

# RUMORS

BY RUSS BENGTON

We think it would be kind of cool if Jordan went back to numerical designations for the Air Jordan 25 (XX5? 2V?). But they probably won't....Looks like the whole boat shoe thing was actually serious. Who knew?....Nike's dropping a Trainer 2 that commemorates Bo Jackson's *Tecmo Bowl* character. Let's hope this leads to an entire run of video-game character-endorsed shoes. Or, um, not....Who's gonna have a better rookie season in the NBA, Brandon Jennings or his Under Armour kicks?....The best part about all the "fusions" and "hybrids" and "updates" these days are the true-to-the-original retro models that come out as seeming afterthoughts....It seems like a no-brainer that Etonic would re-issue Hakeem Olajuwon's original signature shoe, The Dream, but maybe just to us....Reebok went through all the trouble of designing "Gremlins" Pump Omni Lites, but couldn't figure out how to get them to reproduce when they got wet?....So bummed Nike has yet to do a Nike x Coogi shoe for Lamar Odom. Who do we need to call?....If hightops get much higher, companies are gonna need to figure out how to put in knee joints....If Vans were to make a performance basketball shoe—not that they will—there'd be plenty of potential endorsees....

## Look, Don't Touch

### NEW SENSATION

QUEENS-BASED ARTIST AND SNEAKER CUSTOMIZING QUEEN ERICA PURNELL, AKA I GOT PINK EYE, LOVES HER SNEAKERS.

"Everybody knew I was an artist, so they trusted me with doing their shoes. I just started earning a little extra cash here and there and it became something bigger than I expected it to be.

The Air Max Sensation did it for me; The Sensations were when I realized I loved shoes. I saw this kid in my building with them and I was so stuck on them. Now I try and call myself a sneaker lover, or a sneaker connoisseur, rather than a collector. I'm always on the hunt for good deals and the best buys and I follow what my taste is. —AS TOLD TO CHRIS O'LEARY

## Change Clothes

With adidas' help, KG is channeling his emotions in a new direction.

Kevin Garnett is the ultimate competitor. It's clear which side of the fence KG would decide to live on if asked, "Would you rather be loved or feared?" Love has a way of enabling your competition to want to impress you and show how much you have inspired them, but fear...fear is what takes your opponents out of their comfort zone. Until the mid-'90s, that would've been fine. But these days, all it gets you is trouble. This here new NBA is no place for aggressive behavior. Stern's put the word out and he's not having it, even if it's for the love of the game. Screaming obscenities after dunks? Tech. Clean, hard fouls? Tech. The NBA has gone soft, and this is why KG has announced his retirement. He will be leaving the A to join his favorite football team, Chelsea FC of the English Premier League. Adidas has approved and fully supports the change and has begun manufacturing KG Chelsea jerseys, scarves and kicks. Now KG can be himself again: the loud, passionate, intense, obnoxious competitor he was raised to be.

Actually, some of the above is not true (the part about KG retiring and leaving for Chelsea FC). Simply put, Kevin loves football (more so Chelsea), and he's making his love known this fall. The TS Commander LT x KG x CFC will be available November 1 (\$110). And if you want the whole package, including a Chelsea Garnett jersey, scarf and kicks, the complete set will be available at Bodega in Boston for \$275. This set is fresher than a day-old newborn and will have you and your momma screaming gooooooo!!! —KONATE PRIMUS

