

# Asking Around

## "Responsible Drinking"

Jan Travers/Editor

### Do You Have The Guts To Accept Responsibility?

There is a \$22 million lawsuit pending in Pennsylvania courts involving a former Penn State student at the Altoona campus. After an evening of drinking at a fraternity party, she attempted to drive home and had an automobile accident which left her a paraplegic.

It's not too difficult to see the motive behind her suit. Here's an 18 year-old woman who knowingly and illegally drinks. After the accident she wants to be absolved of her guilt. What better way to do this than to put the blame on someone else?

What she fails to realize is that she alone is responsible for her behavior. No one forced her to go to the party, to drink alcoholic beverages, or to get behind the wheel of an automobile when she was drunk. True, the first faculty to go when drinking is judgment, but why didn't she consider how she was going to get home before she started drinking?

The saddest part of this story, other than the young woman being a victim of her own deceit, is that she will probably win her case. Instead of the judicial system putting the responsibility of this incident on the accident victim, they will most likely award her a large settlement. In essence, they will be rewarding her actions and at the same time allowing her to push her guilt on someone else.

In recent years, numerous techniques have been introduced to try to protect us from ourselves—mandatory jail terms for driving under the influence, drunk driving education programs, laws making the host/hostess liable for people drinking in their home, and random roadblocks checking for drunken drivers. But these changes alone are not the long term solution to the problem. Much of the well-meaning legislation is not addressing the principal problem of the necessity of the individual acknowledging responsibility for his actions.

Until there is a change in attitude toward the social acceptance of intoxication and drunken driving, all these inovative steps will only serve the symptoms and not address the cause.

It is time for everybody to accept responsibility for his actions!

Vicki Koon/Managing Editor

## Difference Between Night & Day

HARRY'S BAR, 10 P.M.

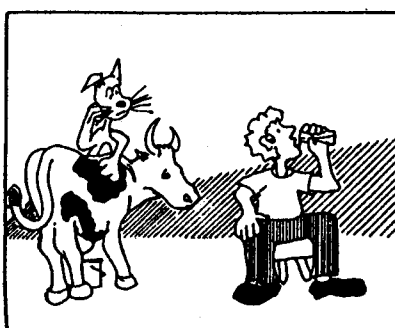
The atmosphere is dim. Prisms of colored light move around the room. Music pummels the air. The crowd at the end of the bar is responding to the music like palm fronds in a hurricane. The storm eases off occassionally and a calm breeze moves in.

The bar is covered with glasses of all shapes, bottles, ashtrays, and elbows. To the left of the bar are little round tables elbowing for room amongst coiffed and scented bodies. This group competes with the music in decibel levels.

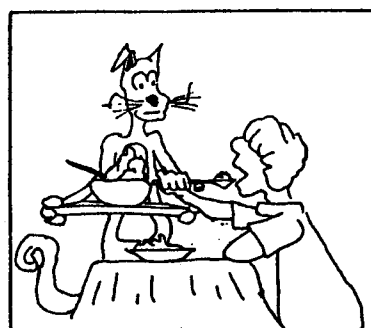
Waitresses move back and forth from the bar to the tables, recharging the atmosphere. The sounds mesh together. The senses are blurred.

HARRY'S BAR, 10 A.M.

The bright light looks uncomfortable against the dark wood walls, the black ceiling, and the deep red carpet. Disinfectant smells creep from the open doorways of the restrooms. The bar surface is cleared of all encumbrances, marred with scratches and burns. The chairs are upside down on the tables, exposing the naked pedestals to the light. A vacuum cleaner churns and grates on the air while fermented odors silently escape from the carpet.



DRINK LOTS OF MILK



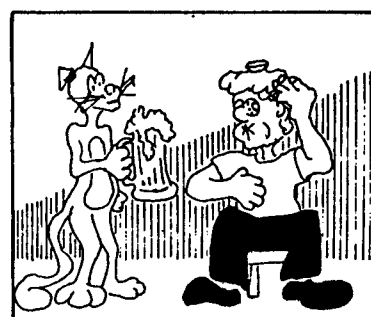
EAT LOTS OF FOOD



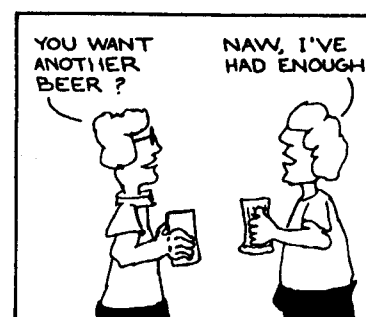
DRINK LOTS OF COFFEE



TAKE A COLD SHOWER



THE MORNING AFTER DRINK



OR TRY MODERATION

### SIX WAYS TO HANDLE A HANG OVER

## What's the craziest thing you ever did while intoxicated?

Pictures by Sylvia Johnson/Interviews by Al Pincus



**Nick Roslevege**  
Public Policy

"I fell asleep under the kitchen table at a party."



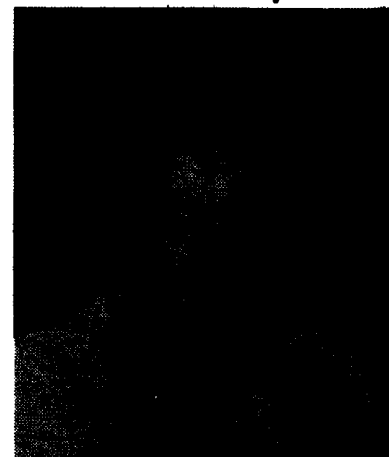
**Dave Bower**  
Electrical Engineering

"I returned home from a toga party wearing only a sheet, not knowing where my clothes were. I was greeted at the front door by my angry mother. I was only 16 at the the time."



**Sharon Harris**  
Management

"I ruined a dinner party that I gave. I was drunk before anyone arrived and I was dreadfully ill less than an hour into the party. The next day I didn't remember a thing."



**John Larsen**  
Math/Science

"I banged my head against the wall several times and I can't remember why. It didn't hurt at the time though."