

uncovering the **past >>**

LOST TRADITIONS



FRESHMAN **CAPS**

Freshman caps first appeared on NC State's campus in 1916, and in 1922 the Student Council required freshmen to wear them while on campus. The caps were adorned with a large "F" to identify first-year students with the goal of promoting school spirit. Freshmen potentially faced consequences if they were seen in public without their caps on. In 1929 a football player named Edgar Comiskey lost his cap and refused to buy a new one. The Student Council required him to wear a dress for every day he did not wear his cap, which he did for a total of 13 days. Amid the controversy the Board of Trustees abolished the requirement in June of 1930.



SENIOR **BLAZERS**

During the 1929-30 school year seniors at the university were given a maroon blazer to wear around campus. The blazer had the student's graduation year embroidered on the left pocket and helped to identify seniors from the rest of the undergraduate population. In order to receive a blazer students had to pay a \$2 deposit. This short-lived tradition lasted only until 1934, and why it did not continue is not known.



EASTER DAY **BASEBALL GAME**

Starting in 1899 and continuing until 1956, NC State played in 55 baseball games on Easter Monday. The majority of these contests featured the matchup of NC State and Wake Forest, which at the time was located north of Raleigh in Wake Forest, N.C. The event quickly became an important social event with the railroads bringing in women from St. Mary's, Peace and Meredith colleges. The Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity began sponsoring the PiK Alpha Ball after the game in 1906. The Easter Monday game is considered to be one reason for the state legislature's addition of the Monday after Easter as a bank holiday. Before that addition in 1935 the legislature would always adjourn in time to make the start of the ballgame.



ZOO **DAY**

During the late 1960s students looked for ways to relax right before the start of final exams in April. Student Government combined their event named "The Day" with the Inter-Residence Council's "Zoo Day" to form Zoo Day. Zoo Day took place on a Saturday at the end of April and lasted from the middle of the morning until after sunset. Cates Avenue became the venue for bands to play while students participated in field games. The event even included free beer and Hillsborough street businesses would sell ice for people's coolers. The tradition died out in the late 1980s when the drinking age was raised to 21.