

Disc simulates alcohol use

■ **The CD-ROM** program will be distributed to greek houses and residence halls.

BY CHRISTINA FECHNER
Staff writer

It's Thirsty Thursday, and the weekend is on its way. For some students, the way to relax is to put away the books and crack open a beer.

But drinking alcohol, while it may lead to a memorable night of partying, sometimes leaves more consequences behind than a day-after headache. Eric Schilling, a UNL junior agriculture education major, is doing his part to educate students about those more long-term risks.

Schilling, with the help of University of Nebraska-Lincoln Administration, received 100 free copies of a CD-ROM called Alcohol 101.

The program, which allows students to get drunk "virtually," also teaches them how drinking too much impairs their judgment.

Forty of the CD-ROMs will be distributed to greek houses, and the remaining 60 copies will be available to residence halls. The disc educates users on the risks associated with drinking.

Schilling said the program will work because it seemed real and students could relate to it.

"You are individually put into a situation. It is extremely interactive and up to date," Schilling said.

The program begins with the users entering their height, weight and age. Then the users are taken to a virtual party where they can talk to other people and share experiences on drinking.

There is a virtual bar where the users can have as many drinks as they want, and the program will tell users what their blood alcohol content would be and the effects their body would feel.

Users can reset the program and see what happens if they consume more or less alcohol. The consequences of receiving a driving under the influence ticket are also discussed on the program.

Schilling, who is also a member of the Alpha Gamma Sigma Fraternity, will put the discs to work by requiring all freshmen members of the house to use it for at least an hour.

He hoped all greek houses would follow suit and use it not only for freshmen, but for everyone.

"(The) program is there to stop problems from starting," Schilling said.

The residence halls have not yet used the program, but Nathan Johns, a sophomore actuarial science major and an Abel Hall residence assistant,

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ERIC SCHILLING
junior agriculture education major

said he thought the program sounded like a good idea.

It is something he would use on his floor and said he felt some people would be receptive to it.

Robert N. Joseph, public relations director for the Interfraternity Council, along with fraternity and sorority members, will attend a meeting Oct. 5 to discuss the program and when to implement it.

Joseph said he supported the CD-ROM because he thought it would benefit and educate students.

"Hopefully, (after using the program) students will have a better understanding of themselves," Joseph said.

Although the CD-ROM program has a reset button, Schilling said, real life does not. Schilling said he hoped the program would keep students from making mistakes.

"(Students) should know their limits and when to cut themselves off," he said.

Survey analyzes Nebraskans' views

BY GEORGE GREEN
Staff writer

How satisfied are you with your community? Are you married, divorced, single or separated? What is the highest level of education you have completed?

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students are among the interviewers who will ask Nebraskans questions such as these for the Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey. The telephone study is done by the Bureau of Sociological Research at UNL.

The survey is set to begin in October and is designed to find out how Nebraskans answer different personal questions.

University students, along with community members, are hired to perform the telephone surveys, said Lori Kreiful, a senior sociology and political science major.

NASIS hires between 50 or 60 interviewers to do the telephone interviews, and about half of those are students. Kreiful supervises and trains the interviewers, who earn \$7.85 an hour for their work.

Interviewers do their work from several rooms in Oldfather Hall. They set their own schedule but have to work a minimum of 12 hours per week, Kreiful said.

Students are involved with more than just doing the telephone interviewing, she said.

Graduate students in the past have paid thousands out of their pockets to add questions to NASIS.

"A few years ago a student bought time on the NASIS study to find out how Nebraskans felt about genetic testing and implications in the insurance industry," said Cheryl Wiese, associate director of the Bureau of Sociological Research.

The NASIS study, which started in 1977, provides valuable insight into how Nebraska and its residents have changed over the past 20 years, Wiese said.

The study covers a variety of topics as diverse as public trail usage, road conditions and simple demographic statistics, Wiese said. The

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CHERYL WIESE
associate director of UNL's
Bureau of Sociological Research

survey also has a list of basic questions each year.

"There are a core set of questions that are asked each year along with the other questions provided by different agencies and organizations," Wiese said.

Wiese helps different contributors to the survey — including some of the student workers — develop questions that will effectively gather the information they want.

Some agencies and organizations can pay up to \$2,750 for a minute of time on the survey.

Amnesty International, the Nebraska Department of Corrections and the Nebraska Division on Alcoholism are just a few of the many organizations that gather information through NASIS, Wiese said.

"We wanted to put a finger on the public's pulse at a time when legislators were pushing a 'get tough on crime' agenda and prisons were becoming increasingly overcrowded," said Steve King, planning and accreditation manager for the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

"We found that Nebraskans supported drug rehabilitation programs in prison and alternative sentences for first-time, non-violent offenders," King said.

The Department of Corrections now has rehabilitation programs in prison, King said.

It also has several pilot programs in progress in various communities that allow citizens to decide how to punish non-violent, first-time offenders.

Oftentimes these communities use alternatives to prison sentences such as house arrest and community service programs.

UNL graduate college creates speaker series

BY SARA GARDNER
Staff writer

Any student wishing to discover some exciting job possibilities should search no further.

The UNL graduate college is bringing a new speaker series to campus this fall that will cover the job search and other topics concerning both students and faculty.

"Scholarship in Society" kicks off Sept. 22 and will run through the school year.

Students will have the chance to hear these speakers discuss the many avenues life can take after receiving a college degree.

The first speaker is Desiree Beck, a senior cryptologic mathematician for the National Security Agency.

Beck will speak Sept. 22 at 2 p.m. in the Great Plains Art Collection in Love Library about her career and her transition from graduate school into a career.

Other speakers will discuss affirmative action, concerns of American Indians and the impact of race and gender on educational aspirations and development, said Suzanne Ortega, associate dean of graduate studies.

Ortega, who created the series, said she chose the speakers based on their wide range of careers and back-

grounds.

All of the speakers have a graduate education and reflect a broad range of careers and personal experiences, she said. Six speakers are scheduled for the semester, but more may be added.

"We wanted to help students and faculty think about the relationship of social issues, research and scholarship outside of the academy," Ortega said.

The Native American Studies department and the Ethnic Studies department are also sponsoring the series.

Layton Brooks, coordinator of graduate student services and a graduate student himself, is arranging the speakers' appearances.

"(The series) is for all students, not just graduate students," Brooks said. "It is important to see all of the possibilities there are after graduation and to realize all of the places you can go."

Brooks said the series will work to enforce the idea that money students spend for higher education is truly worth it.

With the expected interest and opportunities for more funding, Ortega hopes the series will be available every year.

Students interested in attending the series can call the graduate studies office at (402) 472-2875.



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