

NATION

THERE'S A SUCKER BORN EVERY MINUTE. Several businesses are assuming that fraternities and sororities at the U. of Kansas will epitomize that P.T. Barnum quote. After calling the houses and offering the person who answers a free gift, these businesses then send unordered merchandise such as light bulbs or cleaning supplies and charge outrageous prices. But the free gift never arrives. Fraternities and sororities are particularly susceptible to these businesses because there are so many people a salesman can talk to.

TAKE THE PESTI-CHALLENGE. A recent taste test conducted by the California Public Interest Research Group at the U. of California-Berkeley revealed that students prefer organic fruits over commercially grown ones. Of the 473 participants surveyed, 76 preferred the commercial fruits and 38 expressed no preference.

A COORS BEER BOYCOTT HAS BEEN REPEALED by the Student Senate at the U. of California-Berkeley. Citing improvements made by the Coors Brewery in its hiring and labor practices, senators defeated a bill calling for the renewal of an expired boycott of Coors products. Alleged discrimination on the basis of race, sex and sexual preference by the company prompted the original boycott.

THE NEW JOURNAL OF STUDENT INITIATIVES will describe the most innovative and successful student programs around the country. Produced by student leaders from the U. of North Carolina System with the Student Empowerment Training Project, the journal seeks to assist students from many different campuses in exchanging their best ideas. Although the deadline for submissions is February 15, it's not too late to order your copy of the first issue. Cost: \$5. CONTACT: JOURNAL OF STUDENT INITIATIVES, Box 47 Carolina Union, Chapel Hill, NC 27599; Ph: 919/962-5201.

INSTEAD OF DRESSING UP AS SANTA, Leaders from the Associated Students of the U. of New Mexico (ASUNM) went as themselves on the last holiday visit to UNM's Child Care Center. ASUNM members played, read and just spent time with the young patients. They also assisted in a book drive to provide children's publications to the center.

STUDENT GROUPS

INSPIRING WILLIAM SHAKESPEARES will get support through a new drama club at Harvard U.

The "Organization for Original Drama" hopes to produce student plays with corporate funds. Workshops sponsored by the group will review student scripts and offer feedback for improvement. The new organization, which will concentrate on student work, won't compete with Harvard's established drama group.

FLIGHT B GROUNDED. Students in the flight club at Long Beach Community College can't get off the ground because they have no insurance. Grounded since 1986 due to lack of insurance coverage, the club's advisor is working to acquire a new flight insurance policy.

THIS VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENT STINKS! While many student volunteer groups conduct food drives or work in soup kitchens, some students at Memphis area colleges volunteer their time in a smelly sort of way. They're members of the "Zoo-Doo Crew", a group which spreads zoo-donated elephant manure on a garden at a local children's center.

TOWN WATCH PROGRAM DETERS CRIME. The Interfraternity Council at Penn State U. decided to do something about crime in the area. They organized the "Penn Watch" program to patrol the area around sorority and fraternity houses. Every night, four to eight Greeks-equipped with walkie-talkies and flashlights-monitor several blocks and report any suspicious activities to the Public Safety office. The program is modeled upon a similar one at Drexel U.

TOWN-GOWN RELATIONS SHOULD IMPROVE in Brookings, SD, where a new student organization, the "Campus Community Relations Club," hopes to establish better communications between the city and South Dakota State U. Students. Numbers also plan to lobby for bus service from local bars and student representations on the city council.

A NEW GROUP IS ENCOURAGING A BOYCOTT of firms with union-busting reputations. Organized by a U. of Minnesota law student and sponsored by the AFL-CIO, "Law Student Coalitions for Workers' Rights" urges law students across the country to reject offers from firms that represent management in labor disputes. The group has identified 18 "anti-union" firms that, because they represent their clients' interests, bring actions against unions and interfere with collective bargaining.

"COMMON GROUND< COMMON GOOD" is the title of this year's National Conference on Community Service, sponsored by the Campus Outreach Opportunity League(COOL).

It will be held March 8-11 at the U. of California-Los Angeles and will focus on "the strength and necessity of diversity in meeting the challenges of the 1990s." Besides workshops on voluntarism, it will offer participants opportunities to work in drug prevention programs, AIDS clinics and other agencies throughout L.A. CONTACT: 1990 COOL National Conference, UCLA Community Resource Center, 203 Men's Gym, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1377; Ph:213/206-5523.

BECAUSE FEW USED A DISCRIMINATION-HOTLINE to report racial incidents at Northern Illinois U. The Black Student Union has announced it will set up one of its own. BSU's hotline will operate at night and supplement the university's daytime hotline. BSU also hopes that students will feel more comfortable talking to other students on its hotline.

NON-GREEK GROUPS UNITE. The Inter-Organizational Council at Western Kentucky U. will serve as an umbrella organization for independent groups -much as Interfraternity and Panhellenic councils serve fraternities and sororities. Initial Plans include a theme week, a major fund-raiser and organizational rush.

FLIGHT CLUB GROUNDED. Students in the flight club at Long Beach Community College can't get off the ground because they have no insurance. The club's advisor is working to acquire a new flight insurance policy for the would-be airheads, who've been grounded since 1986 for lack of coverage.

THE HILLEL SOCIETY PROVIDES ROLE MODELS to youngsters in the local jewish community through its Big Brother?Big Sister program at the U. of Kansas. Hillel members "adopt" local children and involve them in activities. Because the Jewish population in Lawrence is small, the program provides children with Jewish role models they wouldn't otherwise meet.

Residence halls

IT'S MORE DIFFICULT TO PHONE HOME from Dartmouth. The office of residential life removed the pay phones from all but the first floor of the dormitories during winter break. After evaluating usage, officials discovered they were losing money, and so-with the encouragement of the New England Telephone Company- disconnected the phones.

A RESTRICTIVE OPPOSITE- SEX VISITATION POLICY has been defeated at the U. of South Carolina,

thanks to a student lobbying campaign. The policy prohibited students in two freshman halls from entertaining members of the opposite sex in their rooms. Because of limited demand for halls with the policy, the university assigned many students to these halls in order to fill them. Students circulated petitions to convince the school to give the two halls the same visitation rights that govern the rest of the campus.

MAKING A DORM ROOM A HOME: That's the reasoning behind Arizona State U.'s "Better Dorms and Gardens" contest. To change the concept of a dorm room having all the charm of a jail cell, the residence hall association at ASU recognized those rooms with a touch of class. One with that little something extra included Oriental prints framed in rattan and Thai masks on the walls, as well as a collection of Chinese wooden boats.

"A TEMPLE OF DEMONIC FUNGUS" is the intent of an art exhibit located in one of the residence halls at Ohio State U. A graduate student is in the process of covering any empty space in the hall with Xerox copies of 19 different pen and ink works portraying demons, serpents, spiders and satanic symbols. Despite the ghoulish theme, the 1,200 pieces have received positive reactions. However, the work may be curtailed. The student has been excluded from the nearby Xerox machine for using it too much.

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO BEAT THE SYSTEM, say U. of Connecticut students. Upset about remaining balances on their Bali-Dine cards that would not be refunded of carried over to the next semester, they purchased food from the fast-food restaurants on campus and donated it to a local soup kitchen. One group of students raised over \$1,000 in yogurt, fruit, juice and milk sales to benefit the charity.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

MUSIC VIDEO CHANNELS BANNED BY STUDENT COUNCIL at Kentucky Christian College. Because of a debate over the values portrayed on MTV and the County Musical Channel (CMT), the student council voted to remove both channels from the school's cable TV system beginning this month. The availability of MTV on campus divided the student body. Opponents cited inappropriate messages communicated through the videos. Proponents claimed the channel was a "harmless diversion" and that removing it from lounges and dorm rooms would constitute censorship.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN STATE GOVERNMENT Seminar Featuring Speakers and Workshops MARCH 13, 8 AM - 1:15 at PENN STATE'S DOWNTOWN CENTER! Call Nancy at 783-0433 for information and Registration

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