

Eye on Our Generation

ALCOHOL AWARENESS in College Campuses

By Jill Fein

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At most schools, student partying has gotten to the point where trips to the hospital or court have become a regular activity. The idea of not being able to drink encourages freshmen and sophomores to drink that much more. When first entering college, a majority of teens have such an excitement for the party scene that they take it to the extreme. Though, on this campus, alcohol use and awareness is not what we most need to worry about. Since PSU Brandywine is a commuter campus, we never need to worry about getting out of control here. Most students live with their parents and do their partying on the weekends. Still, that does not make it right.

As of late, the "Big Ten" schools have been taking surveys from all freshman, asking questions such as, "How much do you drink a week?", "Do you prefer to drink beer, shots, or mixed drinks?", and "How often do you drink?" Using the data from these surveys, schools say they are trying to fight for the lowering of the drinking age. It has been said numerous times, "If one is old enough to vote and smoke, why not drink?"

"Statistics have proven that the age of a person consuming their first alcoholic beverage has become increasingly younger and younger, simply because the need to rebel is very common," says Ruth C. Eng, a professor from Indiana University. Eng also adds that in a research article circulating Indiana's campus, that freshmen and sophomores drink because it's an enticing "forbidden fruit," a "badge of rebellion against author-

ity", and a symbol of "adulthood."

The drinking age debate has been a constant battle for years, the main argument being cigarettes. Why is it legal to smoke cigarettes at age 18, when smoking kills more people than alcohol? Though a battle is intact, we must remember how harmful binge drinking can be. A recent issue of LaCrosse Tribune, a Wisconsin newspaper, states that "College presidents from about 100 of the nation's best-known universities, including Duke, Dartmouth and Ohio State, are calling on lawmakers to consider lowering the drinking age from 21 to 18, saying current laws actually encourage dangerous binge drinking on campus."

In a recent issue of *USA Today*, "Choose Responsibility" is discussed. Choose Responsibility is a program created by the University of Vermont, simply explaining the dangerous effects of alcohol, while teaching students to drink carefully. Vermont is fighting to lower the drinking age as well, but students between the ages of 18-20 must complete this program before being allowed to drink on campus.

At University Park, they have created a program called AlcoholEdu for all first year students, which is very similar to the program at the University of Vermont. Schools are doing the best that they can to fight.

The next issue will include updated statistics and reveal how the battle has been progressing.

Policies, Safety, & U

A Publication of Student Affairs, Finance and Business, and Human Resources PA Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Law

- In Pennsylvania the illegal level for DUI is .08% Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) and .02% BAC for minors.

- The law emphasizes treatment and a three tier penalty system based on BAC and prior offenses: 1) general impairment (.08-.099%), 2) high rate of alcohol (.10-.159%) and 3) highest rate of alcohol (.16% and above).

- Also, drivers with any amount of a Schedule I, II or III controlled substance that has not been medically prescribed (or their metabolites) may not drive, operate or be in actual physical control of a vehicle.

For more information, see www.padui.org/. Click on "The Law."



Join Penn State Brandywine Oct 19, 2008
12-2pm

to cheer on the walkers of the
Komen 3 Day Walk

Meet at PSU Brandywine at 12:00
to head to the cheer site
Lancaster Ave (between Railroad Ave & Penn St) Bryn Mawr

Next Organizational Meeting October 15
in Main 205 Common Hour

For more information, email Karrie Bowen at kab44@psu.edu

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New Law Seeks to Prevent Illegal Downloading on Campuses

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If you're a student looking at going to University Park next year and you illegally download music to your computer, the government may be watching you. They won't really be watching you of course, but softwares required by the Higher Education Act of 2008 will be.

The act is an update to the Higher Education Act of 1965 that demands universities keep a track of all illegal downloading activities on their campus networks. This may be spurred from the idea that most illegal downloads of movies, music, and so forth are being done by college students, as biased as it may sound.

Traffic monitoring and bandwidth shaping technologies are being suggested as the route colleges will want to take to prevent peer-to-peer file sharing. Exinda Networks, which is a global provider of these technologies, recently announced that they will assist colleges' IT professionals who are in need of tutorials on how to use the monitoring software. They have over 1,500 users worldwide that vary from government to internet service providers.

This provider integrates WAN (Wide Area Network) optimization, application acceleration, application visibility and application

response time measurements for mid-sized enterprise, government and service provider clients.

Stretching itself globally, Exinda has offices in Amsterdam, Dubai, Frankfurt, Kuala Lumpur, London, Mexico City, Salt Lake City, Sao Paulo, Toronto and Zurich – its United States headquarters is located in Andover, Massachusetts.

Exinda's chief executive officer, Con Nikolouzakakis, says, "While illegal downloads of music and videos on college campuses has been an issue for quite some time, the new law brings this issue to the forefront."

This doesn't leave Brandywine students totally out of the picture. If you should choose to use your laptop on campus between classes and access the internet for downloads, watch your back because the campus holds every right to monitor what you are downloading on its campus.

But if you want to voice your opinion on the matter, we want to hear from you. Please email The Lion's Eye at clf5050@psu.edu or kab44@psu.edu. We will put your response to the article in our Letters to the Editor section of our next issue.

If you are interested in learning more about Exinda Networks, you can visit their website: www.exinda.com.

Some information in this article is contributed by www.exinda.com