

NEWS

# Fraternity helps to encourage safe driving

By Stephanie Penner  
YELLIN' REBEL

Since the first tailgating party at the Silver Bowl, Kappa Sigma brothers have been sporting T-shirts with a new philosophy: "Designated Drivers Save Lives."

This philosophy has led the brothers of Kappa Sigma to create the Designated Driver Program.

Mark Henness, Kappa Sigma president, defined the program as one that "involves sober drivers at all of our parties to be on standby to drive home anyone that needs a ride home."

Henness explained that

anyone can ask for a ride home, not just those associated with fraternities.

Henness said the idea for the program came to him after he attended a seminar in Orlando, Florida. He said he saw the need for the program after other fraternities reported their losses due to drunken driving.

"We decided as an executive committee that we didn't want to have to face any problems with drinking and driving, so we decided to use a little preventive medicine on it," Henness said.

The "preventive medicine" involves five to six Kappa Sigma

volunteers, who do not drink for the entire evening. To find them is not hard; special T-shirts distinguish them quite readily.

The front of the shirt boasts "Kappa Sigma, My Brother's Keeper," which is the National Drug and Alcohol Awareness program for Kappa Sigma.

The back of the shirt sports "Designated Drivers Save Lives" in neon green letters.

All volunteers will wear these shirts and be there for anyone needing a ride home.

Sponsoring the program is Budweiser, who has a drinking and driving campaign known as "Know

When to Say When."

The two programs go hand in hand. "We get reduced prices on our kegs and at the same time we're advertising for them," Henness said.

By establishing this program, Kappa Sigma hopes to start a whole new way of life.

"Hopefully, in the next couple of years this won't be any big deal," Henness explained. "It will just be expected any time there is a party. We'd like to see everybody doing this—all student organizations. Anytime you serve alcohol, you're responsible for their actions."

"If people would realize

that, then they would start treating alcohol the way it should be treated."

As of now, only Kappa Sigma offers this service, Henness said.

While the program revolves around designated drivers, it goes a little deeper than that with the philosophy, Henness emphasized. "What we're trying to do is show people that alcohol needs to be respected and it's not something that should be used irresponsibly. That's what we're trying to stress here. If you wait until it happens to you it will be too late."

# Students can make campus experience a safe one, police chief says

By Abraham Lev  
YELLIN' REBEL

Are college campuses safe? That is the question that writers Marie Hodge and Jeff Blyskal asked in a recent issue of Reader's Digest.

Some alarming statistics are cited in the article: last year there were 1990 violent crimes—robberies, aggravated assaults, rapes, and even murders—reported

to the Federal Bureau of Investigation by colleges and universities in the United States.

Additionally, there were more than 107,000 reports of crimes against property.

These numbers are alarming enough in themselves. They become more so when one realizes that only 10 percent of U.S. colleges and universities report their crime data to the FBI and that 78 percent of these crimes were committed by students.

Are today's college campuses hotbeds of crime? I posed this question to Dave Hollenbeck, director of the Department of Public Safety here at UNLV for the last two years.

Before taking this job, Hollenbeck held a similar position at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

"No," Hollenbeck said, "but you must realize that any kind of crime that occurs in the community at large can be expected to oc-

cur on campus. The campus does not exist in a vacuum."

Unfortunately, many people seem to think so.

"When I first came to UNLV, I subscribed to the 'hallowed halls of ivy' myth," Mike Rasmussen, 22, a senior English major, said. "Somehow I'd gotten the idea that the university was some sort of haven where not only crime, but things like opportunism and profiteering were absent. I guess I was cured of that the first time I

went to the bookstore. Not only was I blown away by the prices, I also had my briefcase stolen."

Still, the myth that the university campus is somehow immune to crime persists.

"The failure of colleges to warn about crime has created a dangerous situation," their article said. "Too often parents and students are unaware of the hazards of life on campus."

Chief Hollenbeck said that prior to the beginning of the school

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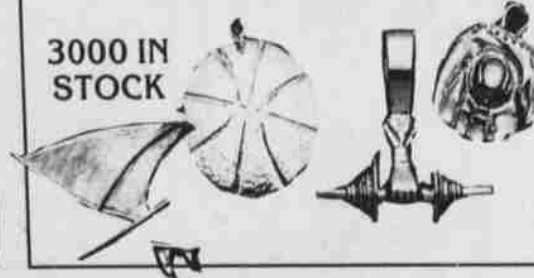


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