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A variety of new products that are currently legal but are being used as drugs are seen, from left, insect repellent, bath salts and spice, in the Pitt County Sheriff's office Thursday, March 10, 2011. (Justin Falls/The Daily Reflector)

**Legal designer drug raises alarms**

By Jennifer Swartz  
The Daily Reflector  
Friday, March 11, 2011

Authorities say they are alarmed by a new designer drug sickening young people in Pitt County and eastern North Carolina.

Sold in small packets available at the counter in convenience stores and tobacco shops, methylenedioxypyrovalerone or MDPV, popularly known as “bath salts,” is in the same family as cocaine and amphetamines.

“It's something that's epidemic in this country; it's come on very suddenly,” said Dr. William Meggs, an East Carolina University professor of emergency medicine and medical toxicologist who teaches at the Brody School of Medicine and has practiced at Pitt County Memorial Hospital for 22 years.

“Needless to say, they are very dangerous drugs,” Meggs said.

As for deaths: “I think it's just a matter of time,” he said.

The substance, similar to a marijuana-like product called “spice” banned by the military last summer, is created by taking the same molecules as popular illicit drugs and making minor changes, allowing the chemicals to avoid classification as a controlled substance, experts said.

It, spice and another products seen in neighboring counties marketed as insect repellent, can be snorted, smoked, placed in a drink, or in at least one case, injected. The products can be purchased for $15 to $60 per packet.
At PCMH, it's not clear how many cases are directly linked to bath salts, but physicians said they think it could be greater than the estimated 15 to 20 cases treated in the emergency department since February.

Cases of organ damage, elevated blood pressure, racing hearts, cardiac arrhythmia, seizures and fevers as high as 112 have been reported here and elsewhere, physicians said.

The substance also causes depression, agitation, combativeness, suicide, blood-vessel constriction, heart attacks, strokes and other organ-system damage, they said. Psychiatric effects are widely reported as well. In one case, a man sliced himself along his abdomen. In a case reported in the United Kingdom, a person traveling on the ferry to the Isle of Wight suddenly jumped without warning into the icy water, physicians said.

The Pitt County Sheriff's Office has responded to at least two calls since the beginning of the year involving people under the influence of the drug. Officials worry parents are unaware, and called on state lawmakers to enact laws to prohibit the substances.

“The ones we've gotten calls on, they were just totally out of control,” Sheriff Neil Elks said. “My concern is it's so new there really aren't any laws to give us any tools to work with.”

Bans already are proposed or in effect in several states and in the U.K. Bath salts are legal in North Carolina, but that could change as experts continue to lobby the Legislature.

A bill to ban bath salts has been approved by the Senate and is being considered in the House.

Last week, ECU associate professor of psychiatric medicine, Dr. Thomas Penders, testified before a House judiciary subcommittee in Raleigh on the dangers of bath salts and similar legal substances used to get high. He is working on a publication about the 10 or so cases he has seen.

“What worries me is there is no regulation of these things,” he said. “We don't know about the toxicity, the purity and the effects long-term on the brain.”

Users are not necessarily the usual suspects, physicians said. In many cases they are middle-class people or students who don't normally use drugs but take the substances because they are legal, Penders said.

Product use anywhere from one or more times, with less than daily use has produced psychiatric reactions, he said. Many do not remember using it. Some report irresistible cravings for more.
“We're concerned that it's producing some permanent damage to areas of the brain that control memory,” Penders said. “We don't really know for sure ... We need to do a lot more study.”

Education is key to keeping kids safe, authorities said.

Ten years ago, Meggs treated an epidemic of ECU students overdosing on gamma hydroxybutyric, called GHB, also known as the date-rape drug. In one case, a 19-year-old freshman celebrating a birthday died after overdosing on the drug, he said. Use, he said, dropped significantly once users learned of its dangerous side effects.

“I think the best preventative is for people to get smart,” Meggs said.

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EL PASO, Texas — East Carolina's most valuable player in the Conference USA tournament trumped a dazzling effort by the man who was voted C-USA's MVP earlier this week.

Junior forward Darrius Morrow recorded his second double-double in as many days to lead eighth-seeded East Carolina to a 75-70 victory in overtime against top seed Alabama-Birmingham in the C-USA tournament quarterfinals Thursday. Morrow, who led the Pirates to their first-ever C-USA tourney victory Wednesday against Central Florida, scored 22 points and pulled down a game-high 14 rebounds in Thursday's upset, which puts ECU in the semifinals against Memphis today.

UAB's Aaron Johnson, just a few days after winning league MVP honors, scored a game-high 39 points, but Johnson and the Blazers couldn't keep Morrow and the Pirates from continuing their unprecedented postseason run.

“It's been unbelievable,” first-year ECU coach Jeff Lebo said. “We had a lot of adversity to overcome in this game. ... and just found a way to defend for 45 minutes and really did the job.”

Jontae Sherrod tied Morrow, who also led all players with a career-high five blocked shots, with a team-high 22 points for ECU (18-14). Sherrod's jumper with 27 ticks left in
the second half put the Pirates ahead 57-54. But Sherrod fouled out 14 seconds later and UAB made three free throws to tie it 57-57 and force overtime.

Without Sherrod and point guard Brock Young, who left the game with a knee injury near the 8-minute mark of the second half, East Carolina fell behind to start OT when Preston Purifoy's free throw put the Blazers (22-8) ahead, 58-57.

But the Pirates got a layup from Morrow to go up 59-58 and ECU, which has 18 wins in a season for the first time since the 1994-95 campaign, never trailed again. East Carolina made 17-of-24 from the free throw line in the extra period to seal the win.

“We were tough when we needed to (be),” Lebo said. “We're going to play (today) and that's awesome. They asked me in the press room who we'd rather play and I said, 'Man, we're just happy to be playing. We could play the Lakers (today). We don't care.'”

The game featured 11 ties and 15 lead changes. ECU took its biggest lead on a Gaines free throw that made it 73-62 in OT.

Jamarr Sanders had a 16-point, 11-rebound double-double for UAB, which lost to the Pirates for just the second time in the schools' 13-game series history.

Young returned to the Pirate bench on crutches after injuring his knee and is doubtful for today's game.

EAST CAROLINA 75, UAB 70, OT

EAST CAROLINA (18-14)
Morrow 5-13 12-16 22, Abrams 1-6 5-8 7, Gaines 2-8 8-12 14, Straughn 1-3 1-2 3, Sherrod 8-12 2-2 22, Young 0-5 3-4 3, Sampson 1-3 2-4 4, Wynn 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 18-50 33-48 75.

UAB (22-8)
Criswell 1-2 2-2 4, Soko 0-5 0-2 0, Johnson 12-22 14-17 39, Sanders 5-17 2-2 16, Fields 1-6 0-1 3, Jones 0-0 0-0 0, Williams 0-0 0-0 0, Hamga 0-1 0-0 0, Moore 1-4 0-2 2, Purifoy 0-4 4-7 4, Taylor 1-4 0-1 2. Totals 21-65 22-34 70.

Jeff Lebo's parting gift to state of Alabama will knock out UAB

Published: Friday, March 11, 2011, 5:30 AM

By Jon Solomon -- The Birmingham News

This has been a familiar look for Mike Davis and UAB in the Conference USA Tournament. (The Associated Press)

EL PASO, Texas—Leave it to Jeff Lebo to stick a dagger in the NCAA Tournament chances of a team from Alabama. Call it Lebo's parting gift to a state that never could connect with him during six NCAA Tournament-less years at Auburn.

Mike Davis, who has a love-hate relationship with his own fans, is about to reach five without an NCAA bid at UAB.

I'd say Davis got "Leboed" in UAB's 75-70 overtime loss Thursday. But that would be an insult to Larry Eustachy, Doug Wojcik and Ron Jirsa, who join Lebo in having handed Davis a 1-5 record in the Conference USA Tournament.
For all the good Davis has done as a coach -- and this was his best season at UAB -- there remains huge mental roadblocks in this program. The 800-pound gorilla that is Memphis and the 400-pound monkey known as the C-USA Tournament.

With the tournament out of Memphis the past two years, the Blazers can't even get past the first round against lower-seeded teams they swept.

Davis was inconsolable and didn't even bother campaigning for an NCAA Tournament bid last year. Not so Thursday, when Davis went into a long diatribe about how it would be a "travesty" if the Blazers aren't included Sunday.

"If you do a blind resume, 10 out of 10 people would pick us," Davis said. "Unfortunately, they don't have blind resumes. They know who they're picking."

Yes, they do. A decent regular-season champion that could enter Selection Sunday without having beaten a single NCAA Tournament team.

"Whether we have wins against anybody who goes to the NCAA Tournament, that's not our problem," Davis said. "When you have 10 top-100 wins, that's pretty good. When you have an RPI that's 28, that's pretty good. When you have an outright winner in your conference, that's pretty good."

Davis sounded in denial. He wouldn't even acknowledge UAB hurt itself by losing.

"Villanova lost its first game (in the Big East Tournament)," Davis said. "They had lost five in a row. They'd lost 10 out of 15. Ten out of 15 is 10 out of 15. ... You're saying that because we're in Conference USA but we won that conference. Are we the Atlantic Sun? No."

Nice argument. Then you remember what just happened on the court.

If you're UAB, knowing the thin margin for error that fairly or unfairly accompanies C-USA, you can't give the committee a reason to keep you out.

Not to an East Carolina you just beat by 18 points five days earlier.
Not to an East Carolina that until this week hadn't won a conference tournament game in 15 years.

Not to an East Carolina that picked up a dumb technical foul with 3:50 left in regulation that turned into a four-point possession for the Blazers.

Not to an East Carolina that lost its assist leader, Brock Young, to a knee injury with 8:26 left, and its top scorer, Jontae Sherrod, to fouls before overtime.

Give it up to Aaron Johnson, who competed his heart out and scored a tournament-record and way-too-many-for him 39 points. Most of his UAB teammates went AWOL, especially Cameron Moore and Anthony Criswell.

Davis reached desperation mode when he played Beas Hamga the last four minutes of the first half. Hamga, whom Davis has said knows exactly one offensive play, had played 21 minutes in C-USA games all year.

"He practiced better this week than the other guys," Davis said.

Davis and some players said they could see this coming because the team was unfocused all week. The Blazers couldn't handle success.

The bad thing if you're UAB? Lebo saw this coming too.

"I really thought we had an advantage coming into this game, I really did," Lebo said. "Because we just played an emotional game against them and they had a heck of a celebration."

The excuse last year was UAB entered the tournament off a tough, emotional loss. The excuse this year was UAB arrived off an exhilarating, emotional win.

Maybe UAB should forfeit its final game next season before heading to Memphis for the tournament.

UAB's new motto this year: No complaining, no blaming, no excuses.

Add another familiar refrain: No NCAA Tournament.

Jon Solomon's column appears in The Birmingham News. Follow him on Twitter at @jonsol. Write him at jsolomon@bhamnews.com. © 2011 al.com. All rights reserved.
Pirates kick off LeClair Classic today
By Nathan Summers
The Daily Reflector
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The Keith LeClair Classic began as a way to make a former East Carolina baseball coach and his legacy everlasting.

The annual three-day tournament, combined with the state-of-the-art Clark-LeClair Stadium, has long since helped to establish LeClair's name in permanence.

But as will be evidenced again today when the Pirates host the seventh installment of the LeClair Classic, the tournament has also become an annual taste for ECU fans of college baseball from every corner of the country.

“I think the one thing we try to do at the LeClair tournament is to expose the fans and our program to different conferences, different leagues and different programs every year and we've been able to do a good job of that in my six years here,” said ECU head coach Billy Godwin, whose 9-3 Pirates take on Monmouth (3-4) in the tournament opener today at 5 p.m. before playing Rutgers (5-5) at 3 p.m. on Saturday and Liberty (5-8) at 2 p.m. on Sunday. “We've really had from A to Z — West Coast teams, southeast teams, northeast teams, midwest teams, Big Ten teams — and I think that's exciting.”

The tournament began in 2004 when the Pirates topped No. 11 Clemson twice and also Georgia Southern twice.

Since then, LeClair Classic visitors have included Michigan, Arizona State, North Carolina, Ohio State, Georgia, Penn State, UNC Wilmington, Virginia Tech, Pepperdine, N.C. State, Western Carolina, Pittsburgh, Georgia Southern, Oklahoma State, College of Charleston, St. John's, Illinois and West Virginia.
And while there might not be national rankings next to the names of this year's field, there is something perhaps more important to Godwin, who first met LeClair while coaching at Louisburg College and who regularly visited the former ECU coach during his battle with ALS. There is an undeniable ECU connection.

Monmouth is coached by former ECU player Dean Ehehalt (1985-87), while ECU assistant coach and recruiting coordinator Nick Schnabel came to Greenville after filling the same roles at Liberty.

“I always try to tie in some type of East Carolina tie, and I think that's what our tournament is about, to let our fans see a variety of teams from a variety of conferences,” said Godwin, whose team has won six of its last seven.

Junior infielder Corey Thompson continues to swing a hot bat in the early season for ECU. He leads the Pirates with a .413 batting average, and is tied with senior center fielder Trent Whitehead with a team-high six doubles. Thompson also has a team-best 19 hits and 10 RBIs, while Whitehead has eight RBIs, followed by seven each from John Wooten, Zach Wright and Chase McDonald.

Godwin has a solid pitching rotation in weekend starters Seth Maness (2-1), Mike Wright (2-0) and Zach Woods (0-1), but also has the luxury of having bona fide starters in his bullpen like Kevin Brandt (1-0) and Brad Mincey (2-0). Godwin thinks some of the appearances made by his relief staff have been as important as those by his starters.

“All we ask our starter to do, to be honest, is keep us in the game,” Godwin said of his pitchers, who have a combined earned run average of 1.92. “I don't think they care when they pitch or where they pitch, as long as they do pitch.”

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VA project draws contractors

By K.j. Williams
The Daily Reflector
Friday, March 11, 2011

The pre-bid meeting for the future Greenville Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic drew about 140 contractors and architects to the Hilton Greenville on Thursday.

The new facility will provide extended services and reduce the number of visits veterans in the region make for treatment to the Durham VA Medical Center.

“It's going to be a new clinic that's going to provide a full-range of specialized care,” Pete Tillman, a medical center spokesman, said earlier this year.

The VA will lease the facility for 20 years after it is built on a 12-acre site located off West Fifth Street, on the opposite side from East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine. Local attorney and developer Tom Taft, who owns the site, has said it's under contract for this project.

Tillman said the outpatient clinic likely will open in late 2013. Plans call for a two-story, 100,000-square-foot building.

After the conference, Sam Perminter, the VA employee who's managing the project, said he was surprised by the larger-than-usual turnout, attributing it to the number of developers in the area.

The presentation was led by Bill Craig, managing director of Jones Lang LaSalle, the Washington, D.C.-broker that has the federal contract to oversee the project. Craig summarized key points within the more than 200-page solicitation for bid, or SFO.

“The SFO is really the guiding principle behind all of this,” he told attendees.
During the question-and-answer period, Perminter told the group the deadline for submissions is on April 14. Asked when the chosen bidder would be announced, he answered they were “shooting for July.”

A question about why escalators, not just elevators, were a requirement stumped Craig. “I don't think anyone can tell you that,” he said. “We're told it was a leadership decision.”

Architect Robert Ferris, managing partner of First Floor, asked if anyone could drop some hints as to preferred designs. “Any clues on what you would like the building to look like?” he asked. “I don't want to be thrown out because you don't like columns.”

Perminter would only give general answers. “I can tell you what we don't want is for it to look like an institution,” he said. “Anything you can point to?” Ferris asked to laughter from the group. “I'm not going to hold you to it.”

Perminter would only stress the importance of aesthetics, and Craig talked about the value of attractive landscaping. With some staff assistance, the two men fielded questions about the financial and technical aspects of the project during a presentation that lasted more than an hour.

“I see we have great interest so it's encouraging. So we're looking for good proposals, and of course, good (rental) prices, great designs,” Perminter said. “We just want to make sure we get the best product for our veterans.”

He also had some cautionary remarks, urging them to secure financing at the onset.

“Finance is a big concern considering the market conditions,” he said. “Please put this in front of your lender as soon as possible because that has been a big thorn in our side.”

Attendees came from North Carolina and from across the country for the pre-bid meeting.

Tom Schultz of Alabama-based Medical Properties Trust said they are interested in other VA projects. “It's a chance, really, to do good things and do well.”

Tim Spence of Raleigh-based BBH Design also said VA projects are desirable. “It's over 100,000 square feet, so it's a significant design and construction project,” he said.

Ed Sussi of New York City-based Cowperwood Co. said they pursue federal projects. “Hopefully, we'll get short-listed,” he said of the Greenville project.

Federal projects can be found at the https://www.fbo.gov website.

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It's Madness as universities play for pay
BY CHARLES CLOTFELTER
DURHAM—Buckle up. It's almost time for that annual 21-day wild ride known as "March Madness," a media event so lucrative that the name is actually copyrighted. For three weeks, millions of Americans will talk nonstop about brackets, seeds and upsets, and then remain glued to their TVs or computer screens to see how their predictions hold up.

This 68-team NCAA tournament is a spectacular illustration of why commercialized sports, with all its problems, has an unshakeable hold on American higher education, and why universities do little to rein in its influence.

Universities with big-time sports are like the man in the old joke who complains that his brother thinks he's a chicken. Asked why he doesn't have the brother committed, the man explains, "I would, but I need the eggs."

Like this man, these universities choose to live with the contradictions inherent in big-time college sports rather than get out of the game.

For the past three years, I have been researching how and why big-time sports has become so deeply embedded in many American universities. Not surprisingly, I found that sports often dwarfs the intellectual side of universities. For instance, I looked at news coverage of 58 universities with leading athletics programs. Of the 600 articles that appeared over a year in The New York Times, 87 percent were about sports.

In addition, the head basketball coaches at these universities had more than three times the number of Google hits than their presidents. Again this is hardly surprising, considering that the basketball teams of these universities appear on television an average of 27 times a year.

Add to this mix intense fan loyalty, and it is clear that millions of Americans are hooked on college sports. In Lexington, Ky., for instance, a third of those surveyed agreed that the following statement best described their own level of interest in Kentucky basketball: "I live and die with the Wildcats. I'm happy if they win and sad if they lose."

College basketball's popularity comes to a climax during March Madness, which begins on the Monday after "Selection Sunday" with the widespread ritual of
filling out brackets for the office pool. To see whether the widely reported estimates of lost productivity due to the tournament are fact or urban myth, I gathered daily figures from 78 research libraries across the country on the number of articles that patrons viewed on a widely used Web-based archive of academic journals. I found that usage dropped about 6 percent immediately after Selection Sunday. And, at universities with teams in the tournament, usage remained below normal as long as their teams kept winning.

The popularity of the tournament is easy to exploit for commercial gain, of course, because broadcasters are happy to sell advertising time and businesses want to advertise their products to as wide a viewership as possible. Ads accounted for more than a third of the 65 hours of TV coverage of the 2009 tournament. There were 2,600 conventional commercials, plus 650 product placements, including sponsored game summaries and "brought to you by" announcements. Among the most heavily advertised brands: Chevrolet, McDonald's and Bud Light.

The tournament's commercial success has generated rapidly growing revenues for universities, by way of the NCAA. Earnings from TV alone, corrected for inflation, have increased by more than 400 percent over the past 20 years. Universities have eagerly taken these earnings and used them, as they have income from bowls and regular season telecasts, in a relentless effort to remain competitive in the revenue sports.

In order to field winning teams, universities have made clear-eyed decisions to compromise some traditional academic values. They relax admissions standards for revenue athletes, so that a third of the teams in last year's tournament had graduation rates below 50 percent. They place enormous demands on athletes' time, often playing games in distant cities or late at night. They require players to display logos for apparel companies, and they sell replica jerseys bearing the numbers of star players in their bookstores.

For universities, these compromises are simply a cost of getting into this wildly popular, and lucrative, business. Don't just blame market forces for the commercialization of college sports. It's also the result of complicity by the universities, which are convinced they need the eggs.

Charles Clotfelter, a professor of public policy at Duke University, is the author of the forthcoming book "Big-Time Sports in American Universities."
March 10, 2011

Hearing Sees Financial Success and Education Failures of For-Profit College

By TAMAR LEWIN

For investors, it was an impressive story: Bridgepoint Education used seed money from Warburg Pincus in 2005 to buy a struggling religious college with 300 students in Clinton, Iowa, and turned it into an online behemoth with 78,000 students and $216 million in profits last year.

But the saga of Bridgepoint’s Ashford University, retold at a hearing on Thursday before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, was instead presented as a case study in how a for-profit higher education company can put profits ahead of education — and how poorly the accreditors are keeping up with the rapidly expanding industry.

Using data from federal filings and documents provided by Bridgepoint, Senator Tom Harkin, the Iowa Democrat who is chairman of the committee, described an institution that gets 86 percent of its revenues directly from the federal government, but sees the vast majority of its students drop out, burdened with student-loan debt. Of the students who enrolled in 2008-9, for
example, 84 percent in the associate degree programs were gone by September 2010 (63 percent had left the bachelor’s programs).

Bridgepoint employs 1,703 recruiters, the senator said, but only one employee is charged with job placement.

The amount spent on instruction per student was above $5,000 before Bridgepoint, but has since dropped to about $700 a student — about a tenth as much as at Iowa State. According to Mr. Harkin, for each Bridgepoint student, $2,700 went to recruiting and $1,500 to profits. Its chief executive, Andrew Clark, earned $20.5 million in 2009.

“From a strictly money-making perspective, this is a highly successful model,” Mr. Harkin said. “But from an educational perspective, from the perspective of public money and an ethical perspective, I think it’s a highly disturbing model.”

Mr. Clark declined Mr. Harkin’s invitation to appear at the committee hearing, and Marianne Perez, a spokeswoman for Bridgepoint, declined to comment. But on Thursday, the company posted a Web site presenting its views on the issues raised at the hearing.

Regarding the ratio of recruiters to career services staff, for example, the Web site said, “Because 74 percent of Ashford University students and graduates are already employed, traditional placement services are not necessary.” And as to the high dropout rates, the Web site explains that they include students who may have attended only the first night or week of class.

The site also makes the point that for-profit colleges are actually cheaper for taxpayers than public colleges, because they receive no tax support. Many of the points on the Bridgepoint Web site have been made by the career-college groups fighting the Department of Education’s efforts to regulate the for-profit sector.

For example, the Web site emphasizes that for-profit schools are essential to meeting President Obama’s goals for a better-educated work force. Senator Michael B. Enzi of Wyoming, the ranking Republican on the committee, repeated his criticisms that career colleges were being singled out for scrutiny, even though, he said, the same issues exist across higher education.
“Unfortunately, by only focusing these hearings on individual examples of a problem in one sector of higher education, we have no understanding of the true extent of the problem, nor have we heard any constructive solutions for solving that problem,” Mr. Enzi said.

Mr. Harkin introduced into evidence hundreds of complaints from Bridgepoint students, many saying they were deceived by the company’s recruiters, or found out after leaving that they owed the college more money.

The Higher Learning Commission, the private nonprofit body that accredits Ashford University, also came under fire.

Mr. Harkin was critical of the commission for its finding that everything was “basically fine” at Ashford even though 84 percent of the students were dropping out. He raised questions about the commission’s review team of one representative from a nonprofit college and two from for-profit colleges.

“Was that good peer review?” the senator asked Sylvia Manning, president of the commission.

“No,” she said.

Dr. Manning acknowledged that her agency had gotten “a bit behind the curve” because of the rapid growth of online distance education and groups like Warburg Pincus investing in for-profit higher education.

“Because it was a new phenomenon on the face of the earth, we didn’t have the policies and procedures to deal with it,” she said.

The commission has since made major policy changes and tightened its oversight of distance learning, she said.

Mr. Harkin voiced skepticism that the current accreditation system was up to the challenge of overseeing multistate, billion-dollar education businesses. The for-profit higher education industry is like the subprime housing industry, he said, but worse.
“The difference between the subprime and this is at least in the subprime, you could walk away from your home,” Mr. Harkin said. “These students with these debts can’t walk away from them.”
Tulane charged Mardi Gras dorm guests $60 apiece
By Daniel de Vise

Tulane University graciously allowed students to host up to two same-gender friends in their dorm rooms this month for Mardi Gras -- at a charge of $60 apiece.

It's an unusual policy. Then again, Mardi Gras is an unusual event. Tulane and other local colleges fill with excess students during Mardi Gras. To keep some semblance of order, the university limits the number of guests and requires everyone to register and put on an identity wristband. The wristband costs $60, payable by credit card.

Why the fee? It covers "the cost of additional Facility Services coverage, including extra custodial services, additional Public Safety coverage, as well as Mardi Gras administrative costs," the university explains on its Mardi Gras Administration page.

For the sake of decorum, the university forbids the following behavior from its guests:
- Behaving in a lewd or indecent manner in the halls
- Throwing objects from windows, ledges, rooftops or balconies
- Standing or sitting on rooftops, ledges or balcony railings
- Smoking on campus except for in designated smoking areas

There follows a lengthy list of alcohol-related prohibitions, covering kegs and "party balls," whatever those are.

University spokesman Michael Strecker provided some context in an e-mail: "Some New Orleans universities don't allow overnight guests during Mardi Gras at all. We have allowed guests during this time for approximately the past 15 years as a convenience to our students, definitely not as a money-making venture. The $60 fee covers extra safety and security provided by Tulane University police as well as the extra staffing and facilities services required. The fee is a total of $60 no matter if guests stay for 1-6 days. Of the universities that do allow and charge guests during this time I know our rate is among the lowest."

(Photo credit: By Patrick Semansky/Associated Press)