

Alcoholism

Cause remains mystery

By JIM CRAWLEY Staff Writer

In the first article of this series we asked a question about what the alcoholic is and what the effects of alcohol are. The question now is have we answered these questions? The first thing everyone has to agree on is the nature of alcoholism. Disease or weakness? The Ameri-

can Medical Association (AMA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) both agree that alcoholism is definitely a disease.

The effects of a single drink of an alcoholic beverage are widespread and not restricted to an euphoric feeling. The toxin, alcohol within the body can be classified as such, affects the brain, heart, liver and other organs of the human body.

Alcohol affects the pocketbook as well as the body. Last year alone, alcohol caused the loss of \$25 billion dollars within the U.S.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare reports an increase in the use of alcohol over marijuana on the American college campus.

The number of student pubs has also grown at a high rate. An example of a student pub is the Texas Tavern at the University of Texas at Austin.

This increase of student use has

not bothered the TAMU campus said one college administrator. No surveys have been conducted on alcohol abuse at TAMU.

The greatest problem associated with alcohol abuse aside from the economic loss, is the public's lack of accurate information concerning the alcoholic and his problems. The "skid row" stigma of the alcoholic is still prevalent among the American public.

Because alcoholism is a disease, one has to treat it. Several methods have been established for this purpose. Some include drug therapy, group therapy, behavior modification and psychotherapy. But the most effective treatment is the 40 year-old Alcoholics Anonymous program.

Unfortunately, no one can answer the question of "what is an alcoholic and what are the total effects of alcohol?" At least not now.

Are you an alcoholic?

Answer the following questions in a "yes or no" fashion.

- 1. Have you lost time from school as a result of drinking?
2. Do you often feel guilty about your drinking?
3. Do you consistently drink more than your friends?
4. Have you ever had a loss of memory or a "blackout" while drinking?
5. When drinking with others, do you sometimes "sneak" a drink?
6. Do you find yourself to be in more of a hurry to get the first drink than you used to be?
7. Have you failed to keep the promises you have made to yourself about controlling or cutting back on your drinking?
8. Has drinking ever jeopardized a relationship, or your family.
9. When you have trouble or feel

under pressure, do you drink more heavily than usual?

10. Are there frequent times when you feel uncomfortable if alcohol is unavailable?

11. Have you ever been cited for DWI or had an accident because of your drinking?

12. Has your doctor suggested that you should "lay off the booze"?

13. Are you resentful if someone asks you about your drinking?

If you answer as few as three of the above questions "YES" you may have or will have a drinking problem. The test is not an absolute evaluation and should not be taken as a final and professional opinion. The test is only to help the individual check his drinking style and habits.

Teague supports humanitarian effort

Calling funding military aid to Indo-China "pouring money down a rat hole," Congressman Olin Teague of College Station said Friday the United States' only military intervention in South Vietnam should be to evacuate Americans safely.

"I support every dollar for humanitarian aid, but not a dollar for military aid," he told the Battalion.

Teague's comments followed President Gerald Ford's "state of the world" speech to Congress Thursday in which Ford called on the Congress to provide \$772 million in military aid to help the ailing South Vietnamese government. The President also asked for \$250 million in economic and humanitarian aid for a country, which is on the verge of suffering military defeat to communist forces.

Teague has supported the American war effort in Indochina until recently. Now he feels further aid would be too late.

He blamed the executive branch for the early failures of the American forces in Vietnam.

Congressman Teague said the executive branch held back the American military effort in Indochina. Former Presidents Richard Nixon and Lyndon Johnson, he said, had limited strategic bombings and other aggressive war tactics. The military was fighting "with one hand tied behind its back," he said.

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