

Off the field/Between the cracks

STOP/WATCH

BECOME MILDLY MORE POPULAR



WATERCOOLER MATERIAL



GADGETRY



TO-DO LISTER



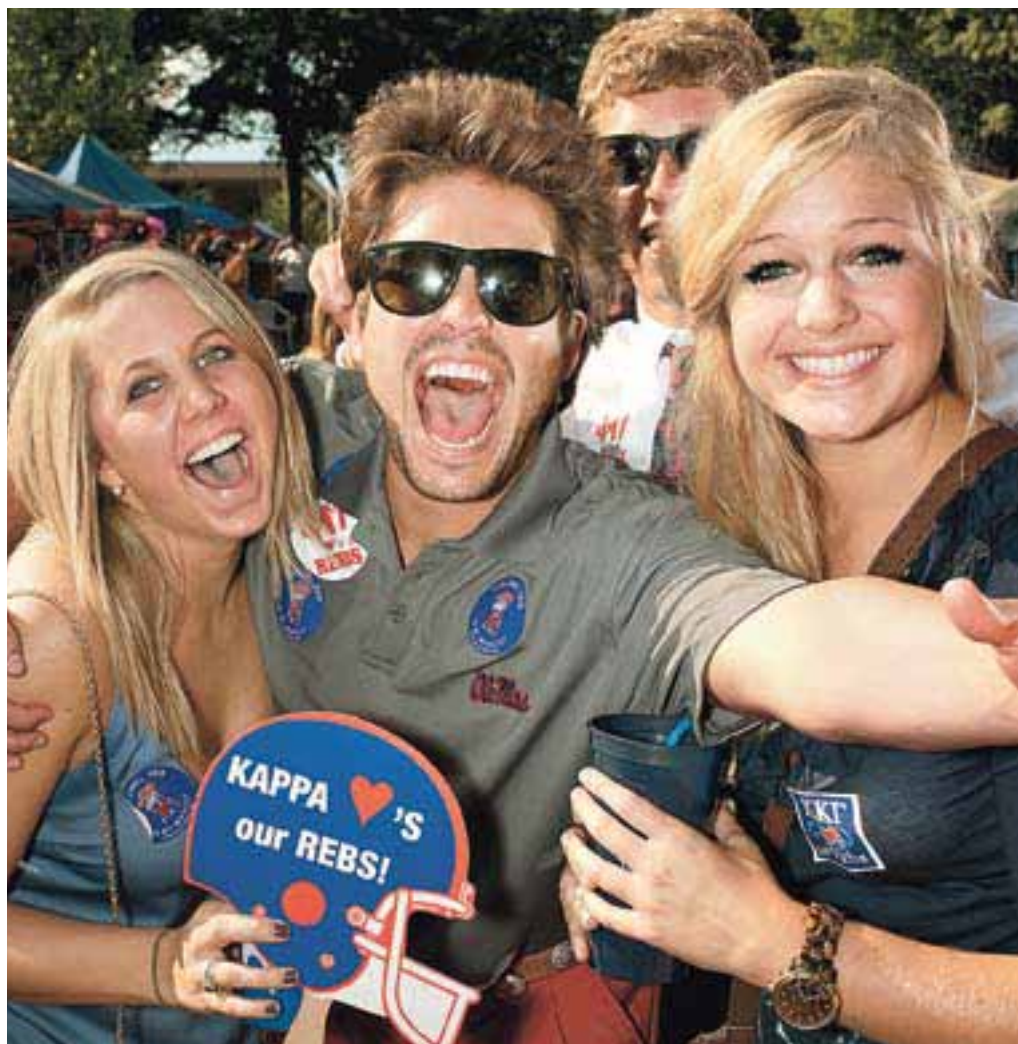
LAPTOP LOOKOUT



APPOINTMENT VIEWING



SUITING UP



SOCIAL NETWORK

STILL GRILLING BRATS WITH YOUR PALS NEXT TO AN OLD MAZDA? AS THESE FANS SHOW, THERE'S A BETTER WAY TO TACKLE YOUR TAILGATE. COME ONE, COME ALL. -KYLE STACK

WHERE The Grove, a 10-acre plot of grass and trees at the center of the Ole Miss campus, just outside Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.

WHO Alumnus York Craig Jr., 65, is one of many Ole Miss old-timers who set up a tent in the Grove to celebrate the school's long-standing tailgating tradition with current students (above).

THE TAILGATE Craig celebrates Rebels game days with country ham biscuits, pimento cheese sandwiches and a six-person country-and-western band. If you can't find his tent, you can join the thousands of students in seersucker suits and cocktail dresses roaming the Grove in search of a good time. Trust us: You'll find it.

WHERE San Diego Chargers' Qualcomm Stadium, Parking Lot C3 Reserved.

WHO Fred Berry, 42, started his tailgate 20 years ago. All it took to start the tradition? A 12-pack of beer and a Subway sandwich.

THE TAILGATE Berry now serves 50 to 100 fans before each home game with catered carne asada and pollo asada tacos. (Just \$10 buys you a wristband for the all-you-can-eat buffet.) "It's an awesome three-to four-hour party before the game," says Berry, who pipes in DirecTV and an iPod playlist featuring AC/DC and the "San Diego Super Chargers" theme song to greet fans.

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CONTINUED ▾

WHERE Husky Harbor, near University of Washington's Husky Stadium.

WHO Hal Griffith, 73, has been tailgating at UW for more than 50 years and spent most of them "sailgating."

THE TAILGATE On a 101-foot powerboat, Griffith and his 20 to 30 guests party while floating on Lake Washington. (Strangers are welcome to swim over!) Then they walk about 500 feet from the shore to Husky Stadium with some 160 other sailgaters. On warm days, grilled prawns and Alaskan salmon fill Griffith's menu; when it turns colder, it's fish stews.

WHERE Ralphie's Corral, southeast of University of Colorado's Folsom Field.

WHO Ralphie V the Buffalo.

THE TAILGATE Fans aren't allowed to pet Colorado's mascot, but they can take a free picture with the 1,200-pound Ralphie—or with a 1½-story inflatable version of her. Children are welcome and can throw footballs at targets and get temporary tattoos. "We try to be as family-friendly as possible," says Tom McGann, associate athletic director of game management and operations at CU. Ralphie stays in her pen about an hour before kickoff. Because nothing breaks up a tailgate faster than a loose buffalo.

WHERE Houston Texans' Reliant Stadium, Yellow Lot 34.

WHO Jason Saldivar, 40, Bing 2011 National Tailgating Champion. Nuff said.

THE TAILGATE Saldivar's award-winning dishes include brisket, jalapeño-cheddar sausage and Cajun pork tenderloin. Three kegs of beer, three margarita machines, a beer bong and a pair of flat-screen TVs round out the setup. "Home games are the 10 times per year we can get together and party," he says.

WHERE UW Credit Union lot near Gate 1 of Wisconsin's Camp Randall Stadium.

WHO John Aspinwall, 54, and his Badger Wagon, a refurbished 1969 Chevrolet Step Van.

THE TAILGATE Aspinwall rigged his ride with a remote-control-activated beer tap and a Badger grill that cooks Chicago-style dogs. The van's roof holds two 10-inch speakers, two seven-foot state flags and a 42-inch TV. The interior features hardwood floors, mirrored ceilings and two faucets that pour Belvedere Vodka and Captain Morgan rum. Says Aspinwall, "It's the DeLorean of UPS trucks!"



PANEL PARTY

Defensive end. Football analyst. Comic book character. Is there anything Michael Strahan can't do?



It wasn't long ago when Archie, Betty, Veronica and the Riverdale gang shared space with KISS. Now Archie is rubbing shoulders with a former New York Giant. "I've always been a big Archie fan, so I just jumped at this opportunity," Strahan says. "It's silly at times, but you learn a lesson each issue. To be on the page with Jughead and the gang is just a thrill." In *Archie* #626, "The Sack-rifice," available Oct. 26, the former defensive end serves as a motivational figure to the Riverdale football team. "The art is fantastic," says Strahan. "They got all of my proportions just right—even the gap between my teeth." Gap? We never noticed.



BIG BUCKS

It's all fun and games until someone gets hurt—or if you're **Travis Pastrana**, it's all fun and games when you're hurt. Since undergoing surgery in August to repair breaks in his right ankle and leg from a botched freestyle motocross trick at the X Games, Pastrana has been saddled with a knee-high pink cast. In his newfound free time, he picked up a plastic gun and started training for the Big Buck Hunter World Championship, an annual arcade game event that launched in 2008. "Never underestimate the determination and competitiveness of an injured athlete," says Pastrana, who placed eighth last year. To qualify

for this year's event at the legendary Cubby Bear Bar (across the street from Wrigley Field on Sept. 23-24), 64 people in four regions logged their top score in an online tournament. Pastrana's doctors required that his foot remain elevated above his heart, so his buddies transported his basement La-Z-Boy to the Acme Bar & Grill in Annapolis, Md., where Pastrana qualified with the 12th-highest score in the East. "I rise to the level of the competition," he says, "but my chances of winning the whole thing are very slim." Hey, it beats watching the grass grow. Follow the championships at youtube.com/BigBuckHunterPro.



SUPPORTER SUPPORTERS

Newcastle United, an English Premier League football club, recently launched a line of lingerie. Rachael Louise McMillan, a shop.nufc.co.uk sales adviser, offers tips for female fans seeking the perfect under, or outer, outfit.

IF ATTENDING A GAME "I'd suggest the black cami top, black underwire bra and black boy shorts. I doubt any women would turn up to watch a game in a thong. You'd get nabbed for indecent exposure. The boy shorts are more like shorts, so you'll be fine."

IF WATCHING WITH A GROUP OF FRIENDS "The white cami top and white French knickers. They hardly show skin, and they're a soft material, like pajamas, so you'll be very comfortable."

IF WATCHING AT HOME WITH A SIGNIFICANT OTHER "Try the underwire bra with the thong, suspenders and stockings. You could mix and match the colors of the items!"

IF NEWCASTLE IS LOSING AND NEEDS SOME LUCK "Add a garter to any of the outfits. Not a lot of women wear garters. Usually you just see them on brides. That makes them luckier than other underwear, because anyone can have a bra or knickers."