went to see all her matches."
Madina's love for her sister beams when she talks of Aibika's tennis success.
"She's a good player — she's great actually She's got such will power. When she's great, actually She's got such will power. When she's playing, it's like nothing else exists, just the tennis court, racket — and that's it."
When Aibika visits her sister in New York, Madina helps her with her homework. She even prods Aibika for a little tennis practice.
"Maybe eight years ago she would, but now, she won't play me." Madina said with a laugh. "She knows that I'm not that good. She wouldn't waste her time playing with me. She's like a star."
There's no question in her sister's mind — Aibika will be No. 1.

"She's very persistent,"
Madina said.
When UK competed in
Harvard's US. Tennis Association tournament in Flushing Meadow, NY. Madina
went every day to see her sister win.

"She won, it was so fun.
The whole team was cheering, Albika, you are my hero."
Madina is partial to sports cliches.

sports cliches. "It's like a Cinderella sto-

SHE MET COACH GUIL-BEAU in 2000. As if Kalsarie-va's success in Central Asia wasn't enough for her tennis resume, something else caught Guilbeau's eye. Kalsarieva whipped a No. 1 seed in the first round of the Junior Orange Bowl in Mia-mi.

Junior Orange Bowl in Mism Guilbeau said he received word Kalsarieva was unterested in attending college in the United States. He also realized Kalsarieva wouldn't be able to pay for the wide traveling tennis pros face.

"A lot of kids at that level have pro aspirations — sometimes incorrectly." Guilbeau said. "Financially shows assisting the state of the American college system."

But Kalsarieva's lack of English forced her to intially attend a state college. She dominated NAIA competition while playing tennis at Lewis and Clark in Idaho. After two years of collegiate play Kalsarieva's parents stressed the importance of getting a degree before in Getting a degree before first."

Madina Kalsarieva's degree in the small-college national champing the playing tennis stressed the importance of getting a degree before first."

Madina Kalsarieva's jarch in two tracks and the possible of the parents wishes for the daughters. "First get a degree, and then go and own the daughters. "First get a degree, and then go and own the daughters. "First get a degree, and then go and own the gree, and then go and the go and the gree, and then go and the gree and the gree and then go and the gree and the gree

NCAA rules prohibited Gullbeau to speak to Kalsarieva, but nothing forbade her to write the UK coach and keep him up-to-date on her studies and her success on the court. Kalsarieva came to UK as a junior, and Guilbeau was concerned about her adjusting to Division I opponents. To compound matters, Kalsarieva didn't even hit the summer before her transfer to UK. For 60 hours a week, she was a tennis teacher hersel. Kalsarieva ha to the compound of the coacher hersel. Kalsarieva ha the coacher has been to the season.

"She didn't face this type of competition for a long time," he said. "The quickness she rose to the top of this level was impressive."

Foster emphasized simply being a fan of each other.

"We're an optimistic group. There's good accountability," Foster said. "We try to win for each other."

KALSARIEVA IS LEANINTO TOWARD a professional
tennis life. Her favorite tennis pro is Roger Federer,
whom she says has brought
tennis to another level. If shecould, plae anyone in stata
Myskina, the 2004 French
Open winner. Myskina was
the first Russian woman to
win a Grand Slam title.
Visa arrangements are a
snag, and concern on her
mind, as are the financial
costs of traveling on the professional tennis circuit. But
her abilities are not in doubt.
"She can be great at
everything she does, if she
keeps this type of
ic." Guilleau says. "She
could certainly play at the
pro level."

While in her own world during matches, Kalsarieva still gets nervous before she walks to the net.

walks to the net.

"Before matches I think about it," Kalsarieva says.
"Once I'm on the court, I'm fine. It's just the waiting and sitting that can make me nervous."

Focused, she laughs it off and plays.

Just her, her racket and

And usually, she wins

E-mail dpoore@kykernel.com

Aibika Kalsarieva

- Birthplace: Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- m National Ranking: No. 5
- Season record: 31-5

laid down a sacrifice bunt right back to the pitcher that moved Caldwell to third and Shelby to second.

Leffhielder Collin Cowgill, who came on as a defensive substitution, was intentionally walked to load the bases.

Catcher Justin Scutchfield then struck out to set the stage for Wilkes's dramatic hustle play.

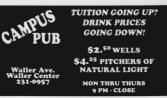
"We're really competing," Cohen said following the game. "This team is young, but we're really competing."

Cohen said he now understands the significance of a midweek game against a nonconference rival in the middle of the brutal SEC schedule.

"I didn't get the Louisville thing when I got here... but now I recognize the importance."

E-mail









Cats

Continued from page 1

head coach John Cohen said. "They would've had a better chance getting Caldwell at the plate than (Wilkes at first)." Cohen's Cats improved to 17-14 on the season, while Louisville dropped to

UK used eight pitchers to complete the 10-inning contest, with starter Aaron Tennyson and reliever Adam Revelette the only pitchers getting more than one inning of work.

actual game," Cohen said. "As young as this staff is, it's good for the club to have many people contribute." Scott Green picked up the win for the Cats, getting the last two outs in the

Scott Green picked up the win for the Cats, getting the last two outs in the top of the 10th.

Caldwell led off the bottom of the 10th with a walk, which he said was harder than it looked.

"When you get up there, man, you're just thinking, 'All right, let's hit one out and get out of here,' "Caldwell said." But you can't do that unless you wait for your pitch."

Caldwell waited four pitches until he worked his walk, then advanced to second when second baseman John Shelby received a four-pitch free pass from Louisville's Griffin Bailey, who was promptly removed.

Brian Halford came on in relief and faced pinch-hitter Jesse Barber, who

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IN OUR OPINION

Health Services due for checkup



Student health may not seem like a high priority for a top-20 school, but many other important facets — such as student life and teaching — deteriorate if students are sick.

The improvement of

The improvement of UK Health Services will therefore be a necessary element of UK's mission to become a top-20 school. The current health services facility, with 0.5 square feet of clinic space per

some medication costs.

Some medication costs.

But that fee does not sower any of cover any of what happens at the complete space than any of UK's benchmark school is clinics. The University of Georgia, for example, has a similar amount of students out to UK but five times as much space in its clinic.

The lack of space hurts students — trowded waiting rooms and a lack of privacy are standard fare

some medication costs.

But that fee does not sower any of what happens at the hospital. For that his vidents — which 20 to 30 percent of color space in its clinic.

Have, Health Services of about 15600 a year; the plan cursuldents — crowded waiting rooms and a lack of privacy are standard fare

some medication costs.

But that fee does not cover any of what happens at the hospital. For that happens at the hospital of the hospital of the hospital insurance health insurance and the students — which 20 to 30 percent of color students of the students of the students and the students of the students

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Luckily, improvements are underway for Health Services.
Electronic check-in, which began at the clinic in January, has helped streamline visits to the clinic and ensure that Health Services has the right contact information for students.

More significantly, IFK

for students.

More significantly, UK has received \$24 million in

state bonds to begin expanding the facility from 16.233 square feet to 38,180 square feet, more than doubling the facility's space. The expansion will hopefully alleviate the lack of privacy and overcrowding that currently make visiting the clinic unpleasant. Having enough space is not the only element of a healthy campus, however. Students must also be able to pay for care. Students must also be able to pay for care. Students must also be able to pay for care. Students must also semester; it covers unlimited visits at Theyen, member and some medication costs. But that fee does not over any of what hap-

rently covers about 6,000 students.

Health Services needs to make the difference between the mandatory health fee and optional medical insurance clear to students. Uninsured students are at risk, especially if they think their health fee covers treatment that it doesn't.

The more Health Services works to alleviate that risk, the better — for both students and the university's top-20 goal.

Jaywalking program should look both ways

Look across Limestone
Street on any school day,
and it's clear — this can be
a dangerous place for drivers and pedestrians.
"You drive down Limestone, and it's almost a
mass of humanity crossing
the street," said Ken Clevidence, director of public
safety, "On Limestone in
the mornings, it's like lemmings coming out of the
Ken tuck y
Clinic, and
the same
thing at
B&E (Gat responsibility of both

South Limestone Street within the past three worryone how serious the situation is.

UK Chandler Medical Center employee Leroy Saunders was killed in one accident, and UK spokeswoman Mary Margaret Colliver was seriously injured in a March 22 accident.

Last year, there were a total of nine accidents.

In response, UK police have started a program to decrease accidents on

Safe walkways are the thing same thing are responsibility of both responsibility of both and Economics)."

Five accidents on South Limestone Street



AARON SMITH, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

UK boxing deserves home in Memorial Coliseum

Their eyes have been focused on the

Their eyes have been focused on une white elephant.
Standing across the street on Mondard Standing across his shoulder, Kamaal Ahmad, UK's heavyweight boxer, turned his head to Memorial Coliseum. "That's where we need to be," said the footballer-turned-brawler.

Jeff
Patterson

Jeff
Patterson yn memorial Coliseum. "That's where we need to be," said the footballer-turned-brawler. He's right. But it should have happened by now.

Patterson

Eist Courses?

For 10 programs in the nation, the UK
boxing team hasn't hosted a home bout
all season. And the season ended two
weeks ago, after fighting all over the
country — but never in Lexington.

The season went as expected.

Three regional champions crowned.
Oh yeah, and one of them claimed
the national championship, picking up
the Most Outstanding Boxer honor in
all of the land.

Just in case you missed it, there's a
new national champion walking around
on campus.

new national champion walking around on campus.
His name is Chad Gilpin, a senior All-American, and he's the national champion in the 195-pound weight class. He has a belt and trophy to prove it.
He just never had the chance to fight at home in his final year at UK. All he and his teammates had was a dingy old basement in Allumni Gym to practice in. And that was a step up from the year before.

before.

Now it's time for them to get the chance to stay home and fight. Enough with fighting in run-down gyms in

Louisville. They deserve much better than that.

There is a simple solution to this mess. All the university needs to do is help is club boxing team host bouts in Memorial Coliseum.

There were only four Saturdays during the 2004-05 school year in which solution in the control of the contro

said.
"I looked at the receipts for the tickets, and it was more than we made," Gilpin said. "Once again, he's putting money from his own pocket in there."
That's dedication.

That's why UK is a DOXING power-house.

"There is no possible way that we would have a team, first of all, without Doc," Gilpin said. "He won't admit it to you. He says the club makes money but it's not true. He puts a lot of personal money inti it'."

money into it."

It's about time he got some outside help. The university needs to embrace this team.

help. The university needs to embrace this team.

It's not as if we are talking about the interpretive dance club here. These boxers are fighting varsity programs every bout. They are a club in name only. Yet, when Gilpin returned from Colorado, there were no parades in his honor. Worse, his hometown newspaper. The Jessamine Journal, didn't even mention his feats.

He can walk around campus sporting his boxing gloves and championship belt, and people would just look at him like he's crazy.

Gilpin is not just an isolated incident for the program. That's why the white elephant would be a perfect home.

The team boasts more than 20 All.

American honors and three individual national champions in the past decade lastical champions in the past deca

home.

The team boasts more than 20 AllAmerican honors and three individual national champions in the past decade. Jeremy Winton was a four-time AllAmerican and won the national championship as a middleweight in 1999. Brant Dude won the national championship at the 119-pound class in 1996. Gilpin, a three-time All-American, just added his.

I can see the flyers aiready. "UK Boxing Saturday night at Memorial Colliseum."

"Located on Avenue of Champions." It fits like a glove.

4ff Patterson is a journalism senior. E-mail justterson@kynemictom.

Real-life tragedies have no connection to simulated Sin

When I go to the movies, I go to have fun. To enjoy the film. For two hours, I don't want to think about the work of the date. And over the weekend, watching Sin City was the best time I've had at the movies in quite a while.

Crystal
Little
LITHE
LITHIC COUNSEST

CRYSTAL COUNSEST

LEXINGTON HETALE COUNTY AND THE COUNTY

ble, I'm not thinking about those things at the movies — and I'll bet the rest of middle America isn't either: We're more concerned with enjoying (or ridiculing, in some cases) what's on screen. Honestly, I don't think such sobering current events are applicable in critiquing such a stunning realization of Frank Miller's worf.

Sin City has also been lambasted, by some, as a misogynistic gor efficient of Frank Miller's worf.

I might add — I suppose I'm the suppose I'm intrinsically immoral, harbor se-cret (or not-so-secret) violent tendencies and appreciate the portrayal of women as nothing more than curvaceous, vapid eye candy.

Gimme a break.

Contrary to popular belief, it is possible to enjoy "violent" media — which includes film, video games and music — without being forever corrupted and/or irreparably damaged. Those who blame the entertainment industry for their own lack of mental instability are just delusional.

Sin City is just the latest addition to a slew of controversy that surrounds the likes of all the Grand Thef Auto games, Marilyn Manson lyrics and Quentin Tarantino films.

Honestly, sometimes entertainment happens to include gratituous violence, so be it — functioning adults should be able to differentiate between fictional

characters and their fictional actions from reality.

Before condemning Sin City as a violent, misogynistic bloodbath, the nature of the story itself should also be taken into consideration; it's film noir taken to the extreme. That means, for the most part, anyway, all the men are tough guys, the way and the language is quite frank—and colorful. (And therefore immensely entertaining.) Most of the women are prostitutes, but they're no damsels in distress—these are tough, beautiful women who take care of their own with lethal loyalty.

Vigilante justice is the norm, and carried out in a manner befitting what the final arbiter of that justice deems necessary. It's morbidly poetic and viscerally satisfying to watch as child molesters and rapits are punished for their helmous crime punished for their helmous crime are splashed with flashes of brilliant of its realism. The black and white frames are splashed with flashes of brilliant color. It's not so much stomach-turning as it is intriguing to see how directors Robert Rodriguez and Miller have managed to transform splattering blood into an art.

If this isn't your personal cup of fee, don't watch it. It's that simple.

If this isn't your personal cup of tea, don't watch it. It's that simple.

Crystal Little is a journalism senior. E-mail clittle@kykernel.com.

Lexington Herald-Leader film critic Rich Copley was particularly concerned about Sin City's potential real-world implications in his April 1 review. In his review, he wrote. It is review, he will be supposed to be one of the good guys, drives along wondering whether he should kill the cop who's following him. Didn't we just have a police officer gunned down in Louisville? "The main bad guy is a child molester who nearly makes off with a little girl and seethes about all the ones he's gotten away with. Didn't we just have a girl killed by a sexual predator who lived near her Florida home? "We have a soarning body count, like a war zone. Aren't we at war?" Though the real-world atrocities Copley mentioned are infinitely terri-**Submissions**

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3 BR DUPLEX w/ Laundry room, close to UK. 416 S. Mill St. \$900/mo. + util. Call 269-4852.

3 BR HOUSE, 201 State St. 5900/mo. 2 BR duglex. 213 Transcript. 5475/mo. Avail. June 1, 2841567. 3 BR, 1 BA HOME near UK Stadium. HZO + appliances incid. Near bus line, fenced yard. 5900. 278-6048 after 5pm.

3 BR, 2 BA APT. in new cottage tri-plex. 282 Clay Ave. S1200/mo. + WE. Very pretty, off-street parking. 806-

3 BR, 2 BA COTTAGE. Hardwood-tile floors. 286 Clay Ave. \$960/mo. + GWE. Avail. June. . References. 806-

3 BR, 2 BA, W/D. Near Rupp Arena/downtown. Off-street parking. \$825/mo. 269-7878. 619-0913.

parking, 3825/mo. 269-7876, 619-0913.

3 RR, 2.5 BA 3 BLOCKS from campus. 3 yrs. old, hardwood floors. Includes w/d and off-street parking. 5950/mo. 335-0743.

3 RR, 2.5 BA 170NN Houses. All elec. Tates Creek Rd. 5875-925, some w/ garage, avail. Ajorf-Juog. some walls to campus. 5750-1500. www.JMGI23.com, 245-9881 or

3 BR, 2.5 BA Veterans Park Town house w/ loft + garage, hookups, \$930/mo. Avail. June. References. 806-3494.

3 BR, 3 BA w/ hookups. 349 Oldham Ave. \$1200/mo. + GWE. Avail. Aug. References. 806-3494.

3 BR-10 min. to UK! Starting at \$750. May or Aug. rental. New paint, carpet, pets, a/c, parking, some w/d. 269-2941. Or www.touchstonerentals.com.

0996.
366 S. BROADWAY PARK: 2 BR Apts. 859-489-105.
4 + 5 BR, DUPLEXES under construction on Crescent & University. All epis., vol. c /a. 859-255-488.
4 BR HOUSE, 13.5 Transcript Ave. Avail. only May-Aug. 5900/mo. util. paid. 396-3822.

4 BR WOODLAND AVE. Kentucky Ave. \$1000-1200/mo.

2.6 488 DUPLEX 3 blocks from Transy, 2 miles from UK.

Map: Map. 989-07CS, www.sills-frombers.com.

2.8 ERT TWARREST ST, Downfown Gratz Park area. 5550.

482-4656. Avail. Nov. 845-25456. Avail. Nov. 845-25456. Avail. Nov.

4 RR 2 RA 288 Clay Ave \$1240/mo 269-7075. Up to \$1300 FREE RENT

Call for Details 268-1903 Chinoe Creek Apts. 3522 Creekwood Dr. * open house every Saturday

4 BR, 2 BA, APT. On Campus II Outside entry, Furnished kitchen. D/W. W/D private patio. Security system. Very nice. SilOQImo. Avail. May 1 873-9775. 4 BR, 2 BA. Bradn ewh bouse. Near UK. Includes W/O, hardwood floors. SIlOQImo. Set for Completion in Aug.

4 BR, 2 BA. Bungalow, Ashland Terrace. UK area. \$900/mo. + utilities. Hook ups. 335-0013. 4 BR, 2.5 BA NEW Construction. Town home, 2 car garage, all elec. Security system, w/d, d/w, c/air, 10 min. to campus. Custom kitchen. Aug. lease. \$1320. 288-

4 BR, 2.5 BA OFF Tates Creek. Call 806-1777. 4 BR, 2.5 BA'S. 698 Sherard Circle and 3855 Super Creek. Garage. \$1200/mo. offering special bonus. 859-225-4604.

defour/Fedination.

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5 BR, 2 BA, 238 ROSE ST. 5 year old prop. All electric, C/A, dish, w/d. off-street parking. Avail. May. 12 mo. lease. No pets. \$1300/mo. Jeff 288-5601. 5 BR, 2 BA. FURNISHED Kitch. Hardwood floors, near UK. Off-street parking. \$1400/mo. Avail. Aug. 1. 873-9775.

PITS.

Rewly remodeled 3BR, 2BR condes with W/D.

Walting distance to campus, Hardwood floors. A flust Seel \$500.00 - \$1000.00 a59-619-5341 for more info old wave, campus downs. cam

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forestcamp.com.

CHILD CARE CENTER needs teacher assistants for PT work beginning May 9 for May Session and the summer. Hours most needed are 3-6pm. M-F. Call 253-2273. CONSTRUCTION, CHEYY CHASE residential contractor looking for FUPT person experienced in one or more of the following: finish carpentry, cabinetry, ceramic tile, plumbing or electrical. Call after 5pm. 576-6326.

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PT MOM'S ASST. to do housekeeping + care for 2 children 2-3 days/wk, throughout summer. Flex. Start date 15 + hrs/wk. Call 321-1974. References needed.

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1 FEMALE SUMMER Roommate wanted. Royal Lexington Apts. \$275/mo. Call 614-565-1761. mares \$225 + util. 5 min. wash from UK. 8037978-2904.
2 FEMALE ROOMMATS needed for 4 Bit Rut. at Royal Lee, furnished, Jane-Aug. \$354/mo. Axa for Erin. 859-801-403. 1 PERSON NEEDED FOR summer sublease w/ 3 room-mates. \$225 + util. 5 min. walk from UK. 803-730-2904.

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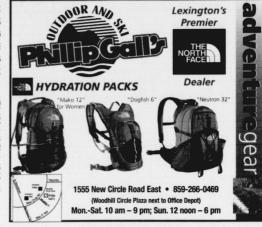
UK, S300(mo, util included ASAP 859-312-871; FEMALE ROOMMAIE WANTED. Woodland Ave. S330/mo. May-June-July 31, 502-419-9994. MALE ROOMMAIT NEEDED for 3 BR Ages. at Campus View. July 1, 5000/mo. sak for Bessie, 859-223-2711. ROOMMAIT WANTED: Way-July, 5300 1/4 util. 4 SR house. Kentucky Ave. 614-266-0484. ROOMMATE WANTED: Walk to campus, share 3 BR ASAP. Call 606-776-5746 Ben.

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APRIL 18TH AND 19TH

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Tournament Starts at 6:15PM Participants Accepted until 7:30PM

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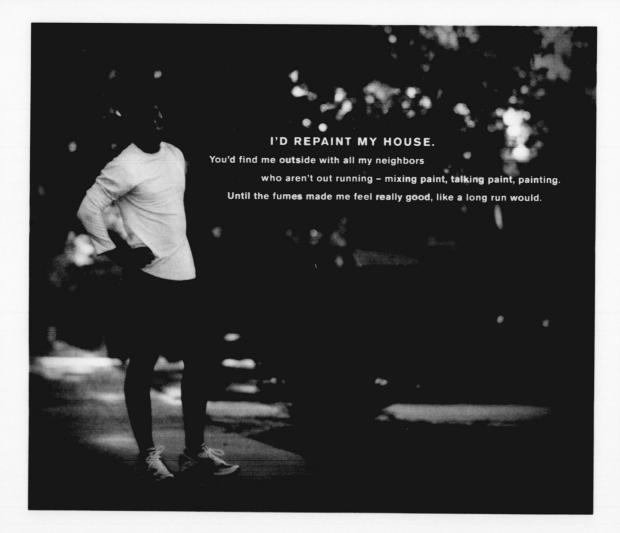
OFFICE HOURS: M-F: 9-5





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Sports Justialed by ADAM DUERSON

AS THE storytelling cliché goes, every death is accompanied by a birth. (See last week's Lost: Boone kicks the can; Claire has a baby boy.) To boot: The air goes out on hoops and hockey while baseball, softball, golf and lacrosse are all in the infant stages. So sit back and enjoy the early days of spring. Once you've recovered from the winter hangover, that is.

THE LAST WORD FROM THE FINAL FOUR

What was your shining moment?

"Watching Coach [Mike] Krzyzewski cash in on the commercials -Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim

"Elizabeth, what was my favorite moment? Probably [Raymond]
Felton stealing the ball at the end of the [title] game." —2004 vice presidential nominee John Edwards

"Every time Wake Forest won. Wake coach Skip Prosser (Um, that happened once, Skip.)

> The West Virginia double-overtime win over Wake. I didn't

have any money on it, but I didn't see that coming. -Jay-Z (left)

Did You Hear....

The A List found the personal web pages that Georgia Tech basketball players (clockwise from top left) Tyler Davis, Luke Schenscher and Isma'il Muhammad designed for a computer science class. A small-but sufficient-sampling: ¶ Muhammad's: "I have a friend name [sic] Jarrett Jack, he is very cool dude.... My other pal is BJ Elder. He is a very kick ass guy." ¶ Schenscher's: "I came to Georgia Tech on a football scholarship but the coach was upset with my poop mouth and I began playing basketball instead." ¶ Davis's: "Yo, wuddup? This is my CS webpage.... Right now I'm planning on going premed."

Look at what Tennessee is shelling out to bring in ex-Wisconsin-Milwaukee basketball coach Bruce Pearl (right): \$800,000 annually, \$194,000 to buy out Pearl from UWM and \$25,000 to a search

firm that helped land Pearl. Then there's the cost of paying Pearl's predecessors: \$1.39 million to ex-coach Buzz Peterson and a remaining \$200,000 to ex-ex-coach Jerry Green.

After Hobart's men's lacrosse team had tied No. 8 Syracuse 12-12 late in the fourth quarter on March 29, a Hobart fan,

following a longtime school tradition, threw a yellow-and-blue carp onto the field. Unamused, referees called a penalty on Hobart and gave possession to Syracuse, which promptly tallied the game-winner and beat Hobart for the 18th straight time since 1986. Quote of the week: Former North Carolina hoopster Vince Carter on Tar Heel Sean May's saying that he's leaning toward staying in school for his senior year: "What can he do? Win another championship? Be the MVP again? It's boring."

thefacebook.com

Facts of the Week

WISCONSIN SNAPPER

is 6' 3", 297 pounds, gets his beauty sleep in an "inflatable princess bed." THERE'S NOTHING Central Michigan

outside hitter

 enjoys more than knitting. Except, maybe, picking her nose THE NEXT GREAT film critic named Roger: Florida State free safety Among his faves: Pootie Tang, Teenage All Dogs Go to Heaven. ALL BUT one member of the

are waging a battle against the Why? We don't know

(below) says h



the moment PAGE 4 | scorecard PAGE 6 | crossword PAGE 10 | faces in the crowd PAGE 11 | cover story PAGE 16 | the final PAGE 20



ONLINE @ SICOM

May Day in April

Hoops season is over, but awards season isn't. Last week SIOC anointed Utah's Andrew Bogut as our men's hoops player of the year. SI.com and CBS basketball analyst Seth Davis sees it a little differently.

When the clock ran out on the 2005 season, the ball was, fittingly, in the hands of North Carolina center Sean May, whose 26 points and 10 rebounds had powered the Tar Heels to a 75–70 victory over Illinois. Cradling the ball, May dashed across the floor of the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis before being enveloped by North Carolina coach Roy Williams. "I just wanted to hug the big rascal as long as I could," Williams said later. The coach undoubtedly had

plenty of company. North Carolina fans longed to embrace May after the 6' 9", 260-pound junior was named the Final Four's Most Outstanding Player. His impressive weekend (he also had 22 points and seven rebounds in UNC's semifinal win over Michigan State) was merely an extension of a stellar season in which he averaged 17.5 points and 10.7 rebounds and shot 56.7% from the floor and 75.8% from the foul line. While Bogut collected most of the accolades that were based on votes cast at the end of the regular season, May's brilliance during the postseason is why he is SI's college basketball player of the year. "He wanted to win that national championship, there's no doubt," Illinois coach Bruce Weber said after the final. "He played like it the whole tournament."

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY to look ahead to next season.
Which freshman will make the biggest difference on Tobacco Road?
(Hint: see insets above.) Which Big East team is destined for the top 5? Luke Winn has the answers at SI.com/basketball/ncaa.

FROM THE PAGES OF 🌕

Still No. 1?

YES, USC LOST five starters on defense, including four All-Americas. Yes, injuries and legal problems have left the team with one scholarship cornerback this spring. Still, with an offense like theirs, why shouldn't wide receiver Steve Smith (right) and the Trojans be wide-eyed with anticipation? The truth is, the USC offense is so loaded this season and its starting

uarterback so smart and seasoned that
"SC could repeat—or "three-Pete," as the
faithful say—with Matt Leinart's pal
Jessica Simpson calling the plays.
The question is: Can this
revamped defense stop people?

SI'S SPRING FOOTBALL tour continues this week with Austin Murphy's story from USC and next week with stops at Notre Dame and Washington.







Edited by GENE MENEZ

Long, Strange

Our reporter escaped Manhattan for the West Coast and discovered

that along with perfect weather and bronzed buff bods, California has the nation's wackiest college sports culture by Clarissa Cruz

New York City is a lot of things, but in late winter pictures que isn't one of them. Garbage-stained slush on every street corner, per petually gray skies and an irritated, chapped lipped populace with faded Mystic Tans is more like it. So imagine my delight when SIOC beckoned with this assignment: Tour a bunch of sunny California schools to unearth a college sports culture unlike any other. Hundreds of miles, three moving violations and one pair of ruined Kenneth Colekitten heels later. I was thoroughly educated on the finer points of ultimate Frisbee, met a philosophical mollusk and developed a deeper appreciation of these badass athletes.

This slug is no slouch. He quotes Nietzsche and majors in molecular biology.



mile/0

Attracting brainy hippie types, UC Santa Cruz isn't exactly known for being an athletic

powerhouse. The Division III school, located 90 miles south of San Francisco, doesn't even have a football team. So it's fitting that as we have lunch at joe's Restaurant on campus, perhaps the best-named mascot in the country. Sammy the Banana Slug, is quoting Nietzsche to me. "If there is a must, then there is a can," says za-year-old junior farhad Ghafarzade, who dons the bright yellow, slightly phallic costume. He's talking about how he manages to perform at games, major in molecular biology and train for a triathion on the side. And did I mention that he also converts used vegetable oil into environmentally friendly gas for his car? Not the typical profile for someone whom I will see a couple of hours later grinding his athletic director during a Jay-Z song at a women's basketball game—but I'm enjoying the contradiction.

mile/74

My next stop is San Francisco. Enraptured by the multicolored sunset while driving on the Pacific Coast Highway, I don't notice the squad car trailing me until high beams flash in my rearview mirror. I pull over.

"Have you been drinking, ma'am?" the gruff officer asks, shining his flashlight into my (thankfully undilated) pupils.

"No, not at all," I say, shooting him a charming grin.

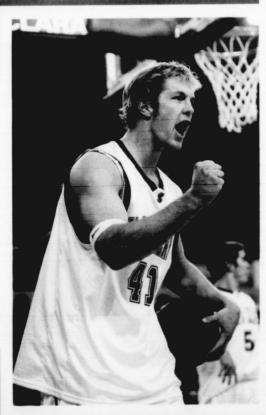
"You were going 75 in a 50-mph zone. That's \$150," he says. You crossed a double yellow line-another \$150. And you failed to stop when I tried to pull you over—another \$150."

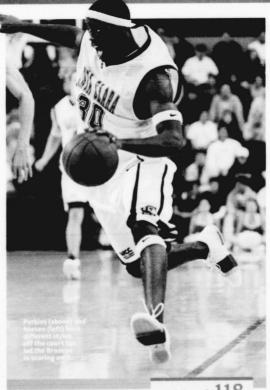
"I'm sorry," I say, trying another tactic. "I'm from Manhattan, and I'm not used to driving."

"I see," the officer says. "So you're not drunk, you're just from Manhattan."

"Yes," I say, hanging my head.

"O.K.," he snaps. "I'm not going to give you a ticket, but these roads are very twisty, so drive more slowly from now on." The Manhattan defense works every time.



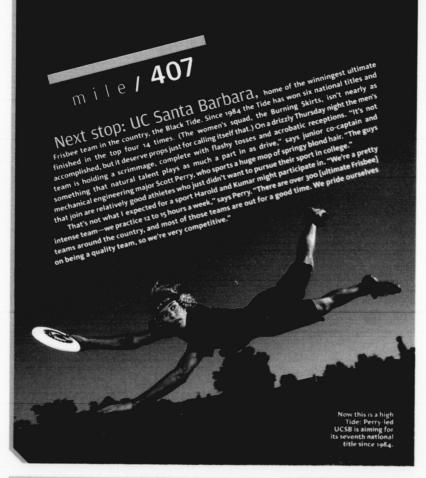


mile / 118

Santa Clara, 44 miles south of San Francisco, is known for its bucolic campus, its affluent, politically aware student body \ldots and having the most fashionably quirky (see: Steve Nash) giant-killing (see: Santa Clara 77, North Carolina 66 on Nov. 19) basketball team this side of Beverly Hills. I meet the Broncos' two leading scorers, junior Travis Niesen and senior Doron Perkins, to discuss their fashion philosophies. "Reckless abandonment," says beachy blond Jeff Spicoli look-alike Niesen (nickname: Pretty Boy) when asked to describe his personal style.

Perkins, on the other hand, is a bit more high-maintenance. "I've always got to match," he laughs, flashing a Taye Diggs-esque grin and admitting to owning 40 hats and 30 pairs of shoes. "Some earrings, a jersey, and I always wear a hat or a headband."

Each guy's fashion sense mirrors his on-court persona. "[Perkins's style] goes along with his style of play," Niesen says. "He's going to be color-coordinated with his white headband and armband, and whatever he does on the court, he looks really good doing it. I may not look good doing everything I do, but I don't care what other people think. We both get the job done on the basketball court, but we go about our business in different ways." Ah, Lagerfeld and Galliano couldn't have said it better.



mite / 512

NO trip to California campuses would be complete (at least for Aaron Spelling acolytes like me) without a visit to Occidental College in Los Angeles, where 90210: The College Years was taped. The ground trod by Brandon, Kelly, Donna, Steve and Andrea is even more lush in person, and it turns out that the creators of California University aren't the only ones who found Oxy photogenic: Everyone from Charlie Chaplin to Katharine Hepburn to the Wayans brothers has filmed here. "It's close to the studios, it doesn't have palm trees, and it's got a classic academic quad," says Occidental spokesperson Jim Tranquada of the college's Hollywood appeal. "It can stand in for almost any school."

Interesting, but another factoid has caught my attention: Ben Affleck spent one year here in the early '90s after transferring from Vermont. I hike up to Stearns Hall, the Spanish-style dorm he lived in, and wonder



Once they graduated from the Peach Pit, the 90210 gang headed for Oxy, disguised as CU.

what Jennifers Lopez and Garner would think of the modest accommodations. My musings aren't as farfetched as I thought. "He still comes by occasionally," Tranquada says. "Earlier this year he was just wandering around campus, hanging out at the student union."



mile / 627

My journey ends at UC San Diego, home to one of the top club surfing teams in the country. I get up at an ungodly hour to meet senior captain Danny Caldwell and the rest of the team at Black's Beach, where they are practicing for a competition the following week.

"Uh, are your shoes going to be O.K.?" Caldwell asks, looking down at my silver, pointy-toed Kenneth Cole kitten heels. "There was a mudslide from the rain, so we have to hike down to the beach instead of driving."

"Of course they'll be O.K.," I say brightly. I am an intrepid journalist! will do anything for a story! I can handle a little sand! But as I catch a glimpse of the steep, rocky, mud-filled path, I become frightened. No worries, I tell myself, surferlike, as I slowly make my way down to the beach. The rest of the flip-flop- and sneakers-wearing group is way ahead of me. What if I slip and die? With nothing but my silver shoes and Seven jeans to ID my body?

After what seems like hours, I join the surfers, who are already peeling off their clothes and getting into their wet suits. My ordeal is instantly forgotten. Omigod . . . hot! Forget Pilates and Atkins—surfing seems the surefire way to get a rock-hard bod. O.K., focus. The story. I'm here for the story. "Compared to other teams, we don't have that much of a structure," says Caldwell, a structural engineering major who wants to be—sigh—a firefighter after graduation. "We don't all get together and practice that often, but everybody's surfing all the time. We're just really laid-back and kind of just stoked to be surfing and competing."

Also stoked is the lone female member practicing today, freshman Ashley Pardoen. So, Ashley, what's it like being one of the few women in this maledominated sport? "I can't complain," she smiles, giving her well-toned teammates a once-over. I hear you, sister.

the

Last week we introduced you to Union College's tradition of getting busy on the 50. Since then we've unearthed five more equally eye-opening underground traditions by Jacob Kalish



SUNY Oswego: Bagel Throwing

Franklin College: Burnin' Down the (Out)House

AT SMALL FRANKLIN (IND.) College (enrollment: 1,048), students have burned down an outhouse before the homecoming football game for over a half century. No s---. The privy-burning started in 1908: Female students had strict curfews, so the men had to resort to trickery to get the women out of their dorm rooms to party. They stole a privy from someone's property and burned it outside Bryan Hall, the women's dorm. The girls ran out and off with the guys, and a tradition was born. The practice of outhouse-stealing ended in 1961, and these days, thanks to increased plumbing in rural Indiana, Franklin builds and burns a nonfunctional privy during a pep rally before the big game.

Yale: The Saybrook Strip



Florida: Jock Jump

WHAT'S MORE IMPRESSIVE than pole vaulting? Pole vaulting in your athletic supporter. Florida's lock Jump started in 1996, when a senior, Troy Rumfelt, said he'd once jumped naked. "We thought, We've got to do that," freshman decathlete. "But maybe

we shouldn't get arrested." Jock straps were deemed enough clothing for the vaulters to avoid trouble. Strings were pulled to get lights turned on at the stadium, and Mesler made up flyers and started a website. The first competition featured Lawrence Johnson, who earned a silver medal in the 2000 Olympics, and Mesler, who in 2002 made the Olympics in the bobsled. Tradition dictates that Jock Jump start with an announcer reading the jumpers' bios. At the post-party a "trophy" keg is bought in the name of the winner. The Jump went coed in 1999 (female competitors wear sports bras and underwear) and is going strong, albeit under constant fear of being shut down. "I have no idea how we never got in trouble," Mesler says.



Kenyon: Shock Your Mama Party

THE KENYON MEN'S swim team has won 26 straight Division III national titles while the women have won 20 of the last 22. To achieve such dominance

the teams abstain from alcohol during the season. "But once we're done, it's a whole different story," says senior Will Wakefield. The team throws a costume party called Shock Your Mama, where the drinks are plentiful and the clothing is sparse. At one SYM, one female wore only pages of a Kenyon admissions book. Another showed up in Saran Wrap while a guy in a priest costume handed out condoms. One attendee was asked to leave last year when he insisted on wearing his boxers around his head rather than his waist.









The Bears are a tight scrum, bound by a code that shuns the heavy partying of many of their peers. The result: 16 titles in 21 years.

know, they have the GIVE BLOOD: PLAY RUGBY STICKERS ON their cars. Or OUR DRINKING TEAM HAS A RUGBY PROBLEM, or these awful things that make you want to choke somebody."

The intensity of the Bears can be traced to Clark, a 6' 5" bear of a man (he's a former All-Pac-8 offensive tackle for the Bears and member of the U.S. national rugby team) who

peppers his language with the words bloody and lads. When he's running drills he rarely screams, but he elevates the tenor of his voice as he stands imperiously on the sideline, arms crossed over his chest, commanding attention like a benevolent dictator. "There's some expectations when you're the custodian here," Clark, 49, says later, sitting behind an oak

desk in his stately office just inside the entrance to the team's clubhouse. "The standards are high, and the stakeholders—the alums—want Cal to be a great rugby program."

"Great" would be understating Clark's accomplishments. In the rugby community the man is a messiah, and the players and fans his disciples. "Coach is an intense man," says Vontz. When asked if the team fears Clark, Vontz snorts, "Yeah, of course." Two years ago the Bath Rugby Club, a pro team in England, offered Clark its head coaching position, which he turned down to stay at Cal. "This is his brainchild; it's his baby. This is what he does. He is Cal rugby," says Vontz. "There's no other person in North America who's built a program like this."

The numbers don't lie:

Clark's record at Cal is 365-63-5. There are those 16 national championships, that outlandish scoring margin. When the Bears played Arizona State on Feb. 26, they scored 121 points-and the scorekeeper had to hold the "1" for the duration of the game because the scoreboard didn't have a third slot for the placard.

How thoroughly does Cal emasculate its opponents? There is no better example than the Big Game four years ago, when archrival Stanford forfeited the match. In an e-mail to

Clark, Stanford coach Franck Boivert wrote that his players didn't mind losing to Cal but were "very afraid to get injured." Normally humble in victory, even Clark can't resist a dig when recounting the memory. "Some programs in rugby underachieve," says Clark. "We should have a great rival across the bay at Stanford. We've been playing the Big Game for a hundred years. They have more money in the bank than we'll ever raise, new facilities and a long tradition. The forfeiture was sad because it makes the

game seem conditional, like you don't really have to play."

Framed on a wall in the back of the clubhouse is a sixpage feature from the East Bay Express. The writer contends that Cal is too good, that its dominance runs counter to the spirit of competition. The Bears, though, see their lofty status as a burden as much as a blessing. "I feel like I'm walking on eggshells every time I get out on the field." Vontz says. "I feel like I have anvils on both of my shoulders just trying to live up to this crushing weight of expectation."

After a 69-29 win over Oregon on the first day of the Cal Invitational, Clark is sitting in the common room of the clubhouse, smoking a cigar and surrounded by shiny goblets, reminders of past victories. There is a vase full of fresh-cut tulips on a table next to the

mid-century wood chair he fills out. An assistant coach is asked what the blossoming trees outside the windows are and answers "cherry blossoms" without batting an eyelash. The kegger-at-halftime mentality is nowhere to be found. "Nobody on our team would drink the night before a game," says sophomore lock Louis Stanfill. "Those people get weeded out. I guarantee you that has never happened and never will happen. There's a lot of honor in playing our sport."

Even off the field the players appear to live these maxims. Vontz and Blair are better known as "music nazis" than chuggers; both show a soft spot for sad, mellow indie groups like Iron & Wine. A few weeks ago Stanfill demonstrated his peacemaking skills as a bouncer at San Francisco's Fetish Ball. "If there was more sex, there'd be less war," he says. "I mean, look at the bonobo monkeys." Senior center Rob Weedon is a microbiology major preparing for a career in medicine. Clearly these guys are not your typical meatheads.

A short time after beating the Ducks, the Bears meet their vanguished opponents, now showered and changed, for a banquet meal. The postmatch gathering, in a dining hall located between two cement walls within Memorial Stadium. is a Cal tradition. Every one of the Bears looks sharp in a collared shirt, tie and his varsity cardigan, which sports 15 golden stripes. It's pretty clear these lads have earned theirs.



"NOBODY ON **OUR TEAM WOULD DRINK THE NIGHT** BEFORE A GAME." SAYS STANFILL. "THOSE PEOPLE GET WEEDED OUT

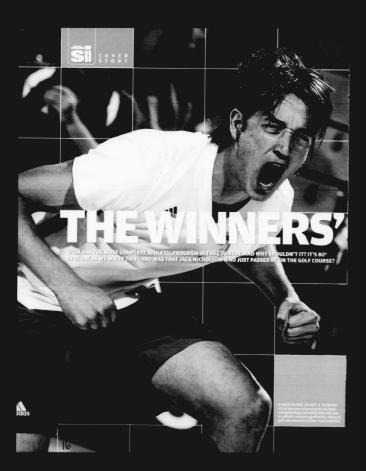
THERE'S A LOT OF HONOR IN PLAYING **OUR SPORT."**

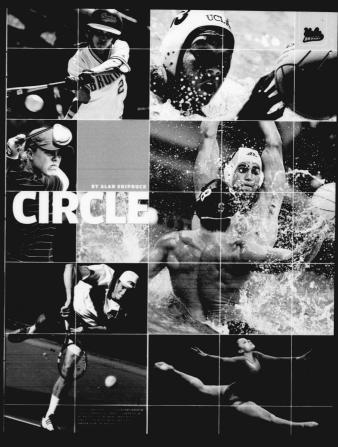












age of 30 the coach of the UCLA men's and women's water polo teams has won a mere six national championships. Most universities would have named a building after him by now, but around UCLA his heady accomplishments are lost among all the other sports dynasties. Krikorian's office is next door to that of Al Scates, the legendary men's volleyball coach whose 18 national championships are an NCAA record for any coach in any sport. Down the hall sits Sue Enquist, the softball coach with 10 national crowns and counting. If moments of self-pity drive Krikorian to stare out his office window seeking perspective, he has a prime view of the John Wooden Center, named for the

iconic symbol of UCLA excellence who notched 10 national championships in men's basketball from 1964 to '75. "It's humbling to be a coach at UCLA," says Krikorian, whose boyish looks and surfer-dude patois give him the air of a grad student. "How can I brag about my team? How can I get cocky? Al motivates me just by leaving his office door open so I can see all his awards and trophies."

Both Scates, 65, and Krikorian have a chance to add to their collections of hardware this year; the UCLA men's volleyball team is ranked second and the women's water polo team first in the country. With four other teams in their respective top 10s (and the men's water polo team having won the title in December), the Bruins have a chance to exceed last year's haul of four national championships, in softball, women's gymnastics, women's golf and women's outdoor track and field.

Says junior golfer Susie Matthews, "You hear the talk all around you, whether it's in the weight room or the [athletes'] learning center:

'national championship' this, 'national championship' that. Expectations are sky-high, and there is definitely pressure to keep up with these other great teams."

Championship tradition (the Bruins have won an NCAA-record 95 team titles) and peer pressure can have a tremendous motivating effect, but other factors are at work in UCLA's dominance of what Krikorian labels "the so-called Olympic sports." Sundrenched La Land is ideal for outdoor pursuits, including the quintessential beach game, volleyball. The mother lode of volleyball talent, according to Scates, is located in the 220-mile sun-kissed strip between San Diego and Santa Barbara, in which there are approximately 300 high school volleyball teams. "The blue-chip kids don't leave Southern California," Scates says, adding with a snort: "Why would they?"

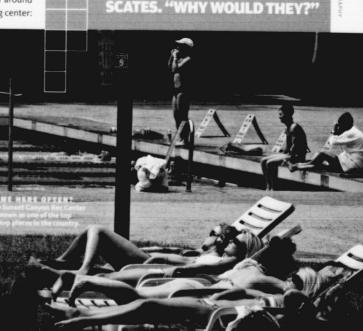
Indeed, senior outside hitter Kris Kraushaar hails from Orange County, and of the recruiting process he says, "I thought Santa Barbara might be too far away."

From May through September, Kraushaar and his teammates strengthen their legs and work on their ball-handling skills playing two-on-two at Will Rogers State Beach in Santa Monica, the same sand Scates patrolled when he was a Bruin in the 1960s. Pasty gym rats at Penn State, Ohio State or other landlocked volleyball programs can only dream of this kind of preparation.

The allure of the El Lay lifestyle works for other Bruins teams, too. "Most water polo players love the whole beach thing," Krikorian says, "and if we're recruiting a kid from back East or up North"—that is, frigid Northern California—"we definitely sell the weather." The Bruins' water polo teams practice at Sunset Canyon Recreation Center on the northern tip of campus, a gorgeous hillside setting at the foot of Bel-Air. Additional scenery is provided by the spectacular array of bikinied coeds who sunbathe on a vast lawn adjacent to the pool. Of all the bronzed flesh on display, Krikorian says, "It can be a major distraction for the guys during practice, but it's also good for recruiting. When I was coming out of high school and visited UCLA, I was told that Sunset Rec had been named one of the top 10 pickup places in the country." With a coy smile, he adds, "I'm sure that line is still used."

If a wayward pass winds up on the lawn, there is a mad scramble among the players to be first out of the pool to retrieve the errant ball and engage in furtive flirting. "But if one of the guys is too obvious about it, the whole thing backfires, because the team will just explode, yelling and pointing and drawing attention to this dude in a Speedo tiptoeing

THE BLUE-CHIP KIDS
DON'T LEAVE SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA," SNORTS
SCATES. "WHY WOULD THEY?"



around all these beautiful women," Krikorian says.

The golf teams have enviable facilities but for different reasons: The Bruins practice on some of the best courses in America. The men and women tee it up twice a week at Bel-Air Country Club, where the head pro emeritus is Eddie (the Little Pro) Merrins, who as UCLA men's golf coach won a national championship in 1988 and tutored future PGA Tour players Corey Pavin and Jay Delsing. On Wednesdays both teams practice at Wilshire Country Club, host of the Champions Tour SBC Classic from 1995 through 2000. On Thursdays the Bruins' women visit Hillcrest Country Club, site of the 1929 PGA Championship. Both squads also have occasional access to Riviera Country Club, the so-called Hogan's Alley that hosts the PGA Tour's annual Nissan (né L.A.) Open.

Such glittering venues produce the inevitable star sightings. At Bel-Air not long ago the women's team was walking toward the 1st tee when, from behind, an unmistakable voice cooed, "Well, hello, ladies."

The Bruins turned around to find Jack Nicholson, his leer only partially disguised by his signature shades.

One player said, "Hey, Jack, how you doing?"
"Better now that I've seen you ladies," he replied.
This does not happen at Oklahoma State.

"There's no doubt the excitement of L.A. is a big draw for some athletes, especially those from overseas," says women's golf coach Carrie Forsyth, who has recruited players from as far away as Australia. "They know UCLA. Just the name conjures up images of palm trees and *Baywatch* and all that good stuff."

Golf is not yet an Olympic sport, but UCLA cleans up in every sport that is. The 2004 Summer Games featured 56 current and former Bruins athletes, more than any other university, and they scored 19 medals. If UCLA were a country, it would have ranked 14th in the medal count. This kind of success translates to dominance in spring sports and highlights the paradox of UCLA athletics. "Our brand is even stronger

internationally, because a school's athletic reputation in the U.S. is so reliant on football and [men's] basketball," Forsyth says.

It just so happens that football and men's basketball, once Pac-10 powerhouses, are now two of the weakest programs at UCLA. The once-proud men's hoops team barely squeaked into the recent NCAA tournament, its first appearance in three years. (It lost to Texas Tech in the first round.) The football team hasn't won more than eight games since 1997.

Scates does anything but gloat over the misfortune of the glamour programs. "Every time those teams play, I have a cheer: 'Go, budget!' "he says. "When football and basketball have bad years, it affects the overall athletic budget, and that affects a lot of other things."

Bruins coaches look out for one another in myriad other ways. There

JUST WIN. BABY

HERE ARE THE D-I schools with the most NCAA titles in nonrevenu

UCLA:

Women's teams have won 12 of the Bruins' 17 titles. In all, UCLA has reigned in nine sports, with women' gymnastics winning four times.

STANFORD:

The Cardinal has won the Directors'
Cup nine straight years and is six back
of UCLA's record as NCAA team titles.

LSU:

Eight of the Tigers' titles have com in track and field (five Indoor, thre outdoor).

MINNESOTA

The four hockey titles (two men's, two women's) are no surprise, but

USC:

Last year alone UCLA's crosstown riva won women's volleyball, women's water polo and men's water polo titles

AUBURN:

The Tigers are a pool powerhouse, with all six titles coming in swimming

is a monthly meeting to exchange ideas on recruiting, finances and other concerns, and impromptu seminars are often conducted in the hallway or in individual coaches' offices, where the doors are always open. "There's room for everybody here," Scates says. "It's a big campus, a big town. We're not fighting each other for money, for support. It's like a family." Scates's mellow demeanor and infectious laughter help set the tone, and he credits his openness to Wooden. "Coach Wooden talked to everybody," he says. In the early years of Scates's coaching career he used to audit Wooden's practices, gleaning ideas on structure and pacing. After Wooden retired, the Wizard of Westwood would hang out in Scates's office for hours, discussing coaching theory, among many other things. "He still calls," Scates says of the 94-year-old Wooden. "He tries to disguise his voice and pretend he's a disgruntled alumnus, but he's not very convincing. But I play along."

Among the athletes there is a similar camaraderie. "We're incredibly supportive of each other," says Matthews, the golfer. "We root for each other. When another team succeeds, we don't get jealous; we get inspired." The men's volleyball team occasionally shows up to cheer for the women's squad in zany wigs, nutty sunglasses and flamboyant thrift-store clothes. Members of the football team often can be found at women's gymnastics meets

and softball games.

This kinship leads to strong alumni support. The men's volleyball alumni match has regularly featured Karch Kiraly (class of '82), undisputedly the greatest player in the history of college volleyball. A frequent visitor to softball practice is Lisa Fernandez ('93), widely

believed to be the preeminent player in college softball history. Star sophomore Lisa Dodd, whose 0.79 ERA ranked ninth in the nation last year, frequently bends Fernandez's ear on their sport's finer points.

Fernandez's advice will no doubt play a role later this spring when Dodd leads the Bruins in pursuit of their third consecutive national championship. "It's the ultimate goal," she says simply. "It always is." She is far more concerned with the title hunt than with winning a player of the year award. "Individual achievement doesn't mean anything except to that one person, but team success is celebrated by everyone at UCLA," Dodd says. "It's definitely nice to be recognized, but you can be player of the year and nobody really cares if the team doesn't win the national championship. That's how we keep score here."





GETTING A LIFE

With March Madness behind him, the author undertakes a long-overdue spring cleaning. The first thing to go: sports

WE ARE DONE. Spent. Wasted. Our school spirit has been exorcised. What we need now is exercise.

For the first time since August we're operating in a Fowler-free zone. March Madness has yielded to April Apathy. One Shining Moment has been replaced by sun-shining moments, and suddenly that old adage (which I, in fact, just made up) of "Once you've seen the Final Four/All that follows is a bore" rings true.

Cheering sections for Bobcats, Bearcats and Wildcats have given way to review sections for MCATs, LSATs and GMATs, and no. Bonnie Bernstein is not standing by to interview the losers as they leave the lecture hall. And yet, if she were:

Bonnie: "Scooter, you took a beating in the biology and physics tests. What's next for you: nursing school or pharmaceutical sales?

Scooter: "To be honest, Bonnie, I don't really give a *&\$% about cardiology right now. I just know that I've got three chem lab partners back

in that exam room who I love."

We all need a break, a one-week spring break, from watching sports. Pardon the interregnum, but our sportsaddled minds need a spring cleaning, a restoration to sanity. Just yesterday I was wondering whether the most aptly named D-I athlete is Pittsburgh's Charles Small, who at 5' 7" suits up for the Panthers' basketball team, or Stanford middle-distance runner Amanda Trotter. I decided that the least aptly named D-I athlete must be Oregon hoopster and seven-footer Matt Short. (Yes, I live alone.)

Then I thought about that NCAA promo that ran during the men's and women's hoops tournaments. You know, the one with the voiceover that says, "There are 360,000 NCAA student-athletes, and just about all of us will be going pro in something other than sports." Here's the ad I'd like to hear: "There are 360,000 NCAA student-athletes, and just about half of us are attending school on scholarship. Meanwhile, you're pulling 20 hours a week in the cafeteria at minimum wage and staring at Kirstie Alley-sized studentloan payments after graduation. You should've stuck with those swim lessons."

I need a break. You need a break. Which is why April, for its lack of TV-friendly sports, is actually a blessing in disguise to those of us who have been welded to the couch since the BCA Football Classic. April is the month when we would rather play sports than watch them. We might actually get off the couch to train for the Little 500 at Indiana or take part in the Bookstore Basketball Tournament (the selfproclaimed "World's largest outdoor five-on-five basketball tournament") at Notre Dame. We might sneak into the Boston Marathon at Mile 21, then drop out at Mile 22 before dropping into Mary Ann's just off the Boston College campus for a brew.

There is one spring sport, however, that's exciting and eminently watchable, one that tempts us to return to being observers rather than participants. Certainly it's the most entertaining D-I sport of the season, the only one that draws actual fans, not just tanorexics looking to maintain their Cancún color: lacrosse. And yet as exciting as lacrosse is, its shorthand pseudonym sums up our school spirit this week: lax. G

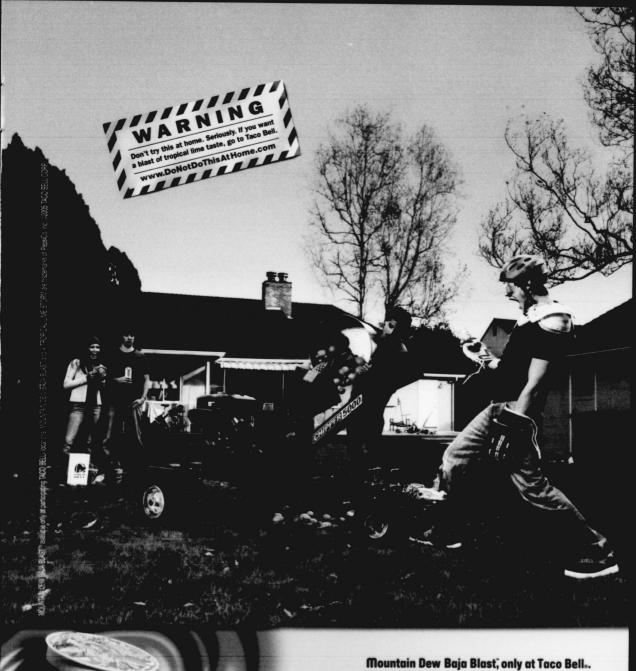
week's next

ATHLETE POLL

athletic feats to hook up at a party? Who'd you rather be stuck on a desert island with: Jacko or Paris Hilton? SIOC put the tough questions to more than 700 jocks



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