

Alcohol screening day hopes to end misconceptions

Only 52 percent of students drink once a week, says University

By Teri Meeuwse
Oregon Daily Emerald

Alcohol use on campus isn't as prevalent as students perceive it to be. Now the University is aiming to add a touch of reality to those perceptions.

On Thursday, the first National Alcohol Screening Day will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Collier House. A projected 600 colleges across the nation will participate at their own campuses to prevent high-risk drinking on college campuses through individualized screening and education.

The screening day is a program of the national Mental Illness Screening Project in partnership with the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

"This will be an opportunity, not to be preached at, but to do your own, personal assessments," said Annie Dochnahl, peer health education coordinator.

According to the 1997-98 University of Oregon Annual Report on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention Programs, prepared by the Office of the Dean of Student Life, the perceived use of alcohol is much higher than the actual use. Students perceive 96 percent of their peers to drink once a week, while in actuality, 52 percent drink once a week.

This perception is perpetuated by word-of-mouth and the media, said Byron McCrae, assistant dean of student life.

"How people talk about it perpetuates the problem," he said. "They all know about Animal House, and I see MTV using alcohol as a means of selling that kind of lifestyle. It's just a matter of unlearning these attitudes. We're just lucky that we haven't had tragedies like at MIT."

MIT and other colleges around the United States have had instances of students dying from alcohol poisoning.

The alcohol consumption perception itself also helps to promote the wrong kinds of drinking decisions, Dochnahl said.

"Given the amount of alcohol that college students are perceived to drink, people think that it's a natural, normal part of college," Dochnahl said. "They have this 'wanting-to-fit-in' energy, so if that means drinking more, that's something that they might do."

Using the wanting-to-fit-in energy, McCrae said the Office of Student Life is inviting groups of students from the Greek system, Housing, the ASUO and others to the screening day — and encouraging them to bring friends.

"We hope they will set the standard of participation," he said. "If people show up in groups, it will be easier for them to talk about alcohol. If one person is going, it might be pretty intimidating. If

more people are educated about health and alcohol, it will change the campus attitude."

Students and community members will receive information about how to know whether they, friends or family members have drinking problems. Afterwards, they can learn the "action steps" to take to get help or find people to talk to.

People who are most at risk of being alcoholics or binge drinkers are probably the least likely to show, Dochnahl said.

"But even if only a few show up, it will be beneficial for the people who do," she said. "And that's what counts."

For more information about National Alcohol Screening Day, call McCrae at 346-3212.

Sororities set to begin spring rush tonight

Rush activities will continue on throughout the week and weekend

By Erin Snelgrove
Oregon Daily Emerald

University sororities are kicking off their spring rush activities today in an attempt to attract new pledges.

Beginning at 6 p.m. in the Willamette Atrium, interested rushees have the opportunity to attend an informational session. Representatives of six sororities will answer questions about their chapters and about Greek life at the meeting.

"We're hoping the open house will encourage people to come and learn more about sororities," said Kristen Oldham, Panhellenic Council vice president of recruitment. "This is an opportunity for everyone to have fun and talk to each other without feeling overwhelmed or intimidated."

Spring rush is not a regular event on campus. Oldham said recruitments can be made continually throughout the year, but because of an increasing interest in the Greek life, an official rush was instigated for spring term this year.

"By having rush now, people can make informed decisions about their living arrangements for next year," Oldham said. "They can decide if they want to live in the dorms, an apartment or a soror-

ity house. Now is the time when people are seriously thinking about where they will live next year, and we want women to consider the chapter houses as an option."

Four sororities are filled to the 90-member-capacity and will not be participating in spring rush. These chapters are Delta Gamma, Kappa Delta, Alpha Phi and Pi Beta Phi.

"Although these chapters are filled, they are still involved in spring rush by helping to recruit new members and by being available to answer concerns of the rushees," Oldham said.

Spring rush activities will continue throughout the weekend. On these days, rushees are invited to participate in one- to three-hour activities, which can include bowling, hiking or barbecues.

"We encourage people to come out and see what we're all about," Oldham said. "Unlike fall rush, where everybody does pretty much the same thing, spring rush is more relaxed. The chapters throw activities that reflect their personalities."

People can receive a list of the times and locations of the outings at the Greek Life Office. Prior registration for spring rush is encouraged but not required.

"We want as many people to come out as possible," Oldham said.

For more information, contact Kristen Oldham at the Greek Life Office at 346-1146.

Work-study students to be honored

The prize winners were recognized for their attitude and reliability

By Dan Strieff
for the Emerald

Some of the best and brightest work-study and technology-fee student employees will be honored today in an awards ceremony at the EMU.

The ceremony is part of National Student Employment Week, which recognizes student employees and the contributions they make to their colleges and communities.

About 70 percent of the University's 17,000 students work while attending classes, according to a recent Career Center survey. To acknowledge the contributions of these students, the Career Center offered campus employers the chance to recognize exceptional students with an award nomination.

Criteria for the award included reliability, quality of work, initiative, disposition, attitude, longevity, adaptability, and uniqueness of contribution.

This year's winners are Edward Callow, Erin Pattyn, Katy Reiber, Holly Wright and Darlene Xiong. Winners, who will receive a monetary prize, were notified last week.

The students have all taken advantage of the campus work-study and technology-fee programs, which offer many amenities not available in an ordinary student job, they say.

The jobs are available through the Career Center to students who meet specific financial aid requirements. Positions are in various areas, but most tend to be in office-related jobs, said Linda Hubert, employment services specialist for the Career Center.

The jobs are generally on or near campus and readily accommodate

students who place their academic programs first, Hubert said. Work hours are always planned around classes.

The ease of scheduling is particularly helpful, student award-winners say.

"It is really great because it allows you to schedule work hours and still have time to study," said Darlene Xiong, who's worked for a year as an assistant for the University Foundation Developmental Office.

Katy Reiber has worked as a receptionist with the office of the Oregon University System for six terms. One of the program's strongest points is convenience, she said.

"The work-study program really helps you find a job when you come here," she said.

Presentation of the awards will be from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the EMU Gumwood Room.

CRIME WATCH

(Reported March 30 to April 5)

■ **March 30**, Reckless Burning, 1300 block of Agate Street, Hamilton: poster burned.

■ **March 30**, Burglary II, 1000 block of Patterson Street, University Inn: items stolen.

■ **March 30**, Robbery I, 500 block of 14th Avenue: items stolen.

■ **March 31**, Theft II, 1200 block of East 13th Avenue, EMU: items stolen.

■ **March 31**, Theft II, 1400 block of Onyx Street, Straub Hall: items stolen.

■ **March 31**, Theft II, 1300 block of Kincaid Street: items stolen.

■ **March 31**, Reckless Burning, 1000 block of Patterson Street, University Inn: ceiling burned.

■ **April 2**, Theft II, 900 block of East 13th Avenue, Gilbert Hall: items stolen.

Today's Events

Wednesday, April 7

■ The Educational Opportunities Program and Academic Learning Services presents two workshops on "Planning for Graduate School." Part one is from noon to 12:50 p.m. in the Ben Linder Room in the EMU. The topics include: why graduate school, selecting graduate programs, completing applications, meeting deadlines and locating financial aid resources.

■ Public Forum on Kosovo with Pete Mandrapa, 4J teacher and Serbian immigrant; Bojana Stefanovska, former resident of Macedonia; Michael Carrigan, of Oregon Peaceworks; and Steve Johnson, of Decision Research. It will be at Harris Hall, 125 8th Ave. at 7 p.m. Sponsored by Eugene Peace-Works.

■ "A Woman's Place", a documentary about women using law to transform their lives in different countries will be shown tonight. The film will begin at 6:30 in the Ben Linder Room of the EMU. The film showing was sponsored by the YWCA.

SPRING RUSH

B-E-G-I-N-S T-O-D-A-Y

WED - APRIL 7TH - 6PM

WILLAMETTE ATRIUM

Chapters will hold fun activities throughout the week

-ALL WOMEN WELCOME-

For more information call Kristen Oldham at 346-1153
or visit Greek Life • Suite 5 • EMU Ground Floor

ALPHA CHI OMEGA - KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA - GAMMA PHI BETA
DELTA DELTA DELTA - SIGMA KAPPA - CHI OMEGA