

FEATURES

Despite Awareness

Student drinking rates stay same

(CPS) -- While anti-drinking rules cost Marquette University cheerleaders their jobs during the holiday break and could land two North Carolina State students in jail, a California State University (CSU) at Dominguez Hills professor concluded campus attitudes still encourage students to drink. Students, added CSU's Dr. David Nasatir in reporting the results of the University of California at Berkeley study he helped direct, seem to be drinking as much as they always have, despite intense campus efforts to the contrary.

Most schools around the U.S. have cranked up "alcohol awareness" policies since 1985, when federal laws forced states to raise their legal drinking ages from 18 to 21.

To get liability insurance, colleges had to demonstrate to insurance companies they were keeping their underaged students from drinking liquor.

But the Berkeley study suggested there has been no profound increase or decrease in student drinking since the new policies began.

The reason is that many schools, Nasatir said, "are lax in observing violations of the drinking minimum age." Alcohol, moreover, is

often an integral part of social and athletic events, and the "awareness" programs, by not recognizing alcohol's role, are rendered ineffective.

Nasatir's research, part of an ongoing study of campus alcohol use, noted fraternities have helped keep general student drinking rates high. "Young men living in fraternities seem to drink more often and larger quantities than any other group of similar young men in dormitories, or with room-mates."

"It's not clear whether that's because fraternities recruit drinkers or manufacture drinkers," Nasatir continued. "But that seems to be a phenomenon that holds true on all campuses with fraternities."

A solution, he suggested, might be to crack down on people and groups who serve liquor to students. "This has a chilling effect on individual willingness to serve alcohol."

At Marquette, however, a group of cheerleaders quit in December instead of tolerating a crackdown.

Eleven cheerleaders quit the Milwaukee college's squad after school officials suspended two cheerleaders for swiping some left-

over bottles of champagne from a private party.

"They said they could no longer cheer" with two members suspended for something they all took part in or knew about, said Mark McCarthy, Marquette's associate dean of students.

Former cheerleader Kim Heller, one of those suspended, said cheerleaders often took leftover champagne from parties they had worked at as hostesses to save for a celebration after the first basketball game of the season. However, the boat company that sponsored the party complained to the school.

At the same time Raleigh, N.C., police, charged two North Carolina State students with counterfeiting drivers' licenses and selling them to classmates to use them to buy alcohol.

The two students built a large cardboard replica of a license. They would then take photos of customers standing in front of the replica, and process the resultant artwork as a fake license.

The students, each charged with two counts of counterfeiting and selling drivers' licenses, could serve three years in prison if found guilty.

Second annual Black College Essay Awards contest announced

WASHINGTON, DC -- Xerox Corporation and Black Entertainment Television (BET) are proud to announce the second annual Black College Essay Awards, an essay contest for students of historically black colleges and universities. Three winners in this contest will each be awarded \$1,500 and appear on a live broad-

cast of BET's "On The Line." BET is the only cable television network that produces and distributes quality black programming. An additional \$1,500 will be given to each school represented by a winning student.

Applications for the competition were mailed to all historically black colleges and universities ear-

ly in December 1987. The deadline for submitting the essays is March 18, 1988. Each contestant must write an essay of 1000 words or less on the topic: "What Should the Black Middle Class Do To Improve the Social and Economic Conditions of the Black Underclass?"

"Black Entertainment Televi-

Medical Section: AIDS

By Mary Blythers

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)

AIDS has changed the way we view ourselves and others. Human sexuality as a whole has been questioned with this new disease which has had a major impact on our society.

As young college students, we are viewing AIDS as a disease that will not affect us. But be assured that no one is guaranteed a free escape of this dreaded illness. We tend to think it affects only certain groups of people, so I am safe. But this is a misunderstanding, because unless you are willing to learn as much as you can to prevent this disease from happening to you or someone close to you, then you should be aware that it is around and that it can happen to you if you do not take preventive measures to take you out of what might be a high risk area. The intent of this article is not to scare you about AIDS, but it is intended to inform you about it. Most of the information is not new, but you can only understand it better if you are willing to learn as much as you can about it.

What is AIDS?

AIDS is a condition which damages the immune system, the

body's defense against disease. This damage leaves the body open to attack by infections and cancers that are not a threat to healthy people.

What causes AIDS?

AIDS is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus or HIV. Not everyone who is infected with HIV develops AIDS. Some infected persons seem to remain in good health. Others develop AIDS-Related Complex or ARC. People with ARC have illnesses that range from mild to severe, but usually these illnesses are not life-threatening. Factors such as drug and alcohol abuse, stress and other illnesses may increase the likelihood that an infected person will develop AIDS.

How is HIV Transmitted?

The virus that causes AIDS is transmitted only by direct and intimate contact with infected body fluids, primarily blood, semen and vaginal secretions. You may NOT get AIDS by casual contact. The HIV is transmitted:

- by unsafe sexual practices. These are practices that involve the exchange of blood, semen or vaginal secretions with someone who is infected with HIV. An infected person may look and feel well.
- by sharing needles. Drug users who share needles may inject themselves with small amounts of blood from someone who is infected with HIV.
- through transfusions of infected blood or blood products. This now is extremely rare because all blood donations are screened for signs of HIV infection.
- from an infected mother to her infant before or during birth or perhaps from breastmilk.

How Contagious is AIDS?

AIDS is not highly contagious. No one lives with a person with AIDS or HIV infection has been infected by routine household contact. AIDS is not spread by:

- handshakes, hugging or casual kissing;
 - sneezing, coughing or spitting;
 - dishes, utensils or food handled by a person with AIDS;
 - toilet seats, bathtubs or sinks used by a person with AIDS.
- You cannot get AIDS donating blood. Blood banks and other blood collection centers use sterile equipment and never reuse needles. The need for blood is great and people are not at risk for AIDS are urged to continue donating blood.

Who is at Risk for Getting AIDS?

Anyone who engages in certain behaviors is at risk of getting AIDS. In the United States, most persons with AIDS belong to one of the following groups:

- homosexual and bisexual men;
- intravenous (IV) drug abusers;
- hemophiliacs;
- heterosexual partners of persons of any of these groups;

• infants born to mother with the AIDS virus.
The risk of getting AIDS from transfusions is extremely low.

What are the Symptoms of Getting AIDS?

Many of the symptoms of AIDS are also symptoms of minor illnesses like colds or flu. With AIDS the symptoms don't go away they keep coming back. See a health care provider if you are at risk for AIDS and any of these symptoms last several weeks or more:

- unexplained tiredness;
- unexplained weight loss greater than 10 pounds;
- fever or night sweats;
- diarrhea;
- white spots or unusual marks on the tongue or mouth;
- swollen glands usually in the neck, armpits or flu;
- pink, blue or purple blotches on the skin inside the mouth, nose, eyelids or rectum. They may look like bruises but they don't go away.

Can AIDS be Treated?

At this time, there is no cure for AIDS -- no treatment that will destroy the HIV and repair a damaged immune system. However, people with AIDS can be treated for specific infections and may lead active lives for long periods of time. Persons with AIDS need support and understanding like people with other life-threatening illnesses such as cancer or heart disease.

How Can You Protect Yourself From AIDS?

If you or your partner has had sex with other persons since 1978, you may be at risk for AIDS. The more partners the greater the risk. To reduce your chances of becoming infected with HIV:

- Reduce your number of sexual partners. Monogamy or abstinence is safest.
- If you or your partner is at risk for AIDS or you are not sure of your partner's drug or sexual history, do not exchange body fluids. Use condoms if you engage in vaginal intercourse, and intercourse, or oral-genital sex.
- Do not inject drugs. Never share needles or syringes.
- Persons who have engaged in high-risk behaviors are also recommended to do the following items:
- Do not donate blood, sperm, organs or other body tissues.
- If you are a woman at risk for AIDS take the antibody test before becoming pregnant.

How Do I Find Out More About AIDS?

For more information about AIDS contact your local health department, or call:

- National AIDS Hotline
1-800-342-AIDS
- For information on drug treatment contact your local mental health center, your local drug treatment center or call:
1-800-662-HELP.

Geography knowledge 'depressing', studies say

(CPS) -- American students don't know very much geography, studies released during recent weeks show.

Separate surveys of students' geography knowledge at the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh and California State and Mankato State universities found some collegians were unable to find the Soviet Union on a map, thought Nicaragua was an Asian island or didn't know who the U.S.'s

leading trade partner was.

Students who took a 21-question, multiple-choice geography quiz at Cal State Fullerton, for example, averaged just 12 correct answers. Only 14 percent could locate the eastern Caribbean Sea where Columbus first arrived in the Western Hemisphere; only one-fourth of those tested could locate and identify Canada as the United States' leading trade partner or the Soviet Union as the world's third most populous nation.

"More people knew where Burt Reynolds went to school than what the third most populous country in the world was," lamented Fullerton geography Prof. William Puzo.

At the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, only 22 percent of students recently surveyed could find the Soviet Union on a world map. In Dallas, another survey revealed that one quarter of the high school seniors tested knew that Mexico is the United States' southern neighbor.

"The tests are depressingly accurate," said Patt Morrison, a University of Southern California journalism teacher and *Los Angeles Times* reporter. "When students place the Bering Straits off the coast of Maine and think Nicaragua is an island off the coast of India, something is definitely wrong."

BLACK ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION AND XEROX CORPORATION ANNOUNCE THE SECOND ANNUAL BLACK COLLEGE

ESSAY AWARDS

win \$1,500.00 plus a special appearance on black entertainment television (bet)

TOPIC:
"What Should the Black Middle-class do to Improve the Social and Economic Conditions of the Black Underclass?"

HOW TO WIN:
Write an essay on the selected topic and send three (3) copies with the attached application to BET.

DEADLINE:
ALL ESSAYS MUST BE POST-MARKED BY MARCH 18, 1988.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:
Any undergraduate student enrolled full-time at a black college or university.

AWARD:
Three (3) students will be honored during a special awards ceremony, April 21, 1988, on Black Entertainment Television. \$1,500.00 cash awards will be presented to each winner.

What Should the Black Middle-class do to improve the Social and Economic Conditions of the Black Underclass?

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone Number: _____

School: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

Please send this application along with three (3) copies of your essay to BLACK COLLEGE ESSAY AWARDS c/o BET 1232 31st Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20007

Essays must be postmarked by March 18, 1988

\$1,500.00 cash awards will be presented to each winner.

*All essays will be judged on the following criteria:
\$ Originality 40%
\$ Persuasiveness 20%
\$ Clarity 20%
\$ Grammar 20%

rules:

1. The essay must be the sole work of the contestant, and each contestant may submit only one essay.
2. Contestants must write on the selected essay topic.
3. Essays must be typed and double-spaced; not to exceed 1,000 words.
4. Three copies of each essay must be submitted with the application. The contestant's name, address and school should be typed on the front page of the essay.
5. The deadline to submit essays is March 18, 1988. All submissions must be postmarked by this date.
6. All essays will become the property of Black Entertainment Television and Xerox Corporation.
7. Winners will be notified by mail on or before April 15, 1988.

This certifies that I am a full-time student currently enrolled in good standing at the above named school.

SIGNATURE _____

is proud to work with Xerox Corporation for the second consecutive year to help make the Black College Essay Awards an annual event. We believe our joint effort will help stimulate an interest in black college students to write critically about the important social and economic issues confronting black America," said BET President Robert L. Johnson.

This year the \$1,500 awards will be donated to the essay winners by Joseph D. Johnson, a graduate of Lincoln University in Missouri and a former Xerox Vice President who was instrumental in developing the original Black College Essay Awards. Johnson, who is now involved in operating his own consulting firm on leadership and organizational effectiveness, said he believes it is important for successful blacks to give something back to the community and the support of black colleges and universities is one way to make a contribution.

William McFarlin, Employee Communications/Community Involvement Manager, Special Markets Group at Xerox, states that his company supports open communication with the black community. "At Xerox we believe it is our business to care about the community as well as its people. Xerox will go a step further this year to make its support of the Black College Essay Awards even more meaningful."

Xerox will match the \$1,500 given to each of the three winners with a donation to the school of each winner. The additional monies will be applied by the college or university to support a scholarship fund designed to assist students who demonstrate financial need.

The presidents of the winning schools will be asked to appear along with their students in a special BET telecast on April 21, 1988 to announce the winners. For complete details about the contest, students should contact their student or academic affairs departments.

