Potatoes lose in final tournament of their careers

By Lori Steinhauer
Of the Emerald

After returning last week from the National Invitational College Bowl Tournament at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., the Famous Potatoes said that while they may have taken a roasting, their efforts weren't "half-baked."

"I'm kind of embarrassed. I thought we'd do much better," said Robert Hanks, captain of the spuds. "It was so nice last week because everyone was stopping us and saying 'good luck,' " he added.

Although the team did not score as high as it did in last year's invitational, Hanks said that overall the Potatoes were pretty hot. "I think we performed better, even though our record slipped one notch," Hanks said.

The spuds finished with six wins and nine losses, which was one step down from their record of seven wins and eight losses at last year's competition at Emory.

The Potatoes were up against tougher competition this year, Hanks said. The invitational served as the final tournament this year because the national tournament is not being held due to a lack of sponsorship. Hanks said that for the second consecutive year the University of North Carolina team won the contest.

"They blew out almost everybody by enormous scores," he said.

Faithful followers of the Famous Potatoes may regret that this year's team will not return in the same form next year because three of the team members — Hanks, Dave Paul and Hal Zweben — are graduating this year.

"We lasted three years under three different names," Hanks said. The first year Hanks played with the Smith Smart Guys, who regrouped as the Tacoma Express for last year's regional competition at the University of Puget Sound, in Tacoma, Wash. This year the University's winning team was transformed into the Famous Potatoes for the regionals in Boise, Idaho, where the third-place finish won the spuds an invitation to the Atlanta "think-off."

But Hanks said he thinks the other two hot potatoes, Jeff Osanka, a graduate student in public affairs, and Chris Kammeyer, a sophomore biology student, will help carry on the college bowl tradition at the University even though they may not play on a team together.

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Dorm residents to suggest 'spacey' new modifications

By Kirsten Bolin
Of the Emerald

Some University dorms soon may be getting face lifts once the housing department begins instituting its new "space-case" improvement plans, says Sally Smith, University Inn director.

"I believe dorms are a good place to live," Smith says, but adds that their livability will be greatly increased with the minor, and sometimes major, modifications that the housing department project will allow.

Packets asking for students' suggestions and plans were distributed to dorm residents by the housing department in early February. Since then, the department has received a variety of suggestions, ranging from adding a spiral staircase between rooms on separate floors, to putting a thermal backing on curtains.

"Students are the ones who know the best," Smith says. "We should utilize them while they're here."

Smith first suggested the idea for the project at a housing staff meeting early last year as a possible way of maintaining student interest in the dorms, should the University's student population decline. A 10-person "space-case" committee, including resident assistants, food service personnel and interested students, was organized to contact students and discuss their suggestions, Smith says.

Students are encouraged to make suggestions for improving public areas, such as basements and hallways, as well as individual rooms, Smith says. The department also is seeking feedback on ways to improve "common interest living arrangements," she says.

Suggestion and plan packets still can be picked up at all area desks, Smith says, and she encourages all students who have not yet participated in the project to do so.

Funds for the minor changes, which could be implemented this spring, will come from a basic operating fund the housing department maintains through resident room and board payments. Any major remodeling approved by the committee will be funded next year by capital budget reserves.

The committee will meet next week to look over the ideas and pick some of the more feasible ones to pass on to Marjory Ramey, director of housing, for review.

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Poet to talk on American women's poetry movement

Alicia Ostriker, a Rutgers University English professor who is also a poet and a critic, will discuss "The Imperative of Intimacy: Toward a Gynocentric Poetics" Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in Gerlinger Lounge.

The speech, co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Women in Society and the English department, will focus on the women's poetry movement in America since 1960.

The lecture is from Ostricker's work-in-progress, "The Nerves of a Midwife: Women's Poetry and Women's Identity."

Ostriker's work has appeared in Poetry, Ms., The Nation and American Poetry Review, among other magazines.

She is the author of five books of poetry, most recently "The Mother/Child Papers" and "A Woman Under the Surface."

As a critic, Ostriker has written on American women's poetry. She is the recipient of a 1984 Guggenheim Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts award for poetry and a Rockefeller Fellowship for humanities research.

Ostriker will give a poetry reading tonight at 8 p.m. in Room 101 EMU. The reading is sponsored by the Creative Writing Program.

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