

Report: UNC Alcohol Incidents Dip

The drop in incidents is due to alcohol abuse education and changes in reporting strategies, officials said.

By AISHA K. THOMAS
Staff Writer

University officials say alcohol-related incidents among UNC students have decreased thanks to intervention and prevention strategies focused on education.

The Office of the Dean of Students presented an annual report last week to the Board of Trustees that showed the number of alcohol-related incidents decreased from 321 in Fall 1998 to 283 in Fall 1999.

Dean of Students Melissa Exum said the decrease in incidents was the result of changes in reporting strategies and

attempts to educate students on alcohol abuse. "We made two major changes," she said. "The Office of Dean of Students would no longer reply to DWIs, and we have more consistent referrals from Granville Towers and local law enforcement from Durham, Orange and Wake County."

Law enforcement officials report off-campus alcohol incidents involving students to the Center for Healthy Student Behaviors so that University officials are then able to contact the students, Exum said.

"Through better and enhanced relationships with enforcement officials we get better reports," she said. "If you are off-campus, we are going to have inter-

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NIC HEINKE
Student Body President

vention with you." Exum said the educational messages about alcohol abuse were also more effective than simply doling out punishments.

In fall 1997, the University introduced Fall Fest, a non-alcoholic alternative for students held the night before classes start. Then in 1999, UNC launched a program title "two out of three blow .00 BAC," a study which showed a drop in the alcohol consumption on the UNC campus.

"We have been much more consistent and intentional," Exum said. "We are clear about enforcement procedures and response to alcohol incidents happen within 48 to 72 hours for interaction with students."

Assistant Dean of Students Don Appairius said the goal was not to be punitive. "It doesn't educate students on responsible drinking because there will come a time when the students will drink," he said. "The question is: are we telling you what to do instead of telling what is right to do."

Student Body President and Board of Trustee ex-officio member Nic Heinke said there was a positive response to the report and said it was heartening to see the focus on alcohol abuse rather than use. "I don't think we should be moving towards an alcohol-free campus but a campus with responsible alcohol use."

Exum said the educational approach of the Office of the Dean of Students was one that cared about student life.

"Trust us," she said. "We got your back."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk.unc.edu.

Color-Coded IDs Tackle N.C. Underage Drinking

By WORTH CIVILS
Staff Writer

Students under 21 trying to use a fake ID to buy a case of beer or get into their favorite Franklin Street bar could have even more to worry about.

The N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles began issuing color-coded drivers licenses Monday that will be easier to identify and harder to duplicate, but some students say the changes will not have a significant effect.

The new licenses are colored around the photo, along the bottom and in a small DMV logo in the corner. The colors will correspond with each different age group: red for under 18, yellow for 18-20 and green for over 21. The red licenses will explicitly state "Under 18," and the yellow ones will read "Under 21" along the edge of the picture.

Old licenses without the new colors and age group classifications will still be valid until the listed expiration date.

N.C. DMV spokesman Jon Parks said the new licenses resulted from a joint effort of several state agencies that wanted to tackle the problem of minors purchasing alcohol and tobacco.

"We wanted to raise awareness and make it as plain and obvious as can be to any (convenience store) clerk in the state," he said.

The new licenses also will make it easier for bouncers at clubs to quickly identify patrons who are of age.

Parks and Chapel Hill Police Lieutenant Marvin Clark both said the additional information would also make licenses more difficult to reproduce.

Parks said that in 1994 the N.C. DMV switched to a digitized license, with a hologram on the front and encrypted information on the back.

More patterns on the license made it harder to duplicate, Clark said. But he said he thought even the new licenses might be reproduced using computers and printers that could print on plastic.

Students said the change simply would be more of a convenience for store clerks and bouncers than a deterrence to underage drinkers.

UNC sophomore Ben Staton, 20, said, "As far as cutting down on problems, this (change) won't have a great effect."

Staton said he did not have a fake ID, but most people he knew who did have one did not alter their own licenses but got the license of someone over 21 who looked like them.

Sophomore Meredith Lynch, 20, from Pollockville also said the new changes would not keep underage drinkers from obtaining alcohol. "If you want to get beer or liquor, you can get someone else to buy it (for you)," Lynch said.

She said she had made a fake ID by scratching off a "1" to make her license read "January" instead of "November."

Lt. Clark said fake IDs were not a significant problem but that police did make many arrests. "Police are pretty good at spotting IDs," he said.

"(The new changes) should make a significant difference."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Campus Calendar

Today

6 p.m. - Mike Dolan will present "In the Shadow of Seattle" in 111 Carroll Hall. He will discuss the World Trade Organization, World Bank and International Monetary Fund as part of Human Rights Week. The event is free, and the public is welcome.

7:30 p.m. - Charmayne Gray from UNC Hospitals will be speaking at

Carolina Cancer Focus' meeting in 111 Murphey Hall. She will be discussing melanoma and ways to prevent this skin cancer. The event is free, and the public is welcome.

Wednesday

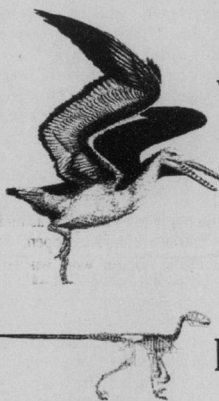
8 p.m. - Legendary civil rights activist Bob Zellner will discuss "Multicultural Diversity and Racial Harmony" in 111 Carroll Hall as part of Human Rights Week.



Faculty Unplugged

Tuesday, March 28
3:30pm

Alan Feduccia
S. K. Heninger Professor and
Chair of Biology



will speak
on
"Birds
and
Dinosaurs:
Fuzz, Feathers,
and Fraud."



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Take Back the Night March

Community and Campus members are invited to join in an annual candlelit march around the UNC-CH campus to reclaim the night and protest sexual violence. The march will take place Thursday, March 30, 2000. All are welcome.

7:30pm - Gather in the UNC pit for music and speakers.
8:00pm - March kick off. Speak-out and refreshments to follow.

Sponsored by UNC's Advocates for Sexual Assault Prevention, Domestic Violence Advocacy Project, and Carolina Women's Week (March 27-31).

For more information or directions, please contact Tina at 919-914-5465 or furies@email.unc.edu

SPORTS SHORTS

Today at Carolina...

Tuesday, March 28

Men's Tennis vs. NCSU
2:30 pm at the Cone-Kenfield
Tennis Center

UNC Baseball vs. Coastal Carolina
3:00 pm at Boshamer Stadium

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WOMEN IN SPORTS 2000

NORTH CAROLINA WOMEN'S LACROSSE vs. DUKE
Wed., March 29 @ 7pm
Henry Stadium

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Other Upcoming Women in Sports Tour 2000 Events:

Saturday, April 1 - Women's Tennis @ Noon
Saturday, April 22 - UNC Softball @ 4 pm

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