

Drinking habits examined during 'Week on the Wagon'

Until midnight tonight, it will have been a sobering experience.

Since 12:01 a.m. Friday members of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and the Delta Delta Delta sorority have avoided all alcoholic beverages for their fifth annual "Week on the Wagon."

Lisa Koenig, Tri Delta philanthropy chairman, said the project should help students realize that potential drinking problems do exist.

John Valdrighi, ATO social chairman, said the project should help students realize that potential drinking problems do exist.

"A week isn't that long," Valdrighi said. "It will, for sure, tell you if you have a problem."

The ATO fraternity set a \$50 fine for anyone in the house who did not participate in the project, he said.

Participation was not limited to the two sponsoring houses, however. They distributed about 800 pledge cards to include more people on campus. They asked that students sign the cards to show their pledge not to drink alcoholic beverages for a week.

"Although we have no idea how many of the cards were signed, they were well-received by many organizations on campus," Valdrighi said.

The week included alternatives to drinking, such as a non-alcoholic ATO-Tri Delta Friday Afternoon Club and a speech by Clay Rivers, a UNL associate professor of psychology. Tonight, the two houses will have a non-alcoholic skating party, Valdrighi said.

"The message of the week is to examine your habits and just see how much alcohol is a part of your life," he said.

The following incidents were reported to the UNL Police Department between midnight and 11 p.m. Tuesday:

3:01 p.m. — Hit-and-run accident reported in metered parking lot at 13th and R streets. Estimated damage is \$200.

5:22 p.m. — Envelope containing money reported found on East Campus. It was returned to owner.

5:30 p.m. — Fire alarm reported sounding in Manter Hall. Bird reportedly flew into a smoke detector.

5:42 p.m. — Hit-and-run accident reported in Parking Area 22 at 10th Street and Avery Avenue. Estimated damage is \$175.

6:09 p.m. — Suspicious male reported loitering around vehicles in Parking Area 23 near 14th Street and Avery Avenue. Person was checked by officer.

6:51 p.m. — Audible car alarm re-

portedly set off by unknown cause in Parking Area 2 near Sandoz Hall.

8:04 p.m. — Suspicious person reported in basement of Temple Building. Person was contacted and warned by officer.

9:26 p.m. — Officers assisted the Lincoln Police Department with a two-car non-injury accident at 17th and Vine streets.

10:26 p.m. — Suspicious vehicle reported patrolling Parking Area 1 at 19th and T streets. Vehicle was gone before officers arrived.

11:31 p.m. — Nineteen-year-old male student was arrested on City Campus for alleged possession of marijuana. Arraignment date is set for March 14 in Lancaster County Court.

11:55 p.m. — Male reportedly refused to leave Pound Hall. Incident was handled by officer.

Police Report

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NU enrollment declines slightly

By Pam Alward

Total enrollment at Nebraska's four state colleges was three percent higher last fall than in 1982, but enrollment at the three NU campuses was down 330 students this semester in comparison to last spring.

"When money was tight last year, some students may have stayed closer to home," said Harry Allen, instructional research and planning director. That may have contributed to the rise in enrollment at state colleges.

"I don't foresee any significant drain of students from the university to the state colleges," said John Yost, vice chancellor of academic affairs. The state colleges could be attracting students who would not normally go to college, he said.

Total NU enrollment is now 39,539. The UNL

campus has 23,397 students, the UNO campus has 13,687 students and the NU Medical Center has 2,455 students.

The slight decline in enrollment was expected because post-secondary enrollment is declining nationwide, Yost said.

The UNL campus attracts about 16 percent of Nebraska high school graduates each year, Allen said. Fewer university students might reflect fewer high school students, he said.

In times of economic stress, Yost said, major state universities attract more students by giving them strong training to prepare them for technical change.

Council's main goals: awareness, education

By Kelli Kellogg

UNL students think drinking is something to be proud of, but it's not, a spokeswoman for the Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs said.

Mary Jo Williams, a UNL student who became executive director of the council Monday, said she sometimes overheard parts of students' conversations while taking classes last semester.

"They would talk about the next big party, or about what they did at the last one," she said. "That's something they're really proud of. Getting drunk is still kind of a macho thing, and that's not good."

Alcoholism awareness is important to Williams, 31, and working with communities to promote education is one of her main goals, she said.

"There are a lot of resources out there," Williams said. "My main interest is putting people in touch with the ones that are available."

Although this will include an effort to reach college students, Williams said, LCAD would maintain its emphasis on youth. The School Community Intervention Program (SCIP) is helping teachers identify students with chemical dependencies, and, Williams said, she would like to see similar projects started.

Effects of heavy drinking are not limited to families and friends of alcoholics, Williams said.

"Treatment costs a lot, especially if alcohol is used to the point where the liver and pancreas are affected," she said. "People see the doctor for hypertension. When the physician treats it that way, what they're doing is treating the symptom."

Direct treatment experience is an angle Williams said she lacks. She has always been in an administrative position.

Williams has served as administrative assistant to the director of the Department of Public Institutions and director of care and treatment for the Easter Seal Society of Nebraska in Omaha. She also worked with the Nebraska Division on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse where she was chief of the Treatment and Community Assistance section.

At LCAD, she is responsible for the planning, finance and management of the council, along with directing advocacy and education functions.

On issues such as raising the drinking age and stricter drunk driving laws, Williams said, the council will remain neutral.

"They haven't taken a stand on them in the past," she said. "I will follow that philosophy — provide information, but not take a stand."

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