

UNCA guests encourage responsible drinking

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This week's National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week spurred a campaign at UNC Asheville to promote safe and healthy choices about alcohol.

"We're not out there to say, 'No don't drink,'" said Jennie Burrowes, president of Peers Advocating Wellness Strategies, a main organizer of this week's events. "People are going to make choices, so this

week is to promote the idea that when they make those choices, they are not going to do anything that will impact their health."

According to PAWS, this health strategy is about awareness and good decisions. It's not an anti-alcohol campaign.

"If you are of age, and you're going to drink, we want to show you how to do it responsibly. If you're not of age, the aim is to let you know about the alternative things you could do," Pyeritz said. "If you are underage and you're going to drink, we want you to think about how you can make

a healthy choice about it."

The campaign includes a drunk driving simulation, virtual bar, mocktails and a midnight moonshine dance, all in the name of peer education and happening every day this week.

Sponsors include PAWS, Student Health and Counseling Services, Students Together Against Rape, Sigma Nu and Psi Chi.

"The idea stemmed from the big party

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West Bank

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Bank. Israel, she said, is colonizing.

"Some people might call me a traitor," said El-Raz, who worked at The Hebrew University in Jerusalem for 15 years. "I call myself a patriot. For me, I want to go back to the Israel I came to and I love, I was proud of and want to be proud of."

El-Raz studied political science in England, where she lived before moving to Israel in 1954. She said she was happy when Israel was established after the brutalities of the World War II.

El-Raz said she believes Jews need to be a sovereign nation, and demands Palestinians be granted the same right.

Though she can understand Jewish fears, El-Raz said keeping Gaza as a prison won't make Israel safer because anyone familiar with the country can get around the walls.

Israel determines what goes in and out of the West Bank, and random items, like pasta and asparagus, are forbidden, she said. Israel now allows metal and concrete into Gaza, but only because the sewage system collapsed and is affecting Israel's groundwater.

This is the point of occupation, said El-Raz, who helped start the anti-occupation activist group Women in Black in 1987. Members of the international group demonstrate against the war in Iraq in downtown Asheville every Friday.

"Israel's economy, as in many countries, is underwritten by the United States," El-Raz said. "Therefore, the United States has power to press Israel into a reasonable solution."

The solution must be economic in nature, she said.

"There will be no evolution for the country, for this political conflict, unless the American government interferes and pushes Israel into a resolution," Andoni said.

At the cathedral, multiple attendees stated the conversation was a one-sided approach to promoting peace, and asked what responsibility the Palestinian government had in the conflict's end.



Photo courtesy of Jala Andoni

Many messages written on the West Bank wall attack the political climate of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"Some people might call me a traitor. I call myself a patriot."

— Ruth El-Raz

With Israel in the position of power, El-Raz said it is the Jewish nation's duty to teach equality and respect.

"I don't know what else to give," Andoni said. "To give the land? They have already taken it. But we want it back."

Left with only 12 percent of their country, Andoni said Israel controls 80 percent of the West Bank's groundwater, and their electricity, roads and air space. The restrictions also vastly impede olive farming, Palestine's major agricultural harvest, according to Andoni.

All Saint's attendees said they worried

about prevalent anti-Semitism throughout the country and the recognition of Israel by the Palestinians.

America's strong alliance with Israel at the U.N. reflects the commitment of both democratic nations to continue working together in their common struggle against terrorism, according to AIPAC.

"We know that both sides have become much more religious the longer the conflict has gone on," El-Raz said. "But the eradication of racial tensions can only happen after the political situation is diffused."

Campus Events

**Astronomy Club
Star Gazing**
Quad
Wednesday,
6 - 9 p.m.

**Jazz Combos
Concerts**
Lipinsky Auditorium
Thursday,
7:30 p.m.
Students, \$5

**Midnight Moonshine
Dance with DJ Raj**
Behind Mills Hall
Friday,
10 p.m. - 1 a.m.

**"A Haunting in
Connecticut" and
Campus Ghost Walk**
Grotto
Friday,
8 p.m.

**"Dred Violin" with
Daniel Bernard
Roumain**
Lipinsky Auditorium
Saturday,
8 p.m.
Students, \$6

For more campus activities, visit:

www.unca.edu/barker