

NEWS

DRINKS: Number dropping nationally

Continued from Page 3

students taking a higher interest in their academic lives.

"There are a lot of students who are serious about their schoolwork and recreate in activities that aren't alcohol-related," he said. "A big percentage of students are just not into it."

The media, Miller said, is partially to blame for the misperception that everyone drinks.

"The marketing of alcohol in the media makes drinking look glamorous," Miller said. "People bought into it, but it's not really accurate."

Jenny Baylon, the program coordinator of the Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program, agreed students drink because they want to fit an image. Boredom and lack of purpose may contribute to one's motivation to drink as well.

Miller said boredom is not a reason for drinking, but an excuse.

National studies, as well as WSU studies, show that Greek houses have higher drinking rates than resident halls and off-campus living areas, Miller said.

"You have people who are into being more social and it's more ori-

ented toward (alcoholic activities)," he said. "They choose the same kind of people to live with, and it's self-perpetuating, really. The process builds on itself."

The 1996 data indicated freshmen did not consume alcohol any more than their older counterparts.

The reduction, Miller said, in numbers of those who consume alcohol has been consistent on college campuses nationally. The institutions with the most reductions are those who have implemented social programs against alcohol use.

The WSU Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program sponsored an awareness week in early September and has plans to implement more programs, including a Cougar Dry Day, peer-to-peer discussions and Safe Spring Break, a program that emphasizes the dangers of drinking and driving.

MARCH: Goal is to heighten students' awareness

Continued from the front page

founders, YWCA of WSU want to show their strength in numbers.

One of the main goals of the coalition is sponsoring programs and activities that heighten all WSU students' awareness of issues pertaining to women and ethnic groups.

"We're here to work together in groups," said Liza Rognas, director of the YWCA of WSU.

Men are welcomed and urged to participate in Take Back the Night. Sigma Chi fraternity and Men Against

Violence Against Women will be marching along with the female groups.

The march begins by moving west on Campus Avenue, turning right on Opal Street and continuing through California, B and Colorado Streets of Greek Row before finishing at Orton Hall for the speaker's presentations.

The events will be staged rain or shine, and a commemorative Take Back the Night T-shirt will be available on Terrell Mall. The Women's Resource Center should be contacted with any questions at 335-6849.

PANEL: 'We want people to report sexual violence'

Continued from Page 4

responsible; does not know the act is a crime; is embarrassed about the event; does not want to cause trouble for the perpetrator; does not think the police will believe them or is fearful of what the police will do with the information, Mercer said.

"We want people to report sexual violence," he said, "even when the victim doesn't want to file criminal charges." This way, the police can have a record of the events if something happens again and circumstances change, he said.

Empey, from student affairs, will speak on how students can report harassment from other students, when to report it and what steps the university will take to resolve the issue.

"When people say 'sexual assault,' many think of rape,"

"We are not advocates for the students or the university. We are a place where people can come to get a fair hearing of their complaints."

HEIDI HUTCHINSON
WSU EQUAL EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITY COORDINATOR

Empey said. "We called (reporting sexual assault) 'reporting for unwanted sexual contact' instead. That includes acquaintance and date rape, sexual contact, stalking, indecent liberties and sexual orientation harassment — anything creating a hostile environment."

Hutchinson at the Center for Human Rights is available to han-

dle student complaints about harassment involving WSU faculty or staff.

She will discuss affirmative action, complaints of sexual harassment and gender discrimination.

"All our complaints here are taken very seriously," Hutchinson said of the Center for Human Rights. "We want to get to the bottom of things quickly for the sake of those involved."

After taking information from the student on the complaint, the center will gather information from the accused. Then the center will connect the student with the proper office and will recommend action on how to deal with the matter.

"We are not advocates for the student or the university," Hutchinson said. "We are a place where people can come to get a fair hearing of their complaints."

VIGIL: GLBA gave out supply of rainbow ribbons

Continued from the front page

was pistol-whipped and lashed to a fence post for 18 hours in near-freezing temperatures, and then died five days later.

Attendees of the vigil may buy candles at the event, or bring their own from home, Huskey said.

Huskey said the GLBA has exhausted their supply of rainbow-colored ribbons they have been handing out at their office this week because of great student support for Shepard.

"My guess is we have about 650 ribbons out on the campus," Huskey said. "I've bought all the rainbow ribbons in the Pullman area."

The GLBTA also will honor Shepard's death by carrying a picture of the 21-year-old during the "Take Back the Night" march on Thursday night.

LECTURE:

Continued from the front page

was named after Frank and Irene Potter.

Years ago, professor Potter and his wife would invite students and lecturers to their home, now a university historical site, for nights of philosophy enrichment. Their home became a gathering place for students to meet and discuss their ideas with Potter, who taught Latin, Greek and Italian as well as philosophy.

The Potter Lectureship began in 1959, shortly after Frank Potter's death, by an anonymous gift from a former student. It is now supported by an endowment from the friends and colleagues of the Potter family.

On Friday, Annas will give a second talk titled "Rethinking Plato's Republic," in Avery Hall's Bundy Reading Room. Interested individuals can contact the Department of Philosophy for more details at 335-8611.

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