



PHOTO BY EVA HILL

Spring break drinking dilemmas

from page 1

While many of these commercials can be corny and overdone, the messages they send are no laughing matter.

According to a press release given to the Youngstown State University student newspaper, it was found that 97 percent of students drink during spring break. It was also found that skin cancer rates are on the rise and nearly three out of five women have unprotected sex while drinking on spring break.

"Alcohol makes terrible, terrible ideas seem absolutely brilliant," freshman Ian Luther said. "Things that you would never actually do sober seem fun and exciting, and you do them."

Students work so hard throughout spring semester, and many of them feel that spring break is their time to let loose and finally relax before they have to go back to their daily lives.

"It's going to be so nice to go on a break with your friends, new or old, where you have no worries about what's due the next day," freshman Katie Lindholm said.

And while many students enjoy cocktails, they do not think about some of the consequences their drinking can have on themselves and others. Most people consider the common dangers, like alcohol poisoning and potential date rape or unprotected sex, but the unique experiences that can affect the rest of a person's life are overlooked.

One of the major issues is going to a different country. While hotel bargains in Mexico may seem fabulous, many college students think that just because they leave the country, all rules are gone.

However, public drunkenness can still be ticketed, and drinking legally does not make drunken choices go away.

In many foreign countries, alcohol consumption is legal at age 18, and in some countries, marijuana laws are much less strict, if they even exist at all. Because of these leniencies, going somewhere foreign seems like the best way to live it up.

But there can still be serious legal ramifications for going abroad and drinking. Just because a travel agency offers a deal that inexplicitly promises very little legal supervision does not mean that anything goes.

Many people go abroad and drink without any real problems. Sophomore Emily Turner went on a one-day cruise with some friends to the Bahamas. Once the girls hit international waters, they were allowed to drink.

"It was all-you-can-drink on the boat, so we made friends with the bartenders and they filled up our glasses the entire time," Turner said.



PHOTO BY ANNA JOHNSON

None of the girls were ever asked for IDs because they had to present their passports when they got on the ship and were given colored wristbands depending on their age.

"We had orange (wristbands) because we were 18 and could only drink once we were out of the United States," Turner said.

With day cruises and trips involving lots of sunshine, something that might not occur to unsuspecting spring breakers is sunscreen. Drunken college students are much less likely to worry about the dangers of the sun, and they may not feel when they are getting sunburned.

Getting a little sunburnt does not seem like a big deal, but if the sunburn is bad enough, it can lead to sun poisoning. It is characterized by blistering, headaches, fever, nausea, dizziness and dehydration, and can require immediate medical attention if it is severe enough.

One week of spring break drinking can equal the amount of alcohol that person would normally consume in one year, according to a press release given to the Youngstown State University student newspaper.

In the United States, alcohol-related deaths are also at a peak during spring break. The rate of fatal car crashes that involve alcohol is twice as high among 16-20 year-olds, as they are among people

who are actually legal to drink, according to the British Medical Association.

In addition, the association said alcohol consumption interacts with conditions like stress and depression to spike the number of attempted suicides, specifically for people between the ages of 14 and 25.

Elon Edge staff

Editor: Sam Parker

Designers: Kristen Case, Lina Patton, Gabriela Szewcow

Photographers: Will Anderson, Merissa Blitz, Eva Hill, Anna Johnson

Copy Editors: Ashley Fahey, Eva Hill, Rebecca Iannucci, Kate Riley, Edith Veremu

Contributing writers: Sarah Carideo, Kristen Case, Sarah Dodge, Bonnie Efird, Kyra Gemberling, Ashley Jobe, Katie O'Brien, Julia Sayers, Katy Steele