

The Party's Over One Campus Will Close for Halloween

(CPS)

Halloween, something of an unofficial national student holiday on many campuses, is becoming an official student holiday at one school this year.

Not all students, however, are happy about it.

"They wanted to stop the party," complained Ed Walthers, chief of staff of the student government at Southern Illinois University (SIU) in Carbondale.

In what is probably the nation's most extreme effort to halt student Halloween parties that often devolve into chaotic, violent street brawls, SIU is making all its students leave campus from Friday, Oct. 26 through Tuesday, Oct. 30.

"We (the school's administrators) have discussed a mid-semester break for years, but the Halloween situation

hurried our decision," explained SIU President John C. Guyon.

The "situation" is the giant, unofficial Halloween parties that SIU students - soon joined by students and then nonstudents from all over the Midwest - have held annually since the mid-1970s.

As the years have passed the party became progressively more chaotic, often breaking into drunken brawls. Injuries and property destruction became common.

Despite the formation of a Halloween Core Committee to coordinate increased police protection, street closings and bans on glass bottles, in 1988 the celebration spun completely out of control. More than 300 people were hospitalized with facial lacerations caused by broken bottles, one person was stabbed and a woman was raped, SIU officials reported.

Frustrated SIU and Carbondale

officials then announced a series of measures to wind down the party gradually, finally killing it this year by driving most SIU students out of town for the weekend.

"The Student Senate opposed" to the forced holiday, Walthers said.

While Walthers thought the break would be good for students' studies, he thought the reasoning behind it flawed.

Moreover, Walthers asserted some students who can't go home will have no place to stay during the break.

But SIU spokeswoman Sue Davis said the school had not heard any complaints from students who had nowhere to go, and that SIU would stick to its plan to close all its single-student dormitories.

Married housing would remain open, she added.

"This decision to close was made a long time ago," Davis said, giving

students plenty of time to plan where to stay. "This is not news."

While SIU's closing is the most drastic effort to prevent student Halloween parties, other schools are trying other measures.

In mid-September, city officials in Boulder, Colo., announced a plan to make it so hard for University of Colorado students to get to the local Halloween street party, held annually since 1909, that they won't try.

Previous efforts to make the party, known as the "Mall Crawl," safe generally have failed.

Beefing up security and changing the name to the "Boulder Boo" in 1989 did not prevent 40,000 people from jamming into a three-block area, climbing lampposts, breaking liquor bottles, trampling lawns and starting fights.

This year, city officials will surround the area with roadblocks and

sobriety checkpoints to try to dissuade people from going to the mall.

Party bans have worked in the past.

When the annual Halloween party at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst whirled into in a 1979 riot in which students vandalized local stores, UMass officials imposed a five-year ban on Halloween parties.

Yet Halloween celebrations have turned dangerous at other campuses as well.

In 1985 at the University of Illinois-Champaign campus, windows were smashed, bonfires were lit, fistfights erupted and party-goers were showered with glass from broken bottles. A visiting Northwestern University student was struck in the head with a beer bottle, and lapsed into a coma. He later had to undergo brain surgery.

"Party Police" on the Prowl

(NSNS)

The toughest ruling against alcoholic beverages in the country went into effect at the University of Maryland on Oct. 8, the first day of Homecoming Week.

The new university policy limits the serving of alcohol to weekend nights at both on- and off-campus fraternities and sororities. It also limits the size of parties and mandates that parties be monitored by at least two non-students from four campus security organizations, including the campus police.

Suspends Chapter

(CPS)

An estimate 200-300 University of New Mexico students chanted and waved signs saying "Castrate Sigma Chi" Oct. 5, protesting a "Mafia Wedding" fraternity party that featured a skit describing the "perfect female sex organ."

UNM officials suspended the chapter after reading in the Daily Lobo, the school newspaper, that partygoers had been urged to grab their loins and shout "Feel the power" during the skit.

"Things that had been overlooked before, boys-will-be-boys things, are not okay anymore," Jan Roebuck of UNM's academic affairs office told demonstrators in front of the Sigma Chi house.

Dartmouth Students Condemn Controversial Newspaper

(NSNS)

In a battle over their university's reputation, more than 2,000 Dartmouth students filled the campus green on Oct. 4 for a rally called "Dartmouth Against Hate."

Students staged the rally in response to a *Dartmouth Review* edition containing an excerpt from Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf* on its masthead instead of its regular credo. In addition to the rally, the college's Student Assembly circulated an anti-*Review* petition, amassing more than 3,000 signatures.

"The *Review* does not represent the views of the Dartmouth community," says Student Assembly Vice President Tara McBenett.

The *Dartmouth Review*, which is not associated with the college, has been the subject of controversy at Dartmouth since it began publishing in 1980. In the past it has garnered criticism for its attacks on minority groups, women, and its battle with professor of music William Cole. Cole, who is black, recently resigned from Dartmouth after years of attack by the *Review*.

Kevin Pritchett, a senior and editor-in-chief of the *Review*, claims the quotation's insertion was "sabotage." His staff issued a letter of apology to

the Dartmouth community and vows to identify and punish the person responsible for the changed credo.

The *Review's* credo was altered to read, "Therefore, I believe today that I am acting in the sense of the Almighty Creator: By warding off the Jews, I am fighting for the Lord's work." Following its publication, three *Review* contributors and the paper's president resigned.

Recently, Dartmouth students and alumni have become increasingly concerned with national press coverage of the *Review*, and the effect such coverage has had on the college's image. "The *Review's* actions and the ensuing negative publicity detract from what actually constituted my Dartmouth experience," says recent graduate Nancy Walcott. "I find their actions completely irresponsible and not indicative of the political climate at the college."

"Being here today we are part of the amazing mobilization of this campus," says Amanda Roth, a sophomore and president of Dartmouth Hillel, the Jewish student organization on campus. "We must learn that hatred against any part threatens the whole. We must now work to preserve this unity."

Amherst, Harvard Top U.S. News Lists of Best Colleges

(CPS)

Amherst College and Harvard University are the two best colleges in the country, U.S. News and World Report claims.

The magazine's sixth annual ranking is among the most popular of several such consumer "polls" of the nation's campuses, but is the least popular among college presidents and other officials.

Last year the National Center for Postsecondary Governance and Finance criticized the magazine's rankings, for example, as being overly "quantitative."

Since the Yale Daily News first began publishing an "Insiders' Guide" to campuses in the 1960s, groups as diverse as Playboy magazine, New York Times education editor Edward Fiske, Peterson's Guides and Barron's, among many others, have compiled lists that rank campuses by subjective factors like how hard their classes are, how much they cost and even how good their parties are.

Just weeks before U.S. News' Oct. 10 ranking, for example, Money magazine named Cooper Union in New York as "America's best college buy."

"We spend a lot of time listening to college officials who critique our rankings," said Robert Morse, a senior U.S. News and World Report editor who oversaw the college rankings issue. "We all do a lot of research into (creating) better measures" of a school's merits, added Morse, who said the magazine did change its ranking system this year to appease critics.

The magazine ranks colleges on their academic reputation, student selectivity, faculty resources, financial resources and student satisfaction.

Morse said this year researchers gave more weight to schools' financial resources - how much money is spent on each student - and less to student satisfaction, measured by the number of students who graduate in five years.

The other three categories all received equal weight.

Morse said it was also the first year the magazine ranked specialty schools.

Cooper Union, Money magazine's

"best," notably was missing from U.S. News' list of "best" overall campuses.

"Their rankings don't make any sense," Morse scoffed. "Cooper only appeals to engineering students."

Cooper did get named as the third best engineering school in U.S. News' specialty rankings.

Morse said the college rankings "shouldn't be the sole reason why people choose to go or not to a particular school."

However, he added, "the schools that make our ranking are inarguably good schools."

In an article in the issue, U.S. News' editors explain "when two semesters at some private colleges can cost more than the average American earns in a year, the information provided by the U.S. News constitutes a valuable service for those who pay the lofty bills."

(Editor's Note: St. Andrews was listed among Loren Pope's "best buys" in his book "Looking Beyond the Ivy League.")

Pope describes St. Andrews in his latest book - "An Ivy school alumnus, when telling me about his son who didn't have Ivy League credentials, said that nevertheless everything turned out well because 'we found a great little college in North Carolina that did wonders for him.' I knew without being told he was talking about St. Andrews; so many of my clients have said the same thing."

The Best Campuses

(CPS)

The 10 best "big universities" in the nation, according to the U.S. News and World Report's sixth annual list of campuses that meet its criteria, are:

Harvard, Stanford, Yale and Princeton universities, California Institute of Technology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Duke University, Dartmouth College, and Cornell and Columbia universities.

The best "small" schools, the magazine said, are: Amherst, Swarthmore, Williams, Bowdoin, Wellesley and Pomona colleges, Wesleyan University, and Middlebury, Smith and Davidson colleges.

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