



DRINKING AND TAILGATING: The truth is in the mix



staff writer **RYAN VESCIO**

The kegs are tapped, and the PJ is mixed as thousands of Carolina football fans prepare to celebrate a new football season. By Saturday afternoon, students, alumni and fans will be in the partying mood.

Unfortunately, a high intake of alcohol mixed with warm afternoon temperatures can, and most likely, will lead to cases of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Heat exhaustion occurs when the body's thermoregulatory system is overworked but hasn't completely shut down. The surface blood vessels and capillaries, which cool the blood, collapse from loss of body fluids and necessary minerals.

"When someone has been sweating profusely, then all of a sudden stops, the red flag should go up," said Dr. Terry King, USC's director for clinical affairs.

The symptoms of heat exhaustion include headache, heavy sweating, intense thirst, dizziness, fatigue, loss of coordination, nausea, impaired judgment, loss of appetite, hyperventilation, tingling in hands or feet, anxiety, cool, moist

skin, weak and rapid pulse (120-200) and low to normal blood pressure.

The next stage after heat exhaustion is heat stroke, which occurs when the body's temperature regulatory system fails. Body temperature continually rises, resulting in extremely high temperature levels and possibly death.



"When students are drinking heavily, their judgment is clouded," King said. "Even after they stop drinking, their blood-alcohol level continues to rise. This is when they could get themselves into trouble."

Immediate first-aid and medical care are necessary to prevent permanent brain damage or death. A person with signs or symptoms of



heat stroke requires immediate hospitalization. First-aid efforts should be concentrated on lowering the body temperature by loosening tight clothing and soaking the clothing with water, moving the victim to a cool, shady area and vigorously fanning the head and upper body.

In order to reduce the number of students who drink and the subsequent health problems associated with tailgating, the Office of Alcohol and Drug Programs will sponsor four tailgate parties at "the Rocket" on the State Fairgrounds.

These parties will feature catered food, non-alcoholic drinks, door prizes and live music.

Saturday's party will be headlined by Shades of Gray.

"Students need to be educated about the legal and personal risks of excessive drinking during tailgate parties," said Rick Gant, coordinator of student life programs. "The heat poses the number-one risk for students. For

those who survive the heat, though, a new sheriff's task force and more strict DUI laws will greet these students."

Law enforcement officers have a big presence at tailgate parties in an attempt to lower the number of underage drinkers.

Gant said the university doesn't condone responsible drinking by students who are over 21; however, they don't want to see anyone injured due to excessive drinking.

"With the combination of heat and alcohol, there is the potential for a lot of problems," Gant said.

Here are some tips for beating the heat while tailgating:

- Take it all off (well, most of it). The less clothing people wear, the better off they'll be — provided they adhere to public nudity ordinances.
- Grub it up. Eating food while tailgating will help the body absorb alcohol.
- Who needs a tan? Try to stay out of the direct sun as much as possible. Not only will it accelerate heat exhaustion and stroke, but it'll leave a wicked sunburn.
- "I ain't no lightweight." Tailgating starts in the late morning and lasts past kickoff. Don't feel the need to out-drink every other person at the party.
- Don't get strung out on Coke. Try to avoid drinking soda instead of alcohol. The caffeine can dehydrate the body almost as much as alcohol. Water is the best thing to drink.

'Dead Man on Campus' urban legend not reality at USC

asst. news editor **BRAD WALTERS**

Most of us have heard the rumor before: If a student's roommate dies during the course of a semester, USC must grant the student a 4.0 grade point average because of the grief the student deals with after the loss.

This legend has spread throughout college campuses nationwide for years. Some variations of the rumor hold that the roommate must commit suicide or be murdered for the student to receive straight A's. A movie based on this rumor, "Dead Man On Campus," has recently been released.

In the movie, two party-hearty roommates who are about to fail their classes at the fictitious Dalemore University find out their school's charter provides students whose roommate commits suicide an automatic 4.0.

The two search their campus to find a third roommate who is on the verge of suicide so their bad semesters can be erased and 4.0s recorded instead.

While the legend holds true on the big screen, USC administrators laugh when they hear many students believe the 4.0 rumor to be true here.

USC provides services for students who have such an experience, but the

university does not provide the students with a straight-A average.

"I can say that there is no validity in that [rumor] whatsoever," said Loretta Lynch-Reichert, with the department of housing.

Jerry Brewer, director of Student Life, said a "very lock-step support group" exists for students who lose roommates or have to deal with the loss of others close to them, such as parents and other family members. While he doesn't have an official statistic available, Brewer said he's "amazed if more than two or three students [who live on campus] die per year."

"We have been lucky here at USC in that we have done a good job educating students about high-risk lifestyles," Brewer said.

"You don't have much illness or death in college because you're dealing with people who know how to take care of themselves."

If the students who live on campus experience a loss, they can turn to resident housing staff, including RAs and RHDs, who are trained to deal with such situations.

They also keep in touch with students' professors to make sure their grades are on track.

Brewer said students are encouraged to turn to on-campus counseling for further support.

Dr. Roger Bowersock of the counseling and development center at 900 Assembly St. said his office offers grief-therapy sessions for students who have experienced the death of a roommate, and counselors are also willing to see students on an individual basis.

This service is free for up to 12 sessions to any student who has paid the university's health services fee.

"Often, if there is a loss, grades are adversely affected because the indi-

vidual often has trouble concentrating and focusing," Bowersock said.

The automatic 4.0 rumor is commonly referred to as an "urban legend," which is defined by two men who run an urban legend newsgroup on the Internet as something that appears mysteriously and spreads spontaneously in varying forms, containing elements of humor or horror.

Such rumors are usually false.

Many other college urban legends can be found at <http://www.snopes.com/college>.



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'Model Mission' search to go through Georgia

STAFF REPORTS

MTV and IMG models have set out in search of a new face for "Fashionably Loud," and Savannah, Ga., will be one of four stops on their list.

MTV's "House of Style" and IMG Models are conducting a national search, called "Model Mission," that began Aug. 22.

"House of Style's" Rebecca Romijn is hosting "Model Mission" in four selected cities around the country.

"We get tons of mail from young girls across the country asking our advice on how to become models, which was the seed for 'Model Mission,'" said Alisa Belletini, executive producer for "House of Style."

"By teaming with IMG Models, we are giving those girls the opportunity to fulfill a dream. The 'Model Mission' is one of the most exciting things 'House of Style' has ever done."

Young women ages 16 to 24 will be competing for an appearance on "Fashionably Loud," "House of Style's" mix of top models, fashionable clothes and live music performances, as well as a \$250,000 contract from IMG Models.

"We are delighted to be associated with MTV on this high-profile event," said Chuck Bennett, senior vice president of MTV Models.

"The partnership between IMG and MTV will create the best possible model search to help us find that unique young woman waiting to be discovered."

Each semifinal event will be broadcast as a half-hour special on MTV.

The specials will lead up to the Dec. 5 "Fashionably Loud" on which the contract will be awarded.

During that show, the four finalists will walk down the runway with top models to display different spring collections.

"By teaming with IMG Models, we are giving those girls the opportunity to fulfill a dream."

Alisa Belletini
 executive producer,
 "House of Style"

The winner will be chosen at the end of the show.

Mademoiselle, the national print partner, will feature the winner in an upcoming issue.

Savannah was chosen for the southern part of the search. The search will run from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sept. 5 at the Savannah Mall, or until 1,000 women have been seen.

To be eligible, applicants must be female, 16 to 24 years old, U.S. citizens with a valid passport or birth certificate, 5'7" or taller and available the week of Dec. 5. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

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The Gamecock Features Meeting 3 p.m. Wednesdays 3rd floor Russell House 777-3913