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Alcohol Awareness Week to tell sobering truth

□ The week's events will include a display of wrecked cars and informational booths on campus.

By Kasie Byers
THE BATTALION

Resource tables are set up in the Memorial Student Center today for the 20th National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week in which colleges and universities nationwide will promote awareness of the effects of alcohol abuse.

Fifteen campus and community organizations that are affected by or help prevent alcohol abuse are represented at the MSC, including Aggies Against Drunk Driving, Brazos County Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Aggies Working for a Rape-free Environment and Student Life Alcohol and Drug Education Programs, formerly known as the Center for Drug Prevention and Education.

Helen Janss, Student Life Alcohol and Drug Education Programs assistant coordinator, said that because of a limited budget, AWARE and other

groups were asked to participate in the weekly events.

"Every college has their choice of how to run this week, and since money is a factor, we think this is the most effective way to reach the greatest number of students," Janss said. "We've asked other services that are affected by alcohol abuse to participate. For example, AWARE was asked to participate because alcohol abuse is a major cause of rape and assault."

AADD will have a table with informational pamphlets Wednesday. Resource videos on drunk driving supplied by the Brazos County Chapter of MADD will be played at the table as well.

Thursday and Friday, AADD will display at Rudder Fountain four crashed cars that were involved in drunk driving accidents. The cars were donated by various wrecker services in the Bryan-College Station area. A booth with a petition calling for an Open Container Law will also be set up.

Andrew Baker, AADD publicity chair, said the cars will have a big effect on students because most students do not think they will be involved in these types of accidents.

"The cars show just what can happen when you drink and drive," Baker said. "I was hit by a drunk driver on Father's Day, and before the wreck I thought accidents like these could be controlled. Now I know they can't."



MADD will honor five law enforcement officers from the Bryan-College Station area Thursday for outstanding work in giving Driving While Intoxicated citations.

The recipient from the University Police Department is Officer Morgan Harkrider, who arrested 31 drunk drivers from September 1994 to August 1995.

Last year there were 229 alcohol-related accidents in Brazos County, a 2.7 percent increase over 1993.

Amy Bass, Brazos County Chapter of MADD administrator, said she hopes this week will heighten students' awareness of the harmful effects of drunk driving.

"It's my hope that Alcohol Awareness Week will encourage young people to always make a safe choice, to never make those choices that could end their lives, but also the choices that could end the lives of other people on the same roads."

As a part of the week's activities, the Inter-Association Task Force on Alcohol and Other Substance Abuse Issues and Amber Busch will sponsor the annual "Know When to Say When" poster competition.

The competition will award \$15,000 in scholarships totaling \$15,000 to students who submit the best poster conveying responsible drinking. The contest will close on December 15, 1995.

Fraternity lifts hopes, funds for PUSH America

□ Greeks raised more than \$7,000 for the disabled in a Weight-a-thon this weekend.

By Leslie New
THE BATTALION

The weight lifter tightens the braces on his wrists, sticks his hands in the chalk bag and prepares to lift as much weight as possible to raise money and increase awareness for persons with disabilities.

The Pi Kappa Phi fraternity sponsored a Weight-a-thon to benefit PUSH America, an organization that raises awareness of people with disabilities.

Tom Sullivan, Pi Kappa Phi vice president and a senior journalism major, said through PUSH America, the fraternity has raised over \$4 million since the 1970s.

"We work for it instead of it working for us," Sullivan said.

Sullivan said that the Weight-a-thon will have raised an estimated \$8,000 after collection of donations made by sororities, families and friends this week.

Sororities pledged \$3,500 with the top donating sororities being Kappa Alpha Theta, Chi Omega and Delta Delta Delta. After collection, the funds will be transferred to PUSH America and distributed throughout the nation.



Shane Elkins, THE BATTALION

Bryan Moss, a senior industrial distribution major, lifts weights at the Weight-a-thon in front of WAL-MART this weekend.

Seven members of the fraternity were elected to serve as representatives of the seven sororities involved in pledging for the event. Sorority members then attended the event to cheer on their perspective representatives.

"Sorority participation has been outstanding," Sullivan said. "They've opened their doors and allowed us to promote the event at their meetings. The support goes beyond the sorority/fraternity lines. It's helping out a great cause."

This is the first year that the event branched out to include sorority involvement. Sullivan hopes the event will continue to expand to include other fraternities and Corps of Cadets and the command.

Matt Legg, Pi Kappa Phi member and a junior economics major, said the purpose of the event was not to raise money, but to increase awareness in the community.

"We want to get the entire campus involved," Legg said. "We've taken ball that others haven't and helped people with disabilities."

The Weight-a-thon is only one of the events Pi Kappa Phi participates in for PUSH America. Other events include "toll roads," a roadshow in Austin, and trips to the University of Texas at Austin and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"We do toll roads four times a year," Sullivan said. "We usually go to the Brenham State School twice a year with a sorority and other students on a picnic and brighten their day."

Kenneth Martinec, Pi Kappa Phi vice president and a senior civil engineering major, participated in the Journey of Hope, another PUSH America benefit.

Martinec said participants raise \$250 per person to ride on the two-month trip that entails biking from San Francisco to Washington, D.C.

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