Week-long campaign addresses alcohol use

By Tonya Robison
Emerald Contributor

Why will ASUO President-elect Bobby Lee drink alcohol in the EMU Courtyard with an Oregon State police officer close by? Because his closely monitored drinking and the sobriety tests that follow are part of a week-long campaign to show that responsible drinking is the key to success.

On Wednesday, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission will give strict amounts of alcohol to Lee and Shelly Dodge, a resident assistant at the University Inn. Mothers Against Drunk Driving will document their consumption, and the pair will be subjected to a series of tests designed to show the effects of alcohol.

The week-long campaign and series of activities, sponsored in part by the Health Education Office at the Student Health Center, are planned to raise awareness about the risks of alcohol abuse and to reduce the risks of alcohol-related accidents.

"There still tends to be a stigma against rejecting alcohol, and it is our attempt to try and change this," said Annie Dochnahl, peer health advising coordinator. "This is more than 'Just say no.' People should know that it is not un-cool to be a responsible drinker."

Wednesday's activities, which will be a part of a live KSND-FM radio broadcast, highlight the week and are designed to educate and involve the community as well as University students.

Local musician Mark Alan will highlight the day's events at 12:30 p.m. Other events include an 11 a.m. trampoline demonstration by George Harris, a comedy stint by Bob Mortimer at noon and an exhibition dance performance by Kappa Alpha Psi at 1:40 p.m.

"We are having the live radio broadcast so that we can let the community outside of the University know that we are trying to increase everyone's awareness of alcohol abuse," said Rob Lindsey, a peer health adviser. "We want to get a message to the community that students at the University do realize that alcohol abuse is a problem and not all students are irresponsible drinkers."

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>
> — Annie Dochnahl,
> *Peer health advising coordinator*

The campaign, funded by a grant from Project Eugene Century Council, will also give students a chance to test their knowledge of the effects of alcohol and to win a $100 gift certificate from the University Bookstore. Free mocktails and Smart Drinks, a non-alcohol, non-drug, naturally stimulating drink, will be available at the EMU Courtyard today through Wednesday.

"Even though alcohol is a legal drug, we want people to know that it is not a harmless drug," Dochnahl said.

To give participants a stimulating non-alcohol activity, the Alcohol Awareness Campaign will also feature a 5K Fun Run on Thursday. The run begins at 4 p.m. at the Alton Baker Park barbecue pits. Prizes will be given to those who come the closest in predicting their own running time. Entry fee is $2, which includes a T-shirt. Those interested can sign up at the Health Education Office at the Health Center.

The week's events will also feature a "Lucy Booth" for information on alcohol related resources and handouts on healthy lifestyles; a graffiti wall, where people can share their own alcohol related experiences; and a drunk driving simulator and breathalyzer tests.

For more information contact the Health Education Office.

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