

The Royal Treatment

Once upon a time, in a faraway land called Bowling Green, Ky., there was a king who ruled his kingdom from atop a hill. This kingdom was called Western Kentucky U., and the king was known to all as President Thomas Meredith.

Last summer, the king and his queen, Susan, took a European vacation. But instead of paying for the trip from their own reserves, they spent \$3,798 of the commoners' coins and were given an additional \$563.47. Spending money, perhaps?

The serfs who toiled hard at the fast food joints and marketplaces and the vassals who labored within the castle confines were sorely upset.

The young serfs tightened their belts, bracing themselves for a budget crunch. Next year, the political cohorts of King Thomas say, the serfs will have to pay an extra \$100 to \$300 to visit the kingdom — a fee his highness calls a "tuition hike."

The king tried to justify his \$4,361.47 travel claim, saying he worked hard for seven of the 17 days, visiting colleges in England and France that have joint programs with Western. Alas! The poor king was unable to document any part of his trip, or, at first, to name the people he met.

The serfs and vassals demanded names, so King Thomas remembered one — a princely fellow named Michael Klembara, the executive director of the Cooperative Center for Study in Britain. Klembara, however, lives in Northern Kentucky — the king must have decided to discuss business on neutral ground. No, not Switzerland. They met in England.

The King's courtiers — the chair of the board of regents, a finance and administration cabinet member of the state and a member of the governor's office — later revealed they had granted the king and queen's fondest wish: to travel abroad, no questions asked.

Ah! To be king!

■ Dawn Ang, *College Herald*, Western Kentucky U.

(Pizza) Topping the Scales

Pizza. Enemy to hips everywhere, it holds therapeutic power during late-night study sessions.

But Domino's Pizza, through its "Freshman 15" program, tried to make pizza a solution to the common weight gain that many first-year students experience.

No, the chain hasn't invented noncaloric pizza. But from September until December 1994, select Domino's Pizza shops, located on or near college campuses in Washington, D.C., New York City and Ann Arbor, Mich., held monthly "weigh-ins" for students interested in maintaining their weight. Students who succeeded won a free medium thin-crust pizza with one vegetable topping at the end of each month.

"It's a promotion that we thought would appeal to college students," says Frank Meeks, owner of Domino's Pizza Team Washington. With 200 students participating in the Washington area, he may be right.

But does thin-crust pizza a thin person make? One-third of a medium pizza contains 385.7 calories and 16.7 grams of fat.

"The point was to show students that pizza is a good part of overall nutrition," Meeks says. "Too often college students just think of [it as] late-night munchies."

"Pizza includes all the four food groups, depending on the toppings. It's still healthy [when eaten] within reason."

Sandra Blumenthal, a freshman at George Washington U., says she subjected herself to the monthly scale-hopping to keep fit. "I knew I wouldn't have my parents helping me watch what I eat when I started school," she says. "Plus, free pizza is always welcome."

Area supervisor for Domino's Pizza Team Washington Ed Treacy says the Freshman 15 program started slowly at Howard U. but gained popularity during the semester.

"Closer to the end of the semester, students are out of money and are looking for creative new ways to [save] funds," Treacy says.

Keisha Johnson, a freshman at the U. of Maryland who calls herself "scale allergic," says the humiliation factor kept her from participating in the program.

"What does a medium pizza cost — \$5?" Johnson asks. "If I'm going to be hauling myself on a scale in front of people, I better be seeing \$500 or \$5,000."

■ Jennifer Christman, *The Diamondback*, U. of Maryland



Pizza that won't go to waist?

Home Runaround

Small-town Pennsylvania legislatures are playing hardball. First, a "good neighbor" ordinance was adopted in Bloomsburg, where Bloomsburg U. of Pennsylvania is located. Now California, Pa., is considering a similar policy that will affect California U. of Pennsylvania students.

Under this policy, a landlord's boarding house permit may be revoked after an

individual address receives any combination of three ordinance, police or code violations. Translation: one, two, three strikes, you're out — on the streets, with all of your belongings.

Landlords and tenants have been given the impression that they're about to strike out. Phi Kappa Theta fraternity, whose house is located off-campus, was the first to receive a strike.

"Our landlord didn't receive a formal letter about the policy until after we received our first strike," says Rich Pronesti, spokesman for Phi Kappa Theta. "We heard rumors about [the policy], but that's it."

Concerned about eviction, the fraternity attempted to persuade town council to make the policy a little more reasonable by proposing a program of designated party times and community service instead of strikes, but the council refused to accept the proposal. The fraternity now has two strikes.

But these "strikes" have no bite of law yet. Council member John DiFilippo, head of zoning, says the three strikes policy is only in the proposal stage. He says neighbors have been complaining about the noise and destruction that go on during and after students' parties.

"We're not against the students having parties," he says. "We just want to cut down on the noise that people complain about, from parties at 2 or 3 in the morning."

DiFilippo says that the strikes are really just warnings. Translation: scare tactic.

Although the council insists that the policy has no specific targets, students tend to disagree.

Daniel Cook, a CUP junior and Phi Mu Delta brother, says that the policy targets Greeks.

"They seem to overlook how much we do for this place," Cook says. "Life's too short — we're gonna have fun while we're here. If we get evicted, they're gonna see us sleeping on the neighbors' lawns."

Phi Mu Delta has two strikes — one disorderly conduct violation for having a wrestling match in the kitchen and one noise violation.

Local residents favor the policy, and consensus seems to be that the only thing wrong with "three strikes, you're out" is that it's two strikes too many.

Students are ready to go to bat if the current strike system is enforced. Cook thinks that the answer is to boycott local businesses.

"If we shop, eat and drink elsewhere, the proprietors will open their eyes and see that the town probably couldn't survive without us."

■ Stephanie Jadowiec, *The California Times*, California U. of Pennsylvania



Justin Short