

KAPLAN

Newsweek



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Your
**Admissions
Checklist**
Dates, Deadlines
And More

AMERICA'S HOTTEST COLLEGES

★ **New 2006 Edition** ★

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**The New SAT:
What's a
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KEEP ON SALE UNTIL OCTOBER 2, 2006

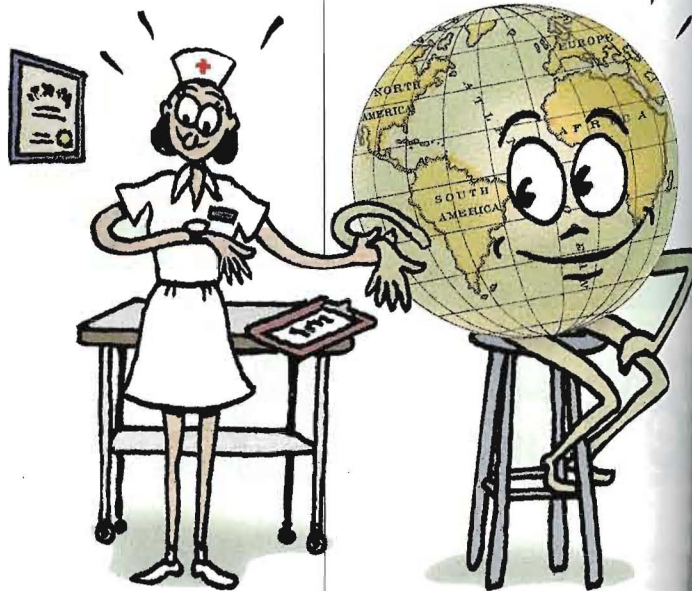
Inside the Ivy Tower

THE MOST FEVERISH MAJORS

UNDERGRADUATES WHO HATE crowds may want to forget about careers such as nursing and diplomacy. Degrees in international relations (IR for short) have gone up 12 percent in the past decade, according to the U.S. Department of Education—and bachelor's degrees in public health have jumped 60 percent. In both cases, employment opportunities are a big reason. In the corporate realm, globalization favors job candidates who know local languages, customs and history. And the health-related professions are wide open. A big portion of the public-health work force is reaching retirement age, and demand for medical services is expected to soar as baby boomers get older. But it's not just jobs. Important things are happening where IR and health intersect—like the war on AIDS.

One thing to remember in picking your major: trends don't last. Fields like art history and film, which slumped in the mercenary 1980s, are coming back strong. "Majoring in something you're interested in is the single most important step in an education," says Bill Conley, overseer of the career center at Johns Hopkins. "Jobs and careers will follow." Any major can be a hot one. All it takes is your own passion.

—ANDREW HORESH



DON'T LET THE FEAR OF LONELY Saturday nights keep you from considering an all-female school. "Women's college' does not mean 'no boys,'" says Susan Lennon, executive director of the Women's College Coalition. "They're not cloisters." Nearly all of America's 60 or so women-only colleges have close social and academic ties with nearby coed schools. At all-female Bryn Mawr, just outside Philadelphia, students can take a shuttle bus to coed Haverford, only 10 minutes away. Classes, social events, even dining either. Up in New York City, women's street, and the boundary between even have a housing-exchange program. More than 20 Columbia men lived in plenty of guys wherever you go—o

MAKE ME A MATCH

CHOOSING A SCHOOL CAN BE THE TOUGHEST CALL YOU'VE ever made. Just Google "college search" to see how many sites cater to applicants. The College Board runs one of the most popular services—it's free (collegeboard.com/csearch). But commercial matchmakers also draw traffic. YesLetter.com provides six months of unlimited advice and feedback throughout the application process for \$70. Other sites, such as destination-u.com, concentrate on where to apply. While the College Board's service asks you to describe the school you want, Destination-U has you describe yourself. About \$50 gets you a FitList of 15 or so schools. "By focusing on schools that are a great fit, students have a better chance of being admitted," says cofounder Greg Waldorf. Matchmaker, matchmaker, anyone?

—TESSA NAMUTH

CAMP CAMPUS

YOU DON'T TRUST YOUR HIGH school's guidance counselor to make the grade? Don't despair. Worried college applicants can seek extra assistance at various summer camps and on-campus summer programs designed to help students boost SAT scores, compose effective college-admission essays, and figure out which colleges might be most suitable. Sites to check out include summerfun.com, www.asaprograms.com and brightonedegrees.com. Courses aren't cheap: Education Unlimited (educationunlimited.com), the oldest and largest outfit in the business, offers 10-day sessions for 11th and 12th graders at a price of roughly \$2,400. The company's CEO, Matt Fraser, argues that EU's aim is to provide private-school students with a fraction of private-school tuition. And a taste of dorm life—campuses for 2005 included Tufts, Stanford, UCLA, and the State University of New York at Stony Brook.



What summer was like, once upon a time

STRESS: FINAL

THINGS GET SURREAL AT CRAM TIME. As finals approach, students at Harvard and Columbia close their dorm windows and emit a pressure as usual compared with what they carry on the school's "naked doughnut



to stress-control experts. You'll feel better after a fast break from studying and do something to control. Then get back to your books. If you might find out what real stress is.