



ALCOHOL: Awareness brings out 500



All photos by Lydia Emily Bashaw Clackamas Print

Lieutenant Spencer Lambing calls for extra help with the crash reenactment outside the Bill Brod Community Center.

ASG member Greg Robertson sings Flo Rida's Low during the cooking hotdogs during the Alcohol Awareness Week.

Members of the Associated Student Government hand out free 'Don't Drink and Drive' shirts to students Wednesday.

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The Clackamas County Sheriff's department, Clackamas County Fire, and EMTs volunteered at the event to talk about the dangers of drinking and driving. The EMTs also brought along a pair of goggles that impair the vision the same way alcohol would. Students were asked to put the goggles on and try to walk in a straight line, most failed.

Clackamas County Fire Lieutenant Spencer Lambing shared that most of the accidents he saw on a regular basis were people in their teens to early twenties and specifically male.

"I would say in the late teens to twenties, there is a fair share of underage drinking. Those tend to be the worst accidents."

Lambing who participated in the crash reenactment, also said that not having a lot of experience driving and showing off plays a big part in the severity of the crashes he sees.

The day was considered a success by ASG, however for some

Clackamas students it was hit and miss.

"I felt that it was some big party," said John Dacneliye, two-year Clackamas student. "It seems weird to have music playing, give away free food and act like everything is happy-go-lucky at an event aimed to teach students about the dangers of driving drunk. How is playing rap music that glorifies drinking and partying a lesson to anyone?"

Angela Mitchell disagreed with Dacneliye's statement, claiming that the event was incredibly interesting, especially the memorial to Bethanie Adamson, a former ASG member who died in a drunk driving accident earlier this term.

"It was very heartfelt to me to see someone special from campus remembered on a day like this," said Mitchell. "I felt that no student could walk through that event without questioning whether or not they were being safe every time they went out."

Grace Kennedy had mixed reactions to the event,

including a bit of doubt over ASG's bias in holding the event.

"I can't help but wonder how many people just showed up for the T-shirts and free food," Kennedy said. "I came to learn more about the numbers and the seriousness of this type of thing. Part of me looks at it like an event that ASG should have been throwing for themselves, after their drunken escapades earlier this year. They couldn't possibly not think about that while planning this."

Kennedy, who stayed for the whole day, did say that there were parts of the event that were worth seeing and overall she took something away from it.

"The personal statements at the end and the reenactment really hit home for me," she said. "I know that anyone who saw that would think twice the next time they go out drinking, and I think that was the main purpose of the event."

For more information on drunk driving and its consequences visit www.madd.org or www.alcoholalert.com.

