

Playing Dirty Gets Popular

Ah, the signs of spring. Chirping robins. Blooming daffodils. And, of course, oozeball—regulation volleyball played in 60 tons of mud. Created at the University of Nebraska in 1979, this sport has spread nationwide, wallowing in its reputation as a no-booze fund-raiser and good time.

Oozing well requires slush funds: a thousand dollars to dig a pit and \$90 for the debris-free "clean" dirt needed to fill it. Teams play elimination rounds on firmer terra, leaving the lucky survivors to muck through the finals. "When you fall," says Pam Ornton, a sophomore at the University of California-Santa Barbara, "you're in . . . swampy land." Injuries are rare, although "you'll be digging mud out of places you never knew existed," warns Kyle Hoffman, director of the student alumni association at Santa Barbara. Spectators aren't safe either. "It's kind of like Orca at Sea World," muses Adrian Fiala, who slimed himself in Nebraska's first tourney. "If you sit in front, you're gonna get splashed."

Volleyball purists may turn up their noses at this sloppy pseudosport, but Hoffman deadpans, "It's just good clean fun."

Blue Devils Show It Off

The lights go out, replaced by a pulsating strobe. Sexy music rises as the tuxedoed emcee says, "Picture the man of your dreams." Thumpa-thumpa. "ARE YOU READY FOR HIM?" A clean-cut young Duke student in a suit and sunglasses steps onto the dance floor, to be greeted by raucous cheers. He begins to



Slip-sliding away: Oozeball enthusiasts at Santa Barbara

strip—and to tease. Three other male dancers, variously dressed as a cowboy, Rambo or a beach boy who invites the crowd to slick him up with baby oil, follow him onto the makeshift stage, to the delight of 100 sorority sisters. By the end of the troupe's one-hour, \$250 performance, all the men are similarly undressed in bikini briefs or boxer shorts—with some helping hands from the audience.

These strips are staged by "Chippenduke's," modeled after Chippendale's, the beefcake emporia in New York and Los Angeles. Adam Raben, a 1985 Duke grad now enrolled in medical school at Wake Forest, says he and Duke junior Madison Clark first peeled for pay at a postfinals sorority party. "We thought, 'What a way to make money. It's too easy,'" Raben recalls. It's been goose bumps and screaming women ever since. Junior neuroscience major Debbie Petrucelli hired Chippenduke's for a birthday party and says by way of endorsement, "I don't think they could have gotten much more risqué."

The artists admit initial stage fright, but premed psy-

chology major Dan Diaco says, "That's a high in itself. That's why people sky-dive." The group has stuck to private parties and sororities at Duke, Wake Forest and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, eschewing more lucrative nightclubs to avoid, they say, overexposure. Though Clark graduates this spring, he says the strip team will continue, with new bodies recruited from his fraternity brothers. After all, the showoff must go on.

Bumps and grinds: Duke stripper takes it off at a recent party

WILL OWENS



Dramatizing Hazing Danger

Hazing was formally outlawed by every national fraternity more than 50 years ago. Yet, in the last 10 years alone, at least 39 students have died and countless others have been injured in fraternity hazing incidents.

Now one organization, Alpha Tau Omega, has bankrolled an antihazing video called "Hazing on Trial." Produced by David Westol, 39, a lawyer and a national vice president of Theta Chi, this courtroom drama cost ATO only \$5,000. Starring University of Illinois students, the program shows the fictitious prosecution of a fraternity president on manslaughter charges after a pledge he's ordered to get drunk ends up choking to death.

ATO, which has had its own hazing problems, is circulating 120 copies of the show nationwide. Hazing, warns Westol, "isn't something you snap your fingers at and watch disappear." Many fraternities are trying to clarify what actually constitutes hazing. Says Mark Mullinix, a national ATO officer, "Many members don't see the connection between the severe and benign forms of the pernicious practice."