New direction for student-led alcohol campaign

Cassandra Keyse

Alcohol many freshmen want it and will do whatever it takes to drink as much as they can and once they get hold of it, they will do whatever is needed to get it. This is what prompted Schwartz to ask whether the administration will consider cutting its own state and endowments for professors.

"Baker's pay is peanuts compared to a CEO," said Bider Ikeda said. "We're hoping for a 38 percent (of the students) increase in enrollment with the incentive that they will be going to be appropriately funded. The state, however, which is dealing with its own budget crisis, has not provided the university with funding proportionate to the increase in enrollment."

Schwartz was said to have been approached by the Chancellor's Office in recent years to increase faculty and student salaries amidst the crisis. Baker has never before acted contrary to the student body's vote on a proposal and is unlikely to do so for this referendum.

Still, despite the magnitude of the proposal, only 10 students showed up to the forum, a number Ikeda said was disappointing. The administration has not explicitly encouraged students to vote either for or against the proposed increase at the forum, but they say students who look like they drank too much showed themselves in less-than-flattering situations.

"We're really trying to move towards a more serious tone," business senior Chris King said. "Last year's campaign had good intentions, but a lot of people took their drinking too far and found themselves in less-than-flattering situations."

"Our campaign isn't about stopping the drinking, but encouraging students to drink responsibly. That's all we want people to do."
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WORD ON THE STREET

“How many drinks do you consume on average during weekdays and weekends?”

“Usually I don’t drink on Saturdays since I have to do homework on Sundays but I’d say I drink a little, once a week on Fridays.”

-Sara Sadre, biology sophomore

“On average I drink twice a day during the weekdays and probably eight or nine drinks on Friday and Saturday, so less than 30 per week.”

-Ben Turner, civil engineering senior

“Honestly now, probably two max during the weekend.”

-Alison Veith, English senior

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Simple steps to tell if you're dating a loser

Sometimes you date someone who you think is totally awesome, but you'd be wrong. As someone who has dated a loser, I admit, in the excitement of texting, hooking-up and the general confusion of it all, it is easy to make a mistake. You may accidentally give someone an unworthy amount of attention. Or you may be disillusioned into thinking someone is cool, even though he or she is definitely not.

There are two types of losers in the dating world: ones who have zero personality and can't bring anything to the relationship, and those that are incredibly demanding and overpowering. Both will try to monopolize your time, monitor your Facebook and weed out your friends.

Priceless nights can pass until the realization comes that you've been wasting away with a complete zero. So when you voluntarily put yourself in this vulnerable phase of stupidity known as love, take a minute to think. You may have missed the following cues:

1. If your friends don't like the person you are dating, then you are dating a loser. Let your confidants be your walking stick when you are blinded by love. Two thumbs down from friends means you need to ditch the dinger. Sure, you may be getting laid and think things are great, but if your friends really have a problem with your new sweetheart, things are going to get uncomfortable really fast. Your significant other's presence will torture your group at every fun event and will become that 'friend nobody likes.'

Ultimately, your friends want what is best for you. So trust them when they say your 'baby' sucks.

2. If the person you are dating doesn't like your friends, this is a problem. It is even more of a problem if he or she feels the need to tell you. Boyfriends and girlfriends are only see Loser, page 7

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Empower Poly Coalition unites like-minded clubs

Omar Sanchez

Jorge Montezuma saw firsthand what a water treatment plant did for the quality of life in his community in Lima, Peru and it sparked his interest in water pollution treatment and sustainable practices. Early in his college career he became involved with the Empower Poly Coalition to better facilitate his ideas for a sustainable future.

The Empower Poly Coalition is a coalition of campus clubs interested in sustainability; it was created to serve as a unifying center for sustainable movements on campus. Since it was founded in spring 2006, the coalition has seen enormous growth in membership and diversity with more than 20 member clubs ranging from engineering to business.

They are trying to ban the sale of plastic bottled water on campus, though Empower Poly hasn’t endorsed the program yet, Montezuma said. Still, his passion for improving the environment is not unlike many other people that make up several clubs and organizations united by Empower Poly.

“If you have any idea of the impact the bottled water industry has on the world, you would know why I would feel that way,” he added.

“Everybody’s voices should be heard,” Empower Poly serves as a catalyst where discussion and ideas can turn into action,” he said.

The coalition recently participated in the second Focus the Nation: building a sustainable economy at Cal Poly. The three-day event drew hundreds of students to a green job fair, a sustainable project showcase, and student-led sustainable living workshops.

Currently the coalition is working with campus administration to propose a $5 tuition increase to create the Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) that would finance student sustainability projects at Cal Poly.

“Generally (the administration) has been really supportive. With any consideration the environmental impact and economic impacts as well,” Eckold said. In addition to attracting Cal Poly students, Eckold said they coalition is building off the Focus the Nation momentum and hosting more sustainable events.
Empower
continued from page 6

In April the coalition will host the spring convergence for the California Student Sustainability Coalition where 400 students from across the state convene at Cal Poly and "showcase our university and the sustainability measures that we will be pursuing," he said.

The efforts don't stop at hosting events. Every Tuesday, members of the coalition write a column in the Mustang Daily dubbed "The Green Spot." The column addresses a variety of environmental and sustainable issues and how students can get involved.

"I've probably learned more being involved with Empower Poly Coalition than I have being in the classroom and I feel like I have learned more about the industry I want to go in by being involved," Eckold said.

With a nationwide economic recession, and with fears of climate change and escalating student fees, Eckold said now is the time to make a change.

"As students, we're customers of Cal Poly and if you're not happy with the product you're getting here, stand up and do something about it," he said.

The main focus of the coalition is to inspire people to do what they can to be involved in sustainability, he said.

To find out more about Empower Poly Coalition visit empowerpoly.calpoly.edu

An Important Note to Students
continued from page 5

runner-up to friends, and it is not their place to trash your buddies. A negative comment about your pose is a character insult. Your friends are a reflection of you. There are similarities among you that your partner should recognize and adore.

Your partner's opinion may lead you to ditch your crew in favor of theirs, a big mistake. Your buddies are the only guarantee you won't be alone in six months so don't isolate yourself or else you may be eating ice cream and watching "The Notebook" alone after being dumped.

3. If the person you are dating wants to be with you all the time, then they are a loser. Does this person have friends of his or her own? When are they bragging about how awesome you are if they are always with you? The answer is they're not. Meanwhile, your significant other's neglected pals are building up animosity for you because you are responsible for hogging their friend. Then the cycle starts all over and you can revert back to reason No. 3 you are dating a loser.

Now this all may seem like common sense, but never underestimate the stupidity of a person in love. Love often overrides common sense. This ignorance can threaten your friendships, independence and sanity. So don't be an idiot, never choose a fling over a friend. And if you do, then maybe you're the real loser.

Denise Nilan is a journalism senior and the Mustang Daily's sex and relationship columnist.

Loser
continued from page 5

friends of his or her own? When are they bragging about how awesome you are if they are always with you? The answer is they're not. Meanwhile, your significant other's neglected pals are building up animosity for you because you are responsible for hogging their friend. Then the cycle starts all over and you can revert back to reason No. 3 you are dating a loser.

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3rd Place, Best Color Advertisement, Andrew Santos-Johnson
Lessons learned at the grand old age of 21

Twenty-one. It's the age that almost everyone looks forward to from high school on. In fact, it is the last age that is looked forward to period (unless you are among the people who don't wait until you turn 23 so you can rent a car). This is a milestone that is celebrated in the United States by parading the birthday person from bar to bar and buying them way too much alcohol to commensurate their right to legally get intoxicated in public as opposed to in a dorm room, fraternity party and the like. It is the age of ultimate freedom, so why are we so bashful with the immaturity?

On Wednesday night, I celebrated my 21st birthday. I went out in the rain at midnight to celebrate as soon as the date moved from March 2 to March 3rd. In the hour that I was downtown that night, I had six drinks, an example of binge drinking at its finest. I got enough sleep to race for class the next day and then went out again Wednesday night. Sadly, I do not know how many drinks I had in the couple of hours I was at the bar that night. Alcohol got the best of me and I was home in bed by midnight. Yes, it was fun, but I found myself contemplating whether or not I needed to down every drink that was put in front of me. The pan of the following day rendered me useless until late afternoon, well after my 9 a.m. class and the beginning of my shift at work. I had survived my 21st birthday and lived to tell about it, but should I really be content with that? After all, birthdays are happy days, not days to simply hope you get through.

As much as I hate to admit it, my birthday celebration became a statistic. A study in 2008 article in the Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology entitled "21st Birthday Drinking: Extreme Extremity," four out of five students surveyed admitted to drinking large amounts of alcohol to celebrate their 21st birthdays. To further analyze the survey results, researchers calculated that 68 percent of females and 71 percent of males had a blood alcohol content of over 0.08 percent, the point at which drinking is defined as binge drinking.

As college students, we know the negative consequences of binge drinking and yet so many of us participate in it willingly, continuing this detrimental tradition. I wish I hadn't chosen to sign my night over to an unknown quantity of alcohol, but it was what my peers had done and joining their ranks seemed like the only respectable thing to do. My view of turning 21 has changed in the few days after my birthday. I have learned that while parts of society found on the practice of over-drinking, other parts have encouraged it as a normal way to end the 20th year of life. I have accepted my right to buy and consume alcohol, but haven't exercised it since that night because simply, the mystique and excitement are gone.

I am an adult in all respects now and as such, I do not intend to pass on the binge-drinking initiation tradition that so many of us went through. My birthday experience was what I thought it would be: it was fun until the final drink that knocked me out. Know your limit. You'll be thankful in the morning.

Alcohol will be there tomorrow and the next day Pace yourselves, please.

Cassandra Kepp is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily reporter.
Economists finally agree: Mother Nature doesn’t do bailouts

Ask a random sample of journalists whether our top scientists agree on the basics of climate science, and they’ll surely say yes: Greenhouse gases are warming the Earth, man is the cause and we have to reduce emissions, or else. But ask the same journalists whether our top economists agree on the basics of climate economics — the costs and benefits of addressing the problem — and they’ll almost certainly say no: There’s no comparable consensus among economists.

But that simply isn’t true, and it’s time for the press and public to recognize it. There is an emerging economic consensus partly because economists are such a querulous bunch; they argue bitterly among themselves even when they agree. When Stavins was asked about the Stern Review, for example, he criticized Stern’s methodology and didn’t mention that he concurs with most of Stern’s broad conclusions.

It’s only recently, transitioning to a cleaner energy system isn’t free, and there are some respected economists, like William Nordhaus, who argue that future, richer generations will be able to more easily shoulder the cost burden than we can.

But influential mainstream economists from Paul Volcker to Robert Stavins to Lord Nicholas Stern to Larry Summers all agree that action is cheaper than inaction, even if they disagree on much else (Stavins can’t stand Stern’s methodology, and Summers prefers a carbon tax to cap-and-trade).

Stavins, director of Harvard University’s Environmental Economics Program, phrased it this way in a recent paper: “There is general consensus among economists as policy analysts that a market-based policy instrument targeting ‘There is general consensus among economists — the cost of climate action — the question of how expensive it will be to preserve a climate that is hospitable to humans. The Environmental Defense Fund pointed to this consensus last year when it published a study of five nonpartisan academic and governmental economic forecasts and concluded that the medium projected impact of climate policy on U.S. GDP is less than one-half of one percent for the period 2010-2030, and under three-quarters of one percent through the middle of the century.”

Stern’s broad conclusions.

Stavins’ climate-cost calculations come in a bit higher than those in the EDF study, ranging from less than 0.5 percent to 1 percent of U.S. GDP; he describes these as “significant but affordable impacts” that are “consistent with findings from other studies.”

The Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change, an influential but controversial 2006 report for the British government, concluded that climate action would cost 1 percent of global GDP (though Stern now warns that our failure to act is raising the price tag) and that inaction could reduce global GDP by up to 20 percent.

You can’t take any of these forecasts for their exact numbers, but by aggregating them, as EDF did, you can get a general idea of the impact of climate action. It won’t be free. And it won’t be anywhere near as bad as the economic contraction we’re living through right now, in which U.S. GDP fell by 3.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2008 alone. If a cap-and-trade program were enacted by Congress this year or next, by the way, it wouldn’t start phasing in until 2012, by which time either the economy will be on the mend or a second Great Depression will have reduced our emissions the hard way.

Many economists conclude that slacking off is the expensive choice. If economists are agreeing on so much, why aren’t more journalists reporting the good news? Many reporters have missed it because they can’t tell the difference between good and bad economic forecasts. Lame “he said, she said” reporting gives hired-gun naysayers equal weight alongside the academics, and that’s a big problem.

Here’s another problem. Journalists have missed the economic consensus partly because economists are such a querulous bunch; they argue bitterly among themselves even when they agree. When Stavins was asked about the Stern Review, for example, he criticized Stern’s methodology and didn’t mention that he concurs with most of Stern’s broad conclusions.

That sort of quarrelling masks the underlying consensus and communicates a greater degree of discord and uncertainty than actually exists.

One of the strangest things about the Stern Review was that some of the most vociferous comments came from those who drew the most similar conclusions to us,” says economist Dimitri Zenghelis. “In fact, most economists are surprisingly consistent in arguing for early and coordinated action, including cap-and-trade mechanisms.”

Top economists are gradually converging on a parallel consensus that over the long term, it’s much, much cheaper to fight climate change than it is to let global warming continue unchecked.

Glenn Prickett is a business senior, the president of the Empower Poly Coalition and a Mustang Daily columnist.

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students vote March 11 and 12 — VOICE YOUR OPINION NOW
Snoopy also successfully landed his plane into the Hudson River, but to much less fanfare.
Faith

continued from page 12

That mentality has paid off in recruiting, as it did with senior Lisa McBride, a 6-foot-2 off-guard from Arizona who led the Big West Conference in 3-point accuracy, at 43.4 percent. "I knew right away she really cared about her players," says McBride, who visited the campus with forward Megan Harrison, the team's only other senior and a reigning All-Big West first team selection. "Coaches elsewhere turned me over to assistants and let them do everything. She came with us everywhere on campus."

Mimnaugh can be so nice, McBride says, that players sometimes reassure her that it's OK to yell at them.

During a two-hour practice starting at 7 a.m., she opts for a deliberate calm instead of dictatorial screaming. But she's still in control.

"I would rather you throw a hard pass," Mimnaugh, dressed in a gold warm-up suit, tells her 16 players at one of the moments she interminably, compulsively takes the whistle out of her mouth. "That pass has to come from the guard!"

Sometimes, she seems to disregard the competitor's cliché of never being satisfied.

Santiago, who averages a team-leading 15.6 points per game while shooting 54.2 percent — 23rd-best in the country entering last week — catches a soft entrant pass, spins to her right and effortlessly sinks a turnaround jumper. Simply watching, Mimnaugh says nothing, because nothing needed to be. That was perfect.

Later, after sternly monitoring fast-break and three-player shooting drills, the player in Mimnaugh comes out when she makes, dribbling to center court to toss the ball up to open the first fall-court game of the day.

"Let's really pay attention to taking care of the basketball, OK?" she says, before taking a quick glance to survey the players around her, wound to let loose.

The white uniforms cling to a 5-3 lead with seconds remaining, while the green shirts desperately rotate the ball, looking for an equalizer. Seamlessly at the buzzer, Tratter finds one, knocking down a 15-footer from the left baseline. But it was too late.

"Nope," Mimnaugh says, walking to the scorer's table as the greens plead for the basket to count. She grins because she's been there herself but there were more important things to do. "It wasn't on time."

— Editor's note: Part two of the series will be published in tomorrow's Mustang Daily.
I was playing pickup on the playground, and I sort of moved up from being the last selection to the first selection," she says. "I was one of those guys who would probably have preferred to knock me to the ground. And once somebody did. But to continue to choose me for open gym — that provided opportunities to develop great confidence."

She tried out for her middle school's boys basketball team and made it.

Once opponent, she recalls, even refused to take the court because she was playing. "I feel like I could compete with the guys," she says.

At the college level, her career assists totals compete with nearly anyone's — man or woman.

From 1981 to 1985, Mimnaugh dished out 1,000 assists at Loyola-Chicago to become the all-time leader in that category at the Division I level, amongst men and women.

The mark has since been surpassed on the women's side by Penn State's Suzie McConnell (2,404 in 1988) and Pacific's Tine Friel (1,088, 1993), and on the men's side by Duke's Bobby Hurley (1,076, 1993), North Carolina State's Chris Corchiani (1,038, 1991) and North Carolina's Ed Cota (1,030, 2000).

She was an assistant at North Carolina State when Corchiani eclipsed the 1,000 milestone.

"That was their big thing; they were on the watch for his assists. I was always like, 'Eh, I've already done that,'" she jokes.

In all seriousness, Mimnaugh says, she has "an understanding of what that means when someone breaks 1,000 assists. There's a respect level — that, 'Yeah, this person can really pass the basketball and make great decisions.' You just can't be a number for other people, but for someone who's felt it, you have an appreciation of what those numbers actually mean."

"I would never recommend it," she laughs. "It's a lot worse than you think."

"I think I'm a players' coach," she says.

"If you're going to play, you're going to play. If you want to go to class, you're going to go to class. It's not going to be that easy.

"I think I'm a players' coach."