

# NEWS & NOTES

NEWSBRIEFS FROM CAMPUSES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

## ► Oh give me a home, where the buffaloes roam...

Forget tailgating on the back of a beat-up Escort or slurping brewskies and eggs at a local dive. How about "watergating" with Husky fans at the U. of Washington? Or "Humpin' It" with students from Texas A&M?

It's college football nirvana — where students will do just about anything for the home team. Like at the U. of Washington.

Here students party on waves near their home field. For Washington fans, the civilized boozin' and cruisin' on the waters that border Husky Stadium is a class ride.

"It's a celebratory-type thing," says senior Peter Randall. "College students drink beer all the time — for any reason. This is something special, something different. Husky football games are special events."

Special enough that students will go all out for their teams. And once the main event begins, those responsible for starting the wave and rallying the troops take control. Mascots like Ralphie of the Colorado Buffaloes bring fan support to new extremes as the spiritual leaders of the college football world.

Ralphie III, the fifth buffalo to sport the moniker of "Colorado mascot," is the pride and joy of Boulder. Following in the hoofsteps of predecessors Mr. Chips and Moon, Ralphie has continued the tradition of leading the Colorado team onto the field at the start of the game and second half. Part of the introduction includes running toward the visitor's bench.

Intimidation at its finest, Buffalo-style.

The Florida Gators don't need a rushing buffalo, though. U. of Florida fans have George Edmondson, a 70-year-old Tampa resident, who rouses the fans with a "two-bits, four-bits, six-bits, a dollar" cheer, started some 42 years ago. "When [I] hold up that sign and blow that whistle — I can get absolute silence at that stadium. And with a wail of an arm — I can get 85,000 going strong. It's a real revelation," he says.

As for the fan participation to end all traditions, try the art of "Humpin' It" at Texas A&M games. In the pre-eminent preparation of cheering, Aggie spectators assume the position. With back bent forward and hands on their knees, A&M fans are in a stance that allows the loudest possible coordinated yells. They truly are the Einsteins of football fanatics.

After the game has ended — victory safely in the home team's hands — it's time to put a capper on the afternoon... with a roll of toilet paper.

When the Auburn Tigers conquer an opponent at Jordan-Hare Stadium, students flock to the corner of College and Magnolia streets to "Roll Toomer's" — wrapping toilet paper around a group of oak trees located across the street from Toomer's Pharmacy. While no official organization sponsors the event, it's a tradition tolerated by the city of Auburn and its police department, despite subtle attempts to downplay it.

"At times, we've tried to quell [the activity]," says Auburn Police Captain John Lockhart, "but the city finds it harmless and acceptable behavior. It's an accepted tradition. We don't condemn it or condone it. It's something that has been here as long as I can remember." ■ Brian Gallagher, *The Pitt News*, U. of Pittsburgh



## ► Duke early birds catch red-eye courses

Freshmen at Duke U. who thought early morning classes were only a high school hassle are getting a rude awakening at college this fall.

Officials there are forcing freshmen to take 8 a.m. composition courses.

"It is harsh," says freshman Danielle Lemmon. "We just got out of high school, where we had to wake up [before] 8 a.m."

The new policy is supposed to alleviate campus bus crowding and diminish the midday classroom crunch.

But graduate students who have to teach the 8 a.m. classes fear rooms full of groggy freshmen.

And they are angry nobody consulted them before the policy went into effect.

"We are apparently no more worthy of self-representation than the hypothetical beer-guzzling freshmen the university hopes it can make clean and sober," says English graduate student Bill Maxwell.

Michael Jurgens, who completed the writing



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ERIN RANDALL, THE DAILY TAP, HELL, U. OF NORTH CAROLINA

Alarming thought: Freshmen up before dawn

course before the new policy took place, says students won't learn as much at 8 a.m.

"A lot of people can't function that early," he says. "Class discussion [won't] be as good."

Freshman Will Henson says students in his 8 a.m. class were not attentive during the first week of classes.

"The teacher was alert and very awake, a lot more than the students," Henson says.

But Harry Demik, an associate registrar at Duke, says someone had to give.

It makes sense, he says, to require the freshmen, virtually all of whom arrived at their high schools before 8 a.m., to take the early-

bird classes.

And although Lemmon is disappointed with the scheduling of the classes, she says first-year students should expect to pay their dues.

"As a freshman it kind of sucks," Lemmon says. "When I'm a sophomore, I'll probably think it's great." ■ Michael Saul, *The Chronicle*, Duke U.

## ► It does matter if you're black or white at Memphis

Electing a homecoming court at Memphis State U. had turned into a black-white thing in the past few years. So this year Memphis State won't have a homecoming court.

And Shannon Sims, who wore the final crown, is waving a cheerful goodbye to the once timeless tradition. "I definitely think people blame me," she says. "They are going to say, 'She screwed it up.' But what it all boils down to is Memphis State is way too racially divided to handle a homecoming queen. It's not worth the trouble."

The homecoming court, indeed, had become trouble for the Tennessee university. In 1989, Memphis State crowned its first black queen in more than 20 years. The next year, the university crowned a second black queen. By 1991, when Sims defeated a black contestant for the crown, the battle lines had been drawn.

"The white people were taking up for me, and the blacks were calling me a cheater and a bad person," says Sims, who was allowed to remain in the race despite infractions found by an election commission.

Shawn Carter, the 1990 queen, refused to crown Sims. "They did not want another black queen and that was obvious," Carter says. "I hate to say it was a black-white thing, but it is."

So administrators put an end to the homecoming court this year.

But 1989 black homecoming queen Yolanda Hill says racial charges during homecoming are an indication of much larger problems which, a year later, still exist. "It's a bigger issue than homecoming." ■ Kyle Foster, *Kentucky Kernel*, U. of Kentucky



Sims — "They blame me"

LEANNE ELIUS, MEMPHIS STATE U.