Health

Continued from Page 1

sure," Durrant said. "But we have made some positive steps by raising awareness.

Young adults and college-age students are the target of many drunken-driving campaigns as a means to stop the problem early, said Bill Rice, local chapter president of MADD.

MADD's annual "Tie One On for Safety" is a campaign running from November through January. In the 1997 holiday season, 568 people were killed in car crashes related to alcohol.

Because alcohol is the most commonly used drug among young people, MADD recently began eight new programs to discourage underage drinking and to discourage drunken driving among young legal

A second campaign currently under way is the National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness month in December

The 3D coalition, which sponsors the awareness month, noted that young legal drinkers, ages 21-34, constitute half of all drunken drivers in the country.

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Preventing young drinkers from driving drunk and enforcing the legal drinking age restrictions will help discourage drunken driving, Durrant said.

"We've Got Your Number" is the theme of this year's awareness month. The coalition is focusing on numbers such as 21, the legal drinking age; 0.08, the legal blood alcohol level and 21-34, the largest age group of drunk drivers in the United States.

The highest percentage of drinking driver deaths, 49.8 percent, was in the 21-34 year old range, according to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration. In 1997, 2,209 people between 15 and 20 years old were killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes, according to NHTSA.

"This is where we need to make a change, is to work with our youth," Rice said.

The statistics help illustrate the horror of drunk driving, but nothing brings it home more than the death of a loved one, Rice said.

"One tragedy for someone is one too many," he said.

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WINTER 1999

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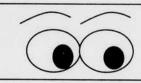


For more information, see page 61 in the rinter UO Schedule of Classes

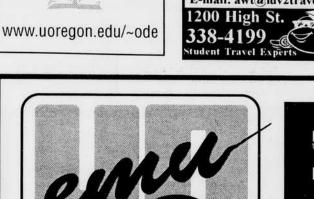
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