

## Drinking

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way to become involved is to get caught consuming the alcohol itself. This would qualify one for a sit down with Community Standards and Judicial Affairs, both of which are represented by Kim Rushing. Typically, you would undergo contract review for your housing contract, your parents will be contacted, and you will be referred to the Alcohol Intervention Program, or AIP.

The first time, you will be assigned AIP I. According to the AIP Program informational pamphlet, "[t]his program involves meeting with a campus counselor ... [,] takes about an hour to complete and the total cost,

including counseling, is \$50." This \$50 cost is actually less than it costs the campus to bring in the counselor, according to Mrs. Christopher.

The next time, you will be assigned AIP II. This is basically the same as AIP I, but it requires 2-3 sessions with the counselor, which would cost between \$100 and \$150.

The third time, you will be referred to AIP III. This "involves participation in a Franklin County Drug and Alcohol Workshop as well as treatment at a local drug and alcohol treatment facility, both arranged through a campus counselor and at the student's expense," according to the same AIP informational pamphlet.

These AIP sessions are mandatory if they are assigned.

They are not the only means of dealing with offenses, as each case is treated individually. Factors such as the amount of alcohol found and the students' intentions play a role. For relatively minor infractions, students may be assigned a research paper which is to concern the effects of alcohol and why consuming alcohol is therefore a bad choice. The consequences can be fairly severe for incidents involving more alcohol or repeat offenses, and one consequence not mentioned, though one that has been used, is revocation of your housing contract, forcing you to move out.

What happens if you merely possess alcohol? As was noted before, each incident is considered individually. The most extreme measure, dismissal from the university, has been used to deal with offenders possessing large amounts of alcohol, although only in conjunction with individuals who were repeat offenders (Source withheld). Possessing alcohol will have you referred to Judicial Affairs, just as will consumption.

Just being around individuals consuming alcohol, though not consuming it yourself, may land you in trouble. Depending on your reasons for being at the location where alcohol was being consumed, if you were a past offender, or any mitigating circumstances, your punishment

will vary, if there is any at all. However, students have gotten in trouble just for associating with those consuming alcohol (Source withheld).

For persons of age, many of the same consequences apply. You will have a sit down with Community Standards and Judicial Affairs, and have your contract reviewed as well. Your parents will also be sent a letter even though you are of age, and this has happened (Source withheld). According to Mrs. Christopher, however, a special allowance for adult learners was made in the past to allow them to possess and consume alcohol on campus, but this led to several problems. However, many older students feel as though they should at least be allowed to drink on campus.

We have seen that, and as members of the Penn State Mont Alto community know drinking goes on on campus. We also know that the punishment for drinking can be quite harsh. We conclude from this that the campus' policies concerning drinking have been ineffective at doing anything to combat this perceived problem. Certainly, the current focus on making alcohol seem bad or evil, or even pointing out the consequences of drinking in educational programs, which the campus does use, is a noble effort. If students aren't responding,

however, something must be wrong.

Truthfully, binge drinking is a serious problem on college campuses. Maybe this should be the focus of current alcohol policies; rather than seeking out and punishing offenders, we should be attacking the overconsumption of alcohol instead. Campus administration needs to face the truth that drinking is prevalent not only on this but on every college campus in America.

Alcohol serves a social function in the college world, and the campus here cannot replace that with other campus sponsored activities. What the campus should focus on is combating binge drinking and not all drinking, seeking to educate all students that they should drink responsibly, not that they shouldn't be drinking at all. Mont Alto is certainly a place of alcohol consumption, and no campus policy could ever eliminate that. Campus policy should instead focus on mitigating the effects of alcohol consumption rather than on mitigating the consumption of alcohol.

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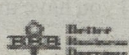
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## ASB

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looking much younger than her respectable 79 years, is the beneficiary of a Habitat house that was, and still is, in the process of being built. Mildred, who has two sons who are both disabled and incapable of independent living, graced us with our presence one warm day on the worksite, and though she kindly donated a private lunch, the balanced was even when she stole our hearts. The words "God bless you" flowed constantly from the lips of the slight creature, praising our work and our devotion of time. Though her commendation was lavish and all but unceasing, what Mildred did not know is that within each one of us, the praise was

mutual, if not heavily in her favor.

The entire trip can only be described as breathtaking. The sights of the old town of Savannah, the taste of fine southern cooking, the indefatigable kindness of an extraordinary group of peoples was miraculous. Our experience in Georgia was a devotion of our time, doubtlessly so. However, I believe I speak for the entire Alternative Spring Break Club when I say that there ultimately remains a debt that may never be remunerated: To a tiny community in Effingham County, Georgia for a kindness thought unattainable in an evolving world.

To learn how you can get involved in Habitat for Humanity, go to [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org) or call the Chambersburg chapter of Habitat for humanity at (717) 267-1899. Additionally, each student has the

chance to join next year's Alternative Spring Break club, the details of which will be available at the beginning of the fall semester.

