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THE COLUMN

is a weekly informational email providing pertinent information to SMU fraternities and sororities on their individual operations, involvement in governing councils and engagement in the greater campus community. Fraternity and Sorority Life is committed to communication with our student leaders as well as alumni, parents, (inter)national organizations, and other key constituents that support our fraternity and sorority community. Check out the mission and guidelines for submission at: <http://smu.edu/fsl/thecolumn>

Senate Pres. Kobler Urges all Greeks to Become "Mustangs Who Care"

"The Mustangs Who Care program is based on the concept of realistic responsibility. Students who are TIPS trained will have the opportunity to take an extra 20 minutes of training in order to be part of the Mustangs Who Care program (held every Wednesday at 4:30 and Thursday at 5:30 in the SAMSA and available upon request for specific organizations).

This program will teach students the signs of alcohol poisoning and drug overdose, how to use the Call for Help program and why to use it, and how to handle a student in distress. After training, students will receive a red and blue swirled wristband with the words "Mustangs Who Care" on it. The inside of the wristband will offer a friendly reminder to "Have fun Responsibly".

Students who are trained in this program will wear their wristbands during the day and out socially. When out socially, the wristband will allow for a student in distress to easily locate a Mustang Who Cares and being trained in the program, the student will know how to handle a potentially life threatening situation.

FIJI Partners with DASN (Dallas After School Network) to Help Kids

Last week FIJI partnered with the Dallas After School Network and sent brothers to each of three different under-staffed after school programs: Campfire USA, Dallas Community Ministries, and the Dallas Community Lighthouse. The brothers played sports and activities with the kids, helped them with their homework, and read to them. In the end, the brothers enjoyed it even more than the kids and FIJI looks forward to continuing to partnering with the program in the future.

GRE Word of the Week

puerile (adj.) - pronounced PURE-ul
Childish, silly, immature

Quote of the Week

“ ”

All that is human must retrograde if it does not advance.

Edward Gibbon (1737-1794)

PRIZE DRAWING QUESTION!

If you read *The Column* this week, you should be able to answer the question below.

Reply with the answer to the bolded statement or question below to Josh at jschutts@smu.edu and your name goes in the drawing to be eligible for one of four \$50 VISA or AMEX gift cards in December (if you win). The only time limit for submission is the publication of the next edition. **ENTRYS LIMITED TO ONCE PER ISSUE.**

Provide your thoughts on the article "Sober in the Animal House."

Intramural Referee Training

Training held October 20, 2009 @ 5 pm. All officials earn points for their chapter and are paid \$8.50/hour (paid for training time also).

Take a Study Break: Check out the Big D Opry @ Gilley's Dallas!

The Big D Opry – **Thursday night, October 29th** at the legendary Gilley's Dallas. Come see Nashville recording artist and award winner, Ty Herndon along with local and statewide talent such as Jolie Holliday, Luke Barr, Brittnee Lee, Aubree-Anna and Channing Dodson. There will be a talent competition where the winner will face off with the former two winners in the next show for an outstanding grand prize.

Tickets can be purchased at the door – SMU students (with student ID) will receive a 10% discount off of the \$18 ticket price. Tickets can also be purchased via the website at www.bigdopry.com.

Take a break from the books and do a little Honkey Tonkin!!!



THE COLUMN
OF FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE

Cocaine Case is the Buzz of UNC

News Observer - Chapel Hill, NC - October 11, 2009

In a college town where booze is king and pot is popular, the recent arrests of seven current or former UNC-Chapel Hill students on cocaine charges created a stir.

The charges were unusual -- particularly because two people were charged with felony drug trafficking. But experts say all this is not likely an indicator of a surge in cocaine's popularity. "I haven't noticed a huge problem with it," said Scott Gallisdorfer, who, as the university's undergraduate student attorney general, evaluates students charged with crimes to decide which will face the student honor court. "We don't get a ton of cocaine cases. The vast majority are marijuana." During the past four years, the number of students facing honor court charges for alcohol violations has outpaced all drug charges, according to the most recent honor court data available.

Still, the cocaine busts last month at a local apartment have been a hot topic among students and parents. Several students arrested were in fraternities or sororities, including two women who lived in the Chi Omega house -- a detail the student newspaper The Daily Tar Heel pointed out repeatedly in its reporting. That led to debate about drug use and the Greek system.

"It's not confined to the Greek community," said Winston Crisp, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs. "I don't think the Greek community gets excused, but more generally, drugs and alcohol are problems that go throughout the student body." Crisp issued a stern warning to Greek organizations recently, saying the university would no longer tolerate drug and alcohol abuse and the destructive behavior it spawns.

On Sept. 15, Chapel Hill police raided a Church Street apartment and confiscated 75.6 grams of cocaine broken into one-gram packets, a clear indication of intent to sell, police said. In the raid, Jonathan Ray Plymale, 22, and Eliza McQuail Vaughan, 21, were charged with trafficking, cocaine possession and intent to distribute the drug. Police subsequently found an additional 121 grams of cocaine when they searched Plymale's home at 107 Fraternity Court. The street value of all the cocaine is about \$7,500, police said.

Vaughan is a UNC-CH student; Plymale was enrolled until spring 2009. "It's not normal for us to catch students with trafficking amounts," said Sgt. Jabe Hunter, head of Chapel Hill Police Department's narcotics division. "That's definitely unusual." The university's honor court takes it seriously. Consider: A student's first sanction for marijuana possession is a semester of probation; for cocaine possession, a semester suspension. If you're caught dealing cocaine, you get expelled.

Spotlight: SORORITY

Delta Sigma Theta



Founded Nationally: Howard University, January 13, 1913
 Founded at SMU: 1976, Nu Iota Chapter
 Colors: Crimson and Creme
 Nickname: Delta, D-S-T
 Symbol: Pyramid
 Philanthropy: Delta GEMS
 Council Membership: NPHC - National Pan-Hellenic Council
 National Website: www.deltasigmatheta.org
 Local Website: people.smu.edu/dst

President: Virginia Brooks

Spotlight: FRATERNITY

Omega Psi Phi



Founded Nationally: Howard University, November 17, 1911
 Founded at SMU: 1977, Nu Kappa Chapter
 Colors: Purple and Gold
 Nickname: Omega, Que
 Symbol: Lamp
 Philanthropy: Achievement Week, National Social Action Program
 Council Membership: NPHC - National Pan-Hellenic Council
 National Website: www.omegapsiphifraternity.org
 Local Website: people.smu.edu/ques

President: Jason Jackson

Sigma Pi at IU Shut Down: Placed on Alumni Trusteeship status

Indiana Daily Student - Bloomington, IN - October 19, 2009

IU's beta chapter of Sigma Pi has been placed into an alumni trusteeship, and all leaders of the organization have been removed from their positions, according to a statement released by Sigma Pi Fraternity International on Thursday. The announcement was a result of recurrent code violations and infractions, according to the release.

Under an alumni trusteeship, essentially the alumni take complete control of the chapter, said Mark Briscoe, executive director of Sigma Pi. Assistant Dean of Students Steve Veldkamp said that Sigma Pi Fraternity has had a number of Student Code violations over the past three years regarding alcohol misuse.

He said the decision to establish an alumni trusteeship was not based on one incident, but rather on a track record of members not living up to the values of Sigma Pi Fraternity. "There was no cooperation between the active chapter, the alumni and the executive chapter," Briscoe said. "That needed to be addressed."



Sober in the Animal House

New York Times - May 15, 2009 - by Owen B. Jennings

My liver failed two springs ago, when I was a senior in high school. I don't know the cause of my liver disease — a genetic mutation, an environmental trigger or just plain bad luck. But one of the many rules of my long recovery has been no alcohol. Not one drink. Not even a sip.

It was with this compulsory sobriety that I entered Dartmouth College two years ago. During my sophomore year, I pledged Alpha Delta, the fraternity that served as the model for the movie "Animal House." (The film's chief writer was an alumnus.) It was the same fraternity my brother pledged, and the same fraternity all of my friends would join. I was known as a "dry" pledge — everybody from the president to all the brothers made it clear to me that the fact that I didn't drink wasn't an issue at all.

Even though no one cares that I don't drink, they still see it as bizarre. But being alcohol-free has given me a unique vantage point from which to observe college life and culture. It seems to me that alcohol might be the only drug that everyone is expected to use.

If I refuse a drag of a cigarette or marijuana, there are never any follow-up questions. The same is true for other drugs common on college campuses, whether it's Adderall, cocaine or Ecstasy. But alcohol is different. Turning down a drink, for some reason, requires justification. When I decline alcohol, the response is almost always, "Why not?"

That's because in college, drinking is the default. It is assumed that I drink, for no other reason than that I am an average 19-year-old American male. Not drinking is seen as weird.

At Dartmouth, and at every other college campus I have been to, the consumption of alcoholic beverages is common. But the word "consumption" is an understatement. I'm not talking about the casual sipping of a few beers. Here, alcohol consumption means the rapid and repeated gulping and guzzling of beer after beer after beer. Often, students will drink upwards of 15 or 20 beers. On any given night, a frat brother or a sorority sister will spend hours vomiting. Sometimes a classmate will wind up in the hospital with alcohol poisoning. And often, these people wake up unable to remember anything that happened the night before.

This way of living — of partying — is a culture of excess from which I will always be excluded. There are obvious benefits for me — no hangovers, for instance. But the fact that I am surrounded by alcohol is also a constant reminder of my illness and the underlying restraint I must maintain. Because I am not a part of the drinking culture, I don't forget that alcohol is a drug, and that in large enough doses it's a poison that causes brain damage and liver disease.

I am always tempted to have a drink. But it's just not worth the risk. When you have doctors telling you that you almost died and that your liver function is directly affected by your alcohol consumption, it just doesn't make sense. I am sure there are people with liver disease who do drink, but I am doing everything possible to stay out of the hospital right now.

I have trouble explaining the mindset of my schoolmates to my parents and my grandparents, who don't understand why a girl would swill half a dozen shots in her dorm room before going out. My generation has adopted drinking as a social cure-all. It's a way to celebrate winning that big game, and a way to sorrow over a lost girlfriend or a bad grade. It's a way to fit in, and — if you can drink enough — it's a way to stand out.

The fraternity is so much more than just a place to drink. I go to the house and we hang out, get dinner, listen to music and go to concerts. We have sports teams, literary contests and community service projects. We send school supplies to Kenya, we work on the Special Olympics, and A.D. recently helped fund gay pride week. So there is a lot more going on than just crazy drinking. It's just that the drinking overshadows everything.

My sobriety has shown me how mindless my friends' drinking has become. The question shouldn't be, "Why aren't you drunk?" Rather, we need to start asking, "Why *are* you drunk?"

If I hadn't been diagnosed with liver disease, I would probably be a part of this insane and inane drinking lifestyle. But I've come to realize that while I might feel left out at a party or a bar today, maybe I'm lucky. I will graduate from college without ever having woken up on a bathroom floor, wondering how I got there; without ever having to play hide-and-go-seek with the police. Though I regularly feel frustrated and excluded because I can't drink, I think I'll feel differently in a few years, when extravagant keg parties are a distant memory.

I realize that drinking is a way to rebel and revel in the newfound freedom that college brings. But it's also a veil, a way to manipulate, distort and enhance who we really are.

If anything, being sober at the Animal House has taught me just to be myself.

Owen Jennings is a sophomore studying philosophy and English at Dartmouth College.



THE COLUMN
OF FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE

Cigarette the Likely Culprit in U Memphis ATO House Fire

MEMPHIS, TN (WMC-TV) - Investigators with the Memphis Fire Department say they believe a cigarette started a fire at the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity house near the University of Memphis Sunday night.

Firefighters were called to the house just after 8:00 p.m. No one was injured.

The building's deck, roof and ceiling sustained some damage