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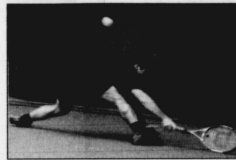
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# THE KENTUCKY Kernel

Celebrating 33 years of independence



Cats  
rebound  
to beat  
Indiana

Page 4

## Housing, fees increase; tuition hike may be lowered

By Adam Sichko  
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The UK Board of Trustees approved revamped meal plans and a housing increase yesterday — and members said it's possible a proposed tuition increase could be lowered.

UK Dining Services will implement its "unlimited choice" meal plans beginning next school year. Currently, students pay for each individual item; under the new plan, students buy all-you-can-eat meals.

The plan includes seven levels

of meals per school year. The minimum cost of the plan is \$1,766 per school year for 246 meals, which equals about 1.1 meals per day in a seven-day week. At most, a student can pay \$3,746 for 672 meals per year — an average of exactly three meals a day in a seven-day week.

The minimum plan costs \$116 more per year than the basic cost of the current dining plan — the fifth straight year the dining plan has in-

See Fees on page 2

### APPROVED DINING PLANS FOR THE 2005-06 SCHOOL YEAR

Meals	Cost	Average cost per meal	Meals per day in a seven-day week
246	\$1,766	\$7.18	1.1
286	\$2,198*	\$6.99	1.28
322	\$2,398*	\$6.83	1.44
410	\$2,774*	\$6.28	1.83
490	\$3,190*	\$6.10	2.19
560	\$3,396*	\$5.71	2.43
672	\$3,746	\$5.57	3.00

\*price includes \$200 per year in flex dollars

## New MBA program unveiled

By Tricia Spaulding  
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

A new immersive master's of business administration program better equips students to fit in today's changing marketplace in half the time, said the program's director.

"I think this program is revolutionary as (compared) to other MBA programs. It is different from any other out there," said Mary Lee Kerr, the MBA program director.

The program is an 11-month immersive program that will focus on three main areas: new product development, supply-chain management, and mergers and acquisitions. These processes are fundamental in every organization, Kerr said.

Students will also have the opportunity to earn extra certifications in addition to the MBA degree.

The certifications are from key organizations out there. Externally administered certificates show your level of competency and differentiates you from other graduates, and makes you more marketable," she said.

Students will constantly move from the classroom to the lab and the field, applying concepts and methods to real-life situations, Kerr said.

The program will begin with a rapid-immersion module where students will participate in a managerial assessment that evaluates strengths and weaknesses and will allow students to build a self-improvement plan.

Students will learn how markets operate, how companies maximize performance, how business functions contribute to profitability and how to manage supply-chain dynamics.

A final check will then allow students to position themselves for the job market by finding what experiences they enjoyed best in the advanced learning bundles module. "An employers' perspective

See MBA on page 2



KEREN HENDERSON | STAFF

Lexington artist David Minton painted "Witch" in December after a burst of inspiration. Minton recently quit his job as art critic for the Lexington Herald-Leader to paint and write full-time. Now he's conducting interviews for UK's Oral History Program so his friend and fellow artist Henry Faulkner can inspire generations of artists to come.

## protecting a Legacy

Former art critic David Minton uses UK's Oral History Program to make sure his friend's memory is properly represented

By Keren Henderson  
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Bold red words scroll across artist David Minton's computer screen: "Don't die yet."

This self-reminder is the finishing touch to his short list of life goals: painting, writing, eating and drinking. Minton, 53, added the last line because it struck him as funny. He means it too.

"I've made my peace with life," he said. "But I only just found my talent in the last few years, and I'd like to do some things with it. And I'd like to do some things for Henry."

Henry was a friend of Minton's who died in a car accident 24 years ago. The city remembers him as Henry Faulkner — a Lexington artist who survived off his paintings and broke many of society's rules along the way.

Minton wants to keep Faulkner from being forgotten or what is more likely misrepresenting the artist's life for UK's Oral History Program. Since October, Minton has interviewed 10 artists who knew and worked with Faulkner. Lexington socialite Anita Madden and former Lexington mayor James Amato have also agreed to interviews. Both knew Faulkner well.

The project will record memories of

Faulkner on tape before everyone closely attached to him passes away. As a part of UK's Oral History Collection, the interviews will be available to the public for years to come.

Myths already besiege Faulkner's memory. "There are as many points of view about Henry as there are people talking about him," Minton said. "There are a bunch of contradictions."

Considering how Faulkner lived, even outrageous stories are hard to deny. His life was a theatre. He dressed in drag and sang blues at local bars or while riding his bike down Third Street. Paintings sometimes moved him to emotional convulsions. He filled up on salad bars without paying. One well-circulated story is that Faulkner dragged his bourbon-drinking goats to parties, art shows and one court appearance.

"Then there's a side to him not at all like the image that's out there," Minton said. "He could show up and be a totally normal guy."

### Stepping out

Like Faulkner, Minton does not come across as a "normal guy." He doesn't want to. "A lot of people talk like artists and want

to be seen as artists, but they don't live like artists — not like the artist Plato, the Greek philosopher said, "Naturally stand in opposition to society as we know it," Minton said.

In 1997, Minton decided that to live like an artist he would have to get rid of every distraction. He put everything he owned in storage and set out with two bags of clothes. "I'd never lived like that before, but I decided to hell with it, to hell with everything," he said.

The final step was giving up his job as art critic for the Lexington Herald-Leader. As long as he wrote for the paper, it could not cover his work or shows that displayed his work.

"I'm out of here," he said. "I'm tired of doing stuff for every other artist in town."

With that decision, art became his only source of income and a cold, cramped apartment his only domain. The rented cinderblock space is where he paints, writes and drinks — the three things that make him most happy.

Minton's paintings, some still in progress, are scattered in even his kitchen.

He has always worked with people, mainly women, and with dream-imagery. Since he quit critiquing other art, he has added more color to his own.

"My way is the opposite way of artists who consider themselves creators," Minton said. "I make paintings, then destroy them, then resurrect them. I ruin them so I can put them back together as better paintings."

What may look like a block of plain color is really hours of painting and sanding and repainting. Whole figures are sometimes buried under layers of paint.

His characteristically haunting works are starting to gain him a following, Miller Fine

See Art on page 2

## Mass graves uncovered at Syrian border

By Allison J. Rubin  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The bodies of at least 40 Iraqi men, women and children, some of them shot and others beheaded, have been discovered in mass graves near the Syrian border and south of Baghdad, Iraqi officials said Wednesday.

Also Wednesday, in the Iraqi capital, a suicide bomber targeted a hotel housing American officials and contractors. One Iraqi police officer was killed in the blast and dozens of guards and contractors were injured.

The violence occurred as members of the Iraqi National Assembly elected in late January, continued closed discussions on how to form a government. Despite hopes that the election would stem insurgent activity, attacks have continued unabated.

A U.S. soldier was killed Wednesday and another was injured when a roadside bomb detonated as they patrolled in Baghdad, the military said. The latest episode of violence was discovered after authorities were alerted by travelers passing through the hamlet of Rumanana on the banks of the Euphrates River.



The Kernel continues its look at metropolitan hot spots for those who can't afford Cancun but who can steal away for a long weekend.

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## Art

Continued from page 1

Art owner Deborah Miller said. "It's something you can't look away from," she said. "You're drawn into it."

### "We live and die as artists"

In terms of style and expression, there is no real connection between Minton and Faulkner's art. The similarities are in their lifestyles. They share what Miller calls "artistic temperament" — which nobody really knows how to define anyway.

Minton does not put on the act, but his distinctive personality comes out in his paintings, his poetry and his comments. While describing one of his paintings, Minton pushed a pair of glasses up to his nose and wondered out loud if they were in fact his own.

"One very real connection between myself and Henry is that we have both tried to live as artists, with no other means of support, no 9 to 5 job, no wives or girlfriends to support us," Minton wrote in a recent e-mail. "We live and die as artists; we sink or swim as artists; we make it or fail as artists."

During his lifetime, Faulkner was good at attaching himself to celebrities who would finance his work. He could also pack a show. Minton asked out loud how his old friend managed to do it and wished for the day when he could do the same.

"There's no reason in the world why painters and poets in Kentucky or in America should be looked upon as something extra, as people to toy with or cast aside, as desperate people or as lazy people or as cast-offs," he wrote in the same e-mail. "Art is a very real part of everyone's spiritual life, and artists, as such, should be nurtured and cared for."

With the oral history project, Minton is caring for one of Lexington's most memorable artists. He does not yet know if society will do the same for him.

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## MBA

Continued from page 1

would see as something that is beneficial," said Amine Benjelloun, a second-year MBA student.

"My impression is that the new MBA program would be more valuable because you can market yourself better."

## Fees

Continued from page 1

creased in price.

Trustee JoEtta Wickliffe said the new plan has several advantages for students.

"Students won't be nickle and dimed," said Wickliffe, the board's vice chairwoman. "They can get a whole meal, as much as they want, for the entire semester."

"We feel that this is a huge improvement for students," Wickliffe said.

The board also authorized a \$278 per year increase in campus housing. Under an approved differential housing plan, students living in one of four new dorms — all set to open next semester — will pay higher housing rates than everyone else.

Those living in a new dorm's two-bedroom, one-bathroom set-up will pay \$4,250 per year in housing, while those in a one-bedroom, one-bathroom unit will pay \$6,250 per year.

Gov. Ernie Fletcher still must approve the 14.5 percent tuition increase for next school year — the third straight double-digit tuition increase for students — will be revisited, now that the state legislature approved a budget.

UK President Lee Todd said maintaining at least a 3 percent faculty and staff salary pool

the content and how material is delivered in the classroom has been modified to help students understand how they fit together and how they relate in the workplace.

"You don't get a job at Lexmark and only use marketing," said Kerr.

The new MBA program is a lot more hands-on, said Nick Ratliff, a second-year MBA student.

"The topics seem more relevant and more specialized. You focus on learning how to do the task, and not just concepts."

Students will meet Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The goal is to have 75 students for

the first round, which will begin this July. The program will continue for 11 months; students will have 880 hours of instructional time, complete 44 credits and work in groups to help focus on teamwork.

"This program is for business and non-business majors," Kerr said.

"We believe we will further our reach to other universities in this state and others outside this state."

E-mail: [news@kykernel.com](mailto:news@kykernel.com)

million for its operating fund. That money is a result of previously restored cuts to Kentucky higher education from Fletcher, as well as funding from the state legislature, said UK spokesman Jay Blanton.

After subtracting money that UK must use per state mandate and for operating maintenance of new buildings, UK has about \$11 million at its disposal.

Trustees said they will certainly consider using that money to lower the proposed tuition increase.

"We'll hopefully be able to make an adjustment," Wickliffe said. "We're not any happier having to raise tuition than any of you are."

"But we'll need to analyze the budget before making that determination."

The board has tentatively scheduled a special meeting in late March — after students return from Spring Break — to set next year's tuition rate.

"I'm very hopeful, and even if it wasn't a lot, any amount that we could reduce would send a good message to students," said Student Government President Rachel Watts.

"Even if it's just a small portion to reduce a tuition increase, that would be a great gesture to let students know that it is a priority to keep (tuition) down as much as possible," said Watts, the board's student representative.

UK President Lee Todd said maintaining at least a 3 percent faculty and staff salary pool

raise will remain a priority.

"We haven't helped them out like we should have in the past," Todd said. "Of all our goals, the one goal we've not made progress on the most is faculty salaries."

"It's just obvious, the need to better pay that talent," he said.

Todd cited several competing interests for the \$11 million besides reducing a tuition increase. The administration will also consider adding funding for student scholarships like Governor's Scholars and UK's Legacy program, as well as for program requests from college deans.

"We've got some programs right now that are pretty lean," Todd said.

All those possibilities have immediate payoffs for students, Todd said.

"It all comes back to the students and faculty," Todd said. "When the faculty get extra money and continue to perform well, you feel better about that. It's a way to say 'thank you' to the faculty."

"Student scholarships, programs, tuition, faculty salary raises — it all comes back to the students," he said.

Watts encouraged students to contact trustees and administrators to voice their opinions.

"Nothing is final right now, nothing's in stone, so right now I'm just kind of hoping," Watts said.

"Usually we lobby legislators, and now that we'll know how much money we have, students need to let (trustees) know what they think."

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Buses to run during break

Parking & Transportation Services is launching a pilot program for Spring Break Campus Area Transit System bus service.

All campus bus services except this route and the Medical Center will not operate during spring break.

The Spring Break Route is available March 14 to 18. The bus runs from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., with breaks in service from 9:30 to 10 a.m., noon to 1 p.m. and 2 to 2:30 p.m.

The complete route is available at <http://www.uky.edu/Parking/breakspring.htm>.

### Freedman Award accepting applications

The Kenneth Freedman Social Action Award is inviting applications from Jewish students at UK through March 12.

The award honors the memory of the late Kenneth Freedman, a member of the UK Central Advising Ser-

vice staff. The award is sponsored by the Central Kentucky Jewish Federation. Application and additional information is available at [www.jewishlexington.org](http://www.jewishlexington.org).

### Alumni to discuss sex and media

Four UK journalism school alumni will take part in a symposium today titled Beyond Wardrobe Malfunctions: Sexual Content and the Electronic Media. It will run from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Centre Theater at the

Student Center. The participants include John Dobken of Insight Communications, Steve Langford of WAVE-TV, Nathan Stevens of Gamerz-Edge and Assistant Professor Jacqueline White of the UK School of Library and Information Science.

The symposium is part of the Richard G. Wilson Alumni Symposium Speakers Series and is sponsored by the School of Journalism and Telecommunications.

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**"Beyond Wardrobe Malfunctions: Sexual Content and the Electronic Media"**

Date/Time: March 10, 3:30-5:00p.m.  
Place: Centre Theater, Student Center  
Moderator: Professor James Hertog

**Participants:**

Nathan Stevens Gamerz Edge	Jacqueline R. White University of Kentucky	John Dobken Insight Communications	Steve Langford WAVE-TV Louisville
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## FLY ON THE WALL | feelin' the buzz

### Puccini's warrants a smile

The name alone piqued my interest. How do teeth smile anyway? I just had to find out.



**Danielle Herring**  
KERNEL COLUMNIST

The brightly decorated awning and large front window full of happy diners drew me in as I embarked on my virgin voyage to the cleverly named restaurant.

Located in Chevy Chase Place next to The Oasis and near Shoppers Village Liquors, this Italian eatery is a welcome change from the typical casual pasta/pizza places that serve meals with plastic utensils. Once inside we were greeted by a friendly hostess who promptly seated us at a table in the center of the large room.

I especially liked that she gave us the choice of a booth or table, because my tall companion enjoys plenty of room while dining.

The tables and booths were draped with green checked tablecloths, and the vinyl booths along the outer wall provide plenty of seating. To the right of the entrance are even more tables in several smaller and more intimate rooms.

Smart and interesting framed pasta and pizza art line the walls and provide a light-hearted subject to discuss while waiting for your meal.

The dim and cozy lighting created a romantic setting for the other couples near us and a soothing, calm environment for the few families with small children, the group of students, the business professionals and the hospital employees that dined with us that night.

Even the music created an atmosphere perfect for an inexpensive casual date, a meeting with friends or a family dinner.

The music selection didn't drive me crazy like some other Italian places that seem to play the same four songs over and over. In fact, not once did I hear "When the moon hits your eye." I was also able to enjoy my companion's dinner conversation without having to ask him to speak over blaring music.

The menu is as witty as the artwork and is worth reading through before placing an order, featuring such dishes as Bill (formerly known as Steve), chicken bada bing, Pat Boone's state fair moment and cactus delicat.

Diners can feast upon the wide selection of innovative pizzas, calzones, pasta dishes, salads and appetizers.

Vegetarians and carb-conscious patrons also have more than a few options to choose from.

I found it difficult to decide on just one entree, but I'll have other opportunities to sample other dishes on subsequent visits.

For those interested in dining during lunch hour, Puccini's offers a lunch menu that includes pizza by the slice.

It is even possible to have the "Smiling Teeth" at home. Dinner delivery is available, but be sure to call and ask if you're in their delivery area.

After being mesmerized by the artwork and the delicious smells from the kitchen, our server cheerfully greeted us and helped us with our order.

After her description of the fresh toppings, we began our meal with a serving of bruschetta — toasted garlic bread topped with basil, tomatoes, garlic and goat cheese.

As a lover of tomatoes, I was particularly impressed with the freshness and firmness of the tomatoes — given that they are out of season. It's difficult to make this appetizer in the winter and have it turn out as delicious.

My companion wanted a pasta dish with plenty of spice. The server recommended the chicken Diablo — chicken cooked in cream, white wine, garlic and tomato sauce spiced with red pepper flakes and served with linguine.

The server must have requested the Diablo extra-spicy because, much to his enjoyment, my companion actually started to sweat before his plate was empty. With his dinner, he was served a crisp dinner salad with their homemade Italian dressing and garlic bread.

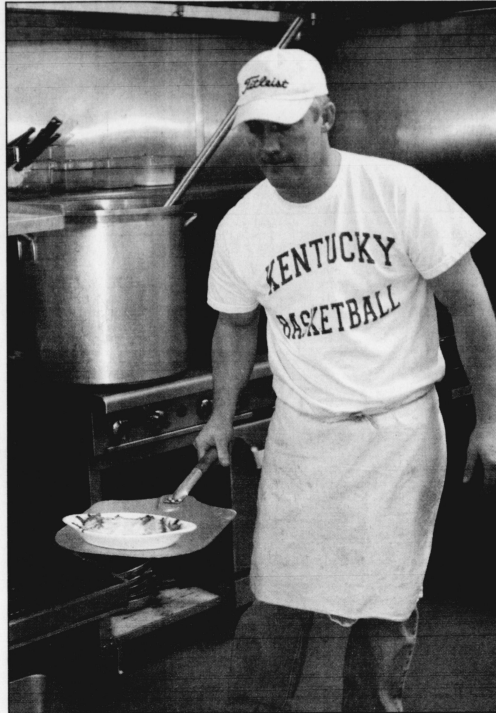
Because the tomatoes were so delicious on the appetizer, I decided to choose a pizza with similar toppings to relive the experience. At the server's suggestion, I ordered the small, 8-inch margherita pizza combo — a thin, crispy crust topped with tomatoes, fresh garlic, basil, oregano and fontina cheese.

I didn't think I could love a pizza without any sauce, but the abundance and quality of the toppings combined with the richness of the cheese almost made me forget that a pizza usually comes with sauce.

After our entrees, we were too full to partake in the restaurant's selection of desserts, but a nearby table ordered a slice of cheesecake that looked tasty. They were definitely grinning after the first few bites!

Our meal — appetizer, two entrees and one soft drink — came to \$30.28 with tax and the 20 percent tip that I always give for great service.

I hope I can find time to visit the restaurant again because my teeth are always in need of a good smile.



Puccini's Smiling Teeth owner Jay Harris pulls one of his low-carb dishes, the Pat Boone state fair moment, out of the oven.

E-mail  
features@kykernel.com

#### If you go...

What: Puccini's Smiling Teeth  
Where: 833 Chevy Chase Place  
Phone: 269-0404

Hours: Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Dinner is served from 4 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 4 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Friday, noon to 10:30 p.m. Saturday and noon to 9 p.m. Sunday

Web site: <http://www.puccinismlingteeth.com>;  
<http://www.puccinismlingteeth.com/links/lexington.htm> for the selection of slices of the day



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## That loud pop you heard was Vanderbilt's bubble bursting

If you listen closely, you'll hear the sound of bubbles bursting. This time of year is like a double-edged sword.



**Jeff Patterson**  
KENTUCKY COLUMNIST

The Southeastern Conference Tournament starts today at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta with some interesting subplots.

**• Can Vandy dance?**  
At 18-12, the Vanderbilt Commodores are in dire need of a couple wins to boost their NCAA resume.

They went just 8-8 in what many critics dubbed a "mediocre" SEC. The 'Dores' marquee win came against Alabama, a 70-56 win back on Jan. 5 — the conference opener.

So what have the 'Dores done since then? Diddly squat.

They went a totally uninspiring 8-8, playing the likes of Texas Pan American.

I'm sorry, Kevin Stallings; I like you and all, but unless you beat Auburn tonight and Louisiana State tomorrow night, you'll be watching the NCAA Tournament from your couch.

**• Will the Vols tell their coach to Buzz off?**  
Embattled Tennessee head coach Buzz Pe-

erson has been on the hot seat pretty much all this season.

The Vols are a disappointing 13-16 heading into tonight's game against Arkansas. The cloud of uncertainty has been hanging over Peterson's head now for weeks.

Last week, Peterson sounded like a man pleading for his job after the Vols' loss to UK.

"I will get this program turned around, and get us on the right level," Peterson said.

My take: Keep him.

His young team has wins over Stanford, Xavier and Mississippi State this season. The Vols have lost seven games by less than five points.

Plus, Buzz is a classic name for an SEC coach. Wimp, as in Sanderson, was my favorite.

**• Can anyone dethrone the Cats?**  
No. (Laugh.)

### Tonight's SEC Tournament games

Where: Georgia Dome in Atlanta  
TV: WKYT-27

- [W5] Ole Miss vs. [E4] South Carolina, 1 p.m.
- [E6] Georgia vs. [W3] Mississippi State, 3:15 p.m.
- [E5] Tennessee vs. [W4] Arkansas, 7:30 p.m.
- [W6] Auburn vs. [E3] Vanderbilt, 9:45 p.m.

This has been UK's tournament for years now.

The count after 45 years of SEC Tournament play: UK 25, Everybody Else 19.

There's no reason for it to change now.

Every year, people ask whether or not the Cats have what it takes. Each time, the Cats

See **Tourney** on page 8

## Cats overcome doubles trouble

By Chris Johnson  
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Matt Emery had one job to do. With the doubles point lost, the UK men's tennis team had to win four of the six singles matches to stop its two-match losing skid.

Emery was tied with Indiana's Ryan Recht in the third set, with Recht serving. Emery knew he had to break the serve to have a chance to win.

"You don't get that break, you lose the match," said Emery, a senior.

Emery managed to break Recht with several well-placed forehands and served out to take the decisive set 6-3, and gain No. 28 UK its second point en route to a 4-3 victory over No. 65 Indiana yesterday at the Hilary J. Boone Tennis Complex.

"The win at 2 (Emery's singles position behind senior Jesse Witten) was a big key to our winning the match," said UK tennis coach Dennis Emery. "It's good to see Emery playing good, at his level again."

Dennis Emery picked up his 501st win as UK head coach, after picking up his 500th on Feb. 27 at Florida Gulf Coast.

Indiana came into the match at 4-7, with losses to No. 2 Virginia, No. 3 Illinois, No. 22 Notre Dame and No. 31 Vanderbilt.

Matt Emery's rocket serve was a big asset in his win.

"Playing inside, a big serve is an advantage. It's easy to place because there's no wind," Emery said. "We were both serving big at that point, so the break was very big."

Witten, Matt Emery junior Alex Hume and senior Tigran Martirosyan won their singles matches to avenge the doubles loss and clinch the match for the Cats.

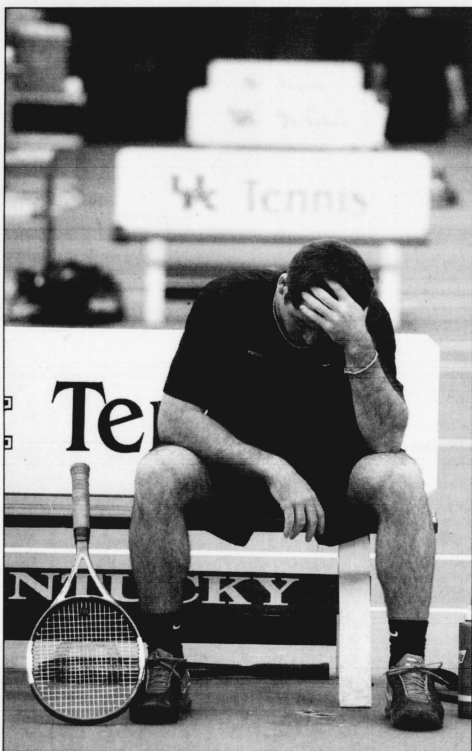
Occurring before the singles matches, Indiana's doubles victory concerned the team.

"I was surprised how poor we played in doubles," Dennis Emery said. "Indiana played well, but the deciding factor was how poorly we played."

"We were very happy with the results," said Indiana head coach Ken Hyndinger. "We never expect to win; we just hope to win. I expect 100 percent effort and for the team to play for each other."

"We came out flat," Witten said. "We knew doubles was IU's strong point, and we just didn't play good enough."

Witten played well enough in singles to defeat Indiana's Jakub Praibis 6-4, 6-0.



SCOTT LUTHER / STAFF

UK senior tennis player Jesse Witten reflected on his loss in a doubles match prior to defeating Indiana's Jakub Praibis, 6-4, 6-0, in singles play yesterday at the Hilary J. Boone Tennis Complex.

"The toughest part for us is closing out matches," Witten said. "I was trying to roll off and get done, then come and support the team."

Witten said the team had been frustrated coming into the match because of their recent skid.

"We're a very talented team," Witten said. "Whether we all show up on the same day is the thing. It seems like we've been struggling to get to four (match points)."

"Flat play in doubles is a concern for us heading into SEC season," Dennis Emery said. "We're a very average team when we don't play with high intensity."

UK plays South Carolina at home Friday; then travels to Gainesville, Fla., Sunday to play No. 7 Florida.

Dennis Emery said the team will suffer from the weather difference in

See **Tennis** on page 8

## Former Yankee hero ready to play again

By Dom Amore  
THE HARTFORD COURANT

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. — The man and his moment will never be separated, and Aaron Boone knows that. He'd just like to be remembered for something more than one swing.

"I know that home run is going to follow me wherever I go," said Boone, who is trying to put his career back on track with the Cleveland Indians. "I just get tired of being asked about it. I want to get back to being the player I was, going to the All-Star Game (in 2003)."

Boone was traded from the Reds to the Yankees on July 31, 2003. In the next seven months, he experienced the highest of highs, lowest of lows and strangest of strange. His one swing, on Oct. 16, produced the 11th-inning homer off Tim Lincecum that lifted the Yankees over the Red Sox in Game 7 of the ALCS, but it turned out to be the prelude for greater drama.

"It was crazy ... it was different," Boone said of his time in New York.

Boone went from hero to perp in the World Series, when he struck out in extra innings in Game 4 when a fly ball could have given the Yankees the winning run and a 3-1 lead in games. They went on to lose to the Marlins in six games.

On Jan. 16, 2004, Boone, who had signed a one-year, \$5.3 million contract, tore up his knee playing basketball, violating the terms of his contract. Within weeks, the Yankees engineered the trade for Alex Rodriguez and Boone was released.

Rodriguez appeared headed to Boston before that trade, but his move to New York put the characters in place for the Red Sox's victory over the Yankees in last year's ALCS, and their eventual World Series championship. Boone has joked that he hopes Red Sox fans will forgive him now.

"I don't spend a lot of time thinking about (what might have happened)," said Boone, 32. "That's just not who I am."

As a free agent, Boone considered re-signing with the Yankees and converting to second base, but a midseason meeting with Indians General Manager Mark Shapiro and manager Eric Wedge pulled his career in yet another direction.

"They convinced me that they had a lot of young players and this was a team on the verge of getting good again, and that they'd be able to add some of the key pieces in the off-season," Boone said. "I bought into the whole thing. After that meeting, I told my agent, I want to be an Indian."

Boone needed a second knee surgery in August, eliminating him from playing in 2004. But he is back on the field, getting at-bats at DH and ready to start playing third base this weekend.

"They're taking it slow with me," Boone said. "We're following a good program. My knee is bouncing back. I feel great right now."

Boone got to see a few of his former teammates Wednesday before the Yankees-Indians exhibition game was canceled by rain.

He has spoken occasionally to Derek Jeter since leaving the Yankees, but appears content to be out of the New York-Boston firestorm.

After playing his entire career in the Reds organization, the last couple of years for his father,

See **Boone** on page 8

### Next Match

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- Where: Hilary J. Boone Tennis Complex

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# Three-day getaways if you can't go on holiday

By Mark Collier  
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The dream Spring Break for many UK students is probably an escape from the hit-and-miss Lexington weather: sunny skies, hotties and all-inclusive drink deals.

Planning for these vacations starts as early as football season as the anticipation builds exponentially toward that magical week in March — no, not March Madness.

But what happens when funds are low or work has a gorilla grip on your schedule?

Enter the three-day vacation. A glorified road trip can be put together faster than you can stuff five bathing suits in a duffel bag.

"Sometimes a spontaneous Spring Break road trip can be the best vacation altogether," said Scott Livesay, an accounting junior. "With the larger, more expensive vacations, there is so much build-up that sometimes you can be let down."

Lexington, while not much of a vacation spot itself, is reasonably close to several big cities and holiday hotspots. If you're stuck and still don't know what you're going to do for Spring Break 2005, here are some places you can get to in less than a day:

## Chicago

You already know you can "see something good" if you've ever seen Ferris Bueller take his friend Cameron through a capricious tour through Chicago. The Windy City's weather is not, however, that of a tropical Spring Break trip. Still, the culture and big-city vibe is something you can't find so easily anywhere else.

The six-hour journey, mostly through Indiana, is infinitely better than the 12- to 16-hour haul to Florida.

If you're in the mood for shenanigans involving the drink(s) of your choice, like those you know that will be parting in the Sunshine State, then look no further. Saturday brings the parade of all parades — in honor of St. Patrick's Day — in downtown Chicago. Trains, planes, boats, floats, big balloons and big bands will vie for attention among the 150-plus parade units. This parade features more than 25 bands from nine states, including a drum and bugle corps and traditional bagpipe bands.

The Chicago "baby" Bulls are starting to show signs of life after spending years in the basement of the NBA standings. They play the Seattle SuperSonics on Tuesday, March 15, and then they face off against the New Orleans Hornets on March 17. Check them out for \$42 per ticket.

As Ferris showed us, the city boasts such tourist attractions as the Art Institute of Chicago, the Sears Tower Skydeck and the Hancock Observatory. But per-

haps one of Chicago's main jewels is the Magnificent Mile, the northern part of Michigan Avenue between the Chicago River and Lake Shore Drive, a strip full of exclusive shops, museums, restaurants and ritzy hotels. From Disney and Niketown to Bloomingdale's and Saks Fifth Avenue, this is a veritable shopper's paradise.

Distance from Lexington: 375.2 miles  
Estimated travel time: 7 hours, 11 minutes  
Web site: <http://egov.cityofchicago.org/city/webportal/home.do>

## Gatlinburg

Gatlinburg may be the only city in America where you can take a skylift up a 500-foot mountain, play 18 holes of Hillbilly Putt-Putt Golf when you get to the top and eat a funnel cake on your way down.

Gatlinburg is a compilation of quirky shops and peculiar attractions that leave you wondering why they're all in the same setting.

On the four-hour drive into the 'Burg, the hundreds of billboards informing you exactly what the city has to offer will allow you to figure out exactly how you're going to spend your three-day break.

Options include Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies (with an 11-foot shark), Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum, the Louise Mandrell Theater, the Black Bear Jamboree Dinner (and a show) and the Comedy Barn Theater. If you make the journey, you'll note the use of the parentheses in the title.

As far as lodging, Gatlinburg claims one of the finest quarters around. "The chalets up in the mountains are amazing," said Brent Hacker, a finance junior. "If you get a group of people together and rent one, you really can't beat the price for what you get."

Three- to four-story chalets usually include a personal hot tub, pool table and cozy fireplace tucked inside as the view of the Great Smoky Mountains billows smoke over its peaks. Don't forget to eat at a pancake house on your way out of town.

Distance from Lexington: 207.8 miles  
Estimated travel time: 4 hours, 25 minutes  
Web site: [www.chaletvillage.com](http://www.chaletvillage.com)

## Atlanta

Atlanta — it's one of the biggest vacation hubs in the South that's not in Florida. It just so happens that the Cats play in the SEC tournament during the beginning of Spring Break. The Cats start their road to their 26th SEC Tournament title Friday against the winner of the Tennessee-Arkansas game. Pending victories, they'll play Saturday and then the next day for the championship.

A tip for travelers to the tournament: Student tickets, although tough to come by and designated for the upper arena, can turn into good seats as students

from the previous SEC Tournament games leave their seats. Also, if you can't find any student tickets, those fans of teams that have already lost and have tickets for future games are very likely to want to sell their tickets for face value or less. Lesson: Wait outside after games and look for the loser's fans. Tickets will be available at the Georgia Dome for \$10 per session the day of the game with a student ID.

If you can't get a ticket or just want to sit around with some friends and some beverages, go to Max Lager's American Grill & Brewery, Jack's and Jill's or the sports bar at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel, which is the SEC Tournament nerve center for the teams.

As for the nightlife in Atlanta, the sub-city, Buckhead, proves to be one of the most rapidly growing entertainment districts in the nation. There are 1,000 bars and restaurants within two blocks between Peachtree Road and East Paces Ferry. To say "fun can be found" would be an understatement.

Distance from Lexington: 377.4 miles  
Estimated travel time: 7 hours, 35 minutes  
Web site: [www.atlanta.net](http://www.atlanta.net)

## St. Louis

Instead of imbibing all the beer as your friends might be on their expensive, week-long vacations, why not learn about how this same beer is made? One of the most popular tours in St. Louis is the Anheuser-Busch Brewery tour. Located downtown, this tour takes guests through the 100-year-old brew house, the modern packaging plant and the stables of the famous Clydesdale horses. Highlights include free beer sampling.

Like its Midwestern, destination city to the north, St. Louis will be throwing a city-wide St. Patrick's Day Parade. The 36th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade will fill the streets with elaborate floats, marching bands and giant helium-filled balloons. The parade begins downtown at Broadway and Market streets, past St. Louis Union Station to 23rd Street, where it ends.

The Gateway Arch is another must-see. The 630-foot structure is the "gateway to the west" and on a clear day, you can see 30 miles from atop the landmark.

Distance from Lexington: 338.7 miles  
Estimated travel time: 5 hours, 51 minutes  
Web site: [www.heliosstlouis.com](http://www.heliosstlouis.com)

You don't have to have a lot of money or a lot of planning to have a good time on Spring Break. Make sure to take this opportunity to get a year without missing class. And although he wouldn't risk taking a day off from school, even Ferris Bueller would tell you, "Life moves pretty fast; if you don't stop and look around for a while, you could miss it."

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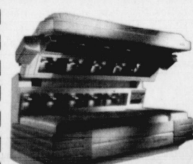


Left: Asplundh employee Ronald Horn clears dead wood from the Tulip Poplars and White Pines near the student center yesterday. Horn and coworker Michael Holland (below) recently traveled to Florida and Ohio to aid in clean up from natural disasters.

PHOTOS BY JONATHAN PALMER | STAFF



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### IN OUR OPINION

## Budget brightens outlook for higher ed

Now that the dust has cleared from the Kentucky House and Senate's battles over the state budget, UK has received more money than early drafts of the budget had originally allocated.

Funding for some of UK's priority projects was reduced in the Senate's version of the budget, with more than \$170 million originally allocated for UK cut.

The Senate cut money for the Chandler Medical Center expansion, a new student health center and the bio-pharmaceutical complex.

However, it added \$15 million for a new basketball practice facility — money UK never asked for.

Administrators such as President Lee Todd lobbied for more funding for UK's key projects, and apparently the House and Senate took note and acted accordingly.

It's good to see the legislature listened to administrators' concerns. After all, who knows better what UK needs — people who work at UK or representatives from Western Kentucky?

The budget includes many provisions UK students and employees should be pleased about. It provides an extra \$18 million for UK's general fund, part of which could possibly be used for student scholarships or a reduction in the proposed 14.5 percent tuition increase for the 2005-06 school year.

It sets aside \$40 million for the bio-pharmaceutical complex, \$100 million for

the hospital expansion and \$8.5 million for UK's animal diagnostic center.

The budget also approves \$24 million in bonds for a new student health center, which many health administrators had been lobbying to get for years.

It may sound strange to support a cut in funding for a UK program, but the basketball practice facility was reduced to \$7 million, with UK Athletics responsible for raising the rest of the funds privately.

Right now, the practice facility is not a priority, and that is \$7 million that could be better spent elsewhere at UK.

Although this year's budget still has to be approved by Gov. Ernie Fletcher, it's an improvement over last year's budget — which isn't hard, considering the legislature didn't pass one.

However, there is one glaring concern with the budget — it raises the debt level of the state to \$1.88 billion. Fletcher has said he is worried about the additional debt the budget allocates.

Steps should be taken to reduce unnecessary debt, but as long as people favor using more state funds to operate UK instead of increasing tuition accordingly, the increasing level of debt may be unavoidable.

UK is happy the legislature listened to its concerns and gave projects the requested funds. We hope these funds don't come at the expense of the state's overall financial well-being by taking on an impractical and dangerous level of debt.

**Increased state funding greatly benefits students and the Commonwealth as long as state debt stays in check.**

## Suburban explosion makes America bland

In the hundred-plus years since the fruition of Manifest Destiny, the frontiers of the wild, wild West having long been tamed and fortified with gas stations and McDonald's, and the stars and stripes painfully stretched from sea to shining sea, it seems as if the last real frontier resides within the cold vacuum of the night sky.

Yet, just last Saturday, I spent the night occupying the latest outpost of the American cultural vanguard:

The Burbs.

Under the guise of a house-sitting gig, I kept careful "vigilance" over my uncle's as-yet Spartan residence (especially ensuring the functionality of a really nifty Whirlpool bathtub), content in the change of scenery and the luxurious jets of high-powered water that managed to drown any memory of my own lodgings within the heart of the city.

So, after returning to my downtown apartment, I couldn't help but notice the disparity between the two locales, and to ponder the political and sociological implications of America's swelling sub- and ex-urban boill. Our American landscape is peppered with the byproducts of this bizarre trend: dying towns, where industries of coal, steel and other obsolete commodities previously thrived, serve as haunting evidence of an increasingly specialized economy and a drive for greater personal autonomy.

And it seems this autonomy is paying off quite well for the Republican Party: Electoral maps paint a compelling picture of this city vs. suburb phenomenon, depicting huge wins for John Kerry in every medium- to large-sized city, with Bush's sea of red engulfing these blue bastions with an overwhelming plethora of smaller communities.

I'm aware that I may be treating some lukewarm water here (it is, after all, the middle of March 2005), but consider the roster: St. Louis, Austin, Las Vegas and Miami (to name a few) played in the November election; all liberal islands within the conservative ocean, all major cities as opposed to hinterland communities, all counties that voted for John Kerry.

But their combined electoral strength paled in comparison to the suburban and rural juggernaut.

If Bush's victory serves as an indicator, it's that the suburbs have finally "won America," that the oft-mocked populace of "Desperate Housewives" and *American Beauty* have finally gained more political power than their city-slicking counterparts. Yet this is the political result of a long process decades in the making, whose roots run deep in the history of this country.

The manufacturing and industrial base that was once the heart of the American city has now atrophied (thanks in no small part to the outsourcing of opportunity to Mexico and China).

Subsequently, the middle class has migrated into either a handful of lucky individuals who've ascended into the upper echelon or b) those souls who plummeted in droves into the nouveau working poor. National rates of crime and poverty have dramatically risen, precipitated by (at least through the conservative lens) xenophobia and a loss of overall morality, forcing those with the means to seek refuge in gated compounds far from the smoldering chaos of the fallen city.

Throw into the mix a vicious cycle of "fear-consume-repeat" and post-Sept. 11 paranoia, bake for thirty minutes, and voila! You've got the modern base of the GOP. Therefore, one could argue that the city might actually be a threat to the Republican Party; what with their prevalence of secular outlooks, heterogeneous culture and propensity for higher education, cities ought to be ashamed of themselves.

For all of my lamenting and philosophizing, however, there seems to be little hope for the city. Suburbs are growing at unprecedented rates, and the recent creation of "exurbia" — they're like suburbs, except they don't think it's a larger city area — makes one wonder if, in the future, cities will be necessary.

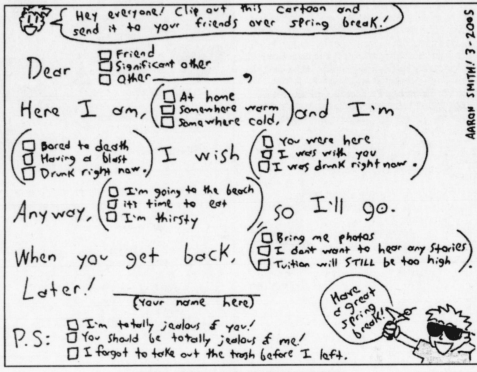
Today's youth, weaned on Internet depersonalization and ADHD medication, are growing up in a world that no longer values the kind of basic human interaction integral to urban life.

More and more corporations are erecting office parks away from the commercial districts of the city, no longer requiring their employees to risk life and limb on Main Street. And the omnipresent Wal-Mart, creeping its way toward hegemony over the needs of America, seeking to slash prices as well as any need to ever step foot on a downtown sidewalk.

It shouldn't stretch the imagination too much, then, to extrapolate from these circumstances a future in which the city becomes a prison for the criminal and impoverished, a la *Escape From New York* (one of John Carpenter's best), as the Republican 'burbs look more and more like feudal manors.

With any luck, at least Wal-Mart will keep selling Whirlpool tubs.

Jonathan Meador is a journalism sophomore. His column appears every Thursday. E-mail [jmeador@kykernel.com](mailto:jmeador@kykernel.com).



AARON SMITH, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

## Expecting perfection upsets faith

Rough week. And not just because the Cats lost to Florida.

For me, it's been continuing journalism tasks, experiencing that senior angst, working possible future job angles and trying to figure out what destiny has in store for my life after graduation — and by "destiny," of course, I mean, "God."

Having a thousand questions about human nature, relationships, goodness and expectations crowding my head for a week does little to help either.

Just hang on with me here. I promise it won't get too introspective.

But I figure that as long as I'm contemplating all this, there's no reason to go through it all without getting at least \$7 from it.

I love writing. Having a weekly column is awesome. I can sound off about the presidential election, the U.S. space program and absurd political debating fallacies. If a New York Times columnist writes something ridiculous, I can get in my little rebuttal and at least imagine her picking up The Kernel and sneering.

I do have ideas about right and wrong — strong beliefs that I'll put forth in print.

Readers often e-mail me, and I usually respond. Many of them have radically different social and political views, and I love such discussion. My only hope is that they agree there is an objective standard of Right at which one can arrive, and then I'll gladly jump in and do some good-natured fighting over what's Right.

But I spent last week fighting over that — with myself. Because many people were doing something Right on campus. They were warning others about the dangers of pornographic images and the mentality they produce. To do that, they felt it would be most effective to

remind people of the exact danger, by way of using pornographic images themselves.

And somehow, writing about that was one of the most difficult things I've ever had to do.

I wanted so badly to agree with them, because they were so right.

Yet I disagreed so much with their presentation method.

And I knew many people who disagreed with me — good people who share my faith, work hard, love the Lord and go to church.

What? Were you unconsciously expecting total agreement among Christians, too? I thought so!

It's a cliché but a true one: Christians aren't perfect, just forgiven.

We are all human. While universal physical and moral laws still exist, very few people fall completely into the categories of Right and Wrong. And invariably, even among the most awesome and wonderful people who are striving toward God, you will find inconsistencies and imperfections.

And we must continually remember that. And love people the way they are.

Sometimes it's tough. I know I'm so impatient in some areas.

Not all, of course. I once waited in an 85-minute line at Splash Mountain with little effort.

But when it comes to being completely like-minded with people who share my core beliefs, it's hard not to get disappointed if that doesn't happen soon.

It is then that prayer and patience, and loving others for who and where they are, without personal compromise, is necessary.

If I can wait for more readers to respect President Bush's Iraq war decisions, then I can certainly wait for Christians who disagree with me on other issues to figure it out, if they want to.

And if that never happens, just let it be so.

Mutual respect and love are all that's necessary. I have much to learn. And I think I

can learn from anyone.

And no church will ever be perfect. I say that to you non-churchgoers and church attendees alike.

Because the Christ-believing church is a functioning body, according to Scripture. And it needs all of its parts, with various strengths — thinking heads, compassionate hearts, serving hands, active feet.

Doesn't it stand to reason that those strengths will also come with inherent weaknesses?

It would be counterproductive, and quite annoying, to have a church full of only thinking heads. All the heads would ever do is think about deep topics. Little else would get done. Few members would be cared for.

So the church must balance them out with a few caring hearts. Even if the hearts have trouble thinking through the deep topics. It will be fine, just so they work together with the heads!

Yes, there's a word for this that liberals often use: diversity.

What a wonderful concept. And as usual, the liberals didn't come up with it first. God did.

Christians need strong, stable beliefs and true diversity of ethnicity, background, strengths and peripheral beliefs among the members of the church body. Only then can the church balance solid thinking and Christian love for all its members.

They won't be effective if they expect immediate conformity according to their own definition.

Yeah, maybe you already knew that. Like most seniors, I have the nagging suspicion that everyone else already knows everything.

I simply felt this needed to be said. If you didn't get it, that's fine. No one is perfect, except God alone.

If we earnestly pursue Him and His will, I'm quite content to let Him straighten all of us out. In His own patient and perfect timing.

Stephen Burnett is a journalism senior. His column appears every Thursday. E-mail [sburnett@kykernel.com](mailto:sburnett@kykernel.com).

### Note to readers

The Opinions page provides a forum for the exchange of ideas.

Unlike news stories, The Kernel's unsigned editorials represent the views of a majority of the editorial board.

Letters to the editor, columns, cartoons and other features on the Opinions page reflect the views of their authors and not necessarily those of the Kernel.

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## Tourney

Continued from page 4

won. So let's stop this argument — until they lose.

**• So who's going to win?**  
In today's games: Look for Carlos Powell to have a powerful game to lead South Carolina over Mississippi. Mississippi State will beat Georgia unless Lawrence Roberts stayed in Starkville. Ronnie Brewer and the NIT-bound Arkansas Razorbacks will beat the Vols. Vandy will keep its NCAA hopes alive with a win over Jeff Lebo's scrappy Auburn club.

In the quarterfinals: Alabama should repeat its blowout win over South Carolina from mid-February. Kennedy Winston and Earnest Shelton are just too much to handle for any SEC

team not named Kentucky. Florida will get ready for its annual March choking exhibition by losing to Mississippi State — assuming the Bulldogs realize they are better than they've been all season. UK will walk all over Arkansas, just like the good ol' days. And LSU will edge Vanderbilt in what should be the game of the day.

On to the semifinals: West meets west, and Alabama is clearly the best. Freshman funnyman and center Glen Davis and sophomore forward Brandon Bass are pretty good. Unfortunately for LSU, the Cats are better. Surprise, surprise. UK advances to the finals.

This is pretty easy. In the SEC Championship, look for Big Blue to celebrate yet again. What else is new?

E-mail  
jpatterson@kykernel.com

## Boone

Continued from page 4

Bob, who was managing the Reds until the week Aaron

was traded, Boone returned to Ohio much the way Dorothy found her way back to Kansas after her great adventure.

"I'm just hoping I can be part of something special right here," he said.

## Tennis

Continued from page 4

Gainesville.

"Going from indoors to outdoors is hard for us," Emery said. "Florida's a really good team, but we're in every match because we have Jesse Witten at one in singles and one in doubles. It's just a factor of whether the other guys come out."

E-mail  
cjohnson@kykernel.com

No. 28 KENTUCKY 4, No. 65 INDIANA 3

**Men's Doubles**  
 II, John Stone, Ryan Recht, def. UK, Tigran Martirosyan, Jesse Witten, 6-6, 6-3  
 III, Jahab Prabis, Dmitry Ishtuponov, def. UK, Matt Emery, Marcus Smith, 6-5, 6-3  
 II, Dave McCoughlin, Mike McCarthy, def. UK, Nate Empe, Alex Hume, 6-4, 7-5, 7-5  
**Men's Singles**  
 UK, No. 6 Jesse Witten, def. II, No. 56 Jahab Prabis, 6-4, 6-0  
 UK, Matt Emery, def. II, Ryan Recht, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3  
 II, David Babinec, def. UK, Nate Empe, 4-6, 7-6 (2)  
 UK, Tigran Martirosyan, def. II, Neil Kenner, 7-6, 6-2  
 II, John Stone, def. UK, John Stone, 7-6, 4-6, 6, 10 (0)

Classifieds continued from pg. 7.

## SERVICES

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## MEETINGS

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Thursday, March 10  
The UK Student Center is hosting live performances by two UK acts:

**8 TrackMind**  
-original acoustic combo  
**Nick Stephanadis**  
-unique solo acoustic artist

Join us from 5-7 pm in the Student Center Food Court



**THE DEAL: KFC is offering special combo pricing during the event**

# EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

March 10<sup>th</sup> / 7PM

Cats Den

(UK Student Center)

Free for all UK and LCC Students, Faculty, and Staff

Bring a Partner or be Paired at the Tournament

**FREE FOOD AND DRINKS FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS!!!**

Brand New Cats Den T-Shirts for Winning Team

Event Sponsored by UK Student Center  
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## A Checking Account That Gives You Warm Fuzzies.

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Princess Package from Posh Salon & Spa

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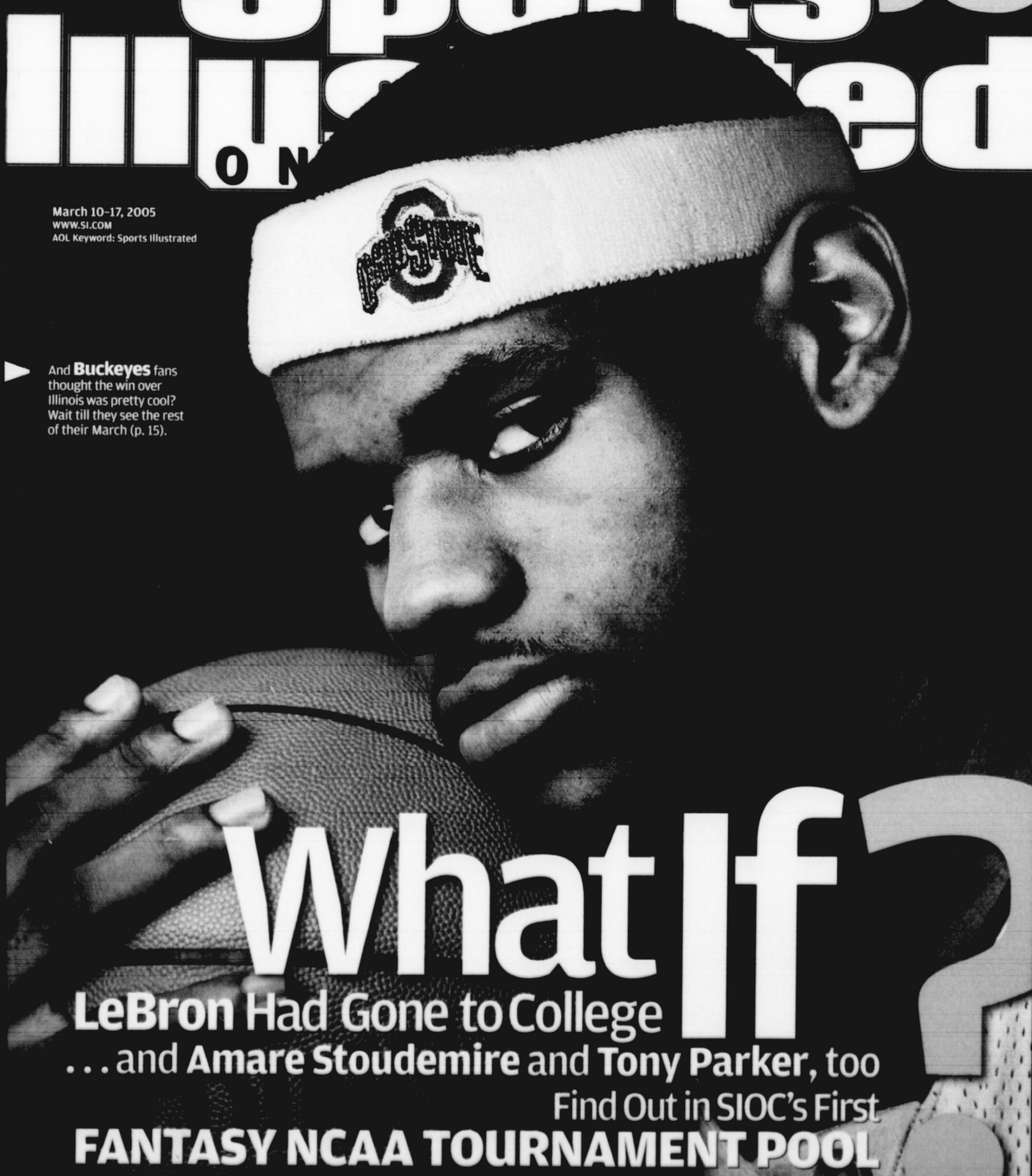
MARCH MADNESS '05

College Sports,  
College Life

# Sports Illustrated

March 10-17, 2005  
WWW.SI.COM  
AOL Keyword: Sports Illustrated

► And **Buckeyes** fans thought the win over Illinois was pretty cool? Wait till they see the rest of their March (p. 15).



# What If?

**LeBron Had Gone to College**  
...and Amare Stoudemire and Tony Parker, too  
Find Out in SIOC's First  
**FANTASY NCAA TOURNAMENT POOL**

WHEN IN MIAMI...



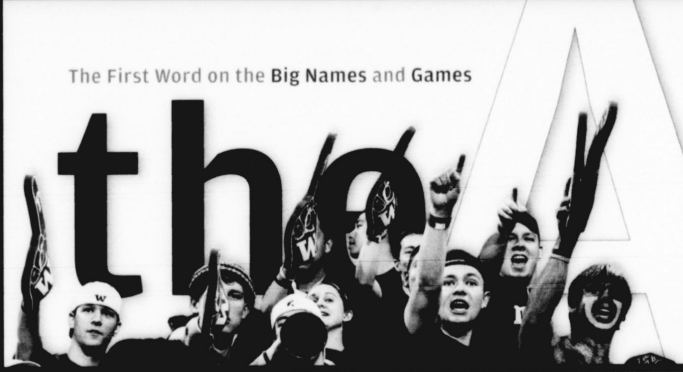
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The First Word on the Big Names and Games

# the list

by ADAM DUERSON



**HOW INFECTIOUS**, exactly, has March Madness become? Check out these symptoms we've spotted in the Pac-10 alone. During a Feb. 24 near upset of No. 14 Washington, Carolyn Evans, the wife of Arizona State coach Rob Evans, was spotted posting a single digit in the direction of Renee Busch, the mother of U-Dub point guard Nate Robinson. Which finger was it? Not the one that means "No. 1!" Busch was willing to forgive the temporary spasm of March Madness ("She just wanted to show me her ring," she told Washington's student paper, *The Daily*), but it had already spread. Two days later, before a crucial Pac-10 showdown with Arizona, Huskies fans hijacked the cellphone digits of Wildcats center Channing Frye and punk-dialed the big man. Not to be outdone, Frye's outgoing message boasted "whooping on Washington."

thefacebook.com

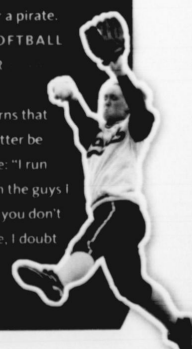
## Facts of the Week

**ARIZONA TENNIS FRESHMAN** **LAURELLA TODOROVA** speaks Bulgarian, English, Spanish, Russian, Serbian, Macedonian and French, but her favorite quote comes in English: "I'm Rick James, bitch."

**STATE BARBERSHOP** fake.thefacebook.com profile boasts 2,400 "friends" at South Carolina, 116 at Clemson, 51 at Alabama, 36 at Tennessee and just 25 at Florida.

**OFFENSIVE LINEMAN** FOR RUTGERS, has named his scooter "Pete." Also, he aspires to be a dog catcher, a shrimp boat captain or a pirate.

**IOWA SOFTBALL PITCHER** (right) warns that suitors better be aggressive: "I run away from the guys I like. So, if you don't pursue me, I doubt it will happen."



## 60 seconds With BONNIE BERNSTEIN

**WHO'S GOT THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE DURING THE NCAA TOURNAMENT? WE SAY CBS LEAD REPORTER BONNIE BERNSTEIN, WHO ISN'T AFRAID TO ASK ROY WILLIAMS A TOUGH QUESTION. BUT NOW IT'S TIME FOR HER TO FACE THE MUSIC**

► **BUBBLE TEAMS** If I'm in charge, the first thing I do is come up with a new name. I don't care who's on the bubble, who's off the bubble; I don't use the word *bubble*. Unless I'm blowing them out of a fun bottle that's shaped like a bear.

► **SELECTION SUNDAY** We get the brackets before anyone else. Even if I'm not at the studio, I'm calling in or secretly getting a copy faxed to me. And then I'm trying to figure out where they're sending us.

► **MARTHA STEWART RETURNS** I just want to see if she's arranged to wear a designer ankle bracelet. Was that her big project: designing a chic anklet so she can be under house arrest and still be fashionable?

► **TEMPLE'S JOHN CHANEY** Never a dull moment. It's not like he doesn't have a past history.

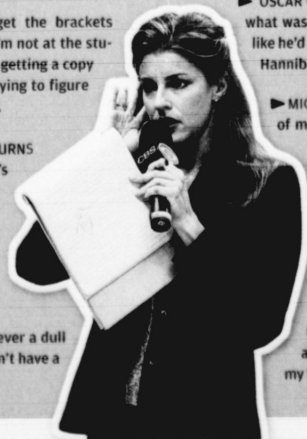
► **THE PACIFIER** I never thought I'd use "Vin Diesel" (right) and "babysitter" in the same sentence, unless it was "Vin Diesel had to hire a babysitter."



► **OSCAR GARB** Johnny Depp—what was he thinking? He looked like he'd spent the day hanging with Hannibal Lecter, then threw a suit on.

► **MICHAEL JACKSON** The legend of one of music's great icons will be forever tarnished by the allegations, whether he's convicted or not. Unfortunately, the court of public opinion won't change, even if he's proven innocent.

► **SYRACUSE REGIONAL** I know we'll get sent there, because it's the coldest destination and it's the place where there's the least amount of things to do. I'm keeping my fingers crossed for Albuquerque.



COVER: MANNY MILLAN (SWEATBAND); COVER DIGITALLY ALTERED BY SI. IMAGING. THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: JOHN W. McDONOUGH; JON SATO/WIREIMAGE.COM (DIESEL); COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF IOWA PHOTO SERVICES; ROBERT SCALF/THE SPORTING NEWS/CONAMI

Lineup | the moment PAGE 4 | scorecard PAGE 6 | crossword PAGE 8 | faces in the crowd PAGE 10 | cover story PAGE 15



SIOC's Walters (left) and Durson (right) and Georgia Tech's Isma'il Muhammad have their sights set on St. Louis.

the **A** list

c a m p u s

# INSIDER

Can you imagine a better theme song for the second annual SIOC Ultimate March Madness Road Trip, a three-week hoops odyssey from our New York home to wherever the tourney gods will send us?

Like the Johnny Cash hotel commercial ditty, last year's two-man-and-a-woman crew covered the States coast-to-coast (see *map*), traveling 5,495 miles at a rate that would have sent Washington State's decidedly down-tempo Dick Bennett into cardiac arrest. (Spokane to Reno to Phoenix to Las Vegas in four days!) The only difference this year: more road-trippers!

Log on to SI.com every day from March 14 through April 5 and check in with our team of SIOC reporters and campus correspondents as we SUV from New York to the play-in game in Dayton to the men's and women's championship games in St. Louis and Indianapolis.

In between? That's where we need you—the SIOC constituency. We'll be hangin' with the coaches' wives and the students watching at the union; these are our travelmates. But if you've got the scoop on a hot spot for on-campus NCAA action, let us know (siocletters@timeinc.com). Who knows? Maybe we'll cross paths.

And with a year's worth of experience under our belt (lessons learned: you *can* always find



tickets; you *can't* always find parking), we're sure not to repeat anything like that little towed-RV episode from last year.

ONLINE @ **SI.com**

## The Ultimate ROAD TRIP



**WE'VE BEEN** everywhere, man  
Took two weeks to get there, man  
Across the deserts bare, man  
We've breathed the tournament air, man  
State Troopers, we've had our share, man  
We've been everywhere, man



We've been to Reno, Idaho, Bellagio, Arizona, Colorado, Jackson Hole, Notre Dame, Indiana, Missoula, Montana, Carbondale, Gonzaga, Pennsylvania on to Dayton Arena  
We've been everywhere, man. . . .

**WHICH PLAYERS** do you want taking the last shot of a tourney game? Find out in the March 21 issue of *SPORTS ILLUSTRATED* or at [si.com/exclusive](http://si.com/exclusive).

## Pool School



**THREE THINGS** we thought you might like to know about Selection Sunday, straight from the mouth of an NCAA selection committee representative:

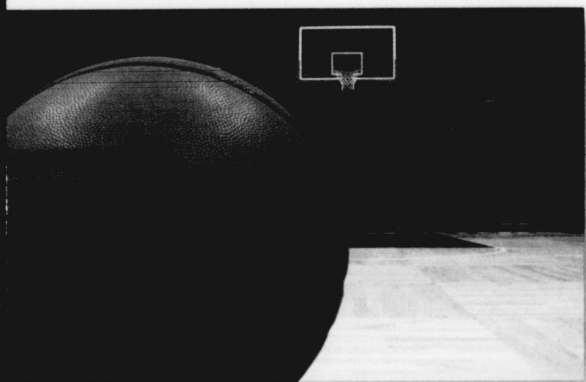
- During their lunch break, selection committee officials love to hear Dickie V. or Digger Phelps say, "**This team is definitely in,**" after the committee has just voted it out.
- **The RPI is virtually RIP** in terms of its influence on the committee.
- The top three teams from a conference must be seeded in **three different regions**.

**SI.COM'S COLLEGE HOOPS** expert Grant Wahl serves up his rules of the NCAA tournament pool:

- Since no more than two No. 1 seeds usually reach the Final Four, **pick your two No. 1s** before you fill out a single line of your bracket.
- **Pick two No. 12 seeds** to beat No. 5 seeds in the first round.
- In a pool that rewards upset picks (i.e., one that gives points on a tournament-seed-multiplied-by-round scoring system), **pick more upsets** than you're comfortable with on a common-sense level. It'll be worth it in the end.

**FOR MORE SECRETS** and myths of Selection Sunday, read John Walters at [SI.com](http://SI.com) (search word: Campus Blitz). For more rules of the pool and SI.com's \$1 million tournament challenge, go to [si.com/basketball/ncaa](http://si.com/basketball/ncaa).

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: AL THELMANS; JAIMIE LOWE; ADAM DURSON; BILL FRANKS; DAVID E. KLUTHO; MAP BY INTERNATIONAL MAPPING ASSOCIATES



**64 teams.**

**21 days.**

**1 winner.**

**Ball's in UR court.**

**inNW?**



3-10-05

3

MARCH MADNESS '05

# EVERYBODY IN THE POOL

Who's going to make the biggest splash in March? Jump in and find out

PHOTOGRAPH BY

7.18.04

the moment

LAST JULY THE NATION'S TOP COLLEGE HOOPS PLAYERS CAME TOGETHER IN NEW JERSEY FOR TRYOUTS FOR THE UNDER-20 USA BASKETBALL world championship team. SI.com snatched a rare opportunity, so we dispatched a photographer to capture the moment at the players' hotel, reasoning that the five players selected—from left, Charlie Villanueva, Sean Banks, Mustafa Shakur, Chris Paul and Rashad McCants—would be the perfect cover boys for March Madness, which was still eight months away. It was, we understand, a risk, a bit like asking a date to the prom in September. Like any assemblage of all-star talents, chemistry was slow to develop, but by evening's end the group was clicking like Brigitte Nielsen and Flavor Flav. So why no cover? While four players more than held up their end of the deal, Banks was ruled academically ineligible in mid-January. For more pictures and inside gossip from the photo shoot, including how Paul stole the show and why we knew Banks was in for a rough season, go to [si.com](http://si.com).

SI ON CAMPUS 110 01 5

Edited by GENE MENEZ

Opinions, Road Trips, The Crossword, Campus Buzz

# scoreboard

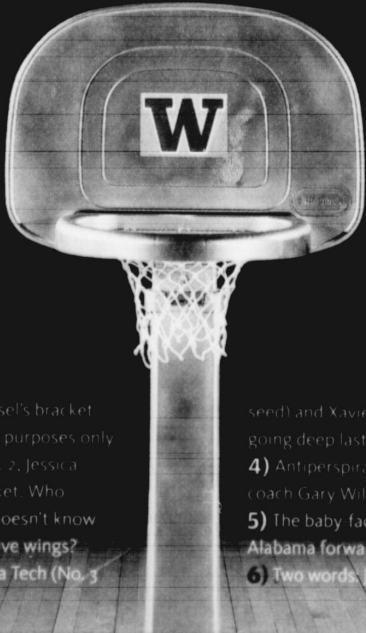


# 65

## Things We WANT

TO SEE DURING

# MARCH MADNESS



From micro-sized guards who dunk to oversized Aussies with funk, SIOC shares its wish list for the NCAA tournaments

**1) A 16 seed upset a 1. We can dream, can't we?**

- 2) Rick Neuheisel's bracket for recreational purposes only**
- 3) In lieu of No. 2, Jessica Simpson's bracket. Who cares that she doesn't know buffalo don't have wings? She had Georgia Tech (No. 3**

- seed) and Xavier (No. 7 seed) going deep last year.**
- 4) Antiperspirant for Maryland coach Gary Williams.**
- 5) The baby-faced smile of Alabama forward Chuck Davis.**
- 6) Two words: Juli Boeheim.**



- 7) A walk-on, playing only because of foul trouble, hit the game-winning shot.**
- 8) Washington's 5' 9" guard Nate Robinson dunk over Kentucky's 7' 3" Shagari Alleyne.**
- 9) Congress designate the first two days of the tournament as national holidays. Seriously, does anyone actually get work done?**
- 10) Ashley Judd forming the "Y" in KENTUCKY.**
- 11) The end of the ACC lovefest. Are you listening, Duke Vitale?**

- 12) Announcers attempting to pronounce the names of Pacific studs Jasko Korajkic, Christian Maraker, Marko Mihailovic and Guillaume Yango.**
- 13) A cap on CBS promos for its prime-time shows.**
- 14) A tournament without hearing a CBS broadcaster scream, "The slipper still fits!"**
- 15) Ten thousand and one commercials for Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous and Beauty Shop. O.K., we're not really excited about that.**
- 16) A commentator inform us that Duke's Mistie Williams is the daughter of Chubby Checker and thus has a "Checker'd past."**
- 17) Dickie V. yawn. C'mon, it could happen.**
- 18) No more corny end-of-the-game calls from Jim Nantz.**
- 19) When ESPN goes to a remote on Selection Sunday of the Penn Quakers' "study lounge," there's a dozen players . . . studying.**
- 20) "I'm sorry, Mr. Raftery, do you have a media credential?"**
- 21) Ernie Johnson, Charles Barkley and Kenny (the Jet) Smith do the studio show.**
- 22) A graphic that shows each coach's blood pressure.**
- 23) One Shining Moment.**

FROM TOP: ROBERT BECK; BOB ROZATO

24) UConn's Geno Auriemma and Tennessee's Pat Summitt kiss and make up at half-court.

25) UConn, we love you. Now clear out and let someone else play in the women's final.

26) You too, Tennessee.

27) School pep bands play the Killers' *Mr. Brightside*.

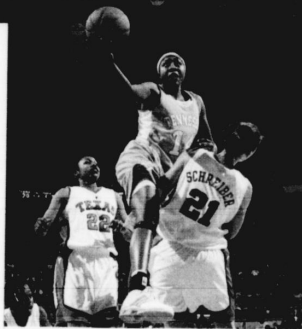
28) A halftime show featuring Ashlee Simpson. . . Gotcha!

29) SPORTS ILLUSTRATED's Where's Waldo? collage cover of all 65 teams in the tournament. We're biased, of course.

30) The Louisiana Tech pep band, a.k.a. the Hoop Troop, the funniest band in the land.

31) Honorary degrees for Joe Lunardi and other hoops gurus who practice bracketology.

32) Bob Huggins's choice of attire and the waiting game that



is "How long does it take him to become totally disheveled?"

33) A moratorium on the words *Cinderella* and *Gonzaga* in the same sentence.

34) An end to those signs heckling Oklahoma State guard JamesOn Curry (e.g. JAMESON PROBATION, JAMESON DRUGS).

35) Roy Williams tell a national audience he "doesn't give a s---." Again.

36) Stanford guard Chris Hernandez (a personal request from one smitten SIOC reporter).

37) Palming, traveling and offensive-charge rules enforced. Impossible, we know.

38) Retiring Purdue coach Gene Keady's phone number show up on Paris Hilton's Sidekick.

39) All players on one team walk onto the court rocking Reebok Pumps, circa 1991.

40) Wisconsin senior forward Mike Wilkinson's fiancée, Alexis Schrubbe, sing the national anthem before every one of the Badgers' games.

41) A return to dome-free Final Fours.

42) A timeout- and foul-free final minute in a close game.

43) A mandatory every-guy-must-play rule. Nobody, not even the scrubbiest scrub, deserves to get to the Big Dance and be a wallflower all game.

44) An at-large bid for Temple so that coach John Chaney can whisper "Mo Cuishle" to each player before sending him into the game.

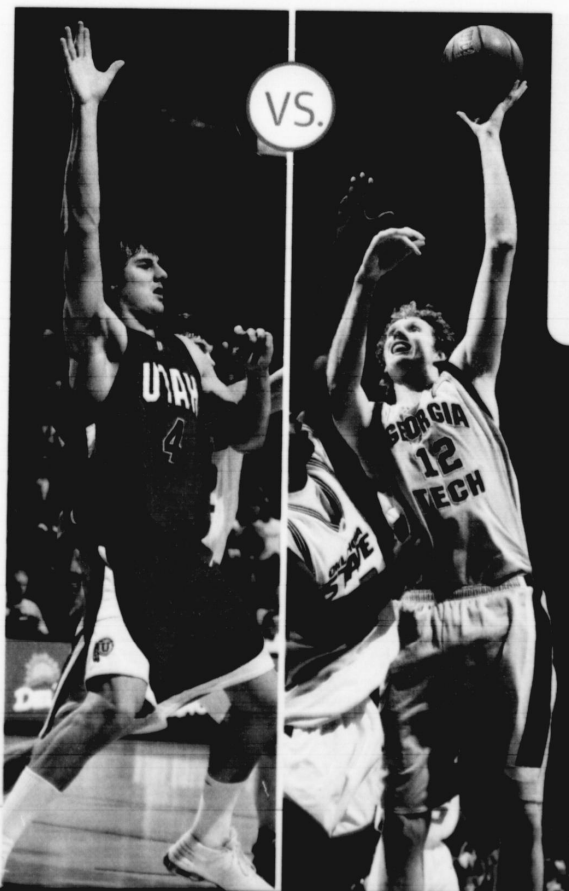
45) The coach of a No. 16 seed, with his team down 30 at halftime, give a John Belushi-esque "Was it over when the Germans bombed Pearl Harbor?" speech.

46) In lieu of the possession arrow, possession of the ball determined by a dance-off in the center court circle, a la *Dance 360*.

47) Someone with a perfect, 63-for-63 bracket (odds: 1 in 9,223,372,036,854,744,000).



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: DARREN CARROLL; DAVID STLUKAL; BOB ROSATO; GREG NELSON



### 48) Oz Fest: 7' 1" Australian center Luke Schenscher of Georgia Tech versus 7-foot Australian center Andrew Bogut of Utah.

49) Duke's J.J. Redick versus Arizona's Salim Stoudamire, to prove once and for all who's the better three-point bomber.

50) North Carolina versus Kansas, just to see the former coach face his former players.

51) Kansas versus Illinois. See No. 50.

52) Illinois versus Southern Illinois. See No. 50.

53) Final Four undercard: St. Joe's coach Phil Martelli versus CBS's Billy Packer. Let's get ready to rumble!

54) A John Wooden sighting.

55) Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson keep his jacket on for an entire game. Just one.

56) Students sit in the first 10 rows . . .

57) . . . behind the opposing team's bench.

58) No more titles for Boston teams. Share the love!

59) Kansas State's Kendra Wecker, who's in the top 25 in both scoring and rebounding.

60) Everyone exude as much joy on the court as LSU's Seimone Augustus.

61) A Brad and Jen reunion.

62) A Motley Crüe breakup.

63) A final featuring the two best teams: Illinois and North Carolina.

64) Did we mention Juli Boeheim?

65) No need to write No. 65. It's obvious: No play-in game!

3

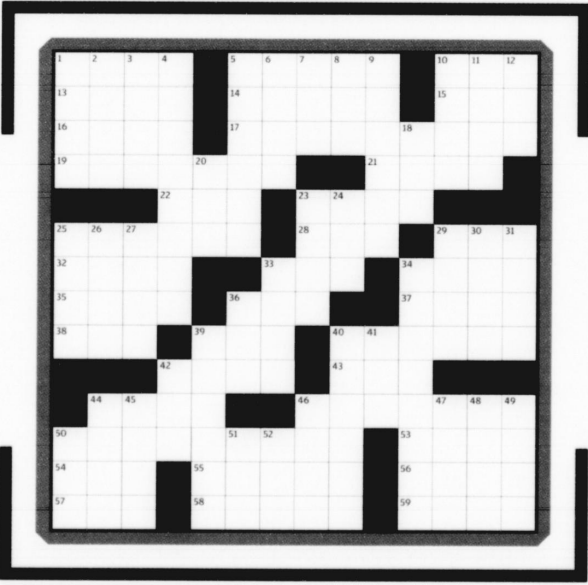


MARCH MADNESS '05

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**Music entry: (1) Film entry & (1) Sports entry per person. If you submit more than (1) entry in any course of study, all entries received after first submission will be void.** Your submission of an entry constitutes your representation of eligibility, consent to participate in Contest & consent for Sponsor to obtain, use, & transfer your name, address & other information for the purpose of Contest administration. 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Sponsor reserves right to void any & all entries of an entrant who Sponsor believes use attempted to tamper with, influence or impair the administration, security, fairness, judging or proper play of Contest. All entries become property of Sponsor & will not be returned. Neither Sponsor, nor anyone acting on its behalf, will enter into communications with any entrant regarding Contest other than to notify potential Semifinalist & Finalist winners. **Judging:** Winner determination for the Contest will occur in two phases: Semifinalist Determination (during Promotion Period), a total of (108) Semifinalists (36) Semifinalists per course of study will be determined from valid entries received for each course of study during each of (3) separate Entry Periods ("EP"), with each EP beginning at 12:00:01AM CT & ending at 11:59:59PM CT, respectively. & with (12) Semifinalists per course of study selected for each EP. EP #1 runs 1/10/05-2/1/05, EP #2 runs 2/2/05-2/24/05, & EP #3 runs 2/25/05-3/2/05. Entries received during one EP will not carry forward to subsequent EPs. Entries will be judged on an independent panel of judges ("Judges"), whose determinations will be final & binding on all matters relating to Contest, & which will be supervised by PST. Judging will be based on the following: 1) Originality (0-40 points); 2) Creativity/Written Expression (0-30 points); & 3) Relevance to Theme (0-30 points). The (30) entrants per course of study with highest total scores based on above judging procedure will be declared winning Semifinalists. In event of a tie, entrant with highest score in Originality will be declared the winning Semifinalist. If it is still a tie, then among remaining pool of tied entrants, entrant with highest score in Creativity/Written Expression, & then in Relevance to Theme (if & as necessary to break tie), will be declared the winning Semifinalist. Semifinalists will be notified by telephone &/or overnight mail (unless otherwise indicated) on 2/18/05. If mailed Semifinalist notification is returned as undeliverable, a runner-up may be selected based on quality of each entrant's submission as compared to quality of other entrant's submissions received for same course of study during applicable EP, as judged per above criteria. **Prizes:** (108) Semifinalists: \$100 MasterCard Gift Card (Approx. Retail Value "\$100" each). (Use restrictions may apply.) (36) Finalist (Prize: Opportunity to attend 3-week internship during the period 6/15/05-7/15/05, consisting of (but not limited to) a hands-on introduction to respective course of study with industry professionals, designated by Sponsor, including specialized curricula, classroom sessions & other activities. Internships include round-trip airfare & transportation for each Finalist from major airport nearest to each Finalist's residence in U.S. to/from site of internship & to/from internship-related activities (if necessary), select ground transportation, shared, double-occupancy accommodations at location determined by Sponsor, meal plan (cashless designated by Sponsor), & a \$1,000 MasterCard Gift Card. Music: Finalists will receive an internship with Fancigame at its headquarters in Los Angeles, CA to assist in management of Universal Music Group artist/signee designated by Sponsor on Vans Warped Tour™ including providing on-site support at select Vans Warped Tour™ concert(s) (destination determined by Sponsor). Film: Finalists will receive an internship with Universal Pictures at its headquarters in Los Angeles, CA to assist in implementation of certain film marketing initiatives designated by Sponsor. 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Finalists must comply with Sponsor's reasonable control (including but not limited to threats of formal activity, inability to secure any prior component, labor strikes, force majeure events, and/or other administrative, security, fairness, parking, or proper play of Contest & if Contest is terminated or suspended, award prize in a judging from among all non-suspect entries received prior to suspect event. **Winners List:** For winner names, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to be received by 5/27/05 to: MasterCard® Process Experience™ 05 Winners, P.O. Box 13106, Bridgport, CT 06673-3106. Major League Baseball Trademarks & Copyrights are used with permission of Major League Baseball Properties, Inc. MasterCard International Incorporated is an Official Sponsor of Major League Baseball. 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CROSSWORD

# Wild Cat

by Bill Syken

ACROSS

- 1 It can be bituminous
- 10 School that upset UK in 2004 NCAA tournament
- 13 Against
- 14 Delete
- 15 Tosses out
- 16 Battle (through)
- 17 2002 comedy special \_\_\_\_ C.H.O.
- 19 Its symptoms include fever and rose spots
- 21 Clark's *Smallville* gal pal
- 22 Deuce
- 23 Former UConn star Cash
- 25 Kind of criminal

S	T	E	W	K	L	M	F	I	T	S
T	K	I	N	E	D	O	K	R	A	
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A	C	M	E	O	D	E	O	M	I	
W	E	A	R	M	E	T	E	S	P	N

Last week's answers

- 28 Neighbor to the N.
- 29 Salary \_\_\_\_
- 32 Responsibility
- 33 Ravens' Lewis
- 34 1989 Heisman winner
- 35 Breathe heavily
- 36 Drinking site
- 37 Feeling good, reggae-style
- 38 Former SI model Carol \_\_\_\_
- 39 Fordham player
- 40 \_\_\_\_ ID
- 42 Potato chip maker
- 43 \_\_\_\_ School
- 44 Sale condition
- 46 More interesting
- 50 It connects the throat to the stomach
- 53 Novelist Rice
- 54 Expression of surprise
- 55 Giants' Toomer
- 56 Tiger's mom, familiarly
- 57 Colleague of a Sen.
- 58 Blazers guard with same last name as 5-Across
- 59 Eight-sided sign

DOWN

- 1 Hurl
- 2 Lone
- 3 Above

5 ACROSS  
Arizona's Stoudamire



- 4 At 179 pounds, 5-Across is the \_\_\_\_ player on the Arizona roster
- 5 5-Across's class in school
- 6 Yanks third baseman \_\_\_\_
- 7 Workout target
- 8 One-on-one play
- 9 Magical name
- 10 Thick Japanese noodle
- 11 Shade of blue
- 12 Chem. degrees, e.g.
- 18 \_\_\_\_ McKellen
- 20 Be in debt
- 23 Picket-line crosser
- 24 Method
- 25 *Goodfellas* club, for short
- 26 Upright
- 27 Litter's littlest
- 29 \_\_\_\_ Sagan
- 30 India \_\_\_\_
- 31 Jury member
- 33 Captain Morgan and Bacardi
- 34 5-Across's team's nickname
- 36 Get what you deserve
- 39 *NBA Inside Stuff* host Ahmad \_\_\_\_
- 40 5-Across is 58-Across's \_\_\_\_
- 41 Will Smith title role
- 42 Back talk
- 44 U.S. Open stadium
- 45 Daytime show
- 46 Canadian Grammy award
- 47 Still alive
- 48 Prefix meaning "within"
- 49 Grim verb
- 50 Listening device
- 51 MD's grp.
- 52 Leg



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# The Perfect Night

For Providence All-America Ryan Gomes, there will be no Big Dance, just a last dance on Senior Night, the most powerful moment in an athlete's college career

BY MATTHEW WAXMAN

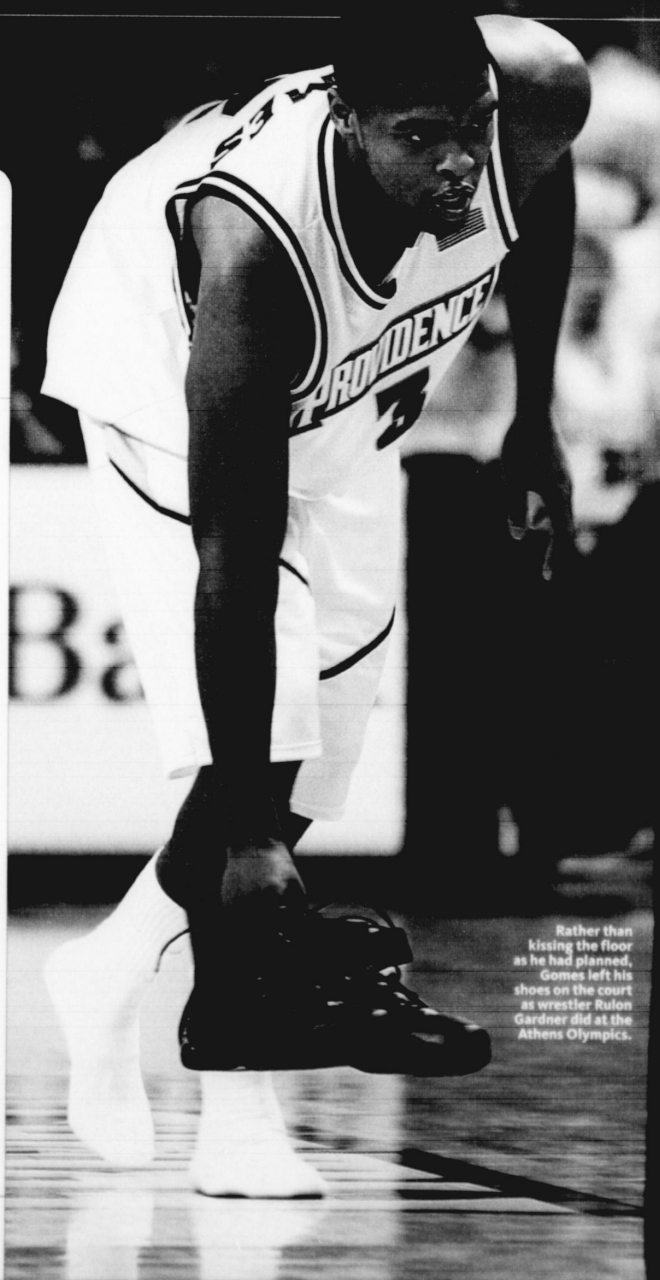
**ON THE AFTERNOON BEFORE** his final home game, Ryan Gomes is lounging in a swivel chair in an athletic department office in Alumni Hall. Clad in an all-black Providence jumpsuit, he looks a bit like 50 Cent and shares the rapper's cool demeanor, always on the cusp of a wink and a smile. ¶ "Yo, Kev," Gomes calls out to

graduate assistant coach Kevin Kurbec. "Why'd they schedule Senior Night during spring break?" Kurbec launches into an explanation about Easter coming early this year, creating a scheduling conflict for the small Catholic school (enrollment: 3,700), but Gomes has already moved on. "The students have been great," he tells an interviewer. "A lot of them came up to me to say that they were glad I came back. I just wish they could be here for my last game." So while some of his peers roast like hens in tropical locales, at night grinding in clubs filled with foam, Gomes is tethered to a blizzard-coated campus, fulfilling his obligation as the biggest name in the littlest state.

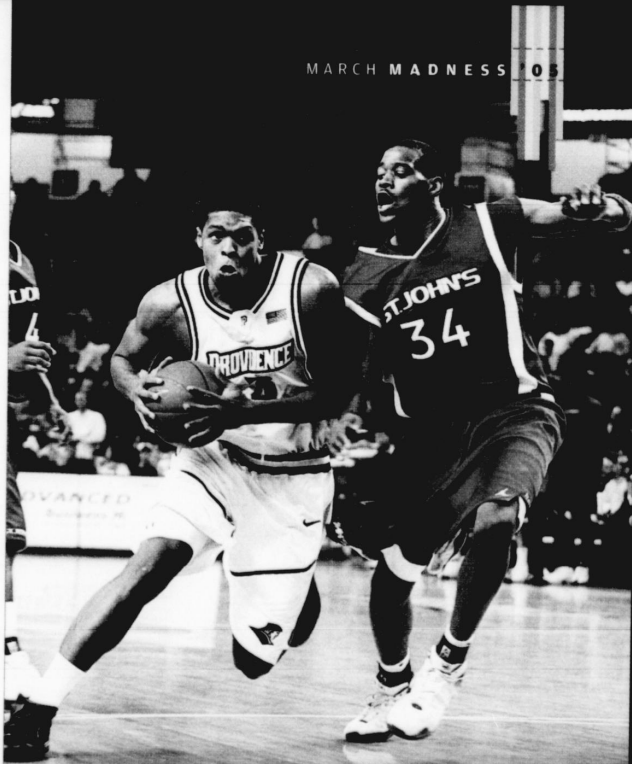
"Ryan, can you fill out this Big East ques-



tionnaire for a West Virginia newspaper?" asks sports-information director Arthur Parks. Gomes makes his picks for the league's best freshman (Rudy Gay), best dunker (Hakim Warrick), best talker (Carl Krauser) and best player ("Gotta be Ryan Gomes"). He puts his pen down. Parks's voice rings out again: "Ryan, can you do an interview for Channel 12's 10 o'clock news?" In the glow of the camera lights Gomes answers the same questions he's been answering all year. Yes, he's disappointed that the team hasn't fared as well as last season. No, he doesn't think about whether his NBA stock was affected by his returning for his senior year. But when the interviewer asks his thoughts regarding Senior Night, Gomes snaps out of his



Rather than kissing the floor as he had planned, Gomes left his shoes on the court as wrestler Rulon Gardner did at the Athens Olympics.



Fans will remember Gomes's hoops skills, but his mother, Teresa, is most proud that he will become the first member of his family to graduate from college.

stock-answer mode, pausing to let the question sink in. "It is strange to think that three years ago I was a freshman watching the seniors graduate. I remember Senior Night in high school was pretty big, and in college it's much bigger. There's no Senior Night in the NBA, so this is it. I'm going to have to try to not get too emotional."

After his stellar junior season, when he was a consensus first-team All-America, Gomes declared himself ready for the NBA, only to discover that he'd been given a label more damaging than *malcontent* or *soft*. Scouts dubbed the 6'7" forward a *tweener*, questioning his ability to either bang with NBA heavies or hang with Road Runner swingmen. After failing to receive a guarantee that a team would select him in the first round, Gomes returned to Providence. Though he again is waging an all-star campaign (averaging 21.7 points and 8.2 rebounds), the Friars are a woe-ful 14-16 (4-12 in the Big East) and will not play beyond the Big East tournament barring a miracle. "It was a young team, so I knew what I was getting myself into," Gomes says. "Then our second-leading scorer went down. We've been fighting, but the outcome hasn't been good." In addition, his campus routine

has become monotonous at times. "I know what to expect every day: class, then practice. It's the same old same old," he says. "Some days I wake up and have to go to class and think, If I had left, I wouldn't have to worry about this stuff."

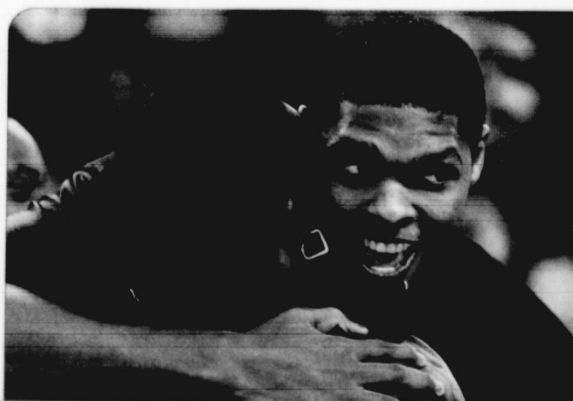
There are two seniors on this year's squad, Gomes and fellow starting forward Tuukka Kotti, but Senior Night is a Ryan Gomes lovefest. During warmups fans target Gomes in the crosshairs of their cameras. In every shot they will find him smiling. An elderly woman pulls him from the layup line and gives him a hug and a kiss on the cheek. "I just wanted to thank you. I mean it," she says. "And good luck with everything in the future."

"Can you believe it's over?" asks Claire Pollard, an usher at the Dunkin' Donuts Center.

"He's such a good leader, and I'm going to miss him."

After a brief introduction for Kotti, there is a shift in the arena's mood, a stirring that augurs a big moment. Gomes calmly chats with his family as the P.A. announcer reads off his accolades, including his place atop Providence's alltime scor-

ing list. He is also one of only six Big East players to score 2,000 points and haul in 1,000 rebounds, joining Patrick Ewing, Derrick Coleman, Alonzo Mourning, John Wallace and Danya Abrams. After his name is announced, Gomes walks the gantlet of his teammates, sporting an ear-to-ear grin, as



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID BERGMAN

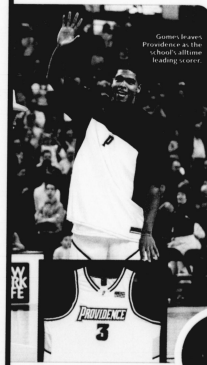
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GREAT NIGHT TAKE WHAT SPORT IS PLAY.

ALL ATHLETES HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON. ANYTIME THEY GREAT  
 THEY LOSE MORE THAN 150 WATER. WATERBUT PINK THE MOUTH AND  
 RETURN TO ATHLETES GREAT BUT WATER DOES NOT

FACES IN THE CROWD



Gomes leaves Providence as the school's all-time leading scorer.

wrestler and leave your shoes on the court." When the game clock hits 0:00, all the players except Gomes and Kotti head for the showers. Gomes remains courtside and begins to sign autographs for a throng of fans. "One per person," a security guard announces. A fellow student greets Gomes with a three-part handshake. "Bro," he says, "awesome four years." Though his senior season wasn't everything he'd hoped, tonight, cheered by his home fans for the last time, Ryan Gomes understands why he came back.

Senior Week

THE HOOVER DAM couldn't hold back the tears shed on Senior Nights over the last fortnight. In the March 14 issue of SI, Grant Wahl embarks on a cross-country trip to tell the tales of the best tradition in college sports.

THE BELIEVER

**Wayne Simien, Kansas:** The All-America forward would've been an NBA first-round pick last year, but he returned to the school he grew up cheering for. The payoff came on March 3 in front of 4,000 Kansas fans on Senior Night—the night, he said, he'd been waiting for his entire life.

THE OUTSIDER

**Ronny Turiaf, Gonzaga:** Three years ago Martinique native Turiaf was floundering in a new culture. Fast-forward to Senior Night on Feb. 28—he's on track to graduate with his degree in sports management and is projected as an NBA first-rounder. And that hair!

THE WALK-ON

**John Meeker, Cincinnati:** What's it like to have your own mother wonder if you'll make it past your first year, to ride the pine for all but 17 minutes of your college career, to be known as the Human Victory Cigar, and then to be told by your coach that you're starting on Senior Night? That is the story of this walk-on, who probably looks no different from that floppy-haired dude sitting next to you in psych class.

For more Senior Night stories, go to [si.com/exclusive](http://si.com/exclusive).

he escorts his family to center court. Fans wave the "3" cards placed on every seat in the arena. His mother, Teresa, clutching a bouquet, looks on with pride as her son, poised to become the first Gomes to earn a college degree, in social science, holds high a framed jersey. The crowd roars. Aside from the silent and lifeless student section, it is a fitting tribute, a chance for fans to say goodbye and thank you.

Gomes is as solid as ever (23 points, six rebounds) in leading the Friars to an 86-75 victory over St. John's. With 20 seconds remaining, the win secure and a Red Storm player on the line, Gomes, stationed at half-court, begins to fumble with his laces. The horn sounds, and coach Tim Welsh sends in a sub so Gomes can exit to one last standing ovation. Gomes steps out of his black Air Jordans, leaves them on the court and glides over to his laughing teammates. The inspiration for his final act at the Dunkin' Donuts Center? Before the game, assistant Bob Walsh had told Gomes, "Go out like an Olympic





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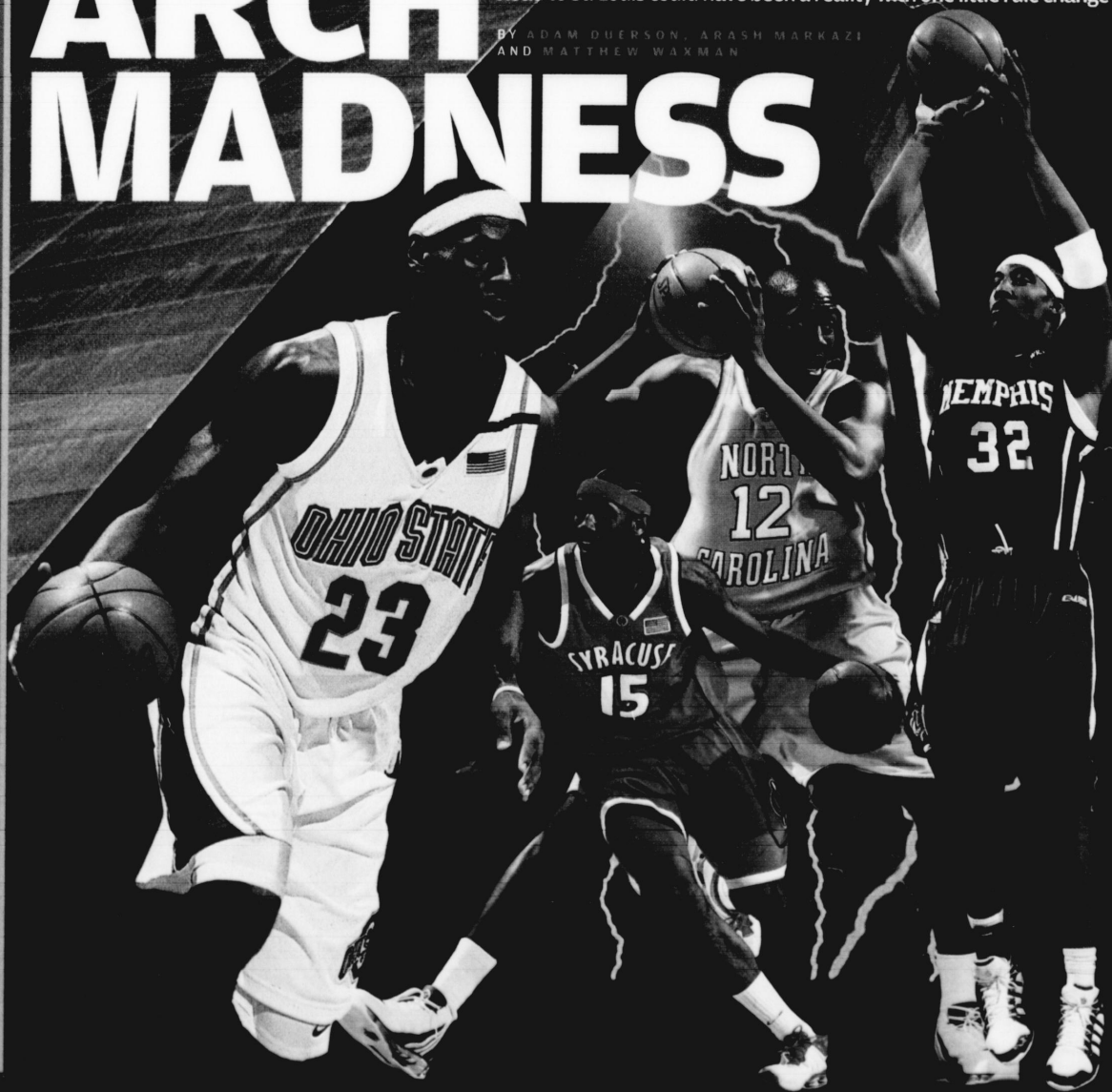
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# ARCH MADNESS

LeBron's Buckeyes in the Sweet 16? Dwight Howard's Tar Heels in the Final Four? Tony Parker's Bruins in the final? SIOC's fantasy Road to St. Louis could have been a reality with one little rule change

BY ADAM DUERSON, ARASH MARKAZI  
AND MATTHEW WAXMAN



Only half of this foursome (from left) James, Anthony, Howard and Stoudemire would reach St. Louis.

the Orlando Magic *doesn't* select Dwight Howard. He's going to Carolina, where he'll fight for Roy rather than contend for the NBA's R.O.Y. The Magic doesn't select Emeka Okafor, either. He's returning to UConn for his senior year to defend his title. So, what if the NBA forbade early entry and insisted on four years of college before graduating to the league of mo' money, mo' problems? Would Illinois still be a No. 1? Would Kwame Brown have blossomed at Florida, away from MJ's scorn? Could a UConn squad with Okafor and Ben Gordon possibly *not* defend its championship? SIOC has done the legwork for you, returning early entrants from the classes of 2005-'08 to their college teams and placing those who skipped college altogether over the last four years in the programs they most likely would have joined. In the straight-to-the-NBA cases we relied on the recruiting paper trail and, where there was none (see: LeBron), on the best-informed guesses of the college hoops cognoscenti. When the brackets were all sorted out, we set up a Sweet 16 and put the tournament on computer simulation mode. You might be surprised at what it spit out.

**UNC 1** **ADDS:** Dwight Howard ('08), J.R. Smith ('08)  
**ROY WILLIAMS CAN'T** draw up enough X's and O's to maximize the skills of a Raymond Felton-Smith backcourt, a Howard-Sean May-Joshua McCants frontcourt and a bench including Jackie Manuel, Jawad Williams and superfreshman Marvin Williams.

**Stanford 4** **ADDS:** Josh Childress ('05), Mike Montgomery (coach)  
**MONTY MAKES THE** smart decision and stays at the Farm. Childress continues to light up the Pac-10, and the Cardinal advances further than last year's team, which won 26 in a row but was upset in the second round by Alabama.

**Memphis 2** **ADDS:** Dajuan Wagner ('05), Amare Stoudemire ('06), Kendrick Perkins ('07)  
**WITH PERKINS** and Stoudemire holding down the fort inside and flashy freshman Darus Washington Jr. manning the point, Wagner and Rodney Carney can shoot all day long. Who needs passing anyway?

**Florida 3** **ADDS:** Kwame Brown ('05)  
**BROWN, THE NO. 1** pick in the 2004 NBA draft, enters his senior year as one of the best players in the country, and David Lee no longer has to play out of position at center. Brown's presence also creates better looks for guards Anthony Roberson and Matt Walsh.

**Illinois 1** **ADDS:** None  
**IT'S NO SECRET THAT** Illinois dominates the NCAA tournament, and no team has a better trio than the Illini's Dee Brown, Luther Head and Deron Williams. The regular-season ending one-point loss to Ohio State exposed a soft spot, but it's still a very small soft spot.

**Kentucky 4** **ADDS:** None  
**WE'RE GIVING PROPS** to Tabby Smith's crew because it has two game-plan-changing big men (Shagan Alleyne, Randolph Morris) and two threats from the point (Kajon Rondo, Patrick Sparks), plus athletic scorer Kenna Azubuike and do-it-all tough guy Chuck Hayes.

**UCLA 2** **ADDS:** Tyson Chandler ('05), Tony Parker ('05), Trevor Ariza ('07)  
**IMAGINE PARKER,** one of the top young floor generals in basketball, teaming with Chandler to give a resurgent Bruins squad the best point-guard-center combo to hit Los Angeles since Magic and Kareem.

**DePaul 3** **ADDS:** Eddy Curry ('08), DuVelle Wright ('08)  
**A BUBBLE TEAM** becomes a back with the additions of Curry and Wright. Current starters Drake Diener and Quenton Greer serve as capable role players, while Curry dominates inside and Wright does his Tracy McGrady thing outside.

# The Madness Begins

**UNC**  
**MONTY GETS A taste of what it's like to face an NBA team as his Cardinal is out-everythinged from the opening tip. Even Williams can't call off the dogs. His reserves are better than anyone on the Stanford roster except for Childress, whose 23 points go for nothing. UNC '06, Stanford '06**

**UNC**  
**THINGS PLAY OUT like a bad 'nasty' Zone ep for Billy Donovan in a 2000 Final Four rematch. Marvin Williams poster-ops Walsh (ironic for the 15/10/10 pimp dating stud, eh?), and Donovan scours his bench for someone—anyone—who can run with the Felton-Smith-McCants trio. Brown can only watch helplessly and beam at the NBA. UNC '07, Florida '07**

**Stanford**  
**JOHN CALIPARI'S** got the heavy artillery but no one to feed the ammo. Memphis's wiffle-the-merry equipment goes up flames, as shoot first PG Washington hops the rock while the con cooly defies the law. *Florida '07, Memphis '06*

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Florida

UNC

Even in our fantasy universe, the Fighting Illini have what it takes to go deep, but when did UCLA morph into a giant-killer?

**Syracuse**  
**DENG AND 'MELO** are the headline matchup, but Redick puts the "O" in Jim Boeheim's zone, breaking the D down from the outside in. With Cuse on the ropes, McNamara goes *Swish!* *Duke '07, Syracuse '06*

**Syracuse**  
**CARMELO-LEBRON** in the NCAA! Are you kidding? If Boeheim doesn't breathe deep, King James (1-3 against his pal in the NBA) shuts down 'Melo, but Warrick and McNamara remind us how deep the team is, dropping 25 each. *Duke cruises easily at the Dome, but LeBron (54) makes a serious run at Austin Carr's NCAA tournament record of 61. Syracuse '05, Ohio State '06*

**Duke**  
**IT'S AN OLD-FASHIONED** Texas shootout as the top gunner from the east (Redick) takes on the best in the West (Stoudamire). Both make six of 10 shots from deep waters, but a late Livingston drive and kick-out to Redick for a three seals the Duke win. *Duke '07, Arizona '07*

**Ohio State**  
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Duke

Arizona

**Syracuse 1** **ADDS:** Carmelo Anthony ('06)  
**WITH 'MELO BACK,** Hassan Warrick and Gerry McNamara become the most dangerous second and third options in the game. Warrick gets help on the boards, G Mac doesn't have to take every big shot, and Josh Pace gets better matchups.

**Ohio State 4** **ADDS:** LeBron James ('07)  
**WE KNOW WHAT** you're thinking: Ohio State isn't eligible for the NCAA's. But we're guessing if James is at his State U, the Buckeyes aren't so quick to self-impose a one-year postseason ban—not with a suddenly revised program featuring the best player in the country.

**Duke 2** **ADDS:** Luol Deng ('07), Shaun Livingston ('08)  
**ONE OF THE TOP 10** teams in the country shores up two weaknesses with a true point guard in Livingston and the toughness and versatility of Deng. With Daniel Ewing, J.J. Redick and Shelden Williams on board, Coach K doesn't even entertain NBA inquiries.

**Arizona 3** **ADDS:** Andre Iguodala ('06), Ndudi Ebi ('07)  
**LUOL OLSON'S ALREADY** got a top-notch backcourt in Mustafa Shakur and Salim Stoudamire, but putting Ebi (lost on the T-Wolver bench in Minnesota) and Iguodala (a legitimate starter in Philly) alongside Channing Frye lends serious balance.

**UConn 1** **ADDS:** Ben Gordon ('05), Emeka Okafor ('05)  
**MARCUS WILLIAMS** has emerged as a big-time point guard; Josh Boone is a possible lottery pick; Charlie Villanueva has finally found his inner big man. Add NBA R.O.Y. contenders Gordon and Okafor and shooters Rashad Anderson and Rudy Gay...uhwell!

**Wisconsin 4** **ADDS:** Devin Harris ('05)  
**THE GOOD-BUT-NOT-GREAT** Badgers haven't filled the point position in Harris's absence, and ho hum guys like Mike Wilkinson and Alando Tucker have had to play huge. How much better are they with Harris' last year they whooped Illinois twice by a combined 37 points.

**Georgia Tech 2** **ADDS:** Chris Book ('06)  
**TECH NEARLY TOOK IT** to the house in '04—and that was without Book, whose mere presence makes Luke Schenscher more effective and gives the Jackets a real inside threat. Plus, Jarrett Jack doesn't feel such a scoring burden with a reliable pair of hands to dish to inside.

**Louisville 3** **ADDS:** Ousmane Cisse ('05), Quana Smith ('05), James Lang ('07), Sebastian Telfair ('08)  
**THE 6'8" CISSE** was once ranked higher than fellow class of '05 members Brown, Chandler and Curry. Wide-body Lang, athletic Smith and all-star Telfair give Rick Pitino's team a serious talent upgrade.

**Illinois**  
**NO FANTASIES HERE,** not even just as teams playing in a possible actual '05 Final Four review. The three-headed, four-monster of Illinois has its way with the '04's for most of the year, and just opens a 25-point game from Anaheim's ego to overcome the Fighting Illini in their best work. *Duke '07, Kentucky '07*

**Illinois**  
**THE 'NEUTRAL'** Alberto Rivera from only Academy Hall Naith, and the Fighting Illini lead the pack of the game as all five players score in double figures, led by Brown, who has career-high 20 points. Parker and Chandler, however, will not be denied: combine for 42 points, including Parker's career-winning three-point explosion. *UCLA '06, Illinois '05*

Illinois

UCLA

**UConn**  
**THE '04 TITLE game** would've unfolded differently with Book against, but UConn still would have taken the trophy a year later, with ever one a little bigger and a little better. *UConn '07*

**UConn**  
**PITINO'S GOT THE** bench depth to play Ted's frontcourt physically, and after Book scores easy hoops on the first four possessions, it's clear he'll need every foul. Down big early, Quana Dean and Telfair ignite a gap from outside, where Book and Schenscher can't help. But Jackson overpowers Telfair down the stretch, and the Jackets advance. *Georgia Tech '07, Louisville '09*

UConn

Georgia Tech

UCLA

UCLA

UConn

Georgia Tech

Louisville

DePaul

UCLA

UConn

Georgia Tech

Louisville



# Too Good to Be True

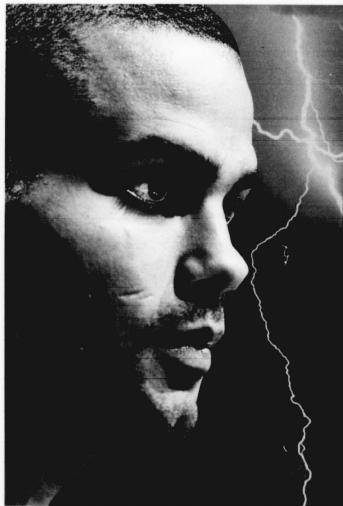
Carmelo Anthony and Syracuse went head-to-head with Tony Parker-led UCLA in one of the greatest finals ever

BY MATTHEW WAXMAN

**M**OMENTS AFTER SNIPPING the final strand of twine from one of the nets at the Edward Jones Dome, Syracuse forward Carmelo Anthony tried to place it around his coach's neck. But Jim Boeheim had another idea. He grabbed the nylon from his star and placed it on top of his head like a mock toupee. "I spent the first 26 years of my career tearing my hair out," he told fellow baldy Billy Packer on CBS's broadcast. "Does winning these help it grow back?" Don't expect Boeheim to be sporting Robert Redford's mane anytime soon, even after the Orange's 80-79 victory over UCLA gave Syracuse its second NCAA title in the last three years. But at the very least, the coach once defined by his incessant whining seems to have undergone an attitude—as well as a hair—transplant.

Has the 60-year-old Boeheim mellowed in his old age? Close. "Melo has added years to my life," he said, nodding toward his otherworldly junior forward. "I think I'll send David Stern and the boys a thank-you."

Boeheim, of course, was referring to the NBA's landmark 2001 decision to prohibit athletes less than four years out of high school from turning pro. The new rule, based on the NFL's model and adopted after years of discussion between the NBA and its players' union, meant that Boeheim never had to worry about losing Anthony to the draft after the then freshman led the Orange to the 2003 title. That brought much peace of mind to the previously prickly coach, who had come up short in two earlier trips to the championship game. In 1987 Indiana guard Keith Smart found a seam and swished a 17-footer for a 74-73 victory. Nine years later Syracuse was overwhelmed 76-67 by a Kentucky team that had perhaps the greatest collection of talent of any squad before the NBA's rule change. After that battle Wildcats coach Rick Pitino quipped, "These games are life and death to Jim. He should go to Florida, go play golf. He's going to go crazy." Rather than go crazy, Boeheim kept at it, and eventually his perseverance paid off when he outmaneuvered Maryland and North Carolina to land Anthony, who capped his



freshman season as the Most Outstanding Player in the Orange's 81-78 win over Kansas. "After waiting so long for the first one," Boeheim said after defeating UCLA, "who knew we'd get another chance so soon?"

Not since Larry Bird and Magic Johnson butted heads in 1979 has a championship final been greeted with such anticipation. After getting knocked out by Alabama in the Sweet 16 last year, when Anthony was slowed by a sprained right knee, Syracuse rolled through the '04-'05 season as if a return trip to the Final Four was its birthright.

The three-pronged attack the Orange used in 2003 was even sharper with Anthony, forward Hakim Warrick and guard Gerry McNamara's having played three years together. However, UCLA—which in the semifinals nipped North Carolina 89-85 in a frenzied shootout—countered with its own triple threat of center Tyson Chandler, forward Trevor Ariza and guard Tony Parker.

In such a star-studded affair, an unlikely hero provided the final

With Anthony (below) back in the fold, Syracuse cuts down the nets for the second time in three years, beating UCLA despite the stellar play of Parker (left).



## YOU PICK THE CHAMP

**APPALLED BY OUR CHOICE OF NATIONAL CHAMPION?** Six.com is happy to let you decide who should win a regional national championship if every basketball were forced to attend four years of college before jumping to the NBA. Starting March 14, the day after selection Sunday, Six.com will post a fantasy 64-team bracket in which you can vote for the winners of all 63 tournament games.

margin of victory just before the buzzer. Twenty-three seconds earlier, Syracuse senior center Craig Forth was the goat. With the score tied at 77, Forth failed to box out on an Ariza miss, and Chandler, he of the 7' 1" frame and pogo-stick legs, seemingly hurdled the 7-foot Forth to slam home the putback. Chandler, who had said he was going to "take Forth behind the woodshed," seemed to have backed up his words.

At the other end Syracuse cleared out for Anthony, who after crossing over Ariza was met in the paint by Chandler. Anthony smartly slipped the ball to an open Forth, who was fouled by Dijon Thompson as he went up for a dunk. The ball teetered on the front of the rim before falling through to tie the game with 0.4 of a second on the clock. With the powder-blue-clad UCLA faithful doing everything in their power to break his concentration, Forth, a career 60% free throw shooter, appeared to wink at Chandler before banking in the winning shot.

Afterward the hero denied he was baiting Chandler. "No, no, no," Forth told Packer. "I had something in my eye." McNamara then euphorically jumped on Forth's back and tried to tussle his crew cut. "Did I hear you call glass?" teased McNamara, who finished six of nine from international waters, accounting for all 18 of his points.

The key to the victory, as usual, was Syracuse's 2-3 zone defense, the same one run in every suburban Y pickup game around the country. This time Boeheim had to do some last-minute tweaking, but eventually it stifled the Bruins' up-tempo offense. In the first half the zone appeared vulnerable as Parker hit on five of seven three-point attempts to give the Bruins a 51-41 advantage. After intermission Boeheim installed the 6' 8" Warrick and his go-go Gadget arms at the top of the key to close out on open shooters. "Warrick's arms are like that bunny rabbit," said the Paris-raised Parker. "They keep going and going and going." With his jumper taken away, Parker began feeding Ariza and Chandler. But his inconsistent midrange shooting—the same problem that plagued the Bruins all season and prevented them from securing a No. 1 seed—proved to be their Achilles' heel. Over the last 12:28 the team made only four of 18 shots from inside the arc, setting up Forth's shining moment.

Syracuse's semifinal win over defending champion Connecticut was no less scintillating. The Huskies' frontline—6' 11" Charlie Villanueva, 6' 10" Josh Boone and 6' 10" Emeke Okafor, dubbed "the three tallest buildings in Storrs" by Vermont coach Tom Brennan—seemed a tall obstacle for "Cuse to overcome. But Anthony torched the Huskies with a dazzling arsenal of twisting layups and pull-up jumpers, finishing with 38 points on 11-of-16 shooting. "Right now the only better player in college basketball is maybe that Ohio State kid [LeBron James]," said UConn coach Jim Calhoun. "I wish to God they were in the NBA."

But they are not, allowing Boeheim another celebration. Shortly after Monday's championship game the Syracuse coaches and their wives gathered at Tony's, the upscale Italian eatery in downtown St. Louis. Before any food arrived, Boeheim stood up and clinked his champagne flute with a butter knife. "I just want to thank you for putting in all the hours you do on the job," he told his staff, "and for putting up with my crap for another season. I know at times it can be a hair-raising experience." As if on cue Boeheim's wife, Juli, interrupted. "What do you know about hair-raising?" she chided, as the table erupted with laughter. True. Hair may be a subject foreign to Boeheim, but raising banners certainly is not.

# the final

## EVERYBODY IN THE HOT TUB?

SIOC loves March madness. SIOC loves spring break. We found both—not in the NCAA hoops tournament, but at its skiing championship

BY JOHN WALTERS



**IS BEN THORNHILL** on the cusp of the wildest spring break adventure since *The Real Cancun*? Thornhill, a junior at Utah, is off on a ski trip to Stowe, Vt., all expenses paid. He's traveling with a multinational assemblage of female talent—an Aussie, a Norwegian, a Swede, two Swiss and a Californian, all of them kick-ass competitors themselves—heretofore only possible, or so I thought, in a 007 Days of Bond marathon on *TBS*. And, even though Thornhill's break officially begins on Monday, he bolted Salt Lake City six days ago. Can you blame the guy?

When—or if—Thornhill returns to campus, he may arrive with more than just a renewed appreciation for Advil and Gatorade. He may come back

with an unprecedented third-consecutive NCAA championship in giant slalom (GS).

Welcome to the NCAA skiing championships, where the two most welcome traditions of the semester—March madness and Spring Break—merge like double-black diamond runs approaching the midway chair lift. "I don't want you to think our sport is a joke," says Thornhill. "Anyone who's finishing top 10 on the circuit was probably on their national team. But yeah, on the last day, after all the awards are given out, it's a huge party."

"Saturday night after we won the [2003] national championship was the best night I

ever had," says Utah's Lina Johansson, the aforementioned Swede and the 2003 NCAA women's slalom champ. "We were singing *We Are the Champions* and partying. The problem was that the bar closed down at one and we were just getting started."

There's more to intercollegiate skiing than getting snowplowed, of course. Alpine skiing (there is also Nordic) may be the most dangerous of all NCAA diversions. Then again, downhill racers end their runs before a veritable Finnish line (and Norwegian and Swedish lines) of admirers from the opposite sex. Meanwhile, Southern Cal QB Matt Leinart

gets stuck talking to Jack Arute.

And so the question becomes, ¿*Quien es más macho?* Alpine (downhill) or Nordic (cross-country) skiers?

"Definitely Alpine," says Vermont junior Jamie Kingsbury, the 2003 NCAA women's champ in GS. "Maybe it's because we don't hang out with Nordic as much. Or maybe it's just the body type."

"Nordic are really skinny and tall," says Western State slalomite Brooke Gaisford, "but downhill guys, they're stacked. No balls, no glory. And speed—it definitely matters."

So imagine what it must feel like to be Thornhill, a two-time defending national champ in the ballsiest of downhill events. Imagine what it will be like come Saturday night should he win a third title.

"It's like the last day of summer camp," Thornhill says. "You've been checking out the girl campers all summer. Now you're about to go home."

And, if you're Thornhill, you've just won the Best Camper award—again.

"Two years ago we wrote CHAMP and NO. 1 all over Ben's body," Johansson says.

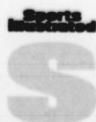
I presume Thornhill's just a heavy sleeper. There's no business like snow business. **G**

now at SI.com

### CAMPUS BLITZ

In his weekly online column John Walters clears up the mystery (for some readers) surrounding the hand gesture of Tennessee's Derrick Tinsley in last week's FINAL.

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