

Airheads

TWO NUTS WITH A NATIONAL audience. That's how Jack Slater sums up his weekly radio call-in show, College Talk.

Slater and co-host Randy Tanner spout off about all things collegiate on the hourlong show, and listeners never really know what they're going to get.

"We do shows on everything from long-distance relationships and racism to lighter issues like dorm food and roommate relations," Slater says. "But that's the great thing about the show: You never know what students are going

to call in about. For any given topic, you end up with very different opinions within a college and across the country."

College Talk is broadcast by College Radio Network at about 130 schools via college and commercial radio stations.

"It's the only show that lets students participate in a topic on a national level," Slater says. "It gives students a chance to hear about

what's going on at different campuses and find out how their school ranks with others on national stories and trends that affect colleges."

College Talk airs Mondays at 9 p.m. (EST), or you can access it live on the Internet at <http://www.inter-network.com/crn/crn.htm>.

By Colleen Rush, Associate Editor / Photo courtesy of College Radio Network



A couple of talking heads.

Raising a Stink

THE ITHACA, N.Y., SKYLINE ALMOST RECEIVED A major addition when Cornell U.'s College of Veterinary Medicine announced plans to construct an incinerator — featuring a 177-foot smokestack — on campus to dispose of animal and medical waste. But the red-hot issue met with a storm of protests.

Angry students, environmentalists and residents questioned the incinerator's environmental impacts. The Cornell Greens, a student environmental group, launched a campaign against the incinerator, complete with rallies, information tables, speeches, door-to-door canvassing and a candlelight vigil.

Evidently, it worked. Although the incinerator hasn't been ruled out, the university is considering other disposal options.

"I don't think they realized how much opposition there was," says senior and Greens member Katie Fry. "They can't totally drop the issue because Cornell does have a waste-management problem, but now they're headed in the right direction."

Cornell already uses one incinerator, but the proposed incinerator would also burn medical waste. Opponents fear toxins would be released into the air. The university insists it's safe.

"The incinerator meets all requirements for air and solid-waste permits," says Gregg Travis, director

of Cornell's statutory office for capital facilities. "Studies so far have shown no harmful impact on the environment."

But protesters say the findings are full of hot air.

"Incineration is an outdated technology," says sophomore and Greens treasurer Chris Larson. "We want the university to look into other alternatives."

An advisory committee has been established with representatives from the administration, the Greens and other student groups and citizens. Headed by a neutral facilitator, the group has one year to weigh the options and make a recommendation to the board of trustees. Other proposals include composting waste, recycling plastic refuse and placing non-recyclables in landfills.

Although protesters hope the project eventually goes up in smoke, the outcome pleased more than just protesters. Veterinary school dean Franklin Loew says, "This is a huge breakthrough. The process is now under way in a healthy manner."

By Eric Meyer, Cornell U. / Illustration by Christopher Voy, California Polytechnic State U., San Luis Obispo



The Call of the Wild

THE ALASKAN MALAMUTES HOWL WITH ANTICIPATION as Holly Horton, a senior at U. of Utah, attaches them to the 500-pound sled. She pulls the release lever, and the dogs bound forward at 15 mph. The team races with silent intensity.

Horton, an architecture student, has been racing competitively as a musher for five years. Between working full time and attending night school, Horton still finds time to train three times

a week in preparation for sprint racing competitions.

"The best part is when you're out there — it's so quiet," Horton says. "We train for 30 to 40 miles a day, and it's a great time to just reflect and get in touch with yourself, nature and the dogs."

Horton owns 15 muscular sled dogs, some of which have a pecu-

liar taste for squeaky toys. She trusts her lead dog, Vixen, to guide her sled-dog team over icy trails in the Uintah Mountains during competitions. But when Vixen isn't racing, he lunges after defenseless squeaky toys and pulverizes them with his powerful jaws.

"I think Vixen and I have the most in common," Horton says. "When we're working on something important, we don't want any interference — we get serious, and do it well. But we like to have fun when we're not working."

Horton hopes to eventually participate in mid-distance racing, which is usually a two-day race of up to 100 miles.

Fog closes in around the sled team, blanketing the trees and streams. The dogs' breath condenses on their furry coats, and soon Horton sees only the two dogs ahead of her.

"It's like being on the trail with ghost dogs," she says. "The white crystals on their coats glitter in the moonlight. It's really incredible."

By David Anderson, U. of Utah/Photo courtesy of Holly Horton



Mushed much lately?

The Buzz

• Is your brain worth big bucks? Enter the BFGoodrich Collegiate Inventors Program and find out. Cash prizes are awarded every year in a competition among student/adviser teams who come up with original, creative inventions or discoveries. This year's contest deadline is June 3. For information and entry applications, call (800) 968-IDEA or check out the Web site at <http://www.invent.org/>.

• Thomas J. Kirk II, a Louisiana man who between 1989 and 1996 granted \$36.5 million in useless college degrees to students, pleaded guilty to tax evasion and conspiring to commit mail and credit-card fraud. Kirk ran the unaccredited correspondence school, LaSalle U., La. It's affiliated with the World Christian Church — which Kirk founded — and has no connection with La Salle U., Pa., an accredited school in Philadelphia. Kirk claimed his school was accredited by the Council on Postsecondary Christian Education in Washington, D.C., whose answering machine refers calls to a toll-free line at LaSalle.

Student-Athlete Rituals

College sports are part skill, part superstition. Check out what student-athletes do to get ready for the game.

Eddie Conti, football, U. of Delaware
Spray paints each spike on his shoes gold.

Dan DuMouchel, cross country, Central Connecticut State U. Must be the last competitor on the field to take off his sweat.

Ryan Rosebush, swimming, U. of Hawaii Eats Fruity Pebbles on the morning of each meet.
Na'Sheema Hillmon, basketball, Vanderbilt U., Tenn. Writes all of her teammates' names on her ankle brace.