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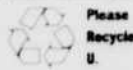
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Alabama fan loved Crimson Tide to death

Alabama fans are known for their football spirit. Some never miss a game. Some bleed crimson. But Rufus Strickland found a way to go one better.

Strickland, known to his friends as "Strick," planned a posthumous tribute to the Crimson Tide. Above his headstone, in a cemetery directly across from Bryant-Denny Stadium, a sign reads, "Roll Tide Roll, Strick and Friends." There is also an inscription on his tombstone that says, "Hi. Thanks for stopping by, Strick."

His widow, Faye Strickland, says Strick designed the headstone and inscription at least three years before his death last July. "He planned his grave site like that because he wanted all of his friends to come see him on the way to the game,"



Rufus Strickland proclaims his undying love for Alabama.

says Faye, who decorates the site before football games and holidays.

"It just proves that there is true 'Bama enthusiasm in the afterlife,'" says senior Brad Nesbitt.

Fanatical alums are accepted as normal at most "football" schools, but the fact that Strick didn't even go to the university makes his story all the more bizarre. He attended Athens College, but quit to enroll in mortician's school.

According to his widow, there has only been one case of vandalism to Strick's decorative grave. On the night of homecoming, someone stole a four-foot high elephant (Alabama's mascot) which she had placed there.

Although Faye will be laid to rest alongside Strick one day, she will be on the side farthest from the football stadium. Strick bought land directly from the city of Tuscaloosa,

carefully ensuring that no one's grave would be closer to the stadium than his. ■ Barzella Estle, *The Crimson White*, U. of Alabama

From television CEO to BMOC

In the '70s, he was the youngest president CBS ever had, and he went on to found cable's Arts & Entertainment Network. But now, as president of Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania, Arthur Taylor says he has his dream job. And he's using his business background to tackle it.

"Believe it or not, the creative business companies and how they are managed are almost identical to the kind of management you use within a college," says Taylor, 57, who was dean of the business school at Fordham U. from 1985 to 1992.

A proponent of quality-control management, Taylor believes in inviting input from employees at every level of a company or institution. And because this approach has proven effective for Ford and Xerox, Taylor canceled classes for a day during the 1992-93 school year and held a "plan-in" to hear the concerns of students, faculty and staff. More than 1,110 of the school's 1,650 students attended the meetings and came up with 76 specific initiatives. Twenty-five of those



Taylor, on campus with his new execs.

initiatives have been implemented, including a senior work-study program in the administration.

"What we're trying to do here is to put decision-making in those places where the greatest knowledge is — which in most cases happens to be with the students," says Taylor, who doubles as a career counselor for seniors. "The goal is to find a less expensive way of delivering a high quality education."

When Taylor arrived at Muhlenberg less than two years ago, "There was a little skepticism at first because he was a big-time CEO for CBS," says Student Body President Mike Doyle. "But he has far exceeded all of our expectations. We're not small-time employees for a corporate executive." ■ Shaun Rachau, *The State News*, Arizona State U.

How's about a nice knuckle sandwich?

All-night eateries have their share of rowdy customers. But the Country Kitchen in Iowa City, Iowa, will probably never see another patron quite like heavyweight boxer Tommy Morrison.

Morrison, who briefly held the World Boxing Organization title last summer and played rising boxer Tommy Gunn in 1990's *Rocky V*, was convicted of assaulting customer Bill Strout, a sophomore at the U. of Iowa, in the restaurant.

Strout says he and his friends were studying early in the morning on Dec. 7 when Morrison entered.

"I was just looking at him when we made eye contact, and he gave me a look like he was angry," Strout says. He says he had looked away when Morrison struck him in the head from behind, knocking him to the floor.

"He picked me up off the floor and told me to shut up and warned me not to look at him, not to giggle, and that he was going to kill me," Strout says.

A police breathalyzer test showed that Morrison had a blood alcohol level of 0.24, according to Iowa City Police Sgt. Craig Lihs. The state intoxication level (for drivers) is 0.1.

Morrison consented to be fined \$310 for assault and public intoxication, but apparently did so for convenience and still denies the allegations against him. Morrison's attorneys refused comment. ■ Jim Annexstad, *The Daily Iowan*, U. of Iowa