Boston colleges form anti-binge drinking coaltion

Alignment believed to be most comprehensive joint effort against university alcohol abuse

By The Associated Press

BOSTON — Under the theory that there's power in numbers, two dozen Boston area colleges and universities are joining forces in an attempt to reduce underage student drinking.

While there have been similar efforts targeting college drinking in other states, the

academic union is believed to be the most comprehensive of its kind.

Penn State Harrisburg recently joined a community coalition aimed at reducing alcohol abuse by the school's students.

College presidents and their representatives planned to sign a cooperative agreement Monday, aimed at changing campus attitudes toward illegal and so-called "binge" drinking

The agreement acknowledges the widespread extent to which underage drinking occurs, and attempts to set uniform policies for discipline, programming and alcohol awareness training among the participating schools.

The Boston schools range from the tiny Aquinas College in Newton, which has just over 100 students, to Northeastern University, which boasts 12,000. Combined, the 24 campuses enroll 67,000 undergraduates.

The idea for the coalition began well over

a year ago, several months before a Massachusetts Institute of Technology freshman drank himself to death in a fraternity house.

But Scott Krueger's September 1997 death was a driving impetus, said Richard M. Freeland, president of Northeastern University who helped organize the coalition.

While most colleges have some regulations in place to try to offset underage drinking, the rules can differ from one campus to the next. That's a particular problem in a city like Boston, where students mingle with peers from other institutions, Freeland said.

Hartwick parlayed setbacks into successful run as mayor

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disabled made me more competitive. I always had an extra incentive to do things."

That competitive spirit began in his grade school years when his pee wee football team went an astonishing 55-0 through 6 years; the only time that a Pennsylvania team has ever fared so well in little league football.

Hartwick brought his athletic drive onto the wrestling mat when he capped off his senior year with the Steel-High's record for wins and a second-place finish at the Pennsylvania high school wrestling championships.

His determination continued past high school and into politics. Hartwick decided to run for mayor about a year before the election occurred. His opponent was a 3-time incumbent on the city council. A historically conservative town, Steelton has had a Republican win every single mayoral election save one — Hartwick ran on the Democratic ticket.

"Our campaign wasn't about party lines, it was about working together," said Hartwick. "I must have knocked on every door in Steelton at least twice, some even three times."

Hartwick also went after the younger voters: "My main focus is to get more young people involved in politics, we need people to do things ethically. I want to encourage our youth to stop using the negativity in politics as a scapegoat and to start getting involved."

Hartwick's leadership has brought an abundance of new programs to the Steelton area. He has expanded the role of mayor from just an overseer to a catalyst as Steelton's community has become increasingly involved in town projects. For example, Hartwick is currently involved in the building of a new community youth center that has been supported by virtually every Steelton citizen.

"Thanks in large part to Rep. Ron Buxton, we can put Steelton back on the map," he said. "Every cross section in our community from businesses to concerned parents to churches are behind the building of this youth center."

Hartwick also oversees the police

force, where Steelton has experienced a significant reduction in crime. "I've realized that the only way you can reduce crime is by convincing the public that crime is a community problem, not a police problem."

And Hartwick remains committed to the task at hand.

"Taking care of Steelton is my first priority," he said. "As for future plans, well, I'll just leave my tomorrows wide open."

Quiz nets cash for hurricane aid

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An uncounted number of Central Americans saw their livelihoods completely destroyed. The rampaging hurricane plunged the region headlong into an economic ruin that could take a decade or longer to offset. The governments of Central America are overwhelmed by the need for hurricane relief.

Fortunately, Penn State Harrisburg has emissaries in the International Affairs Association (IAA) to help those individuals devastated by the hurricane. During National Geography Week (Nov. 15 to 21) IAA helped to raise approximately \$150 for those affected by Hurricane Mitch by hosting a geography trivia game.

Students were eligible to participate in the game for 25 cents per question, and faculty were also asked to

contribute to the fund. IAA members were in charge of running the booth located in the main lobby of Olmsted. IAA Adviser Dr. Clem Gilpin went around to the faculty requesting contributions.

The geography trivia game was modified version of IAA team member competitions from past years.

"The decision to change the format of the game was done to get more students involved," Gilpin explained The idea to adapt the game and help raise money for hurricane relief came to him during one of his daily walks.

A drawing was held for those students who correctly answered their questions: first prize, a globe won by Hiyam Said; second prize, globe bookends won by David Longenecker; and third prize, a world atlas won by Bob Woehr.

Rose wins scavenger hunt

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Her favorite aspects of the scavenger hunt were going up the steps of the State Library. "You could see the grooves worn away in the marble steps from years of people climbing them," she said. "It reminded me of the movie 'Ghostbusters' where all of the stuff starts flying out of the files in a library. It's kind of spooky there."

She also liked the State Capitol, especially looking up into the dome.

"People just were walking through, not even glancing up. I think they take it for granted," she said.

But for the most part, Rose just enjoyed getting out and walking around. "It was fun," she said, summing up her experience.

Congratulations, Larissa, and have fun spending the dough.

Don't let stress ruin Christmas season

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ally healthy. Make a commitment to yourself to relax and enjoy the holiday season in order to create meaningful memories.

— Set realistic goals for activities, time commitments and spending. During the holiday season, it is easy to get swept up in the moment and become overextended in the terms of time and financial commitments.

— Don't feel obligated to committing to engagements. If there is too much going on, pass on the opportunity. Learn gracefully to say no: "I would really love to come to your party, but I already have plans for the evening. Thank you so much for the invitation, though."

— Take advantage of social support. Ask for help! Get as many family members involved as possible to get tasks finished. If this means asking your significant other

to do the laundry or proof read your term paper, go for it. Don't overburden yourself. Know your limits.

There are many things in our lives we simply cannot control, so this holiday season identify the situations in your environment that make you feel stressed and tense. You might not be able to make your term paper disappear or magically put up the Christmas tree, but you can find creative solutions to making your holiday season brighter.

