Alcoholism on Campus
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Some have said that alcoholism is a great problem on this campus. Yet April is the only drink that has come close to a "seven high" since I've been here. No beer, wine, or hard stuff is even allowed on campus. So how come the problem? It's an easy one to realize if you think about it for a moment.

After a week of classes, most students need a rest. They want and desperately require something to relieve the anxiety, frustration, and sometimes boredom that has been built up in the past week.

There are concerts, a large portion of which come to Poly because they're not wanted anywhere else. And students go to them because there's not much else to do on a Saturday night.

But...I take that back. There is hope for students who can't find room at University games, the local bowling alleys, or concerts. San Luis Obispo does have bars. And you know what, they allow students to do the only thing there is to do around here...drink.

Fortunately with problems such as these, there are solutions. For one thing, most students enjoy dancing. But there isn't enough room in San Luis Obispo to accommodate many people. Remember Crazy Horse out on Broad Street last year?

There was dancing, and also thousands of people, traffic jams, and eventually black and white cars chasing everyone from the building and shutting its doors. Students liked this place but there wasn't room for everyone.

Most of you have already experienced these problems. But, perhaps, someday, someone will build a place where college students of all ages can hang out.

This may alleviate some of the chronic drinking. In any case, alcoholism is still a threat to many people here.

We at Outpost have tried to present a real picture of alcoholism. Months ago an alcohol abuse committee was set up to look into the problem on campus. We went to this committee for information, talked to people on and off campus, and developed this issue. Read the articles. Then try to think before you drink.

William J. Mote, Editor
"Well, of all the nerve," exclaimed the tall red-headed girl rather defiantly. She glared directly into the bartender's eye and gallantly whipped out her driver's license. The bartender quickly glanced at her ID and apologetically offered her a beer. He didn't like making a scene but he had to have proof. The girl grabbed her beer and joined her friends, laughingly relating the incident.

In another part of town, a stylishly dressed couple out for a night ordered an elegant dinner of prime rib complete with a bottle of Peppa Rose. Without asking their age, the waiter served the wine. The couple enjoyed the diner, remarking how much flavor it had added.

A couple of coeds entered into a local nightspot without realizing that they had forgotten their ID's. The bouncer informed them that they could come in but were not allowed to drink. Their hands were stamped accordingly and they looked forward to dancing and drinking with friends. As the night progressed, the girls got braver and began drinking out of a friend's glass. They were pleasantly "high" before the night was over.

Sound familiar? These incidents could happen on any typical Saturday night in San Luis. Yet each of the people who indulged in these activities could find themselves sentenced to six months in jail because they are under 21 and illegally consuming alcohol. They regarded the drinking laws as obsolete and joined the countless others around town who get away with it when they can.

Under-age drinking is no secret. Bartenders admit that increasing numbers of minors are getting away with it and the National Commission of Marijuana and Drug Abuse tells us that drinking is now being done at an earlier age than ever before. In fact, experts say that 40 per cent of young people now take a drink before the age of 11. And at colleges, TG's permit flowing ale to all of those with a dollar in their hand.

Nevertheless, the legal drinking age remains at 21 and will probably stay that way for a long time. The bill designed to put the 18-year-old drinking on the November ballot was tabled and the author, Assemblyman Robert Nimmo, sees an initiative as the only alternative. But it means gathering a total of 400,000 signatures of registered voters by April 15 before it even reaches the ballot.

In the meantime, as in past generations, minors are finding their own solutions to getting to the bottle. The challenge of drinking illegally is always there. It seems to get stronger, the closer you get to 21. Nowadays, minors still stand outside liquor stores, still forget their licenses in the car and still bootleg in the basement. Anything for a drink in an era of marijuana, hashish and cocaine, a good fake ID is worth a great deal.

After much stammering, the long-haired sophomore took another sip of his beer and admitted that he gets his boozes with a fake ID from San Francisco. "If you want anything good, you gotta go to the City," he said. "My license only cost $5.00 and with two years left to go before I'm legal, it's worth it."
His long-haired companion who is proud of his local connections, showed off his fake ID which he bought in town from a "friend." Others who don't have the connections of these two guys often times must falsify their own licenses by typing in a different birthday.

To solve the problem of getting a clean-looking license, they should meet John, a bright likeable guy who makes a profit off of selling false IDs and went to a bar," added John.

Proud of his local connections, a "friend." Others who don't often times must falsify their own licenses by typing in a different birthday.

"I'm a pretty good judge of character," admits Kousky,bagging another bottle. "But if the person doesn't look 21, then I ask for proof. Seventy-five per cent of our customers are Poly students and we don't like to hassle them. Then again we don't want our liquor license taken away either. A few may squeeze in, but it's hard to get away with it," he added.

"If a bartender is unsure of a potential customer, he is authorized to hand out a mimeographed warning. When the minor signs the form, it can be used as court evidence against him. It also informs him of the $500 fine and six months in jail punishment for illegal drinking."

From behind his bar, Bob Stewart, former Poly student and now full-time bartender at the Factory expressed his views on the subject of under-age drinking and admits that he is ready to hand out the mimeographed warning when necessary.

"It's just not worth it to serve a minor," the burly ex-football player explained as he added more Grenadine to the tequila sunrise he was making.

"The A.B.C. will close down the place for 60 days, people will lose their jobs and the guys will go bankrupt."

His job is often hectic but he likes it and won't take any risks serving to minors. "I can usually sense the age and if I have any doubts about it, I won't let them in. Even if they're friends of mine and they have a fake ID, they can't drink here," he added, handing the sunrise to the customer.

Under age drinkers don't have quite as hard a time getting served at other local bars, where the clerks check everyone "depending on the mood at the time."

"We don't like to have to do it at the Darkroom," said employee Lee Strong, stealing a minute to sip a beer. "But what are you going to do? We could get busted for $500 and the ABC could close the place down. They slapped a big fine on the Golden West Bar on South Higuera and they could do it to us."

Lee also admitted that he has a certain feeling about who is old enough to drink and who isn't and has been working long enough to know all the tricks.

He recalled the times he's seen groups of guys all come in together as they can't be individually checked, or times that girls order coke and then drink beer out of the same glass.

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"When things like that happen, we usually ask the people to leave," added a co-worker. "But we know that under age drinking does go on and often times, we can't help it."
Yes, drinking around San Luis is not a big problem. Even if you’re not 21, you can sneak away with it at local bars or get a good fake ID for other places. A good number of the college kids and seem to deny them service because of threats from the Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Yet, why do these under age drinkers have to sneak away with it? They don’t have to sneak into voting booths, illegally sign contracts or get to blame their parents they are accused of a crime.

The 18, 19, and 20 year-olds are now legally responsible for anything they do — except go drinking at a bar with an older friend. Most will admit that they enjoy drinking after a hard week of studying. But, the moment isn’t there when you have to actually worry about getting kicked out.

The existing drinking laws are badly outdated and need to be changed. Other states have already changed them. California can do it.

The first thing to do is to go out and support Assemblyman Nimmo’s initiative to put it on the November ballot and the second thing to do is have a drink.
I AM AN ALCOHOLIC.

I hate to admit it but it's true. I used to run away from it; I guess I still do, as I run away from everything. One day a friend and I got to talking and it all came out...I was shocked. I really was, that I was an alcoholic. Yet, it was a relief that someone knew I drank too much. It helped to talk about it, but I'm hooked and can't get away from it.

You may wonder how a 17 year-old co-ed can be an alcoholic. I wonder myself sometimes. It is hard to explain to someone who has never experienced the burning desire to drink.

I'm not the falling-down-drunk alcoholic...although at times I get that way. I'm the drink-by-yourself, hide-it type. Who can say which is worse?

I've been drinking a lot since high school. My parents are both alcoholics and so I've been exposed to drinking all my life. I had my first drink of beer, when I was four and it was good.

In high school it was the next thing to do. Drink, and get away with it. A friend and I used to get drunk every chance we got. When I was depressed, drinking made me feel happier. I could laugh and make other people laugh too.

When I got to college I went crazy. With all the freedom I thought now I can do what I like—when I likes. Being away from home made me think I could handle myself better. Although I was pretty independent in high school, being 850 miles away from parents makes a difference.

Drugs also became an integral part of existence for me. I was getting stoned and dropping mescaline. We'd go out almost every night and get loaded or something...that surely didn't help me in school. It seems I have an inner desire to hurt myself.

Who would guess, at the time, that I was on the path to addiction? I really think alcoholism is addiction. I have a compulsion to drink. I can't stop drinking totally. I'm addicted.

When I arrived at Cal Poly, I stopped drinking outright. I don't hang around with a drinking crowd, although I have been to some parties. I figure that if I'm not around drinking, I won't have the tendency to do it as much...

Sometimes I feel like a hypocrite because I get so disgusted with my parents, and with guys who talk about nothing else but "how drunk they got last night." I must be pretty disgusting myself. That's why I drink...I don't like myself and I can't handle it.

Drinking is like a vicious circle. I drink to forget my troubles and to shun responsibility. A madness builds up me, and I hate myself even more...so I drink and I'm better to where I started.

The World Health Organisation once said in a paper, people can be chronic alcoholics without ever showing symptoms. That's me. Although I show signs of alcoholism, no one seems to detect them but me, so I figure I'm pretty safe.

I'm usually a happy person. Although I'm moody, it's mostly due to my drinking, people just think I'm moody because I am. I hope all this is making sense to you...

Thinking about getting in an accident while high scare me, but you never think about that when you start drinking. You just need a drink...

We have wine in our refrigerator at home that I drink on a hard day...or after an easy one. Once I got very upset and there was nothing around to drink but the cooking sherry. I drank it!
It is hard to tell you all of this, yet it makes me a little more objective about myself. I watched a TV movie the other night, *The Morning After* with Dick an Dyke as an alcoholic who won’t admit it. When he does he has already ruined his life... and his family’s.

That movie made me think. I could see myself in it. That movie had some deep emotional problems and no one listened to him. He thought he was no good and super-inadequate and people around him thought he was ok because he had a good job, a nice house, and a nice family. Too many people think everything is fine if someone is smiling.

I take tranquilizers too. When I’ve got responsibilities and don’t want to face them, I take a tranquilizer or two. It has something to do with maturity. I have a lot of responsibility; besides school, there is work and some clubs on campus. People rely on me for counseling and help. Here is another area where I’m a hypocrite; it seems strange that I could counsel others when I can’t help myself. When you’re an alcoholic you can become good at faking it. Sometimes it is easier to deal with other problems than your own.... I’ll try to apply these to myself.

What happens after graduation? It’s something that has been going through my mind for awhile. I’ll be by myself here and probably won’t have as many friends. I’m not looking forward to leaving school...I’m afraid it’ll just get worse.

I’ve thought about getting professional help but I just don’t. Maybe it’s pride or I think too many people would talk about me...my parents, too.

What I want is someone to really love me, someone to hold me and say “Hey, it will be alright. We’ll get through this.” Someone who really wants to know me and really cares why I think.

I know way down in the depth of my mind and heart that God can help me with all this....with myself. It is just a matter of letting Him...

Why can’t I let Him?
We're trying to help

by Lynette Bayless

It is Friday afternoon. Tom is done with classes for the week. He does not have anything really important to occupy his time, so he calls a friend and they head for "Happy Hour" at the corner bar.

Francine sits alone on the couch in her small apartment. It has been a tough week. She broke up with her boyfriend on Monday; she somehow filled the empty hours for the past six months. Francine considered heading home in Monterey for the weekend, but she does not feel as though she belongs at home anymore. Sometimes she feels she does not belong at school either. She opens the door of the yellow refrigerator and reaches for the bottle of wine.

On Fridays, the Health Center becomes busier than usual with casualties from over-indulging students. Their business increases due to alcohol-induced mishaps...

A recent study completed by the University of California School of Public Health reported that the age group between 81 and 84 experienced "the greatest prevalence of all drinking problems."

It's time to face the facts: ALCOHOL IS THE NUMBER ONE DRUG PROBLEM ON THE COLLEGE CAMPUS TODAY.

Some experts say that during the college years, attitudes toward drinking and its place in the life of the individual are formed. In an attempt to provide for successful health education concerning alcohol, the Health Center began an Alcohol Education program last October.

The Center is concerned with identifying the extent of the alcoholism problem here. An effective, preventive, and educational program, designed to meet the needs of the students at Cal Poly, can then be established.

Dr. Billy Mounts, a stylish physician and director of the campus Health Center, leans back in his chair and explains.

"In trying to identify the alcoholism problem on campus without any preconceived ideas, we are in a sense, going to wiggle our toes through the sand until we hit a rock. We are trying to find the reality of the problem."

Mike Looney, a 66-year-old graduate student working toward his Master's in psychology, was hired as co-coordinator for the Alcohol Education Program. Mike's salary and the program are financed through the Health Center from its budget for preventive medicine and health education programs.

"The Alcohol Education Program's findings it is hoped a health education package can be put together for the entire university. Department heads have been contacted. Faculty, students, and various clubs have been called to the Health Center to brainstorm the problem. Research is being conducted and classes in drug abuse are being considered.

Dr. Leo Flahr, a social science professor, is planning to conduct a survey on campus during Spring Quarter to help identify the alcoholism problem.

"The administration already had its mind made up about the alcoholism problem on this campus. I do not want any advance publicity on the survey I will be conducting because I do not want students to be biased before the survey is handed out," he explains in his frank, but critical manner.

The professor will have the results of the survey late this summer.

A colloquium, a seminar, in which several lecturers speak, is also in the planning stages. It is to be held Spring Quarter. Keynote speakers would be student alcoholics, persons from Alcoholics Anonymous, and others involved in the alcohol problem.

Students, faculty, staff members and the community would be invited to take part in both the lectures and small group discussions.

The brainstorming, the researching, the probing, and the planning of the colloquium are all in an effort to come up with an effective health education program for the prevention of alcohol-related problems. To get to the root of the problem the question must be asked: Why do students drink?

There the number of lives destroyed by alcoholism. Over nine million Americans in the United States today are alcoholics. Ten percent of all social drinkers will become alcoholics.

If you are aware of any alcohol problems, please contact the Health Center. Cal Poly is trying to help.
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Thinking about Drinking

by Michael Ruskovich

"Ale is the stuff to drink for those whom it hurts to think."
A.E. Hausman

This is not a story, but then again it is. It's an essay, but then again it is not.

Actually, this is an expose, an expose about alcohol. There is no attempt, herein, to sway the reader's feelings about drinking.

This article is merely designed to examine the ideas other men, throughout history, have had about the loved and loathed liquid.

First as an overall perspective, there seems to be three different and general attitudes in the philosophies about drinking.

The writings of some men hold fast to the idea that drinking is a method of escape, a route out of the real world and into a self-induced utopia. To them wine is "happy juice."

Those on the other side of the schism, however, seem to think that alcohol acts as an intensification of the real world. According to them, wine washes away the trivia to get to the truth. These men hold with the Roman philosophy, "in vino veritas" (in wine, truth).
The third group views alcohol as an unpredictable antagonist of human emotions. They believe it sometimes makes a person happy, and at other times, makes that person sad.

In this light, booze has become a joking matter to some, a serious matter to others, a matter of little importance to the rest. The liquid has drawn many different remarks from many great (or not so great) thinkers and drinkers throughout history.

The Greeks, whose wine harvest festivals lasted weeks at a time, who originated the saying “either let him drink or let him depart,” were both great thinkers and great drinkers. Diogenes, one of the thinkers, made this observation of alcohol: “The vine bears three kinds of grapes: the first pleasure, the second of intoxication, and the third of disgust.”

The “three faces of wine” were recognized long ago, also, by the Japanese. One of their oldest proverbs is “At first sup man drinks wine; at the second sup wine drinks man; and at the third sup wine drinks man.”

The Bible makes many references to alcohol. Probably the most famous and frequently used quote is that of Jesus Christ, who, at the Last Supper, said this of wine: “This is my blood.”

Another frequently used quote from the Bible dealing with wine is: “Wine a mocker and strong drink is raging. Whosoever is deceived thereby is a fool.”

The observations of modern men, who are often just as serious as the ancients, are usually projected in a more light-hearted manner than the Bible provides, though most of these are not as disconcerted as the philosophies of comedian Dean Martin, who said, “I don’t have a drinking problem...except when the bars close.”

A.E. Houman, who maintained drinking as one of his favorite poetic themes, wrote this in his poem: “Terence This Is Billy Stuff”:

“Malt does more than Milton to justify God’s ways to men.”

The poet John Masefield also gave considerable amount of credit to the persuasive power of alcohol. “Good ale makes floors seem like the ceiling.”

Though philosopher Thomas Boss once said, “When the wine is in the wine is out,” The witty man of words Ogden Nash, was able to include alcohol and still keep his wits about him in this quip: “Candy is dandy but liquor is quicker.”
Writer Thomas Fuller once scolded those who spend more time at the bar than on the job. He wrote, "He is drinking at the Harrow when he should be at the plough." But one of America's favorite philosophers, Mark Twain, as if offended by the scolding, said, "Every man that had any respect for himself would have got drunk."

The "sweet young thing" posted on posters throughout the prohibition to symbolize the sobriety of the times warned, "Lips that touch liquor will never touch mine." But the poet A.A. Robinson knew such threats would not stop some men from quaffing crazy water, as typified by his character Miniver Cheevy:

"Miniver Cheevy, Born too late, Scratched his head and kept on thinking;
Miniver coughed and called it fate And kept on drinking."

Like Hausman and Robinson the poet Owen Wiess also saw a correlation between thinking and drinking. He displays this observation in this delightfully disrespectful little poem about two of the greatest thinkers:

"Said Aristotle unto Plato Have another sweet potato.
Said Plato unto Aristotle Thank you, I prefer the bottle."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow implied liquor is a disguise acting under the guise of the "elixir of perpetual youth." But philosopher Thomas de Quincey disagreed with that idea. "It is most absurdly said a man is disguised in liquor; for, on the contrary, most men are disguised by sobriety."

So the question still goes unanswered. Is alcohol a truth serum or liar? Perhaps the answer lurks in the thoughts of one of these men. Perhaps not. At least these thoughts have shown how many different perspectives can be taken.

In fact, there are so many sides to the coin that it almost makes one want to be instead of flip to find the answer. To "coin" a phrase: "It's almost enough to drive a man to drinking."
Cork 'n Bottle

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