

# Drinking still up, study says

Daily Texan  
University of Texas

Austin, Texas (U-Wire) — Despite nationwide efforts to combat binge drinking on college campuses, a new study shows there is an increase in alcohol abuse among students.

The report released Thursday by the College of Alcohol Studies at Harvard University states more students are choosing not to drink alcohol, but at the same time those who consume alcohol are drinking more intensely.

Overall, 42.7 percent of the 14,521 students surveyed reported to be binge drinkers — down 2 percent from 1993.

But one-third more students in 1997 said they "drank to get drunk."

"It's the 'drinking to get drunk' pattern that has been a continuing problem," said Henry Wechsler, the primary investigator for the study. "I am disappointed to see it continuing. Many colleges are talking about policies, but so far there has been no change."

But James Vick, vice president of student affairs, said the university has several programs in place to prevent binge drinking and educate students about its effects.

"We have a very active program in the health center," Vick said. "Our goal is to help students live healthier lives, and binge drinking is one of the bigger hazards for health among college-age students."

The health center offers a four-hour lifestyle management class which deals with balancing students' lives, defining moderation and reducing the effects of alcohol use.

The report also identified sororities and fraternities as being part of the problem, with four out of five members being classified as binge drinkers.

"We try to provide programs for their (fraternity and sorority) leadership and give them all the advice to change behavior," Vick said. "But that is a very hard thing to change."

“  
“(Binge drinking)  
is a very hard thing  
to change.”

JAMES VICK  
UT vice president of student affairs

The study also showed that most non-drinkers experienced second-hand effects of binge drinking, including being a victim of assault, having property vandalized or having sleep or study interrupted.

Despite not drinking, Karen Dunn, an aerospace engineering freshman, said she has to cope with pressures from drinkers.

"One guy went on for 30 minutes trying to get me to drink. He couldn't get it through his head. He couldn't accept that I didn't want to drink," Dunn said. "Sometimes I feel like I'm making them look bad for drinking, but I'm not. It's just the way I feel about it."

# Berkeley group plans walkout for diversity

Daily Californian  
University of California

Berkeley, Calif. (U-Wire) — A group of campus leaders committed to maintaining affirmative action is staging a universitywide walkout Oct. 21 and 22.

The Coalition to Defend Affirmation Action By Any Means Necessary held a forum Thursday night in defense of affirmative action and in support of the walkout.

More than 75 professors and students participated in the forum, where the featured speaker was UCLA professor and walkout organizer Rafael Perez-Torres.

Perez-Torres urged students and professors to take a stand and voice their support for affirmative action.

"Get the word out to as many professors as you can to sign up for the walkout and teach-ins to add their names to a call for action," Perez-Torres said.

He said the University of California Board of Regents, which voted in 1995 to ban affirmative action, needed to be aware of the result of its decision.

"Let the regents know that their actions do have consequences as far as professors are concerned, and we cannot accept what they are doing to

our educational system," he said.

Perez-Torres said he hoped the walkout would draw national attention to what he said was the failure of the UC system to maintain racial and ethnic plurality among its campuses.

"(The walkout) is an attempt to begin a dialogue on what to do next and how to deal with an increasingly growing multi-ethnic society," he said, "and how we as professors and as students who are engaged in this educational process are to serve a multi-racial society."

UC Davis student senator Edgar Chen urged UC Berkeley students to tear down their ethnic barriers and work together on the issue.

"(Berkeley) is ethnically divided — you've set up internal conflicts between your own groups," Chen said. "These conflicts need to come down because we need to work together."

Howard University exchange student Jason Bush said professors in the ethnic and African American studies departments must now also justify their "existence" at UC Berkeley.

"A lot of staff from the African Americans studies department do not plan on staying simply because there is not enough ethnic representation in their classes," Bush said.

# UNMC plan promotes small-town medicine

PROGRAM from page 1

town Nebraska," Thayer said.

But it's too early to tell if the program has affected students' choices after graduation because it takes about four years to graduate from UNMC and another three to four years in residency at a hospital before going out into the professional field, Jokela said.

Though the program hasn't been around long enough to measure its success, Jokela said she could tell it has had an effect on students' mind sets.

For many of the students, it is their first time working or living in a rural setting, Thayer said.

"It does give them a taste of rural medicine," she said. "It gets them out there in this kind of setting that you're not going to get in Lincoln or Omaha."

JB Svoboda, a third-year medical student training in Valentine, said UNMC's efforts to send students to small towns benefit them.

"If you stay in Omaha and do all your rotations, you just work through the university hospital, and you don't get the opportunities to practice the way you do in a smaller town," Svoboda said.

Students who participate in the network represent the colleges of medicine, pharmacy, nursing and the School of Allied Health Professions.

The students participate in a two-month rotation usually after their third year at UNMC. All medical students between their first and second years must complete a three-week rural rotation as well.

Rotations can last longer, and students can have more than one rotation in a row, each one concentrating on a different area of medicine, Jokela said.

Students in a rural setting get the opportunity to practice more of their skills. When in a city setting, Jokela said, there may be more students in residency or training. However, in a rural scene, there may only be one or

two. For example, Jokela said, a student in a city setting may never get to help with the birth of a baby.

But if students are in a rural area, and a Cesarean-section is needed, they may get to help simply because they are the only students there.

Rural clinics also offer many benefits to the trainees, Thayer said.

The trainees get a rounded taste of the different types of medicine. They get to work on lacerations and help with castings. They can complete patient histories and talk to the patients with the doctors.

The clinic in Imperial has a satellite clinic in Juanita, which is smaller. The students also get to shadow health professionals there, Thayer said.

"It's really hands-on here," she said.

Svoboda said he has had the opportunity to assist in different types of surgeries at the Cherry County Physicians Clinic in Valentine. He said Saturday night he helped in an emergency appendectomy.

What students do depends on what kind of experience they have had, Jokela said.

The communities also must meet certain requirements to participate in the program. One of the requirements for a community is that it has a sufficient patient load, Jokela said, so the student will have a rich experience.

In addition to the network, UNMC has had an increase of students coming to the school from rural communities.

Jokela said UNMC has been focusing on the recruitment of potential students from rural communities, which the program has helped with.

She said when students grow up in a rural area, they are more likely to return to such an area.

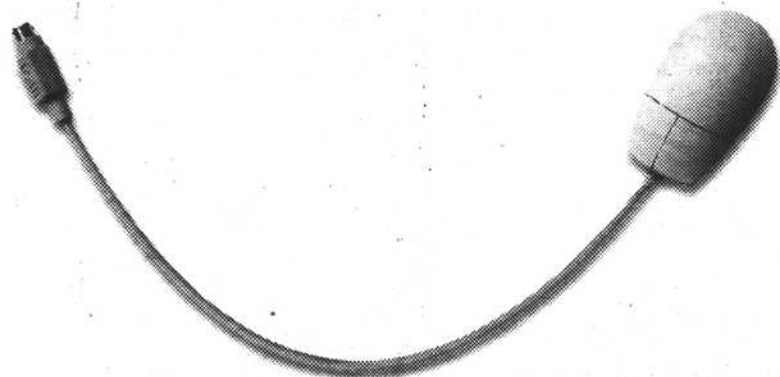
"The communities treat the students so well," Jokela said.

"The students really like it. We can never say enough good things about the communities."

Your roommate snores.

Your biochemistry syllabus is 8 pages long.

You get 5 free hours of online time every month with Navix:



(Hey, at least there's something to smile about.)

Happy news! If you're a UNL student, faculty or staff member, you get 5 free hours of Internet access every month when you sign up for one of these Navix plans:

**Low Usage Plan:** Get 15 hours of online time for just \$6.50 a month. (With your 5 free hours, it's like 20 hours for the price of 15.)

**Medium Usage Plan:** Get 40 hours of online time for just \$10.00 a month. (With your 5 free hours, it's like 45 hours for the price of 40.)

**High Usage Plan:** Get 250 hours of online time for just \$19.50 a month. (With your 5 free hours, it's like 255 hours for the price of 250.)

Additional minutes for each plan are just \$.02 and activation is free! And if you keep your usage for that month under 5 hours, your service for that month is also free!

Navix is fast, easy and reliable, letting you go online at speeds up to 56kps. There's a local Help Desk and even an 888 access number to use when you travel.

Call University Telecommunications at 472-5151 (students) or 472-3434 (faculty or staff). Or, stop by 211 Nebraska Hall.



Visit our websites: [www.navix.net](http://www.navix.net) [www.aliant.com](http://www.aliant.com)

**Aliant**  
Communications®

MAKING IT EASIER TO COMMUNICATE.™

[www.unl.edu/DailyNeb](http://www.unl.edu/DailyNeb)