

# THE KENTUCKY ENQUIRER

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BEARCATS



**The University of Cincinnati** kicks off its season with a home game against Eastern Kentucky at 7:30 tonight. Follow Bill Koch's in-game blog at NKY.com.

**Search: Bearcats**  
QB Dustin Grutza ready for his shot.  
**SPORTS C1**

## Up Front

Must reads inside today's Enquirer

**No compromise on smoke-free air, advocates say**

Advocates for no-smoking policies don't want any compromises in the measure now before Kenton, Boone and Campbell County governing bodies.  
**NORTHERN KENTUCKY B1**

**Bramlage murder trial to be Oct. 14**

Russell Bramlage will go on trial Oct. 14 in the murder case of his parents, Terry and Lynda Bramlage.  
**NORTHERN KENTUCKY B1**

**Bengals may need a hurry-up offense**

The Bengals could lose twice tonight if their game with Indianapolis is not over by 10 p.m., when Channel 12 plans to switch over to Barack Obama's acceptance speech.  
**SPORTS C8**

Also ...

An Asian factory worker's picture on a new iPhone is attracting attention.  
**BUSINESS A9**

Sea ice in the Arctic Ocean is at its second-lowest level in 30 years.  
**NATION A3**

## WEATHER



High 82°  
Low 62°  
Partly sunny

COMPLETE FORECAST: B8

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# Warshak gets 25 years

By Dan Horn  
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Steven Warshak did more than lie to banks, hide his money and mislead thousands of customers who bought his "male enhancement" pills, a federal judge said Wednesday.

He also dragged his family and friends through a legal mess that left many of them broke and, in some cases, on their way to prison.

The judge said it's a tragedy caused by Warshak's ego and greed.

"Not only is Steve Warshak corrupt, but he corrupted members of his family and good people who worked for him," U.S.

## Judge says Berkeley founder was 'blinded by arrogance'

District Judge S. Arthur Spiegel said. "He gambled with their lives. Steve Warshak was blinded by his arrogance."

Spiegel then sentenced Warshak to 25 years in prison and ordered him, his company and some members of his family to repay more than \$500 million.

The judge also sentenced Warshak's ailing, 75-year-old mother, Harriet Warshak, to two years in prison, but he agreed to let her remain free pending her appeal because of serious medical problems.

The sentences are the culmination of a federal investigation into Warshak and his

company, Berkeley Premium Nutraceuticals, that lasted at least four years and resulted in criminal charges against about a dozen employees and associates.

Most of the charges related to the sale of Enzyte, an herbal supplement that promised to boost men's sexual performance. Enzyte, the company's most popular product, was marketed on TV featuring a grinning character known as Smilin' Bob.

Prosecutors said the ads masked a criminal enterprise that involved false advertising, fraudulent bank documents, hidden profits and unauthorized charges

on customer credit cards.

The key to the scheme was Berkeley's "continuity program," which automatically charged additional orders of Enzyte to credit cards each month. The program was not fully disclosed in ads, and customers who complained were given the run-around or referred to a "quality control" officer who did not exist.

"This scheme permeated the entire operation of this company," Assistant U.S. Attorney Anne Porter said.

See **WARSHAK**, Page A6



Steve Warshak, his family and company will have to pay back \$500 million.

## ELECTION 2008 DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

# Democrats acclaim Obama as nominee



USA Today/Sam Riche

**Democratic vice presidential nominee** Joe Biden is joined by Barack Obama after Biden's speech Wednesday at the Democratic National Convention. Obama is to accept the presidential nomination tonight.

## To accept nomination before 75,000 tonight in Denver

By David Espo  
The Associated Press

**DENVER** — Barack Obama stepped triumphantly into history Wednesday night, the first black American to win a major party presidential nomination, as thousands of Democrats transformed their convention hall into a joyful, shouting celebration.

"I think the convention's gone pretty well so far, what do you think?" called out the Democrats' man of the hour in a surprise late-

night visit to the hall. The crowd thundered its approval, and he and running mate Joe Biden basked in the cheers.

Obama implored the delegates to help him "take back America" in the fall campaign against Republican John McCain of Arizona.

Earlier, former rival Hillary Clinton asked the convention to interrupt its roll call of the states and make its verdict unanimous "in the spirit of unity, with the goal of victory."

Competing chants of "Obama" and "Yes we can" surged up from the

convention floor as the outcome was announced.

McCain will accept the Republican nomination next week in St. Paul, Minn.

The polls show a close race ahead with McCain, a former Vietnam prisoner of war a few days shy of his 72nd birthday, and Obama was hoping Democrats would leave their convention united despite the hard feelings remaining from a primary campaign that stretched 18 months.

See **DEMOCRATS**, Page A2

## Inside, online Nation

■ Democrats say Obama's speech tonight needs less "hope," more "help." **A2**

■ Biden says the US needs more than a good soldier. **A2**

■ Kentuckians fired up by Bill Clinton. **A2**

■ McCain to unveil VP choice Friday in Dayton. **A4**

**Local**

■ AdWatch analyzes new TV spot. **B4**

■ Republicans say right VP can help McCain. **B5**

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**Search: election**



## Online chat

Join reporter Howard Wilkinson for an online chat at noon today at Cincinnati.Com.

# Gustav's path has ominous feeling

## Gulf Coast bound 3 years after Katrina

By Adam Nossiter  
The New York Times

**NEW ORLEANS** — An unsettling sense of the past repeating itself pervaded this city on Wednesday as Tropical Storm Gustav crept this way through the Caribbean, two days before Hurricane Katrina's third anniversary.

Residents bought emergency supplies, evacuation plans were dusted off, a municipal help hot line was flooded with calls, and the mayor rushed home from the Democratic National Convention, even as officials warned that it was too early to predict where the storm would hit.

Louisiana's governor, Bobby Jindal, declared a pre-emptive state of emergency, mobilizing 3,000 National Guard members.

Any damage to New Orleans on the eve of next week's Republican Convention in Minnesota could also serve as a politically tinged reminder of the Bush administration's ineffective response to Hurricane Katrina.

The storm, still south of Cuba Wednesday night, could veer from Florida to the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico, but its current path is aimed at southern Louisiana and Mississippi, which bore the brunt of Hurricane Katrina. Because any evacuation would have to be declared well in advance, officials warned residents to stay alert.

"It's still too early to tell exactly what it will do," Jerry Sneed, the city's director of emergency preparedness, said at a news briefing in City Hall. "Way too early to give a good timeline."

Gustav was downgraded to a tropical storm after grazing Haiti as a Category 1 hurricane with winds of 90 mph. The Associated Press reported that 15 people were killed on Haiti's southern peninsula, while eight died in a landslide in the neighboring Dominican Republic.

See **GUSTAV**, Page A6

# Tiny mites have people scratching



Magnified thousands of times, the mite is seen on an oak leaf.

By Peggy O'Farrell  
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A microscopic critter that feeds on larvae and cicada eggs might be to blame for the region's big itch.

Hamilton County public health officials think a mite called *Pyemotes herfsi* is the culprit for bites, red bumps and rashes being reported in Montgomery, Madeira, Blue Ash, Loveland and other tree-lined suburbs.

Some people also call the mite an itch mite or oak leaf gall mite.

The mites don't spread disease, don't survive indoors and don't live on humans, said Hamilton County Health Commis-

sioner Tim Ingram, but they are a nuisance.

The health department has gotten 15 to 20 calls from individuals and physicians reporting bites and bumps that last for days.

Health inspectors set up traps in Montgomery and Madeira to try to catch the suspect mites. They're working with the Ohio State University Extension Hamilton County to find out if itch mites really are to blame for all the suburban scratching.

So far, the Northern Kentucky Health Department hasn't logged any complaints about unusual insect bites or rashes, said spokeswoman Emily Gresham Wherle.

See **MITES**, Page A6

## 54% itchy

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 54 percent of the population of Crawford County, Kansas — that's about 19,000 people — suffered itch mite bites after an outbreak in August 2004.

■ **More facts about itch mites, A6**

## More than a year behind bars

### Fen-phen lawyer exits jail after bond is cut

Shirley Cunningham Jr. walked out of the federal courthouse in Covington on Wednesday after spending more than a year behind bars. He and William Gallion are waiting to be retried on charges related to the now-banned diet drug fen-phen.

Cunningham is out on bail, which was lowered last week from \$45 million to \$1.25 million. Gallion's bond was reduced from \$52 million to \$2.5 million.

**NORTHERN KENTUCKY B1**

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Dancers: Courtney Connor + Anthony Krutzkamp | Photo: Peter Mueller

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