

## What's Up with Meade Heights?

By Geoff Conklin  
Capital Times Staff Writer

Meade Heights dwellers may have noticed that the last few weekends around here looked like a cheesy new millennium version of "21 Jump Street."

Several parties were busted the last few weekends, and more than a dozen students have been convicted of underage drinking since August. This past weekend I felt like I was in a ghost town. I stepped out of my palatial apartment and almost tripped over some tumbleweed drifting down the street.

The police seem to be scaring kids away from their homes. Starting Thursday afternoon, I sat and watched cars get loaded up and driven away. I guess cars getting loaded is OK, but don't anyone under 21 even consider it around here. No parties equals no kids left on campus on weekends. You can't help but ask yourself if the problem is that the police are being overbearing, or if kids around here are just so stupid they can't help getting caught every week.

Kids in college are going to occasionally drink. How can the police or anyone else expect a 20 year old living with three 22-year-old roommates to remain perfectly sober?

Every time an underage resident opens

the refrigerator in their own apartment, they're tempted by rows of Yuengling and Bud.

Even if you are able to control yourself on weekdays, what is one to do on weekends when their over-21 roommates decide it's time for a party? Go home? Lock themselves in a room? No. When in college, you enjoy an occasional brew at a party and hand your drivers license to the cop at the front door on the way out. He'll hold on to it for you - for three months.

Albright College in Reading, is a private religious school with strict rules when it comes to drinking. Even there, however, underage drinkers are given one warning before the police get involved. Also, when is the last time you saw a sober person at University Park on a Saturday night? Now maybe they're allowing drinking up there to help students deal with the horrible football season we're having, or maybe the police there are more realistic, only helping if things begin to get out of control.

The closest thing to "out of control" around here was when that chopper landed on the doorstep of the library the other day. I'm surprised the campus police haven't called them in to help on a Thursday night.

## Campus Question & Answer

In the Oct. 23 issue, *The Capital Times* requested feedback from readers on current features and new ideas. The Campus Question and Answer Column received a unanimous nod from respondents. Beginning with the Dec. 4 issue, *The Capital Times* will publish responses from people with answers to questions posed by the campus community. Questions could be,

"When will the library parking lot be paved? Why are the parking spaces to the left of the Olmsted front door roped off?" I'm sure everyone can think of something.

Questions concerning campus-wide issues, policies and procedures should be addressed to Q&A Column, *The Capital Times*, 777

W. Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057 or e-mailed to [captimes@psu.edu](mailto:captimes@psu.edu).

Editors of *The Capital Times* will seek input from appropriate campus or university sources and publish responses to as many questions as possible. Dr. Susan Richman, associate dean for academic affairs, is currently preparing an answer to our first question.

Submitted questions must contain your name. However, *The Capital Times* will offer anonymity in posing questions to campus authorities and in publication. Please direct any questions concerning the process to Cathie McCormick Musser, Editor In Chief.

Address questions to:  
**Q&A Column**  
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**777 W. Harrisburg Pike**  
**Middletown, PA 17057**  
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