

April Fool's Day: You're fired!

The Stetson University administration suspended publication of The Reporter, the school's newspaper, and fired the editorial staff after the release of an April Fool's Day issue that used profanity and made obscene racial and sexual comments. This year the Distorter, so-called every year for the April Fool's edition, printed a satirical article about a racist Civil War advocate drinking beer at a podium, and its weekly sex column was written in Ebonics. The publication also included fake advertisements, including one that said "Kill Townies Dead."

"There's not much in this year's Distorter that you can laugh about," said Michelle Espinosa, the dean of students. "We believe very strongly in students' need for autonomy. But the students do assume responsibility for their editorial decisions."

Administrators and students will begin to develop a new student newspaper in the fall semester. Recently removed staff members will be allowed to reapply for positions.

"We've learned a lot in the last week as students and journalists," said fired editor-inchief Teresa Schwarz. "I think that's something they're overlooking."

A prank of militaristic proportions

British Commando Eric Walderman duped the international press corps according to the British tabloid, The Sun, which carried a story saying Walderman had been targeted by Iraqi forces. The story printed a picture of Walderman's Kevlar helmet that was hit by four gunshots, leading The Sun to believe he had miraculously escaped an attack. The Sun revealed the hoax with the headline "Mr Lucky was not so plucky."

Walderman's helmet had been placed on his pack before the Marines began firing at an anti-tank weapon in Umm Qasr. The Sun revealed the trick after phoning for an update on the story. According to The Sun, a senior officer said: "I'm afraid the pressmen have been had. All commandos have a great sense of humor. Boys will be boys. It will go down in history as a great wheeze."

King breaks pelvis in SUV crash

Rodney King, whose videotaped beating 11 years ago served as a the impetus for the Los Angeles riots, was hospitalized for a broken pelvis after crashing his SUV into a house. King was weaving through traffic at 100 mph before crashing his 2003 Ford Expedition into a utility pole, a chain link fence and then the house, according to police. He is believed to have been intoxicated but was not arrested.

King, 39, was in stable condition as of Monday, according to a hospital spokesman.

This was not the first time King has been in the news since his beating by four white policeman in 1991, which awarded him \$3.8 million. He was convicted of spouse abuse in 1999 and was sentenced to 90 days in jail and four years' probation. In October 2001, King pleaded no contest to being under the influence of PCP and a count of indecent exposure.

King spent a year in a drug treatment center rather than spending it in jail.

Compiled by Colin Donohue from CNN.com

