

# Notorious student drinkers dry up

by Gilbert Bouchard

University students don't drink as much as most people believe. In fact alcoholism is almost non-existent and the rate of alcohol abuse among the University of Alberta students is lower than that of the general population. The campus is a city within a city, an urban center the size of Red Deer, yet its alcohol problems are fewer and further apart than any urban center of the same size. Why?

Pat Jamieson, the assistant to the director of the U of A health clinic, gave a few insights into the university's drinking habits. Ms. Jamieson's first point was that: "An alcoholic is unlikely to remain a student for long. Alcohol abuse is a much more common problem. (Alcohol) is a way of venting stress, organized festivities always lead to alcohol related problems. Injuries and property damage are problems and there are students who do not wish to drink and find the peer pressure difficult to cope with."

Drinking is basically a means of venting stress, a way of coping. Tension builds up, stress gets too much to handle so people get sloshed on Friday night. The rarity of alcoholism can be attributed to the university system which weeds out the problem students. And while future drinking patterns can be fixed during the university years most students are

still too young to have become full blown alcoholics.

But unlike other groups, university students have special problems, like keeping their grades up. As Ms. Jamieson put it: "Any factor that affects a student's academic performance is a potentially serious crisis for that student. This term, although stress levels are high, alcohol related illness is less than in the same term last year. This is one of the most serious groups of students we have seen for a while. Perhaps the

economic situation including competition for limited job placement after university and sexual viral outbreaks account for this very serious attitude."

The pressure is on the university student, competition in the classroom is extreme, it's harder to get into certain faculties, and harder to get jobs once your out in the real world. Easy street turns out to be a one way dead end.

Further, the rash of flu and other

bugs that usually hit in January hit a few months early and some people have lost enough time because of illness that they may have to drop out. And other students pushed behind in their courses by a week's absence due to influenza just don't have the time or the strength to drink.

Finally, there's the cost of booze, with the recent hikes in prices and the general lack of funds a lot of student just can't afford to drink.

The public also tends to come down hard on the normal problems of

the university population. Perhaps the public envies the university student's lifestyle, a lifestyle at least partially subsidized by public monies. Public monies that John Q. Public doesn't want spent on booze in times of austerity. Hence the student is kept in line with threats of cuts in funding and curbs in grants and awards.

The university is in a state of tension. The pendulum has swung to the extreme, students are just overly studious. Stress may be high but students just aren't venting that stress drinking.

## No-more-nukes get no more cabarets

The Students Anti-Nuclear Committee have had their right to co-sponsorship of Dinwoodie Cabarets revoked.

At last Tuesday's Students' Council meeting a motion was passed, 22-1, denying the anti-nuke committee the chance to hold cabarets in Dinwoodie Lounge for the remainder of the 82-83 term.

Registered clubs on campus regularly hold cabarets to raise money for their associations.

The Student Anti-Nuclear Committee defaulted on the signed agreement with the SU during a cabaret held last month.

The group failed to supply the agreed number of security personnel.

"They only had half of the 20 people they were supposed to provide and half of the half that did show up were bombed," said SU VP internal Ray Conway.

The group failed to properly manage the bar and ticket sales.

"Twenty cases of beer went unaccounted for which probably accounts for the condition of the

security people," said Conway.

Conway also said the number of people inside the cabaret did not tally with the number of tickets sold.

"We expect a certain number of complimentary tickets to be given away at every cabaret but at this one we took a head count and there must have been a lot of complimentary tickets given out," Conway explained.

Conway sent letters to the Student Anti-Nuclear group re-

questing members appear before the Building Services Board and Students' Council to explain their side of the story.

No reply was ever made by anybody from the Students' Anti-Nuclear Committee.

Said Conway to Council, "I know the letters were picked up and this lack of reply is indicative of their whole attitude."

He added, "The group simply lacks the conviction to take care of the responsibility of running a cabaret."

## Tough new rules for Dinwoodie

The Building Services Board (BSB) is preparing a policy which will provide stiffer penalties for clubs who abuse Dinwoodie during cabarets.

"We've been having a few problems getting the clubs to live up to what they say they will do," says Ray Conway SU VP internal.

Clubs sign a contract with the SU when they are granted the license to hold a cabaret. In the contract the club agrees to provide twenty people to act as security personnel and agree to be responsible for the building. The club also agrees to pay the SU 35% of the profits.

"We hope to never have to use these regulations but we want a stick that we can hold over the clubs so to discourage abuse of SU property," says Conway.

Conway introduced three

motions into Students' Council to ratify the BSB's proposed "big stick".

All three motions were withdrawn or tabled and will appear before council at the next meeting.

The first motion which was withdrawn was an attempt to deduct repair costs for any damage done to the SUB from the clubs profits from the cabaret.

This motion was withdrawn because the costs were to be deducted before the revenue split was calculated. This would mean the SU would be bearing the cost of repairs because of damages incurred due to negligence by the club which held the cabaret.

The second motion was tabled because councillors felt the first motion should be settled first.

This motion would have seen the SU bearing a portion of any financial loss from a cabaret as well as enjoying a portion of the profit.

The third motion was in six parts but was also withdrawn because councillors felt the entire issue of altering the policy of cabarets should be dealt with all at once.

This motion would have clubs having to be screened by the BSB to judge their ability to conduct a cabaret.

It would also allow the SU to levy fines for failing to provide the twenty people to maintain order at the cabaret. The fine would be \$50 for every absent club member.

There would also be fines of \$30 for every club member who becomes drunk and disorderly during the time they are supposed to be maintaining order.

## Outsiders get \$1,000 SU donation

by Zane Harker

SU Council recently approved a \$1,000 grant from the Eugene L. Brody Funding Board to be made to the People Against Impaired Drivers Association.

When asked why PAID, a group that has no ties with the University, received the grant, VP external Teresa Gonzales emphasized, "The Eugene Brody Fund is not just for the University, but groups that provide some sort of benefit."

PAID member Jack Sager said that the grant was "Quite nice to see because it's our very first." Right now PAID is not sponsored by anyone as the committee was formed just last May.

According to Sager, PAID is "a

group of concerned citizens who formed a committee in order to do something about the terrible tragedy on our streets and highways."

So far PAID has about 85 members. The membership is divided approximately in two halves, one that has been directly affected by a tragedy involving a drunk driver, and the other half made up of concerned citizens.

PAID has recently been labelled responsible for proposing the controversial mandatory blood test and wrongly so says Sager.

PAID, to his knowledge, did not come up with the proposal but were asked for their stand on it. While PAID did not introduce the proposal, they do support it.

PAID is involved mostly with "lobbying the provincial government and judiciary system for some uniformity in the law."

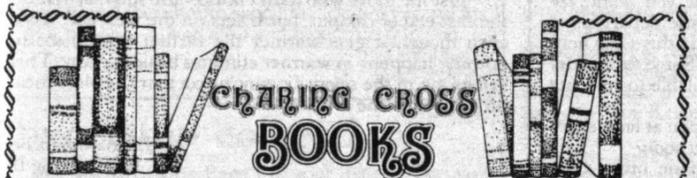
While PAID would like to see harsher sentences for convicted drunk drivers, they are also concerned about the public attitude to the problem. Says Sager, "The problem of drunk driving is treated as a joke, it's a sad situation."

Sager hopes that University students will take interest in PAID as he noted the many people that have been directly affected by the careless actions of drunk drivers.

For those who are interested, PAID meets November 22 at 7:30 pm. at M.E. LaZerte High School, room 225.

**BAC**

by SKEET and Nielsen



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## Olivia Butti's Diary

November 18

Diary, what is this world coming to? I swear sometimes I just don't know what is going on any more.

First I got up this morning and prepared Petey's breakfast. His doctor has him on some strange high fiber diet and he has to eat a lot of grain products. So for breakfast he has to have raisin bran and five star. It must taste awful but he says his health comes first. It must be working, his mood at breakfast has improved considerably.

Anyway, I got him off on his way to work, with his lunch of whole grain bread, alfalfa sprouts and Cutty Sark and I opened the mail. In amongst the bills was an offer to join the Bible of the Month Club. I can have the word of God for \$29.95 every month. Available are the King James Bible, the New American Standard Bible, the Jerry Falwell Bible and the Reader's Digest Condensed Bible. This month's selection is the Jim Jones Memorial Bible and Mixology Guide. It sounds intriguing but I really don't think I want to read that many bibles.

After pondering about that I noticed I was late for the office. Actually, I wish I hadn't shown up at all. As I was getting on the elevator who should come out of nowhere but that little snip, Jan Reimer. She started badgering me

about the city "wasting money" on the Spirit of Edmonton contingent to The Grey Cup. Well, first of all since this will be the Eskimos' fifth Grey Cup (Brian Kelly promised me) it seems obvious that we should spend five times as much. And frankly I don't think \$100,000 or whatever is too much to spend to send Can Can dancers and those fabulous Q-Tees to show Toronto what a important business center we are. I don't see why she can't understand that.

Well then, all day in my office I'm pestered by phone calls from the crazies. Frist some man demands that I stop the Edmonton Sun from repeating sunshine girls. Some woman tells me that she saw Leonid Breznev and Muriel Begin checking into the Holiday Inn under another name. Finally someone phones to complain that a Christian book and pornographic videotape store had opened up. I swear diary, I couldn't figure out which half the person was upset about.

At lunch I just gave up and went hom to relax. Even the soaps were confusing; Erica was helping Ray kidnap Raven's baby by Gunther and Luke and Leslie were helping J.R. tamper with the new Falcon Crest vintage. I quit watching only to find out that we were out of Old Crow for dinner. Maybe Petey's diet would help my health too.