

ST. PAT'S DAY ...

DUKE PUKEM

There is one contest I would pay **large amounts of** money to see: the **puke for distance** contest. **Now**, I would never **take part in** this **myself**, and I **agree** that it is a **disgusting** contest, but I **simply** can't stop **laughing** when I watch it. **What happens is** that these guys **take turns** drinking a beer, then they **stick** their fingers **down** their throats and puke **as far as they can**. They have to stay behind this white line **when puking or** they are disqualified. A referee with a measuring tape **actually** measures **each** contestant's **effort**. **Some** job, huh?

I was **amazed at** this one big fat guy who **reminded me of** a pig, and who seemed **proud of looking** like **one**. **Anyway**, this guy slammed a beer and puked **twice as far as** the **second place guy**. He had style, **too, kind of like** a discus thrower. He drank the beer, **leaned forward** with his big feet just **barely** behind the line, made this terrible sound **as** he puked, **like** an elephant, and the green stuff **shot** about twenty-five feet. The crowd **roared**.

All of the contestants get two chances, and **the second time** the pig guy **did even** better. He won **at** twenty-eight feet and seven inches. The announcer said the guy **had beaten** the **all time record by about** two and a half feet. The crowd **went wild**; the pig guy slammed a beer and puked **all over** the crowd and a **riot broke out**. Everybody was throwing beer **on each other** and fighting, it was terrible. I had green beer **all over me**.

But that wasn't **the problem I mentioned** before. The main problem that year was that **a couple of** students **apparently** died **of** alcohol poisoning and the university was criticized **for allowing** such contests to **take place**. The newspapers **mentioned** the **puke for distance riot** and **some** other bad **incidents**, so the university and the town **cracked down on** the festival. They even **banned** the puke for distance contest. That **made me sad**.

The next year the festival was not **as fun**, there were **too many police** and too many new **regulations**. I never went again **after that**. **Still**, you should **go see** a St Pat's day festival **if there is one** near you, because you would **definitely** enjoy it.