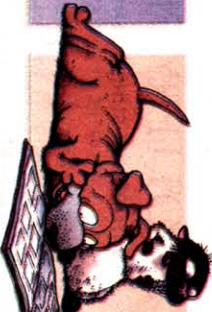
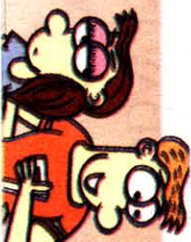




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Sports 1C



**NEW COMICS!**  
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**LAWRENCE**

**JOURNAL-WORLD**

SUNDAY • JUNE 26 • 2005

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**SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**Cuts to higher ed, social services proposed**

Latest school funding solution would cost KU \$21 million

By Scott Rothschild  
strothschild@jlworld.com

TOPEKA — State lawmakers Saturday considered deep cuts to higher education and social services to pay for a

Kansas Supreme Court order to increase school funding.

"People need to realize this is a critical situation," Senate President Steve Morris, R-Hugoton, said. "We can't just put our heads in the sand."

The proposals were launched one day after a measure to expand casino

gambling failed in the Senate and as lawmakers remained far apart on school finance. The Senate budget committee

introduced a proposal to cut \$161 million from the budget — enough to pay for the Senate plan to increase funds to public schools, and offer property tax relief.

The roughly 8.3 percent budget cut to all agencies except public schools would slash higher education by \$67.8 million, including \$11.9 million to

Kansas University, and \$9.2 million to the KU Medical Center.

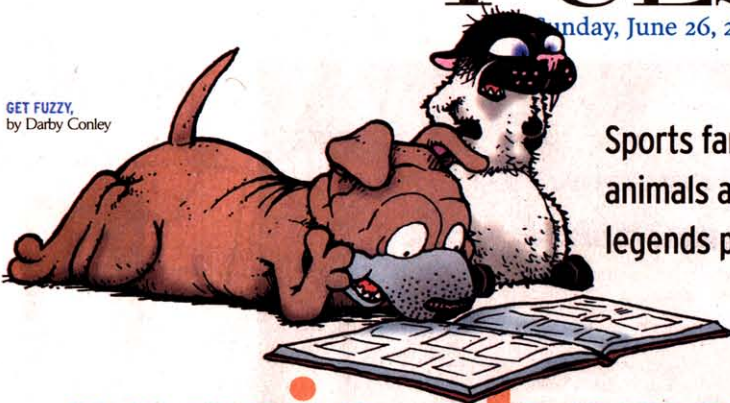
Reggie Robinson, president and chief executive of the Kansas Board of Regents, decried the proposal. "Kansas students, families and their pocketbooks should not be held

Please see LAWMAKERS, page 4A

**FUEL COSTS MAY DRIVE CUSTOM CUTTERS FROM FIELD**

LAWRENCE JOURNAL-WORLD  
PULSE

Sunday, June 26, 2005

GET FUZZY,  
by Darby Conley

Sports fanatics, talking animals and resurrected legends populate new strips

# comic change-up

## meet the team

Back in December, we asked readers to tell us which comics they liked and which had lost their charm. Hundreds voted.

We opted to discontinue our least-favorite five — *Mar-maduke*, *Cathy*, *Better Half*, *Sally Forth* and *B.C.* We decided to swap the Sunday-only *Better Half* with *Opus*, another Sunday

strip that got write-in support on many of your ballots.

Then we put the ball in your court, letting you vote on what should replace the other four comics.

All but one of the new strips start today. Check out the new lineup below; then read more on [Page 3E](#) about the players and the cartoonists who spend hundreds of hours bringing them to life:



**BO NANAS**,  
by John Kovalski



**OFF THE MARK**,  
by Mark Parisi

- *Opus*, by Berkeley Breathed, Sunday only
  - *Bo Nanas*, by John Kovalski, Monday-Saturday
  - *Get Fuzzy*, by Darby Conley, daily
  - *Girls & Sports*, by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein, daily
  - *Off the Mark*, by Mark Parisi, single-panel, daily
- Give 'em a week or two. See what you think. And let us know.

**GIRLS & SPORTS**,  
by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Berkeley Breathed is pleading for your patience.

When the creator of Bloom County put the legendary strip to bed in 1989 — and then dispensed with its Sunday-only spin-off, *Outland*, in 1995 — he didn't realize its central character — a talking penguin named *Opus* — would rouse his comic muse a decade later.

"I never intended to go back to cartooning," says Breathed, who snagged the Pulitzer for Bloom County in 1987. "But the war started, a lot of things were happening in the world, and I just missed having a voice."

So *Breathed's* pudgy penguin plodded back onto the comics page in 2003, but his illustrious return came with conditions befitting his star status: He only leaves his dressing room once a week, and when he does, he demands a lot of breathing room.

Consequently, *Opus* will be the first talking animal you see when you grab your *Journal-World* funnies today; the penguin bumped *Snoopy* from the cover.

Breathed equates the switch to "Jon Stewart replacing 'Walter Cronkite'" and pleads, once again: Have patience.

"My strip is at a distinct liability in that it doesn't appear every day," he says. "Comic strips, when they worked in the past, if they became beloved at all, it's because they were there in people's lives on a daily basis. ... A once-a-week strip doesn't endear itself to people

as would a daily strip — if comics can endear themselves to people at all anymore, which is questionable."

Maybe. But a new generation of cartoonists — like the six who do the five comics we're

introducing this week — are trying to erase that doubt. In fact, they're wearing their pencils to nubs in an effort to make the comics page a more sought-after destination.

They believe — as did most readers who responded in our recent comics surveys — that certain strips have lost their edge, fallen completely out of touch with contemporary culture or just plain aren't funny any more.

"I don't want to read a comic that looks like it's from 1952 and people have beehive hairdos," says Darby Conley, creator of *Get Fuzzy*, one of the fastest growing strips in the country.

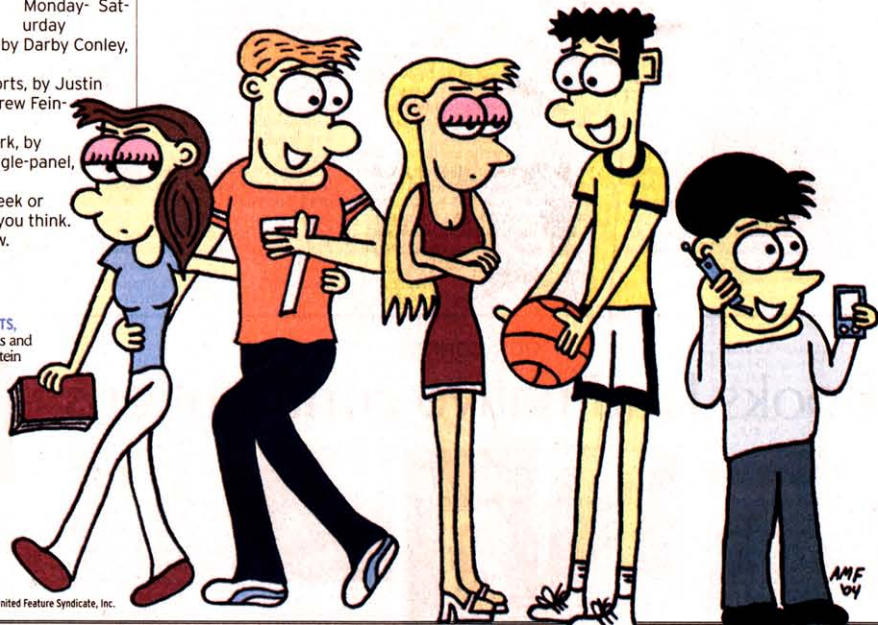
While we can't guarantee the absence of funny hairdos in these new strips — after all, they're populated by monkeys, penguins, cats, mutts and bachelors — we're confident the cartoonists who create the comics you chose to replace the outgoing standbys will do their best to grab your funny bone and shake vigorously.

To help you better understand where these guys are coming from, we spoke to each of them about their influences, their sense of humor and the ins and outs of the characters they bring to life on paper. [Read the interviews on Page 3E.](#)



**OPUS**,  
by Berkeley Breathed

## story by mindie paget



# GIRLS & SPORTS, BY JUSTIN BORUS, ANDREW FEINSTEIN

In the world of Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein, history repeats itself — over and over again.

The Denver natives met in high school. Borus had a crush on one of Feinstein's friends, and he needed some advice.

"We talked about her for maybe five minutes, and then I think we spent an hour talking about the Denver Broncos," Feinstein says, chuckling. "Our first-ever conversation was about girls and sports."

Fast-forward a few years to the summer before their senior year in college. Although Borus and Feinstein attended separate schools, they went on a summer business program in Denmark, where they sat next to each other on bus rides to major corporations.

"We'd talk about all of our exploits from the night before in the Danish nightclubs," Feinstein recalls. "After going back and forth with these stories, finally one of the girls on our bus turned around and said, 'Will you two PLEASE shut up. All you do is talk about girls and sports. It's driving me crazy.'"

An idea was born.

Borus and Feinstein started drawing a comic called, you guessed it, *Girls & Sports*. They put it in college newspapers at their own schools and those of their friends. Now the strip appears in more than 100 mainstream publications nationwide.

You can learn a lot about its creators by reading it. Bradley, a former college jock and boyfriend of JoAnn, is based on Borus. Marshall (based on Feinstein), is a fellow sports fan and nightclub-hopper. He also happens to be Bradley's best friend. As such, he endures lots of unsolicited relationship advice from

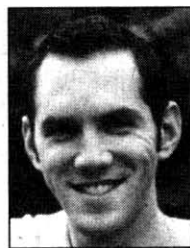
Bradley, which tends to bring him bad luck on dates.

Unfortunately, Borus and Feinstein say, most of the strips are based on first-hand experience.

"It's amazing how usually the best jokes take us just a few minutes to write because they're something we experienced the night before or the day before and it just kind of writes itself," says Borus, 28.



Borus



Feinstein

Their worst dates in recent memory: Borus let a woman order a bottle of wine at dinner, thinking she'd opt for the cheapest one. Imagine his surprise when

the bill came for well over \$200.

Feinstein went out with a girl who told him she was a doctor. At dinner, he went on and on about the crying kid in the corner and how parents should leave their children at home. Turns out, his date was a pediatrician.

"I put my foot in my mouth on many occasions," says Feinstein, 29.

If *Girls & Sports* is starting to sound like a comic for men: It is. But it's also suited to the fairer sex.

"For them it's like reading the opposing team's playbook," Feinstein says. "They get an insight into guys."