

Student leaders react to ordinance changes

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Student leaders said Tuesday that recent changes in the Nuisance Gathering Ordinance are not enough one day after the latest draft of the ordinance was presented to the State College Borough Council.

The changes presented at Monday's work session limit the ordinance, holding party hosts responsible only for violations occurring on their own property. Previous versions aimed to charge party hosts if guests later committed crimes elsewhere.

University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) Governmental Affairs Chairman T.J. Bard said though he sees the change as a step in the right direction, many students oppose the ordinance.

Bard said his committee is going to send out a questionnaire to people affected by the ordinance — including fraternity presidents, the Off-Campus Student Union, students living off-campus and borough residents — by the end of the week.

From the feedback, Bard hopes to compile a "uniformed and universal" report to present to the council members before they cast their votes.

UPUA Legal Affairs Director Matthew Lachman said the numerous revisions to the ordinance show the council and borough are not confident in the proposal.

"The fact they keep revising and taking things out of it show they are aware it's not the right thing to do," Lachman (senior-political science) said.

Chadd Williams, president of the Penn State chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), said the change in the ordinance was good, but still not enough.

In March, Williams (freshman-political science) sent a letter to the borough, stating the ordinance was unconstitutional. Though he never got a reply, he said he will continue to fight against the ordinance.

"We'll do our best here at Penn State, but we only have a couple weeks left until we leave," Williams said. "We'll do what we

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Matthew Lachman
UPUA Legal Affairs Director

can but we can only do so much."

Voting on the Neighborhood Sustainability Ordinances is scheduled to occur at the May 3 council meeting, the beginning of finals week for students.

The current form should not be passed, Williams said — he thinks the ordinance still violates a host's rights by holding him responsible for someone else's behavior.

"The people who act disorderly commit crimes on their own. The host shouldn't be responsible," Williams said. "The person who committed the crime should be responsible."

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Penn State alumna Jennifer Storm takes the stage Tuesday to discuss her memoir "Leave the Light On: A Memoir of Recovery and Sobriety" during her talk.

Recovering addict talks of experiences

By Chidi Ugwu
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Even though her days as a self-proclaimed BLOC (big lesbian on campus) have been over for more than a decade, Jennifer Storm still considers Penn State her home.

Storm, author of "Leave the Light On: A Memoir of Recovery and Sobriety," spoke to a small audience Tuesday night in the THB auditorium about her struggle with addiction, recovery and how her time at Penn State helped her through it.

"I had a really positive experience here," she said. "And I did it completely clean and sober."

Storm said that her addiction to alcohol began after she was sexually assaulted at age 12 and she found herself dependent on alcohol and various drugs to get through the day. Once she became serious about trying to get clean, Storm uprooted her life and became a student at Penn State.

"Everything was a party for me," she said. "When I got here and I was actually sober, it was like a whole new world."

While Penn State does have a reputation for being a heavy drinking school, Storm said there is much more to do here if people are willing to look.

She recalled an instance where someone flew into a drunken rage after she told him she wouldn't take a shot of alcohol, even if it was his birthday.

It took a bit of getting used to, but Storm said she eventually learned how to resist the peer pressure she encountered regularly and how to avoid the situa-

tions where she would encounter it.

Storm said it was her involvement on campus that allowed her to stay clean and sober throughout her four years at Penn State and gave her the courage to be more open about her sexuality.

"I can't tell you the number of times I was on the cover of the Collegian with a rainbow flag screaming about something," Storm said.

The author's courage and openness about her life served as an inspiration for Sophie Lamour.

"Her story, everything she went through, was really interesting," said one freshman-premiere attendee. "The strength it gave me to be able to talk about all that was so impressive."

Storm's current position as an UPA member at State College was not without its drawbacks, Storm said she had just received death threats from a former classmate. She later found out that the perpetrator had moved out he was only 17 and from New Jersey.

Storm's main message was that the best way people can do for themselves is to be true to who they really are.

"Living your life as honestly and as authentically as you can is really the biggest thing you can do," she said.

"The main message was what she said, 'Live it out to me.' John [her brother, an epidemiologist] said, 'That's the kind of thing that really helps people who are going through rough patches in their own lives.'"

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PSU veterans join newly formed fraternity colony

By Jourdan Cole
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

After holding positions as a machine gun squad leader and sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps, "The Godfather" is just another title for Matt Poth.

And while he's a little older than the average college student, Poth, 24, has taken the position as the president of a new co-ed fraternity for veterans, Omega Sigma Delta.

After spending two eight-month tours in Iraq, Poth (junior-secondary education) said it was difficult to readjust and settle into college and classes — so he began to look for something bigger.

"It is a daunting task. We're starting from square one. We were important people in the military, and we're just a number to the campus," said Poth, also the vice president of the Penn State Veterans Association.

Enter Omega Sigma Delta, which helps veterans get back into the swing of things.

Last fall, Poth and several other veterans discovered Omega Sigma Delta, National Veterans Fraternity, Inc., and decided to apply for a colony.

Including the Penn State colony, there are six chapters of

"It's not your traditional fraternity. We still all have the warrior spirit in us."

Matt Poth
President of Omega Sigma Delta

Omega Sigma Delta, which bills itself as the largest and most active veteran fraternity in America.

But it's been difficult to build membership. The fraternity currently has about 25 members and plans to reach out to more veterans.

"Our pledge process is signing on the dotted line and defending your country. It's not your traditional fraternity," Poth said. "We still all have the warrior spirit in us."

Potential members must have a grade point average of at least 2.5 and have been honorably discharged from the United States armed forces.

Poth said the brothers' bonds are stronger than those of traditional fraternities because of their shared connection to the armed forces.

"It's a mutual trust," he said. "We have each others' backs in the most dire situations, when it truly is a life-and-death kind of thing."

Public Relations Officer

Jonathan Chorle, 25, said he joined the fraternity for the experience and to be part of something that will grow in the future. He enjoys the weekly meetings because they're not "the typical boring kind."

"We talk about the agenda but also have a lot of fun," Chorle (senior-international media studies) said. "We all joke around and poke fun at each other. We all have thick skin and can laugh at ourselves."

While the fraternity brothers do not share a common residence yet, Poth said he would like to see the fraternity get a house and join the Interfraternity Council (IFC) in the future.

Other goals for the fraternity include giving back to the community and working with its philanthropy, Wounded Warrior Project, Poth said.

"We want to be like the other fraternities and have socials and get involved in THON," he said.

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