

Favorite vices

'Students' happiness found in beer pubs'

By T. C. GALLUCCI
Staff Writer

DEAR ABBY calls it a disease. Most college students call it something to do on Saturday night. Beer is low in alcoholic content, but high in consumption.

Of course, Abby is speaking of overuse and abuse, but a vice is hardly worth being a vice unless it is overused and abused.

By looking at a Schlitz sales report, it is clear why beer rates high on mankind's favorite vice list. Unlike most undesirable habits society condones and even encourages beer-drinking.

FOR INSTANCE, how could Jerry Jocque take advantage of Nellie Nievee after the prom without the assistance of a beer or two?

This campus, like the majority of others, has realized the importance of beer-drinking and has thus relaxed policies concerning its use. Officials are realizing that a sober Yell Practice would be an A&M "first."

Man often has strange ways of classifying his peers. It is accepted fact that the person with a long-necked Lone Star has 14 Hank Williams albums and has 10 gallons worth of hat on his head. The alcoholic (all beerdrinkers become alcoholics) with a Texas Pride forgot to pick up his paycheck. His friend drinking Coors did remember to pick up his paycheck.

ALTHOUGH ANY FRUIT, if squeezed into a vat and left to stand open for 10 days or more, will ferment, brewing is more complicated. It is not a simple—probably impossible—matter to brew beer at home. If it were not, beer would be cheap and Anheuser-Busch would not be able to pay off his Cadillac. That would be impolite.

For those who are enterprising beer connoisseurs, the process of brewery is:

1. Any starchy substance may be ground up and mixed with water to provide a mash.
2. With use of an enzyme, the starch is changed to sugar.
3. Steep barley in warm water and spread out on the floor in a warm room until the grains have sprouted and grown into a tangled mess.
4. Dry them and pulverize them in a warm oven.
5. Mix the malt with the mash.
6. Add yeast.
7. Ferment for 6-10 days or longer.

The above process will yield 4-15 percent alcohol in the vat. Not only will the beer have a rough and bitter taste, but is just as expensive and is more trouble than trotting to Skaggs and buying a couple of cases.

ONE OF THE ADVANTAGES of drinking beer is the almost limitless uses the habit bestows. It keeps the Dixie Chicken from going bankrupt—since one rarely hears a tired Aggie saying, "Boy! I sure could use a cold lemonade." It is considerably cheaper than double martinis—especially when the object is drunkenness.

Even a ninety-pound weakling can be a hero in the face of a bully if he is holding the jagged end of his long-necked Lone Star. The Fourth of July would have been a sad weekend for Willie Nelson if Brazos County were dry.

Such examples of society's condemnation allows everyone from the person on the street (or in the bar, whatever the case may be) to the tax assessor, the benefit of the beer vice.

"Nothing has yet been contrived by man by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern or inn," wrote Samuel Johnson.

Most drinkers will agree with Johnson's theory of happiness. Drinkers drink to overcome sadness

or depression, or to make their cheery mood cheerier. Such atmospheres do not prevail at just any bar.

The bar which provides good background music, plenty of alcoholic variety, a sidetrack (pinball, pool, food, television or attractive customers) will find a plentiful share of beer drinkers. The beer drinker is also the favorite of tavern owners, as he is the most profitable. The person who drinks beer regularly does so in heavy amounts. Yet the wine drinker is usually one who does not like the taste of alcohol and drinks only for social purposes. The majority of heavy liquor drinkers do so in private residences and on airplanes. Restaurant and club drinkers are of the "drink after work" and "drink before dinner" variety.

The person who consumes the foamy beverage with regularity, is not anyone unusual. Although there are some who drink for specific reasons, most drink just for the h**l of it. (for the meaning of h**l, refer to previous vice.) People drink at parties, in bars, on the streets and in their homes. People drink to get drunk, to get tipsy, to take advantage of another, to celebrate and to drown their sorrows. People don't

drink for religious, personal, moral and social reasons.

Unlike other vices, there is no right or wrong way to drink beer. Since it is considered a drink of the peasants (a lady does not drink beer, broads do) etiquette does not cover the realm of pub atmosphere. It is advised that there is a right and wrong way to behave while under its influences. Namely, find a companion who is a little less drunk. He can escort you out of the bar before you get thrown out. He can drive your car home after you've been arrested for DWI. He can explain to your spouse/parents/roommate why it took you two days to find your way home (which, sadly enough, will never be explained in this series of vices).

Johnson was on the right track when explaining happiness as a good bar, but also of vital concern is what one drinks and who he drinks with. Although these choices are personal ones, there is one cardinal rule of drinking: "Never do any serious drinking with a loved one—it leads to disaster." It can cause anything from a later-regretted pregnancy.

Campus briefs

MSC has recruitment drive

The MSC will hold a recruitment drive Thursday and Friday in front of the Rudder Center Fountain. A display and information booth will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday. The Basement Committee will hold a free concert both days.

Cinema shows movies

The Aggie Cinema Committee will present three movies this weekend. On Friday night "Call Me Trinity" will begin at 8 p.m., followed by "Trinity Is Still My Name." The order will be reversed for the Saturday presentation of the double feature. Admission for both movies is \$1. As part of the Midnite Film Series, "Midnight Cowboy" will be presented at midnight Friday. Admission is \$1.

Jazz Band performs

The Preservation Hall Jazz Band will perform tonight at 8 p.m. in the Rudder Center Auditorium as a Town Hall Special Attraction. The six musicians, all over 60, come from the home of jazz, New Orleans. Members of the Preservation Hall Jazz Band are not letting their music die. They are teaching younger men at Preservation Hall. Tickets can be purchased at the Rudder Center Box office. TAMU student tickets cost \$2 to \$3.

Fliers open school

The Texas A&M Flying Club opened its twice-yearly ground school Tuesday night in Room 207 of the Engineering Building. The ground school, co-sponsored by Dr. Ralph Foster and Dr. Richard Rezak, is set up to qualify fledgling pilots to pass the FAA written exam. This is required before the FAA will administer a flight check. Dr. Foster said the club is for persons who do fly or who want to fly. It has monthly meetings and a newsletter in addition to sponsoring the ground school. Foster pointed out that the school is cheaper than commercial outfits and on the average requires fewer flying hours for its students to qualify as private pilots. Persons interested in the ground school or club can contact Drs. Foster or Rezak.

VA moves headquarters

TAMU's vet reps, local officers for the Veterans Administration, have moved to the north lounge area of Hart Hall, Section B. Their office was formerly located across the mall in the YMCA Building. Their phone number will remain the same at the new location, 845-1638.

Bug fogging planned

University Health and Safety will fog for mosquitoes on Friday after 5 p.m. behind the Married Housing.

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