

Studies indicate drinking is big problem at colleges

By **TERRI COULSON**
Battalion Reporter

Many college students like to party on weekends. They like to forget about their studies for awhile and just have a good time. As a result, a lot of drinking is done.

According to the Texas Commission on Alcoholism (TCA), a University of California research team has found that the highest proportion of drinking problems is among men in their early twenties.

Drinking among college students is definitely a problem, said Tom Clark, a counselor for the Brazos

County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Center.

"Of the adult population of the United States, about 7 percent of the student population are alcoholic," he said. "Every person who is an alcoholic affects the lives of a minimum of four people around him, so it is a very big problem."

One explanation given by the TCA for young people drinking is it is considered very manly to drink.

Somehow the idea that "the more you can drink, the more of a man you are" became part of our folklore, the report said.

The report also said when people stop thinking it's manly to drink, they have begun to grow up. It's no more manly to over-drink than it is to over-eat, it added.

The TCA found the highest incident of alcoholism occurs among offspring of parents who are either teetotalers or alcoholics. Perhaps the extremism of the parents' attitudes is an important factor, it added.

Doctors have observed there is often more than one alcoholic in a family, and suggest this means there is a family tendency to develop alcoholism. However, it has not yet been proven that alcoholism is directly inherited, according to Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters.

The TCA found that alcohol is the most abused drug in the United States today. It has several different effects on humans.

Alcohol is not digested, it rapidly enters the bloodstream and circulates to all parts of the body within minutes.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism has found the speed at which alcohol enters the bloodstream depends on several factors. These factors include how fast you drink, whether or not your stomach is empty, what you drink and how much you weigh.

Links have been found between drinking, ulcers, cirrhosis, heart disease and diabetes. Heavy drinking may also cause serious nervous or

mental disorders, or permanent brain damage.

Because their behavior is less established, young people are more apt to lose control after drinking, especially with regard to driving cars, according to the National Safety Council (NSC).

The NSC found that alcohol is a factor in one-half of all highway fatalities.

According to the Michigan Alcohol Education Foundation, after the fourth or fifth drink, a driver operates under severe and multiple handicaps. They found the drinker's judgment is blurred and inhibitions, normally behavior restraints, are no longer effective.

In 48 states a blood alcohol content of 0.1 percent is considered "under the influence." Five beers or three highballs in one hour would amount to 0.1 percent.

Sgt. Paul Huddlestone of the College Station Police Department said there are three types of tests used to determine if someone is intoxicated.

"We use either one, or a combination of breath, urine or blood tests," he said. "If a driver refuses to take one of the tests, he is liable to have his driver's license suspended. So it is usually to your advantage to take the tests."

The NSC also found that drunken drivers kill over 28,000 people on U.S. highways each year and that alcohol is associated with 64 percent of all homicides.

Dance for dystrophy to be held tonight

By **SUSAN HOPKINS**
Campus Reporter

A dance to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association at the Lakeview Club with the "independents" at Texas A&M University will be held tonight.

The dance, which will last from 8 p.m. until midnight, is sponsored by Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Theresa Wilkins, a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma, said the Greeks will keep track of the number of independents each sorority and fraternity brings to the dance, so that a \$100 award can be given to the winning group.

Although a donation of \$1.50 will be taken at the door to support MD, Wilkins said, two diamonds, donated by Diamond Brokers Inter-

national Inc., will be raffled off as door prizes.

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In addition, she said, members of Kappa Alpha will be paid 25 cents to kidnap a person at the dance. Then, she said, a 25-cent ransom will be collected to the release of each person.

Wilkins said the dance was held last year, and that \$425 was raised for muscular dystrophy. She said this year's goal is \$750. The Muscular Dystrophy Association uses 83 percent of its donations for research and treatment of the disease, which Wilkins said is why her sorority and Kappa Alpha chose the Muscular Dystrophy Association instead of other charity organizations for their project.

RRC stops gas increase

United Press International
AUSTIN — The Railroad Commission Tuesday suspended for 120 days an increase in burner-tip gas service charges proposed by Rio Grande Valley Gas Corp. for the unincorporated areas surrounding 26 cities in Hidalgo, Willacy, Cameron, Starr and Jim Hogg counties.

Lee Everett, the gas utilities division hearings examiner, said the proposed change generally involves an increase in gas service rates and the addition of a cost of service adjustment clause.

He recommended the suspensions in allow the respective cities

time to consider identical changes proposed by the company for inside city limits.

The propose change would increase a typical monthly residential bill for five, from \$17.33 to \$19.85 in the environs of the following cities: Alamo, Combes, Edcouch, Elsa, Hidalgo, Languna Vista, Los Fresnos, McAllen, Mission, Port Isabel, Raymondville, San Benito, Santa Rosa, Brownsville, Donna, Edinburg, Harlingen, La Feria, La Villa, Lyford Mercedes, Pharr, Primera, Rio Hondo, San Juan and Weslaco.

Religion issue splits court

United Press International
FRANKFORT, Ky. — The Ten Commandments must be posted in Kentucky public schools for "secular" content and their display will not violate state and federal constitutional clauses requiring separation of church and state, the Kentucky Supreme Court ruled Tuesday.

Justice Robert O. Lukowsky, writing for the three who voted to toss out the law, said the state constitution clearly prohibits preference by law for "any particular creed," and "it is an inescapable conclusion the Ten Commandments are a religious creed."

Lukowsky also said the first three or four of the Ten Commandments, depending on which version is used, "are undeniably religious injunctions."

Justice James B. Stephenson, one of the three who found the Ten Commandments statute valid, said by that reasoning, the

Preamble and Bill of Rights in the Kentucky Constitution "would (theoretically) be equally offensive" when displayed in public schools since they refer to "Almighty God."

Stephenson also argued the church-state issue is not broached because "tax money is not involved."

The law says 16-by-20-inch copies of the Ten Commandments must be posted in all public school classrooms, but money for their printing and distribution must come from voluntary contributions.

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