

Rocky Mountain Dry

WHEN IT COMES TO LISTING the nation's top party schools, the U. of Colorado seems to have gained tenuous status. So it's hard to believe that as of this fall, all 18 fraternities at CU self-imposed a ban on booze in their chapters.

But it's true. The fraternities have joined their already dry sorority counterparts and approved a resolution pledging: "No member chapter will have any function in its chapter house... during which alcohol is distributed or consumed." The fraternities are still allowed to have alcohol in their houses — as long as it's served at parties they host.

It was the first campuswide pledge by any of the nation's universities. Greek communities to stay dry and the debate wasn't even close. Sororities at the U. of Iowa enacted a similar policy, and Utah State U. banned alcohol completely from fraternity and sorority houses.

There was a lot of pressure from the community," says

Intraternity Council president and Alpha Tau Omega member Brian Phillips, a senior.

After two high-profile alcohol-related tragedies last spring — an acquaintance rape that led to second-degree rape convictions of two fraternity members and the death of a freshman in a drinking and driving accident after a fraternity party — authorities were fed up with Greek underage and binge drinking.

"People have been really nervous — afraid that police are going to raid their houses anytime," says Chad Fisher, a U. senior and president of Kappa Sigma.

"We've definitely been busting the hell out of the fraternities," says Boulder Police chief Tom Koby.

Since July, fraternities had been

targeted by police for raids on an almost routine basis. Hundreds of minor-in-possession-of-alcohol tickets were issued by local police. Fraternity officers were being held responsible for serving underage drinkers, and there was a threat that some chapters could lose their houses.

Jonathan Brant, executive vice president for the National Interfraternity Conference, says it was clear Boulder authorities were looking to force a change.

"But we think this is an opportunity to reshape the stereotypes of the Greek system — back to leadership, scholarship and community activism," Brant says.

Jim Moscou, U. of Colorado / Photo by Frances Huffman



One man's trash...

What is he? A genius? Weighing in at only 13 and scoring 1300 on the SAT? Freshman Hanch Qian.

Real Genius



HE'S NOT OLD ENOUGH TO DRIVE, YET Honors Calculus III is part of his daily grind. What? That's right, Hanch Qian is a 13-year-old freshman at Mississippi State U.

He's a down-to-earth smarty-pants. "There are a lot of people out there who are probably smarter than I am, and they are just staying back," Qian says. "I saw an opportunity, and I took advantage of it."

Weighing in at only 100 pounds, he tipped the testing scales with scores of 33 on the ACT and 1300 on the SAT. Obviously, he didn't have the typical trip through grammar school — he leap-frogged a couple of grades. And while the other juniors at his high school were in line to take the king-of-the-hill position as seniors, Qian crowned himself a college freshman.

Michael Pearson, Qian's calculus professor, says he's impressed with Qian. "He's quiet, but right on top of things," Pearson says.

Honors Calculus III isn't enough to keep Qian busy, either. He's taking 20 hours this semester — the average is 15 hours, and the limit without spe-

cial permission is 19 — and spends most of the day on the MSU campus. But this fast-track freshman is still more comfortable hanging around with kids his own age, joining his 13- to 15-year-old friends at the end of the day to play baseball in a cross-change from the collegiate grind.

As for being several grades above his friends, Qian says, "I don't mind helping them do their homework, but I don't do it for them."

Qian is happy, he doesn't get treated differently from anyone else. No one seems to notice he's five years younger than the average college freshman. But he doesn't live on campus.

Dorms may be the ultimate college experience, but Qian lives at home and gets all the perks: home-cooked meals and free laundry. Heck, his mom usually does his laundry!

By LaRaye Brown, Mississippi State U. / Photo by Garland Cary, Mississippi State U.

Candid Campus

AS IF FRESHMAN YEAR ISN'T AWKWARD ENOUGH, imagine living it on camera and before a national television audience. That's exactly what Elizabeth Miller of Syracuse U. and Antoinne Harris of the U. of Southern California are doing.

Producers of ABC's *Good News* are documenting how the students lives change during the exciting, transitional period.

"We wanted to show how challenging the first semester can be for

a freshman," says Sandra Alvord, a GMI associate producer.

Show producer shows Miller and Harris from the pool of incoming freshmen at Syracuse and USC.

GMI-tracked Harris, 18, as he left his small hometown of Henderson, N.C., en route to the hazy and foggy land of Los Angeles.

Changes followed Harris during his first few days at USC. "It's hard handling all the work and the pressures of balancing my life," he says.

Miller's selection came with some surprise. Shortly after arriving on the Syracuse

campus from Baltimore, Miller, 17, discovered she had been chosen as a finalist. After interviews with Syracuse administrators and GMI producers, a camera crew was assigned to follow her through opening-weekend events.

And the first few days, the crews left Harris and Miller, and GMI producers provided the freshmen with cameras to tape their experiences. There's no money in it for them, just the thrill of seeing themselves on national television.

"It's sort of like *MTV's The Real World*," Miller says. "I've been given a camera and very few guidelines." Miller says she's rapid herself hanging out with friends and sitting in a few of her classes. "Of course, I'm busy," she says. "But it's fun."

The first segments aired Sept. 5, and GMI will be checking in with Miller and Harris periodically.

Haven't we seen this somewhere before? Perhaps GMI producers should call the installments *The Real Similar World*.

Carrie Hutchison, Syracuse U. / Illustration by Jason Jeffers, U. of South Carolina

