

Measures disassociate Greeks with alcohol

By Cami Swanson
Emerald Reporter

People have long associated the Greek system with parties, beer, drugs and more parties. In an effort to change this impression, several Greek members said the system is enforcing rules regarding alcohol consumption and enrolling members in "impact" training. However, efforts to control the alcohol problem leave some people unconvinced. According to Oregon Liquor Control Commission inspector Gary Sandstrom, many of the tailgaters at Autzen Stadium before and after home football games are fraternity-sponsored, which contributes to the bad

image. But Interfraternity Council representative Adam Kennedy doesn't believe that the Greeks are primarily responsible for the alcohol problems present on campus. "I don't think it's a problem just with the Greeks. I think the dorms have a problem with this just as well. The Greeks have made a conscious effort to combat the problem," he said. Jeri Koleno, who organized an alcohol awareness program at her sorority, Delta Delta Delta, agreed with Kennedy. The parties "are more visible," Koleno said. "They happen every weekend. People look at the Greek system and blow it out of proportion." This weekend, 60 pledges

from the Greek system, along with 20 dorm residents, will go through an impact training program with Michael Leeds, who is speaking on alcohol awareness today as part of the University's Wellness Week. The three-day training consists of in-depth discussions about relationships and lifestyles and how they are affected by alcohol and drugs. Participants in the training have commented on the effect the program has had on their lives. "I went through Impact and ended up changing my major," Sigma Chi President Dave Tangvald said. Tangvald, who switched from a business to a psychology major, said he has

since attended the training several more times. The ASUO provided the \$3,000 in funding for this weekend's impact training, which is targeted at freshmen. "The reason behind choosing our first year students is that we'd like some sort of stability, to set a good base for these guys," Kennedy said. "I think it's a good idea to be exposed to this now." Last January, the Greek

system designed a set of rules that required each functioning fraternity and sorority to sign a social contract before each party. The contract states that \$75 worth of food and alternative beverages must be made available at each party and that beer cannot be served after 1 a.m. Two members of each house also must remain sober and make sure no one gets too drunk.

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on the list is taste enjoyment. Other reasons include stress faced by new students, escaping stress from exams and getting drunk for the sake of getting drunk. There is a heavy risk that alcoholic habits begun in college will carry over into post-graduate life. People often think after they get out of college, they will leave their heavy drinking behind and transform to responsible sobriety, according to Edell Davenport, a substance abuse counselor at the Student Health Center. "It's not that easy to just turn around and drop that," Davenport said. In addition, a person who spends their college career drinking heavily may eventually suffer social costs in the future. Students who drink to excess often do not develop healthy pastimes they can enjoy after graduating. "Alcohol gets in the way of developing meaningful ways of dealing with people," Davenport said. Depression and alcoholism are often intertwining problems with one often leading to the

other. People come into the counseling center because of depression, and later the real problem turns out to be alcoholism. Davenport, who has worked at the counseling center since last December, said alcoholism is "quite a prevalent problem," on the campus. After University counseling, students with acute drinking problems are often referred to Serenity Lane, a private local drug and alcohol abuse treatment center. According to Jerry Schmidt, Serenity Lane marketing director, "a considerable number" of students are treated at the center. Treatment at Serenity Lane ranges from outpatient counseling to intensive detoxification programs where the addict undergoes a monthlong treatment while living in the center. Treatment includes films and lectures as well as one-on-one and group counseling. While counseling centers and treatment clinics treat the individual problem drinker, other agencies must deal with the uglier side of alcohol's effects. Members of Campus Security remember the night two years ago when a small riot broke out

in Bean Dormitory. The incident involved rock throwing, injuring a Eugene police officer and resulted in two arrests and numerous citations. Alcohol plays a big part in campus crime, said Campus Security official Susan Hunter. Incidents requiring police response follow the weekend drinking pattern. "Things start up around nine or ten, and don't cool down until four in the morning," Hunter said. Last spring alcohol overindulgence had tragic effects when a University student fell to his death while walking on the third floor ledge of a dormitory. His blood-alcohol level registered at 2.2 percent. The goal of Alcohol Awareness Week is definitely to make a student think about what they are risking if they drink heavily and often. Organizers behind this week's effort stress they are promoting responsible drinking. "Alcohol awareness does not translate into abstinence," said Dorow. "We feel there's been a change in our schools," Dorow said, of the effect his program and ones similar may be having.

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