

## COLLEGE: THE FINAL FRONTIER

**The Neutral Zone** — These people are everywhere, and they're not going away. They're Trekkers, and now they're in the classroom. Kenneth Carter at the U. of Alabama is one of many professors currently teaching

*Star Trek*-related classes. "A decade or so ago, if you were a *Star Trek* fan and you weren't a geek, you were in the closet," Carter says. UCLA film student Daniel Bernardi is currently working on his dissertation, "The Wrath of Whiteness: The Meaning of Race in the Generation of *Star Trek*." And philosophy professor Nim Batchelor at Elon College in North Carolina says his course, *Philosophy in Star Trek*, relates episodes to philosophers such as Plato, Descartes and John Locke. Wonder what he's planning for next year — Mythological Imagery in *Family Matters* (Urkel as Perseus)?

## SQUIRRELS GONE BAD

**U. of Nebraska** — A spree of vehicular vandalism last spring at the U. of Nebraska was eventually traced to *Sciurus niger* — the fox squirrel. Bruce Currin, director of human resources, replaced his headlight twice after squirrels nested under the hood and chewed through the wiring. Currin says he confronted the squirrel in the lot. "I just expressed in a rational manner that I didn't think it was appropriate that he — or she, I couldn't tell from that distance — build a nest in a car." A few months later, director of university relations Michael Mulinix discovered that a nest of three baby rodents had eaten every wire in his truck except two — resulting in \$425 in repairs. To avoid further problems, Currin says he will put a No Vacancy sign under his vehicle. "I hope they can read English," he says.

## THIS SPUD'S FOR YOU

**U. of Connecticut** — U. of Connecticut police would definitely take Stove Top over potatoes. At least after they were barraged with potatoes shot from a homemade cannon. Three men — at least one of them a U. of Connecticut student — were arrested and charged with, among other things, two counts of possession of weapons in a vehicle. Police say they drove by the police and fire departments twice, firing their trusty tubers. Maybe it was a half-baked idea about twice-baked potatoes.

**F**irst they wanted equal voting privileges. Then they wanted equal pay for equal work. Now those pesky women are asking for equality in the beauty parlor.

Thanks to four George Washington

U. law students, women will get what's coming to them — equal prices for equal haircuts in at least six Washington, D.C., hair salons.

The students filed a class-action suit against the haircut industry last fall because

certain salons were trimming a little too much from women's wallets — charging a higher price for women's haircuts than men's.

Yasmin Tirado, a second-year law student at GWU, was the sole woman in a group of four students who filed suit against the parlors. The students received national attention for what began as a simple class project to find a topic, use the media to exploit it and make as much noise as possible.

"When we started bouncing ideas around, I said, 'What about haircuts?' The guys were like, 'What?' Once we started working on it, we realized that it was a big topic. Evidently, this was an issue that touched many people," Tirado says.

As a result of the suit, six of the seven salons equalized their cut costs. Deborah Herbst, manager of Cristophe Salons in Washington, D.C., says her company did not think it was being discriminatory. Nevertheless, haircut charges are no longer advertised in men's and women's rates. Previous to the suit, women were charged \$250 and men were charged \$150 for a private session.

"Long-haired men have always paid more here," she says of the parlor, which has been visited by President Clinton. "Other than the semantics, we have made no change in our pricing base and policy. We just changed the language."

So what's next for these aspiring young attorneys? Tirado says the group hopes to file a suit against companies that don't allow women to wear trousers to work.

"Many women have been fired for [wearing pants]," she says. "I guess guys just still like looking at legs. It's crazy."

■ Laurie Kraus, The State News, Michigan State U.



Korey Coleman, Daily Texas, U. of Texas

# Avoiding Fatal Attractions

**T**he car circles your block one more time. You stealthily creep to class, and halfway there, you notice the same car following you. A day in Hitchcock's imagination? Not quite.

This scenario is disturbingly real for many college students, and for some, it's much scarier. Basma Jazari, a U. of Utah senior, was harassed for more than a year before Fahri Celik, an acquaintance and former student, was arrested and convicted in January for stalking. Celik had threatened to rape Jazari and simulated oral sex, making tongue motions with his head near her crotch, according to campus police detective Jeffrey Reyes. Celik is one of the first to face Utah's new, stricter maximum stalking sentence — one year in prison.

"We're not happy with [the law]," says Abby Maestas, executive director of the Salt Lake Rape Crisis Center. The crime is considered only a misdemeanor, one step above some serious traffic violations. Maestas says states like Illinois and New York have had similar, stricter laws on their books for years.

"Report and report and report," is what stalked victims should do, Maestas says. "The more times you get this person's name on the computers, [the better]."

Informing the police of a stalker's actions allows the police to offer protection, if needed, and to set up a way to gather evidence, says Utah's campus police detective Sherree Barnes. A factor in Celik's conviction was the victim's detailed log of harassment incidents.

"You don't know what they're going to do," says Jessica Larson, a U. of Utah senior who was followed around for days after she told a man she didn't want to see him. Hers was a mild stalking case, but she nevertheless feared violence.

Women aren't the only ones who are followed obsessively. A U. of Utah senior who wishes to remain anonymous to avoid further problems was stalked by a woman who

called him, loitered near his work and sat outside his bedroom window for hours while her friend waited in a tree.

"It was more a joke than anything else," he says. "[But] if I were a woman, and the same things were happening, I'd be pretty freaked."

■ Stephen Spencer, Daily Utah Chronicle, U. of Utah



Your own, personal horror movie?

Noah Berger, Daily Californian, U. of California, Berkeley