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## Mocktails: Better than cocktails?

by Bob Misulich  
Collegian Staff

Students on campus are opening their eyes to the drinking problems here at Behrend. Alcohol Awareness Week has brought attention to the many problems associated with drinking and lasting effects.

BACCHUS, Boosting Alcohol Consciousness Concerning The Health of University Students, has been trying to reach out to students this week with a display in front of the Wintergreen Cafe.

Kyra Kindon, member of BACCHUS, said "There seems to be more brown bricks than red, and even though the red bricks are supposed to be about positive drinking experiences, there is a negative aspect about them."

One brick recounts one student's feelings when pulling up to the scene of a car accident and recognizing the crashed car. It belonged to a friend he had just been partying with.

Meghan Curry, member of BACCHUS, said she believes

**"We try to hit home with the students the fact that problems with drinking can happen at a small campus."**

-Linda Lombardi, Residence Life Coordinator

Students have been attracted by the free "mocktails", Pina Colodas and Strawberry Daiquiris, donated by Housing and Food Services.

One display, "The Wall" is covered with red and brown paper bricks sharing stories of alcohol experiences.

Students are encouraged to write on the bricks and recall stories of what happened to them or one of their friends while drinking. The red bricks indicate positive experiences, and the brown denote negative experiences.

"Alcohol Awareness Week will bring attention to the affects of alcohol to those people who usually don't think about it."

Highway Safety Network's Program Coordinator, Lynne Gotham, was also at the display to hand out informational pamphlets, pens, highlighters and key chains in an attempt to reach out to students about underage drinking and driving. She said this is a major concern for her and her department, which is funded by PennDot.



Bob Misulich/Collegian Photographer

**Have a drink on me:** Linda Lombardi, Residence Life Coordinator, and students Steve Jecker, Brian Uhri, Jim Weaver, Kim Angelo and Missy Hyatt enjoy mocktails, aka non-alcoholic cocktails. The drinks were donated by Housing and Food Services for Alcohol Awareness Week.

Gotham's goal is to heighten awareness to the problems of people thinking it is safe to drink and drive. Gotham said that if she can "prevent one life from being taken it has made a difference."

Linda Lombardi, Residence Life

Coordinator, has been working with BACCHUS in trying quality programs to impact the students.

"We try to hit home with the students the fact that problems with drinking can happen at a small campus," Lombardi said.

After this week Lombardi hopes that students will take a more serious look at their drinking habits.

Students who need support can contact Sue Daley, Personal Counselor, in the Career

Development and Counseling office. Daley offers a program called Moderation Management for students who feel they may be drinking too much.

## Media slant

by Justin Grimm  
Collegian Staff

Media slant and the 1996 Election was a hot topic at last night's open forum, Elections '96.

A panel of six people led the discussion. Two panel members were faculty; Dr. Colleen Kelley, and Dr. Robert Speel.

Three students, Adam Levenstein, John Rossomondo and Mike Woycheck were also on the panel in

Dr. Kelley added that "Americans like spectacle; they like their politics to be exciting."

A major supporting idea behind campaigns is that one of the best ways to make politics exciting is when the media encourages the public through advertisement of the candidates.



Dave Boulos-Collegian photographer

**Election '96:** Dr. Colleen Kelley and Michael Woycheck talked about media slant in political campaigns.

addition to Sam Epps, a recent graduate.

One of the main discussions at the forum questioned if the media was slanted.

Many Americans enjoy watching the candidates "slam" each other - the media picks out issues and enlightens the public on them.

According to some members of the panel, the media is an industry that makes profits off the candidates.

Another major issue last night was how to get better candidates to run.

Mike Woycheck said that "the best candidates never run. The [candidate] process itself has flaws and unattractive qualities that discourage a better candidate from seeking public office."

Often, many potential candidates do not run because of the high expenses. Campaigns can cost millions of dollars.

## English to speak at Behrend in town hall meeting

United States Congressman Phil English (R-Pa.) will be at Penn State Behrend Wed., Oct. 30 for a town hall-style question and answer session. The session will begin at 5 p.m. in the Reed Commons and refreshments will be provided. English is the incumbent candidate for congress against challenger Ron DiNicola. His visit to Behrend is made possible by the Behrend College Republicans. All students, faculty and staff are invited to share concerns and have any questions answered by English.

## PA has Zero-tolerance

**One drink can lead to trouble for those under 21**

by Bob Misulich  
Collegian Staff

A change in Pennsylvania's drinking law is going to make a big impact on anyone who is under 21.

The new Zero-tolerance law will go into effect Saturday, Oct. 26. The law lowers the Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) for anyone under 21 from .10 percent to .02 percent.

The defendant will be charged not only with underage drinking, but also driving under the influence. A BAC of .02 percent is equivalent to one drink.

Police officers in the past were limited to charging underage drinkers with a summary offense when caught driving. The penalty used to be a fine and driver's license suspension.

Meadville Police Chief, Hal Tubbs, said, "I don't believe a large portion of drunk drivers are under 21. The law does make it easier for police to prove a minor was drunk while driving, but still may not cause minors to think twice before taking a drink of alcohol."

Police officers cannot pull a car over without probable cause (driving too fast, running a stop sign/light, swerving, etc.), but using the .02 BAC as a standard for minors may lead to more arrests at state police roadblocks.

The Behrend community has many students from out of state who are not familiar with Pennsylvania's drinking laws.

Some states don't suspend driving privileges, only impose a fine. In



Bob Misulich/Collegian Photographer

**Writing on the wall:** Students can share their drinking experiences on "The Wall" through Friday. "The Wall" contains red bricks for positive drinking experiences and brown bricks for negative experiences.

Had the law not passed by October 1998, five percent of the 1999 federal aid highway funds would have been withheld. If the law still wasn't passed by October 1999, 10 percent of those funds would have been withheld.

The Zero-tolerance law removes any loopholes that were in the previous system. A minor pulled over with alcohol on his/her breath will face severe penalties. Charges for underage drinking have gone from a summary offense to a misdemeanor, Driving Under the Influence.

**"I have no choice but to enforce it here at Behrend."**

--Bernie George, Police and Safety

The Zero-tolerance law for minors over 18 means incarceration for forty-eight hours if the defendant does not accept or does not qualify for the Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (A.R.D.).

The A.R.D. program consists of 1 to 12 month license suspension, community service, probation, attendance at Alcohol Highway Safety School and its costs, court and administrative costs and treatment and other conditions that a judge may impose.

In addition, the defendant will have to pay a fine between \$300-\$5,000, and undergo a drug and alcohol evaluation. Offenders also face thousands of dollars in legal fees and increased insurance premiums.

the state of Maryland, crashes involving minors dropped by 11 percent once a Zero-tolerance law was enacted. Each year, according to Chief Tubbs, one third of all highway fatalities involve 15 to 20 year olds.

Police and Safety Officer Bernie George said he believes this law is going to be challenged at some point, but as of right now, "I have no choice but to enforce it here at Behrend."

The law is supposed to deter under age drinking and driving, as of right now losing a driving license isn't enough.

Passage of the law enabled Pennsylvania to qualify for \$1.7 million in alcohol prevention funds from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Gannon University Student Government Association presents a Public Town Hall Meeting featuring Atty. Ron DiNicola, candidate for congress, and Atty Jane Earl, senate candidate

Sat., Oct. 26  
12 noon to 2 p.m.  
Zurn Science Center  
143 W. 7 St.  
Rooms 101 and 104