

So here you are, in Eastern Europe. It's not like the last time you were here, three, maybe four years ago. In fact, the last three years have brought such sweeping changes you're not even sure you are in Eastern Europe. So you consult your Berkeley travel guide, *On the Loose in Eastern Europe*.

There you find all you need to know about traveling the ever-changing terrain. The guides tell you the cheapest places to eat, free places to sleep, hot places to visit and sights you don't want to miss. And there are clear, detailed maps to help you get there.

Challenging Harvard's travel guide series, *Let's Go*, the Berkeley guides provide current information on travel sights, ranging from the icy and dangerous terrain of Alaska to the breathtaking Grand Canyon to Central America — all places that fit into a college student's budget.

The books are put together by 35 U. of California, Berkeley, student writers and 11 editors. Travel writers operate on about a \$50 daily budget.

Andrew Barbour, project coordinator, says Berkeley was chosen because it is considered the antithesis of Harvard. He says the writers take an irreverent tone not found in the more traditional Harvard guides.

"Berkeley seemed the logical choice," Barbour says. "It's located on the West Coast, it's a public institution and academically rated very high."

The *Let's Go* series, also student-written, includes 17 guide books. Both book series cost about the same with the Berkeley books priced from \$14.50 to \$15.50 and the Harvard series costing from \$11.95 to \$17.95.

"Whereas the Berkeley Guides have flash this year, we have substance," says Mark Templeton, a senior at Harvard U. and publishing director for the *Let's Go* series. "The style is not East Coast versus West Coast; it's an informal versus practical approach."

Four Berkeley guides are out now, with four more set to hit the stands this year, along with updated versions of the four originally released. If the experiences the writers endured show through in their work, the books should fare well.

"We had one writer in Romania, in



This guy would have found the Alps with his Berkeley travel guide for Europe.

## THE TRAVEL GUIDE WITH AN ATTITUDE

*Berkeley book takes on 'the other guy' with trip advice*

the remote rural area, who for three days couldn't find any food," Barbour says. "He had money but just couldn't find a place. He eventually begged a farmer to let him do chores, milking cows and things, in order to eat."

Writers in Guatemala were detained in their bus twice for four hours by guerrillas. One was beaten in Managua and another got caught in Panama in the wake of riots following the U.S. intervention in 1990. And yet another spent a night in a river sand bar in Alaska after a plane was forced to make an emergency landing.

For the time being, *Let's Go* and its 33-year existence remains the budget-travel series, based on its endurance and reputation. But Barbour thinks the time has come for a change. "I expect we're going to do tremendously well," he says.



By John C. Cotey, Oracle, U. of South Florida

## ► TSU gets dis-banded

The once soulful band at Texas Southern U. is strutting to a somber tune these days — the sound of silence.

The university temporarily disbanded the Ocean of Soul marching band after members went on an alleged \$22,000 shoplifting spree last December in Tokyo, where the band was performing at halftime of a football game between the U. of Nebraska and Kansas State U.

"TSU students have marched for the last time under that once proud name," says Texas Southern President William Harris.

Officials suspended 12 of the 91 official band members and placed 17 others on probation. The band director and three assistants were reassigned.

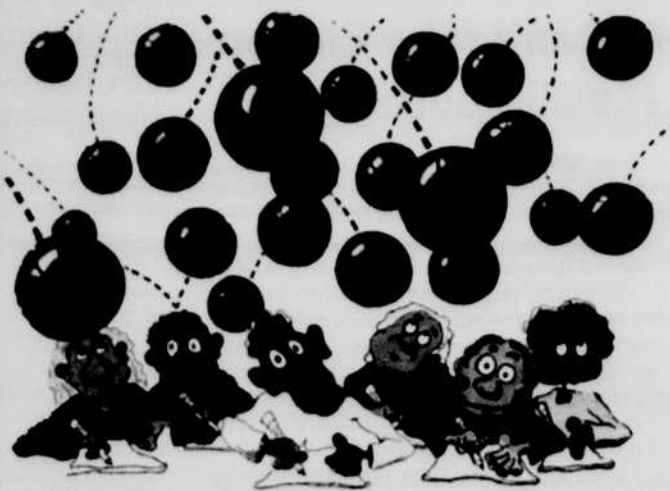
"I think the whole thing was blown out of proportion," says LaTonia Canady, a TSU junior. "Only 12 people out of the band were shoplifting."

Chuck Smith, an assistant vice president at TSU, says it was enough to mar the reputation of the band, which gained prominence by performing for Jesse Jackson and Nelson Mandela.

Next year when band members bring their well-tailored maroon and gray uniforms out of the closet, they will bear a different name.

"Dishonor has been brought to [the old name]," Smith says.

■ Ericka Schiche, *The Daily Cougar*, U. of Houston



## ► Slam dunking French

Students in the U. of Colorado's introductory French courses received an early holiday gift courtesy of the women's basketball team — "A"s on their fall semester final.

The blanket grades were given to more than 500 first- and second-year French students after a scheduling error between the CU French department and the basketball team.

Both had arranged to use the Coors Events Center — CU's 12,000 seat basketball arena — on the morning of Dec. 14. About an hour and 1/2 into the 7:30 a.m. test, the Lady Buffs began to take the court for their scheduled 9 a.m. practice.

After the graduate student proctors and basketball coaches failed to resolve the impasse, the proctors ended the examination and announced to the cheering throng of students that they would all receive "A"s for their uncompleted tests.

"I was psyched," says junior Eric Staples, "but I also thought it was completely ridiculous."

Coach Ceal Barry says she never anticipated any trouble. "We practice every day at the Events Center, so I thought scheduling it would be no problem."

CU Chancellor James Corbridge reportedly blamed the French department and the coach for the mix-up but said academics must come first in the future.

"Everything was hung up on the scheduling as if they were equal issues and it was just a matter of finding it on record, but 500 people have to take precedence over 12," French professor Mimi Mortimer says. "As a professor, I would say you can't just stop a final. Academics should come first." ■ Greg Avery, *Campus Press*, U. of Colorado