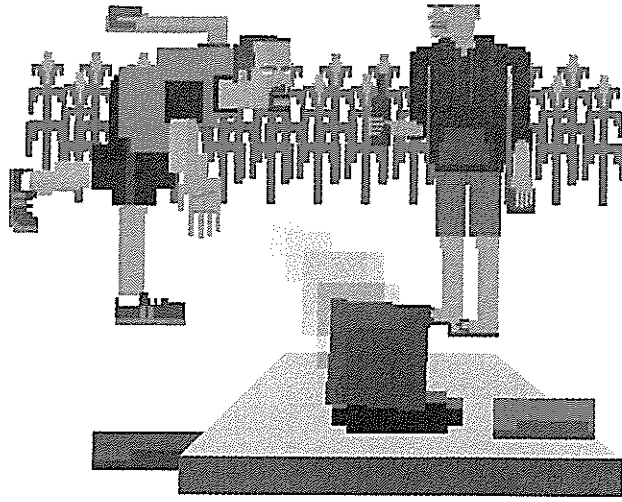


DRIVES

FOR YEARS, FANS OF looking silly while being lazy have heralded Segway inventor Dean Kamen as a genius. Now golfers can join the adoring crowd, with the Segway x2 Golf. Equipped with a bag carrier and a scorecard holder, the x2 uses LeanSteer technology and low-pressure tires to make a ride that's not only smooth but turf-friendly, and able to go where no cart has gone before. "It's like hitting your ball, then sprinting to it with all of your clubs," says Segway's Chip MacDonald of the \$6,175 ride. The x2 already has a home at 10 courses nationwide, thanks in no small part to its ease of use. "You're pretty much an expert after a hole or two," says Brad Marra, manager at Palmetto Dunes (S.C.), which has a dozen x2's. If only the same could be said for the game itself.

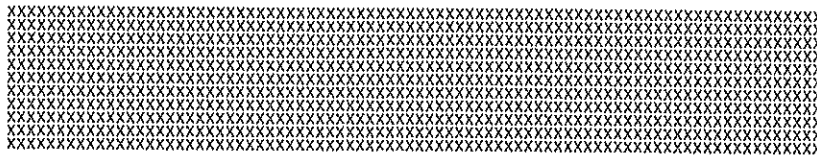
-JASON CATANIA



CORN NUTS

IT'S CALLED CORNHOLE, AND THE RULES ARE SIMPLE: Players take turns tossing a small bag on a board 30 feet away that has been propped at an angle and has a hole near the top. If the corn-filled sack goes in the hole, the thrower gets three points. If the sack stays on the board, he gets one. The first team or individual to get to 21 wins. Despite the simplicity of the game—or perhaps due to it—cornhole is quickly becoming as popular as its name is unseemly. Promoters for the first annual Windy City Cornhole Classic, held at Soldier Field, expected 500 players; 4,000 showed up. That's the kind of buzz that compelled Frank Geers, a married father of three, to quit his job, refinance his mortgage and drain his 401(k) to found the American Cornhole Organization. Geers' nascent league is planning a King of Cornhole national championship in Mesquite, Nev., in January—complete with a \$13,500 purse. "My wife is starting to warm to the idea," Geers says. So are sponsors. Chipotle signed on to the Windy City Classic, while Carnival Cruise Lines carries the ACO's boards on its ships. And this fall, Cincinnati native Tim Clarke will submit the mockumentary *Cornhole: The Movie* to Sundance. All of which reaffirms Geers' faith in the game. "This is a sport that will be around for years and years to come," he boasts. You can almost picture James Naismith saying the same thing.

-PAUL KIX



W2W4 WHAT TO WATCH FOR

08.23 | THURSDAY

CHIVAS AT GALAXY

LA's top two soccer teams square off for Tinseltown bragging rights. Think of it as Man U vs. Manchester City, only with more Botox and less skill.

08.25 | SATURDAY

TRIVERS STAKES: SARATOGA, N.Y.

The winning horse gets his colors painted on a canoe at the track, honoring the long link between thoroughbreds and, um, recreational boating.

08.27 | MONDAY

U.S. OPEN, FIRST DAY: FLUSHING, N.Y.

Nikolay Davydenko's month goes from bad to worse when he spots Tim Donaghy in the stands.

08.30 | THURSDAY

BREWERS AT CUBS

With more than a month left in the regular season, the NL Central foes face off for the last time. Defensive MLB schedule-makers: *As if you knew this would be a rivalry.*

-BRETT ZARDA

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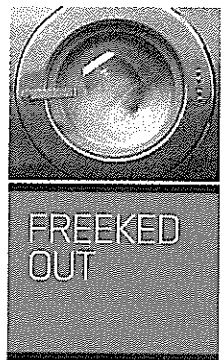
200-Game Winners No heirs apparent to vaunted benchmark? No worries: Just lower it!

Jan Silva Cali tennis phenom, 5, enrolls in French academy. Biggest flaws: racket speed, nap frequency.

USSF Academy Soccer fed starts nationwide youth program to grow U.S. talent. European clubs: Yesss.

Dara Torres 40-year-old swimmer sets U.S. 50m freestyle record. Selig issues lukewarm congrats.

Pacman Jones Titan joins TNA wrestling. Because nothing helps an image like steel-cage matches.



WHEN A 2003 OUTBREAK of staph infections among the Rams required CDC intervention, football realized it needed to clean up. Subsequent outbreaks, including two that caused the deaths of NCAA footballers, proved that something stronger than hand sanitizer was needed. Enter CleanFreeK, which makes towels, shower sandals and floor mats infused with a bacteria-beating microbicide. Other offerings include potent detergents, cleansers and nasal tests (CleanFreeK says a third of us harbor potentially harmful bugs but don't know it). It's too soon to tell if the products will have any effect, but half the NFL and a handful of MLB, NBA and NHL squads are already cleaning up their acts.

-BRETT ZARDA

ALL NEWS Thirty-three Texas high school cheerleaders brawl at summer camp ... Revealed: Health inspectors logged 188 rat violations at Angel Stadium over past 2½ years ...