



BONUS
INSIDE TODAY'S
LIFE



SPRING IS HEATING UP

Our May calendar packs in the fun, from Taste of Cincinnati to 'X-Men'



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LATE NEWS/SPORTS 50 CENTS

Up Front

Must reads inside today's Enquirer



Reds end winning streak, yet hold on to April record

Adam Dunn (above) and the Reds lost 3-2 to the Astros, snapping a six-game winning streak and ending the month 17-8.
SPORTS C1

AK Steel fights latest round

As the Middletown lock-out extends, negotiators for AK Steel and the United Auto Workers started talks in the hopes of avoiding the same fate in Zanesville.
BUSINESS A10

Iraq president meets with rebels

Iraqi president says he met with insurgent groups and is optimistic they may agree to disarm, yet nine people died there Sunday.
WORLD A9

Health alert issued for mumps

Officials have issued an alert as a Wyoming City middle school staff member may have the mumps.
LOCAL B1

MOTHER'S DAY

Tell us your Momisms

The Enquirer wants to know your favorite Momisms — the sayings our mothers drilled into our thick heads. E-mail your contributions to Cliff Radel at cradel@enquirer.com or call (513) 936-3361. Include your name, address and phone number.



WEATHER



High 65°
Low 51°
A thunderstorm

COMPLETE FORECAST: B8

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With draft picks, Bengals go long

By Mark Curnutte
Enquirer staff writer

Team has luxury of not being desperate for quick help

While draft gurus are giving the Bengals' 2006 draft class C and B grades, this class is more about S and P—speed and potential. With the exception of first-round pick Johnathan Joseph, a cornerback from South Car-

Analysis

olina, none of the eight players selected Saturday and Sunday will have much of a chance to start as rookies. Andrew Whitworth, the second-round pick, could be a

long-term starter at right tackle or either guard position. This draft is one for the future.

Or, as Bengals coach Marvin Lewis said Sunday in summary, "It's not as if we went into this draft saying, 'We have

to get this player or draft at that position.'

"We went into this draft to get the best guys who can help us now and down the road. We wanted to look three years, and beyond." An 11-5 record had the Ben-

gals picking at No. 24 overall, their lowest earned first-round position since 1989.

With a more talented and deeper roster in place than



Joseph

About the new guy

No. 1 pick looks like Johnson, but he's more soft-spoken. **C1**

any Bengals team since the late 1980s, Lewis & Co. didn't have to fill holes in the lineup.

See **BENGALS**, Page **A4**

Epilepsy keeps high school pitcher off the road (for now), but not off the mound



IT'S ABOUT CONTROL

By Shannon Russell
Enquirer staff writer

Seventy-one days from now, Chris Simon will slide into the red Mustang parked in his parents' Alexandria driveway.

He'll coax the engine to a low purr, dip the gas pedal like a dance partner and, as the wind ruffles his reddish hair and Walnut Park Drive fades, he'll remember what it's like to be 17.

Where he's going won't be important. That he's driving at all, will.

A reminder of where he's been rests on his collarbone, a silver and red medic alert oblong with "epilepsy" engraved on back. He'll unclasp it for summer baseball practices, but he won't forget. Can't.

In the last eight weeks alone he has endured nine seizures and lost his driving privileges for a state-required 90 days following the last episode. He has relied on his parents and friends for transportation, and counted the days until his freedom and independence can be restored.

Varsity baseball helps the Bishop Brossart junior endure. Known as "The Lemur" for his lightning-quick speed, the outfielder/pitcher has helped the team to many successes, including a third straight 10th Region championship in the All "A" Classic.

Chris always thought he'd outgrow epilepsy, but doctors tell him his chances have diminished to 30 percent because of his continuing seizures.

His mother, Shirley, says this year in particular has been hard. There are times, behind closed doors, when he has quietly lamented his lot.

To the rest of the world, he smiles. "I hope it goes away, but I just hope it doesn't get worse," Chris said. "It could be a lot worse."

See **CONTROL**, Page **A4**



Photos by Ernest Coleman/The Enquirer

Bishop Brossart High School pitcher Chris Simon throws in the first inning of a game with Newport Central Catholic on Thursday. Chris takes medication to control his epilepsy, but sometimes has seizures. Coaches and teammates look out for him.

Epilepsy: An electrical storm in the brain

What is epilepsy?

According to the Epilepsy Foundation, epilepsy is a neurological condition that makes people susceptible to seizures.

Electrical disturbances in the brain trigger seizures, which can be changes in sensation, awareness or behavior. Seizures can affect all or part of the brain.

How is it treated?

Doctors usually use medicine to lessen frequency of seizures. In some cases, brain surgery is a means of treatment.

What can you do?

If someone has a seizure, stay calm. Ensure the area is safe so the person is not harmed.

Gas rebate attracts ridicule from voters

By Carl Hulse
and David D. Kirkpatrick
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The plan by Senate Republicans to mail out \$100 checks to soothe taxpayers' misery about gas prices is drawing scorn from the very people it was intended to help.

Aides for several Republican senators reported a surge of calls and e-mail messages from constituents ridiculing the rebate as

a paltry and transparent attempt to pander to voters in advance of the November elections.

"The conservatives think it is socialist bunk, and the liberals think it is conservative trickery," said Don Stewart, a spokesman for Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, noting that criticism came from across the ideological spectrum.

Angry constituents have asked, "Do you think we are prostitutes? Do you think you can buy us?" said another GOP

senator's aide, who was granted anonymity because the senator had publicly supported the plan.

Conservative talk radio hosts have been particularly vocal. "What kind of insult is this?" Rush Limbaugh asked on his radio program Friday. "Instead of buying us off and treating us like we're a bunch of whores, just solve the problem."

Still, Eric Ueland, chief of staff to Sen. Bill Frist of Tennessee, the Republican leader, said the

rebate was an important short-term step as part of a broader array of measures.

As members of Congress returned from their spring recess, where they heard plenty about gas prices, both parties have raced to propose solutions to take effect before the elections.

Democrats were pushing for a 60-day suspension of the federal gas tax of 18.4 cents per gallon, and the Senate GOP leadership settled on the rebate.

Darfur peace stymied

Clooneys report on horror they saw

The Associated Press

While thousands rallied in Washington on Sunday to stop the slaughter in Darfur, Sudanese rebels were rejecting the latest peace proposal.

Among the celebrities, activists and politicians at the Washington rally were actor George Clooney, an Augusta, Ky., native, and his father, Nick, Cincinnati Post columnist. They reported on their interviews in Sudanese refugee camps. "It's our job to tell you what we saw," the elder Clooney said. "Thousands of people hanging on by the most gossamer of threads."

His son said the United States' and United Nations' policies are failing — and citizens must demand change.

"This is in fact the first genocide of the 21st century, but there is hope: all of you," the actor said.

"Not on our watch!" the crowd chanted as a parade of speakers came to a stage on the National Mall, the Capitol serving as a backdrop.

In Abuja, Nigeria, African Union mediators brokering peace talks extended until midnight Tuesday the deadline for the peace parley's end.

The rebels called for changes after the Sudanese government indicated it would accept the proposal. Years of fighting between ethnic groups and Arab militias have left at least 180,000 people dead and about 2 million homeless.

Amid the negotiations, the U.N. World Food Program said Friday that it was cutting rations in half, citing a lack of funds.



The Associated Press/Manuel Balce Ceneta

George Clooney and his father, Nick, wait on stage during a protest against the genocide in Darfur. The Clooneys told the crowd of their recent trip to refugee camps.

Goodbye, punch cards

Votes on a new machine

Voters in Hamilton and Warren counties will be using new machines Tuesday that will mean filling in boxes instead of punching holes.

Elections officials are working to make sure the machines work right and voters can use them. A step-by-step guide.

LOCAL B2



WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS JUST AS INTERESTED IN JEWELRY ADS AS POLITICAL NEWS?

SOMEBODY WITH AN ANNIVERSARY NEXT WEEK



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