

Rules On Alcohol Abuse Hindrane or Protection?

By Susan Rogers

One of the most common weekend rituals on Brevard's campus is the breaking up of "alcohol base parties" that take place behind many a closed and, if one is smart, locked dorm-room door. The results of this weekly cycle are well known by many BC students,

myself included—usually six points and a \$30 fine.

Eventually, one comes to the realization that Brevard expects students to refrain from using alcohol. Is this a realistic expectation?

The reasons that students drink on campus are varied. Many feel that by becoming slightly intoxicated, much of the boredom of college life at a small school in a small town is alleviated. In addition, alcohol tends to lend a festive mood to social gatherings (What

would a keg party be without the keg?). Probably the most common drinkers are those who use alcohol because they become more at-ease and relaxed in social situations after having a few drinks.

The problem lies in the fact that most students spend so much time trying to get around the rules governing the use of alcohol on campus that they never stop to think about why the rules were established in the first place.

Brevard College has a unique, caring atmosphere have become more and more apparent, and those people who work with students at Brevard believe in the rules because they honestly do not want to see students get hurt. Some do not think that there is anything wrong

with moderate consumption of alcoholic beverages. The difference is that very few students drink a beer on a Friday night—they often drink a twelve-pack. In that respect, Brevard's guidelines are very realistic.

From The Advisor:

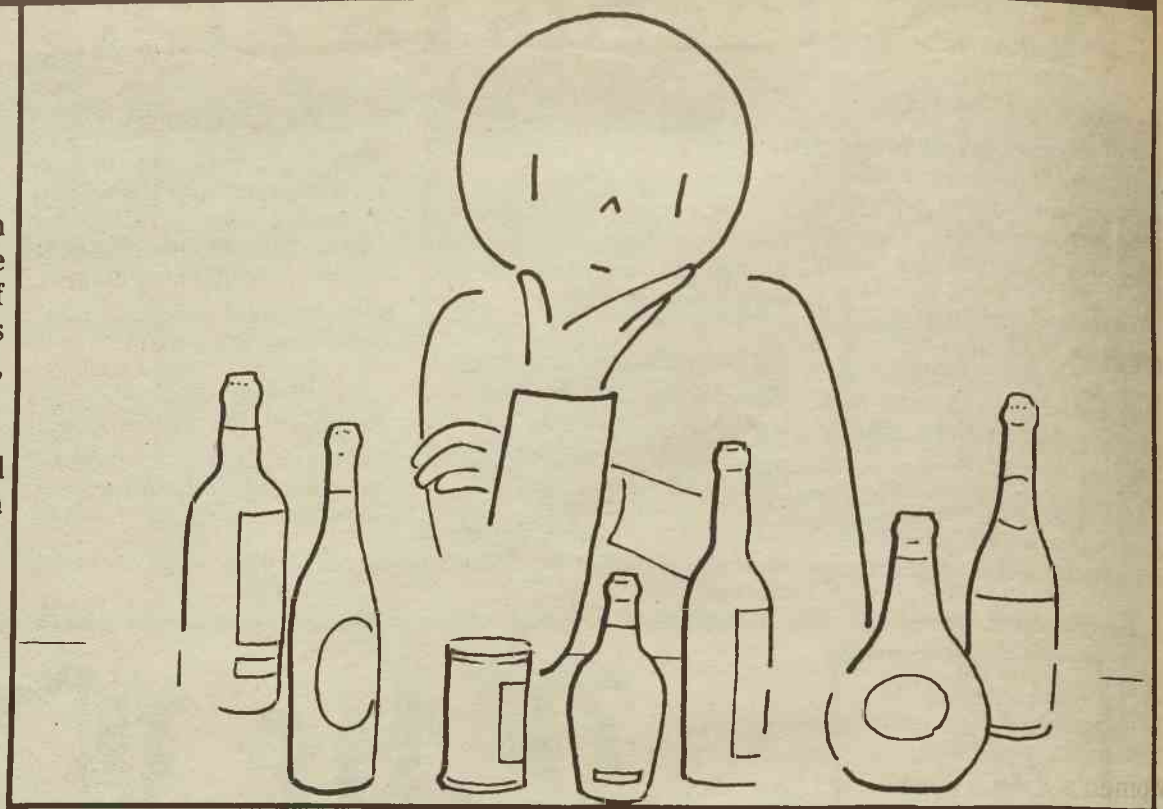
Clarion readers will notice several articles in this issue on alcohol abuse. To my knowledge, *The Clarion* has never printed a "focus" issue on any specific subject. That we choose to do so now, and on this topic, suggests something of its importance and immediacy.

Students may feel they are getting double-barrel treatment on this subject since the administration recently circulated materials on how to determine if one is an alcohol abuser. This *Clarion* effort is simultaneous with but not connected to the administrative questionnaire.

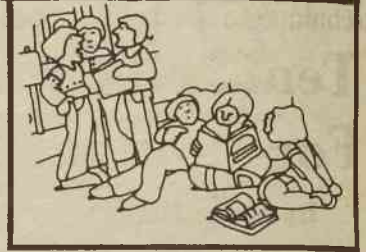
But consider this: if a student organization and the administration are both trying to educate you on responsible alcohol use, shouldn't you start paying attention? Did you ever stop to consider what refusing to even respond to such materials may mean? Maybe you tossed the questionnaire, or laughed through it with your friends, imagining great answers that showed how cool you were. Will you read these *Clarion* articles and just say, "Oh, it's that old stuff again."?

If you are honest, you will have to consider why you won't take learning about alcohol abuse seriously. Are you afraid of some tough questions? Are there some patterns in your lifestyle you don't want to face? Is it peer pressure? Only you can say. But believe this: nothing, but nothing, you may learn about yourself by answering hard questions or by reading articles will hurt you as much as continuing to ignore the signs of alcohol abuse.

You may not think so, but there are people on campus who care very deeply about you. Try them out anyway. If you feel alcohol is a negative element in you life, go talk to them. If you're willing to talk, they're ready to listen.



The bottom line is that alcohol is a drug. It alters the way people act and re-act. The main reason that there are laws governing its use is so that the decision of whether or not to drink can be made by adults. Now, how many of the "trashed" people at the big party last weekend really look like adults to you?



Alcohol Abuse

Students Speak Out

By Jill Avett

The student perspective concerning alcohol use and abuse is important. The college rules governing the use of alcohol were instituted for the benefit of students, but just what is their attitude toward alcohol?

From a series of brief interviews with a cross-section of students, it was found that the majority were drinkers. Some drank only on weekends, while others drank only on special occasions. Quantities and types of

alcohol consumed varied.

About half of the students agreed that the rules concerning alcohol use were necessary to maintain control on campus. However, many others believed that if a person was mature enough to go to college, he should be free to drink. One student said that at least private consumption should be allowed. Some students also said that alcohol abuse is a big problem at BC.

Reasons for drinking ranged from liking the taste of alcohol, to a method of unwinding, to an

escape from boredom. Many students thought that a greater variety of things to do on weekends would bring about a decrease in drinking while others thought that people would drink no matter what.

Most students realized that the use of alcohol is widespread. Also, they disapproved of a great deal of drinking on weeknights. Finally, most students acknowledged that with the responsibility of drinking comes the responsibility of dealing with the consequences.

There Is More To Chris Marsh Than First Meets The Eye

By Jill Avett

He looks like an average college student, right? Wrong! Look again, this guy has his Ph.D. in zoology.

Dr. Chris Marsh, one of the newer members of the BC faculty, teaches biology, human anatomy, physiology, and is Chairman of the Student

Development Committee and Resident Tutor for the New Complex. Dr. Marsh is from Raleigh, N.C. He was an undergraduate at N.C. State University and completed his graduate studies at Oregon State University.

While a graduate student, Dr. Marsh had several strange experiences. On one particular excursion the Coast Guard had to

rescue him. Dr. Marsh was collecting fish out in the ocean and wound up losing a 300 dollar net. In an attempt to save the net he was pulled out to sea. Fortunately, he was able to climb upon a nearby rock. It was then he noticed a crowd gathering at the top of a cliff to watch the fun. About this time the Coast Guard appeared, saving the stranded biologist.

Dr. Marsh has also had some interesting summer jobs. One summer he served as an intern at the North Carolina State Museum. Part of his job was collecting bats. On one occasion he was sent to a courthouse in South Carolina. In the top of the courthouse was a flock of 10,000 bats from which he had to catch one. Dr. Marsh said that at first he did not like the idea but got used to it.

Dr. Marsh lives on campus with his wife Barbara and children Keith, 2½, and Carla, 4½ months. He likes the size of Brevard College and says that it is "small enough to get to know the students." He adds that "Brevard is a nice town in which to raise a family."



Dr. Chris Marsh