

Alcohol Student & Affairs

SGA gets heat over SRTE fliers

> Underage drinking policies on campus thicken

CAROLYN ZAFFINO
senior reporter

Penn State University decided that alcohol consumption is a major issue and that they need to make some changes in order to protect the students. Since the beginning of this year Penn State has had a new policy in place for people who get caught drinking on campus.

The office of Student Affairs has started notifying the parents of dependent students after the first alcohol offense, instead of after the second.

The point of this policy is to make the parents aware that they should get involved and help prevent future incidents. This also helps the student to find a support system with both the school and with their parents, because it gives them some comfort.

According to the Parental Notification Policy issued by Penn State Judicial Af-

airs, the goal of parental notification is to "Identify additional supportive points of intervention for students; identify at risk behavior thresholds for which notification would be effectively applied; and to educate students about the negative impact that dangerous, unhealthy and inappropriate choices have on their education and on others."

"I know it's different, but we are just trying to prevent serious trouble," said Kelly Shrout Associate Director of Student Affairs, "it is meant to be more of an aid than a discipline."

Before the letter gets sent to the parents, the students are given a chance to warn their parents.

On-campus students are required to meet with their Resident Coordinator and commuters with Shrout, to talk about what happened.

Through these series of various steps, the students

themselves are highly encouraged to be the ones to break the news to their parents first, instead of a surprise letter home from administration.

"All that is sent home is a letter saying there was a violation of the alcohol policy," said Shrout. "We cannot send home the incident report until a waiver has been signed saying yes we can."






The violations include consuming, providing, or even being in a room where alcohol consumption takes place.

"If your parent fills out a FAFSA for you, they will get a letter," said Shrout. In the long run, this will help a lot of students stay out of serious trouble.

For more information, on guidelines the sanctioning guidelines can be found at <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/judicial/pdf/SanctioningGuidelines.PDF>.

Goals of the Parental Notification Policy

(Page 17 of the Procedural Guidelines for the University Discipline Process)

-  Identify additional supportive points of intervention for students.
-  Become better partners with parents/guardians in support of their student.
-  To identify at risk behavior thresholds for which notification would be effectively applied.
-  To education students about the negative impact that dangerous, unhealthy and inappropriate choices have on their education and on others.
-  To utilize the impacts of family/guardian intervention for deterring further misconduct.

TOBY KELLER
assistant news editor

"Got a bad teacher? Rip him/her a new one with the SRTEs!"

These words, adorning the top of small fliers distributed across campus, has the Penn State Behrend Student Government Association (SGA) in hot water from faculty and staff at the college.

The fliers were distributed as part of an effort by the Academic Affairs Committee of SGA to promote student feedback on their teachers. The SRTEs - Student Reviews of Teaching Effective - are distributed at the end of each semester and provide students a chance to review how good or bad their teachers have been.

The way in which the SRTEs were promoted, though, has raised criticism across the college.

"I think it's a case of good intentions with poor execution," said Ken Miller, Director of Student Affairs and the advisor of the SGA.

"They were trying to increase student participation,

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Peek'n Peak bankrupt

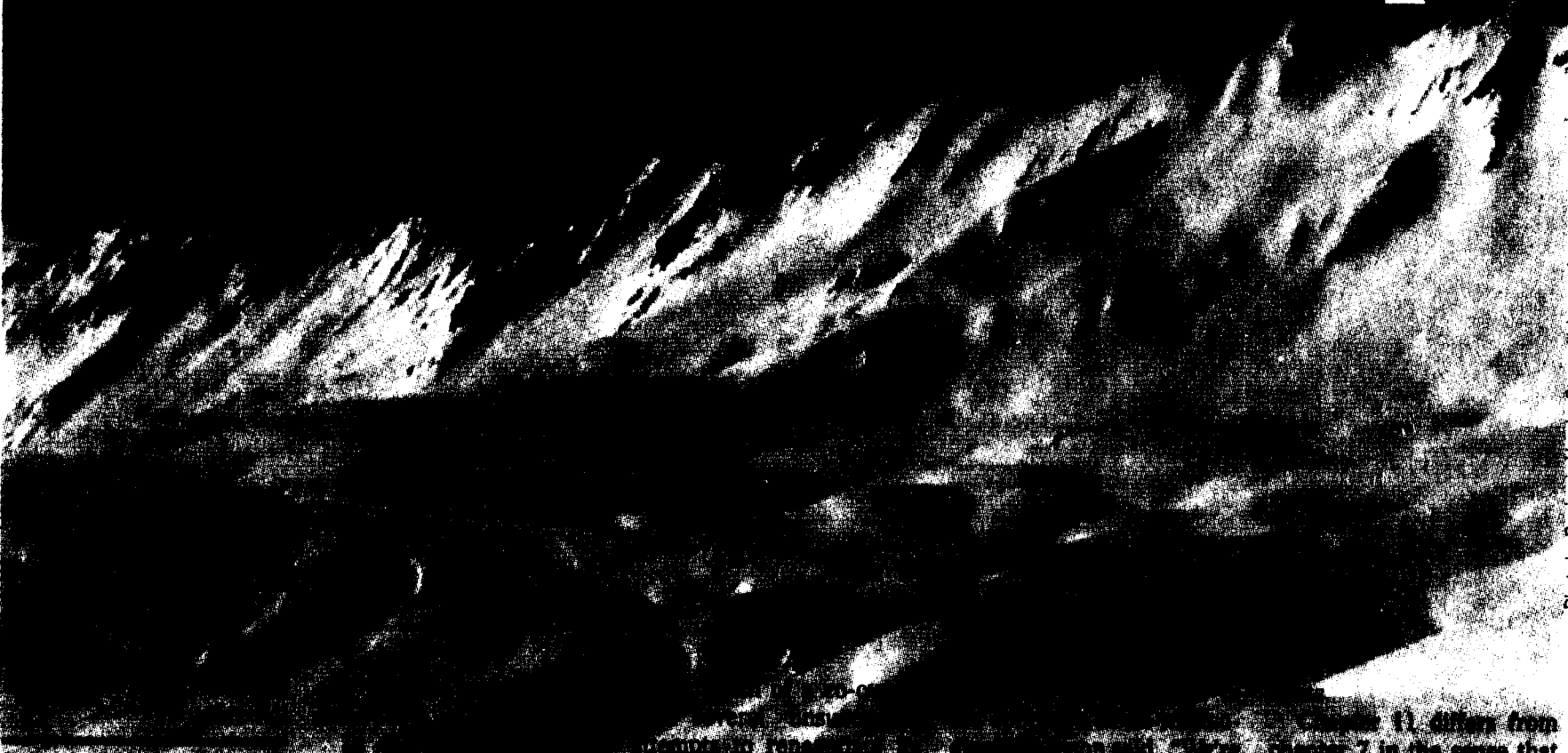


Photo by Benjamin Vander Steen, flickr creative commons

Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Protection in a Federal court outside of Cleveland, Ohio on June 3, 2010.

In a special to the Observer, Dennis Phillips writes that Peek n Peak owes more than \$30 million to creditors including over \$1.2 million in unpaid property taxes. Paul Kiebler IV, the owner of the property, has report-

edly filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Protection in a Federal court outside of Cleveland, Ohio on June 3, 2010. In a special to the Observer, Dennis Phillips writes that Peek n Peak owes more than \$30 million to creditors including over \$1.2 million in unpaid property taxes. Paul Kiebler IV, the owner of the property, has report-

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Club Rush to be held in Spring

CONNOR SATTELY
editor-in-chief

Club Rush, an event usually reserved for the first few weeks of fall semester, will have an encore performance this year. Penn State Behrend's Student Government Association (SGA), in conjunction with Student Activities plans to hold a Spring Club Rush event to get students involved with clubs and organizations on-campus.

The event, planned for Jan 13, the first week of Spring semester, was spurred by a motivation to get more first-year students involved on-campus.

"A lot of first-year students told me they didn't get involved with a club because they just wanted to get acclimated to college," said Nicole Fedders, Coordinator of Student Organizations and Program Developments.

"When they were ready to join clubs in the spring, they really didn't know how to go about it, so they didn't join anything. Some of them joined a club their sophomore year, while others didn't join at all."

The event will utilize the entire Reed building, says Fedders.

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DENIED



SGA president Steven Burger exercises the rarely power to veto a large funding request by the Society of Undergraduate Economists.

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SPORTS



Penn State Behrend Men's Basketball begins the season with a 6-0 record, winning this weekend's game against Penn State Altoona.

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DORMS



Check out a student's survey of campus housing, including Pro's and Con's of each building and the difficulty of each housing process.

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