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After the **PART 1**

Students with alcohol dependencies have trouble with school, health and emotional well-being

BY AYISHA YAHYA
NEWS EDITOR

Each year 1,400 students die from alcohol related causes. Thousands more are injured, assaulted or drive under the influence of alcohol. Excessive drinking by some students has prompted colleges nationwide to institute programs that tackle alcohol issues at multiple levels.

Of particular concern are students who binge-drink — drinking five or more drinks in one sitting for men, four or more for women. Alcohol and its related behaviors impact the individual's physical and mental health, but it also has "second-hand effects" that touch on the rest of campus and the community at large.

"The academic community is affected overall if we have students not living up to their potential," said Sheryl Eyster, assistant dean of students and associate director of the Office of Student Life. Eyster also heads the University's Substance Abuse Prevention Team.

Alcohol dependency yields dangerous results

Excessive or prolonged alcohol intake has acute effects, University Health Educator Annie Dochnahl said.

With each drink, a person has less control over his or her move-

ment and coordination and impaired judgment and memory.

"Alcohol is a poison of sorts," Dochnahl said. "The liver has to detoxify (the body)."

Dochnahl said it takes at least an hour for the liver to process one drink — one drink translates to about 5 oz. of wine, 12 oz. of beer, or 1.5 oz. of hard liquor. This means certain drinks like a Long Island Ice Tea, which is made up of various shots of spirits, actually constitutes more than one drink, Dochnahl said.

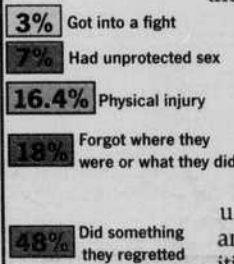
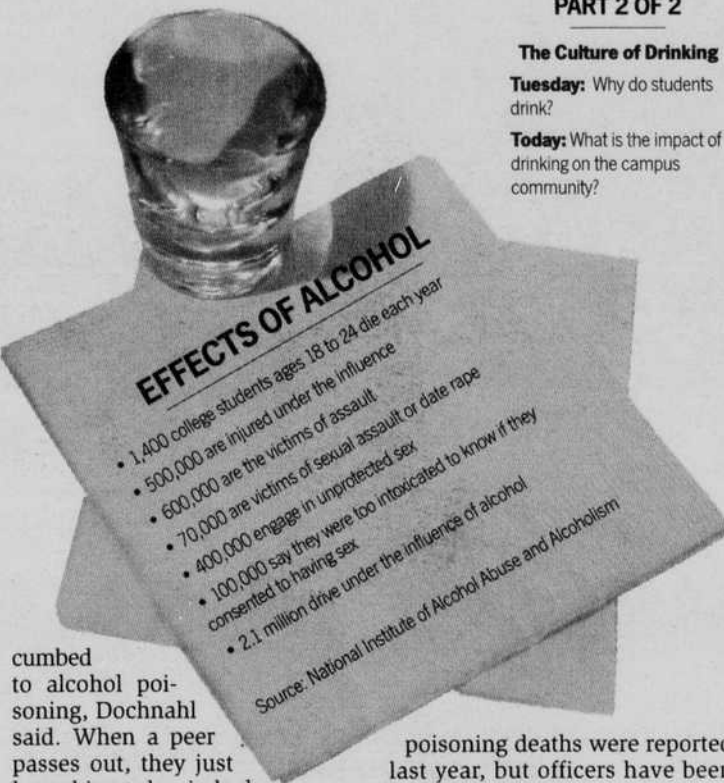
Many students may not be aware when a drinker has suc-

cumbed to alcohol poisoning, Dochnahl said. When a peer passes out, they just leave him or her in bed to sleep it off not realizing that the person is in trouble.

Symptoms of alcohol poisoning include irregular breathing, cold, bluish skin, unconsciousness and excessive vomiting.

This fall alone, two students died from alcohol poisoning at universities in Colorado.

University Department of Public Safety Interim Director Tom Hicks said no alcohol



The 87 percent of University students who had an alcoholic drink within the school year had the above experiences.

BRET FURTWANGER | GRAPHIC EDITOR

Fractals reveal mysterious links between stress and art

Richard Taylor researches the impact of fractals on stress and Jackson Pollack's use of the recurring patterns in his paintings

BY ANTHONY LUCERO
NEWS REPORTER

There are those who believe that mathematics is a strict science, wrapped in a cloak of mystery and complex equations and veiled in jargon that has little to do with the world we inhabit on a daily basis. Richard Taylor, a University associate professor of physics, has found that fractals, patterns constructed from endless smaller copies of the same recurring pattern much like the individual water crystals contribute to the overall form of a visible snowflake, can have an impact on everything from human stress levels to the appreciation of art.

Taylor, who also works in the art and psychology department, was the first to notice the use of fractals in Jackson Pollack's "drip-and-splash" paintings. The study, which has garnered national media attention, is a marriage between university physics, psychology and art departments, Taylor said.

In his initial work with stress-reduction, done in collaboration with NASA to minimize stress for astronauts, Taylor wired test subjects' fingertips in a method similarly used in lie detectors. He then measured stress levels through "stress-inducing cognitive tasks," like solving

math problems.

Taylor found the fractals could lower stress by as much as 50 percent. "We deliberately stress someone out," Taylor said. "When you do something stressful, skin conductance goes up."

After the stressful session, the subject is given a break to lower stress back to a normal level. Taylor then places a fractal background before the next session begins and tries to stress subjects out once again.

"With a fractal pattern in the background, stress goes down as much as 50 percent," said Taylor. "We're looking at mundane environments like a basement, exam room or dentist's office where human stress can be lowered naturally."

In addition to creating patterns that can lower human stress levels, the results of the study provide better solutions for organizing information so the eye can spot a particular item in complex environments, citing possible improvements in efficiency and safety with interfaces like airplane cockpits or computer desktops, Taylor said.

Taylor also conducted a study in which 250

FRACTALS, page 12



COURTESY

Cooper Boydston (above) demonstrates how sensors attached to each joint are picked up by infrared cameras and plotted into a 3D graph of movement (left); the left wrist is highlighted in red on the diagram. Boydston's work helps tie together the mathematical patterns, called fractals, created by human movement and the fractals that artist Jackson Pollack created in his work.

PART 2 OF 2

The Culture of Drinking

Tuesday: Why do students drink?

Today: What is the impact of drinking on the campus community?

Programs Finance Committee

Groups' 2005-06 budgets analyzed

Finance committee tables two proposals, completely de-funds Musical Arts group Monday

BY GABE BRADLEY
FREELANCE EDITOR

Concerns about how student groups allocate their budgets continued to block the approval of several student groups' 2005-2006 budgets on Monday when the ASUO Programs Finance Committee held its second session of budget hearings.

The Non-traditional Student Union and Outlaws, a group of law students who focus on legal issues concerning the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, were unable to receive budget approval because ASUO is currently revising the standardized stipend model, which dictates how stipends are paid to officers of student groups.

"It's really unfortunate for a lot of groups," PFC chairwoman Persis Pohowalla said. "I feel for them."

The revision of the stipend model was in response to a letter from University President Dave Frohnmayer, who suggested a revision after noticing that student stipends made up a disproportionate amount of the budgets for some student groups — up to 70 percent in some cases.

Any student groups that pay their officers with stipends will have their budget proposals tabled until January, when the new stipend model should be in place.

Representatives from the Committee for Musical Arts — the first group scheduled for hearings Monday night — failed to show up for their budget hearing. PFC then voted unanimously to completely de-fund CMA. The group has five business days to appeal the decision.

Next, representatives from the Art History PFC, page 12

STUDENT SENATE

The Student Senate responded to vetoes of the Athletic Department Finance Committee and Programs Finance Committee funding benchmarks by the ASUO Executive, approving a 7 percent funding increase for the ADFC and a 5.62 percent increase for the PFC during its meeting on Tuesday night.

After the Senate failed to override the ADFC benchmark veto, the executive made its original recommendation of 7 percent to the Senate. The Senate voted 8-7-1 last week to approve a 5.3 percent increase for the ADFC.

The executive recommended a 5.62 percent increase for the PFC after its veto was not overruled, the same benchmark it originally proposed.

Also at the meeting, the Senate tabled its efforts to review this year's budget for the Spencer View Tenants Council, which had not submitted a proposal to receive student funding for this year. The group provides services for residents in the University's Spencer View family housing.

See Monday's Emerald for further coverage of the meeting.

— Parker Howell