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# The Collegian

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## Liquor control board official warns of dangers of underage drinking Alcohol awareness wrapped up

by Tony Olivito  
Collegian Staff Writer

"Employers are less likely to hire someone who has been convicted for drinking. The implication is that the person has a drinking problem and it will probably affect his work," said Corporal Thomas Zielinski of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.

Zielinski and Behrend Police and Safety Manager Randy Hoffman answered questions about underage drinking last Tuesday. Their discussion was sponsored by Behrend's Health Advisory Board as part of its recognition of National Alcohol Awareness Week, held October 16-20.

"Purchase, possession, consumption, or transportation of alcohol (by a minor) is illegal," Zielinski explained.

In 1979, if a person was cited for underage drinking, the fine was only \$52, according to Hoffman. Under the present law, a violator can be fined \$300 and lose driving privileges.

"Legislators moved for steep fines," stated Zielinski, because "They assume minors are going to drink anyway."

Zielinski agreed. "The only way to hurt a person is in his pocketbook," he said.

Zielinski also encouraged students to think of the consequences of drinking.

Even though persons between the ages of 18-21 are considered minors, they are tried as adults and, therefore, establish a record, said Zielinski.

This will have an effect on offenders when they apply for a job, he said. Minors are not drinking responsibly, said Zielinski, citing incidents of alcohol overdoses that have taken place at parties involving minors.

When asked by a student why he used fraternities in his examples of underage drinking, Zielinski responded, "The fact is that when they get together, all hell breaks loose," and such events are "publicized more often than

not."

He also commented on the growing number of false identification cards. "Mere possession (of false ID's) is punishable by a \$300 fine and suspension of driver's license," said Zielinski.

In cases where people claim to have been charged unjustly, it is the offender's responsibility to prove his/her innocence and make sure that evidence is sound, according to Zielinski. He suggests obtaining written testimony from persons involved or obtaining a blood test in some cases. However, as both Hoffman and Zielinski pointed out, each case is governed by its set of circumstances.

The growing number of alcohol related problems among minors, according to Zielinski, is due to a more liberal society. He notes recent sales of liquor to minors are four times greater than ten years ago.

## Roll up your sleeve



photo by Chuck Groger

How much is a pint?: A Red Cross worker helps Jason Hall donate blood for the Alcohol Awareness Week blood drive.

## Lights go out at Behrend No power for five hours

by Mark Owens  
Collegian Staff Writer

A power failure yesterday virtually closed down Behrend, leaving the school without electricity for almost five hours.

The blackout started around 3:40 yesterday when section of cable blew up, cutting off power to the campus. PENELEC crews made a temporary repair giving electricity back around 8:50 that evening. Final repairs were completed about 3:30 this morning.

Lucien Lawson, head of the Maintenance and Operations department, said the power failure was caused by three damaged cable splices, shutting off a 35,000 volt line that powers the campus.

PENELEC officials aren't sure why the splices failed, adding the splices are mechanical in nature and need replaced from time to time.

Randy Hoffman, Manager of Police and Safety, said that there were "no reports of vandalism or theft at this time. People were really well behaved."

No damage was reported at the Computer Center and publication of The Collegian was delayed for several hours.

## Reporter looks at chaos in the sciences

by Rob Farnham  
Collegian Staff Writer

James Gleick, best-selling author of *Chaos: Making a New Science*, says, "I'm not a scientist."

The former *New York Times* science writer said, in a recent phone interview, that as a reporter, he "wants to know what's news," and feels an obligation to inform readers of recent developments in the sciences, especially those relating to the idea of "chaos" as a unifying principle.

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photo by Amy Smith

Alcohol Awareness Week: Corporal Tom Zielinski and Police and Safety Manager Randy Hoffman answer questions during a panel discussion on underage drinking.