

# Sports Thursday

The New York Times

## College Athletes Acting Badly: It's All There on the Internet

By RICHARD SANDOMIR

The indiscretions of college students — whether it is binge drinking, cheating or hazing — may be old school, but universities now face the new reality that their students' misbehavior will eventually be exposed on the Internet.

By the students themselves.

This new challenge to college administrators was underscored this week when the Web site badjocks.com posted photographs from a hazing by the Northwestern women's soccer team, leading to the team's suspension. Yesterday, badjocks.com followed up with photos from freshman, varsity and club team initiations at 12 other colleges, complete with links to the teams' rosters.

Badjocks.com plucked the often disturbing photos from another site, webshots.com, where students have posted thousands of pictures covering a variety of activities.

"This isn't just a fraternity thing or something we should elbow ourselves and chuckle about," said Bob Reno, who added hazing photographs last year to badjocks.com, which he founded in 2000. "People are getting hurt."

His goal in posting the photographs, he said, is to persuade universities to enforce their anti-hazing policies.

The ease with which students can download photos to webshots.com, or pictures and biographical information to another popular site, facebook.com, is making college administrators nervous. They do not know when a student may post embarrassing images that can dramatically undermine their policies against hazing or other prohibited activities.

"You're walking on eggshells every hour," said Jim Livengood, the athletic director at

the University of Arizona, which is not one of the colleges depicted in the photos. "I can't rationalize the young person's thought process. You can't think those photographs won't be seen. It's crazy. It's like the old adage, 'I'll turn invisible at midnight and no one will know who I am.'"

He said the university had been monitoring facebook.com — which had yielded nothing compromising — but only became aware of badjocks.com three days ago.

"The hard part of it all is you can't control it," he said, adding that the issue would be discussed at Pacific-10 conference meetings.

The photographs on badjocks.com show male and female athletes apparently drinking, passed out, blindfolded, tied up, cross-dressing and with their bodies scrawled with salacious phrases. Members of the women's lacrosse team at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., are seen in sexually suggestive poses with a male stripper in just a thong and socks.

"If the evidence demonstrates that any of our current students participated in these activities, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken," said Dr. Michael Allen, athletics director at Catholic University.

Another college cited by badjocks.com is Kenyon in Ohio; members of its 2005 baseball team are seen shaving their heads and drinking. One player's back is marked with an obscene phrase proposing anal sex.

Shawn Presley, a spokesman for the college, said an investigation had begun.

"We're dealing with a generation of students who are so used to the Internet and so used to putting anything on it, whether it's blogs or making their personal lives public, that they lose perspective," he said.

Bruce Madej, an associate athletics direc-

tor at the University of Michigan, said that colleges would have First Amendment issues if they tried to bar students from posting photographs or text on the Internet.

"There is no silver bullet to tell them what they can or can't do," he said. "You have to tell them they not only represent the university but their families. You have to tell them corporations look at those Web sites. Is it awkward? You bet."

Photographs of the Michigan men's lacrosse team's initiations in 2003 and 2004 — which showed players apparently drinking — were posted on badjocks.com yesterday. But Madej said that the coach, John Paul, took disciplinary action against some of the team members two years ago.

Alan White, the athletics director at Elon University in North Carolina, responding to pictures on badjocks.com showing freshmen on the 2005-6 baseball team drinking while blindfolded and wearing bras, called it "unacceptable behavior." In a statement he said that the pictures first appeared on a student's facebook.com page and that disciplinary had been taken against some players.

The eruption of publicity for badjocks.com comes as three lacrosse players at Duke face rape charges, a case that has set off a national discussion on the behavior of athletes on campus. Douglas E. Fierberg, a lawyer who represents victims of hazing and their families, said the pictures had provided documentary evidence that hazing was still a part of campus life.

"You're seeing visually what's essentially been known to take place at universities for years," he said. "Normally you don't get photos because they're destroyed by the fraternities, which are secret organizations."

He said he was struck by a photo of a

Wake Forest Women's Volleyball

Hazing photo

Posted: Jan. 27, 2005

Title of Album: initiation night  
No Captions



Hazing Picture FAQ  
By Dr. Susan Lipkins

Why are there photos on badjocks?

Why is it important to maintain the photos on badjocks?

Why do teams post their members on badjocks?

How does hazing happen?

Do you believe hazing should be abolished?

What are common hazing practices and what are the consequences of hazing?

What are the consequences of hazing? How can we prevent hazing?

What are the consequences for hazing perpetrators?

**'You're seeing visually what's essentially been known to take place at universities for years.'**

**DOUGLAS E. FIERBERG,**  
a lawyer who represents victims of hazing and their families

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Badjocks.com

Badjocks.com posted an event held by the 2005 Wake Forest women's volleyball team.

young woman who had passed out at the Fairleigh Dickinson women's softball team initiation in 2004; it reminded him of Lynn G. Bailey Jr., a University of Colorado freshman who was found dead on the floor of a fraternity house after drinking during an initiation ritual in 2004. "He laid there for nine hours and died," said Fierberg, who is representing Bailey's family in a lawsuit against the fraternity.

Some of the photos on badjocks.com look less insidious than others, and appear to show students at parties. But Susan Lipkins, a psychologist and expert on hazing who has talked about its effects with Reno, said that

hazing was humiliating and degrading, even if it appeared to be fun.

"There is a tremendous amount of planning and continuing a tradition," she said. "At a party, you choose how much to drink, but in hazing, you do it to be part of a group, and the perpetrators want you to be blindly obedient."

Just as publicity of his site was cresting, Reno said yesterday that he would stop posting new hazing photos, to concentrate instead on exposing the sexual abuse of high school students by their coaches.

"We've made our point," he said. "I've reached the saturation point."