

Four Loko remains in stock downtown

By Zach Geiger
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

State College shelves are still stocked with Four Loko — even after the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board issued a request for distributors to drop alcoholic energy drinks pending FDA approval.

The drinks, which combine alcohol and common energy drink ingredients like caffeine, taurine and guarana, have come under scrutiny after they were blamed for numerous hospitalizations across the country, some occurring at colleges and universities.

The drink explicitly named in the letter sent to distributors by the PLCB Monday — Four Loko — contains 12 percent alcohol in addition to stimulants like caffeine, board spokeswoman Stacey Witalec said.

The drinks are sold in 23.5-ounce cans and typically sell individually for \$2.50 or \$26 for a 12-pack.

The cheap price point is one of the most attractive aspects of the drink, Nicole Brezovsky (senior-telecommunications) said. But Brezovsky said the possibility that Four Loko will be prohibited in the near future is neither surprising nor important.

"It's been talked about for so long because Four Loko is so bad for you," she said. "But it's not

going to matter because something else is going to come out."

The PLCB mailed a similar letter to every college and university in the commonwealth on Tuesday that explained the decision to issue the request to distributors, Witalec said.

Any mixture of alcohol and caffeine can be dangerous to consumers, said Linda LaSalle, associate director of educational services for University Health Services.

"I support the PLCB decision to ask distributors to not stock and sell the product," LaSalle said. "It is a product that is causing students to go to the ER, so we know what the dangers are."

The caffeine content of the drinks masks the depressive effects of the alcohol, LaSalle said.

But consumers are no less intoxicated — what is being affected is their ability to perceive or understand how their body is reacting, she said.

"I would encourage students to avoid consuming Four Loko because it is a product that has not been approved by the FDA," LaSalle said.

Phusion Projects, the makers of Four Loko, completed a Generally Regarded as Safe study, the company wrote in an e-mail. The results indicated that adding caffeine to alcohol was



Paul Sakuma/Associated Press

Despite a letter from the PLCB, Four Loko is still being sold at some distributors in State College.

safe, Phusion Projects said.

"When consumed responsibly, Four Loko is just as safe as any other alcoholic beverage," the company wrote in an e-mail. "This request by the PLCB will also be financially detrimental to the distributors and retailers who sell our product throughout the state, and would deprive the state of millions of dollars in tax revenue."

Consumers can still find the products at some local distributors. Brewsky's Bottle Shops, 222 W. Beaver Ave. and 240 S. Pugh St., still stocked Four Loko and similar drinks like Joose at press time Thursday.

Kildare's Irish Pub, 538 E. College Ave., and W.R. Hickey, 1321 E. College Ave., were also carrying the drinks Thursday.

Managers from all three bottle shops had no comment on the future availability of the drinks.

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NAACP dinner to honor activism

By Alexa Agugliaro
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State's chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will host the sixth annual Freedom Fund Dinner at 8 p.m. Sunday in the HUB-Alumni Hall.

Paul John, the dinner's coordinator, said the main goal of the free event each year is to encourage social change on campus and allow people to take a deeper look at their lives and society as a whole.

John (senior-political science) said this year's theme for the night, "Still We Rise: Striving for Excellence," will focus mainly on student leadership and activism.

"We're basically showing students what they could do to be better leaders on and off campus," John said.

NAACP President Travis Salters said the Freedom Fund Dinner is not exclusively for the minority community. He said the theme of the night focuses on a "colorless topic" that anyone can be a part of and feel enlightened.

The keynote speaker will be Chuck Williams, an associate professor at Drexel University who works as an educator, counselor, communicator and leader. Salters (junior-broadcast journalism and African and African-

American studies) said. "Being a leader and becoming an activist are two very different things," Salters said. "We're confident that Dr. Williams' experiences will help clarify those differences."

Salters said he first heard of Williams in his hometown of Philadelphia and said William's personal story made him the perfect candidate to speak to students credibly.

The night's performers will include the United Soul Ensemble, the National Pan-Hellenic Council, band Jackie Renee and the New Deal and the winner of the Freedom Fund Dinner Poetry Contest, John said.

Jasmine Rushum, NAACP vice president, said the topics discussed will be serious, but the dinner is going to be fun and have a warm environment.

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If you go

What: NAACP Sixth Annual Freedom Fund dinner

When: 8 p.m. Sunday Nov. 7

Where: HUB Alumni Hall

Details: Admission is free and open to everyone

Study: Penn State among top 15 sexually healthy schools

By Matt Scorzafave
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State is among the top sexually healthy universities in the nation, according to a recent study released by Trojan condoms and independent research company Sperling's BestPlaces.

Penn State University Park came in 14th place in this year's study, out of a total of 141 colleges ranked in the study.

The Trojan Sexual Health Report Card is an annual ranking of colleges and universities representing each state and major athletic conference.

The study measures the availability of sexual health resources and information to their students,

according to Trojan's website.

Laura Pinsky (sophomore-division of undergraduate studies) said it is important for college students to be aware of the sexual health resources around them.

"This information is definitely relevant for students, especially kids our age," she said.

This is the fifth year for the survey, which looks at 12 categories, such as health center hours, availability of sexual awareness programs, contraception and condom availability and cost, HIV testing and cost and the availability of sexual assault programs.

"I think it's great that Penn State offers such services on campus," Pinsky said.

According to Trojan's site, the

study did not measure statistics within the student population, such as the number of students who have an STD or the level of sexual activity among the student body.

In this year's study, Penn State jumped from four spots since coming in 18th on the 2009 report card.

Katherine Wheatle, a community health educator at University Health Services, said Penn State does offer a lot of different resources for sexual health.

"Our Healthworks program offers a number of services such as a protection table every Wednesday in the HUB and safer sex parties, where students have the opportunity to learn more about safe sex," she said.

Wheatle said she could not confirm the validity of the study, as no one from Trojan or Sperling's BestPlaces have contacted the university regarding the research.

"From what I can see, we have hit on all the categories used to rank," she said. "I can't specifically comment on the ranking, however."

Jeff DiLenno said this year's ranking did not surprise him.

"I wouldn't say the ranking surprised me," DiLenno, a resident of West Halls (sophomore-electrical engineering) said.

"It's really cool, though. I'm happy to hear that we're that high on the list."

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Top 15 Colleges on Trojan's 2010 Report Card

1. Columbia University in the City of New York
2. Michigan State University
3. Ohio State University - Main Campus
4. University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
5. Brown University
6. University of Iowa
7. University of Oregon
8. Princeton University
9. Rutgers University - New Brunswick
10. University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
11. Western Michigan University
12. Cornell University - Endowed Colleges
13. Yale University
14. Pennsylvania State University - Main Campus
15. West Virginia University

Source: 2010 Trojan Sexual Health Report Card

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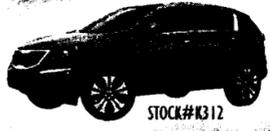
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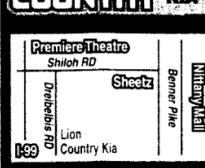
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