

Students advocate freedom of choice

The sobering fact: alcohol awareness is growing

by Tricia Ciaravino

Students For Choice, the only pro-choice organization on campus, advocates women's issues including abortion rights, domestic violence and rape.

This semester, the organization is planning to protest Las Vegas "front clinics." The clinics are sponsored by Operation Rescue, a pro-life organization.

Members are also planning a clothing and supply drive. Proceeds will be given to Shade Tree, a shelter for homeless women, and Temporary Assistance Domestic Violence, a crisis shelter.

Every Wednesday Students For Choice set up a booth to recruit members and educate students.

"The reason we encom-

pass the whole sphere of abortion and women's issues is because we're the only organization that does it on campus," said Melanie McVoy, president. "I feel it's needed on campus."

McVoy said that she was also concerned with these issues because she's a woman. However, men were also present at the meeting.

"I feel abortion rights are an important issue," said Dean Steiner, an active member. "Even though the problem isn't one that's imminent or on debate right now, I feel people need to get involved. Women's issues need to be addressed."

"If they start by elimi-

don't know where they'll stop," said Russell Williams, a new member.

Members stressed that

tion at the university she attended before coming to UNLV. "We're not pushing pregnant people to have abortions.

We're pushing the cause—choice."

Some members said that they have received ill treatment for their beliefs.

"We've had some dissenting voices when we table," Steiner said.

Condit said one man calls her a murderer every week when he sees her.

Despite a little trouble now and then, members said that they feel they have helped to promote their cause.

"I think we helped out in the last election and we're widening awareness on campus," Slayton said.

For more information call Dean Steiner at 734-5136 or Melanie McVoy at 456-7190.

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they don't believe abortion is the only choice or even the best choice in all circumstances. However, they do believe that all women should have the right to make a choice which will best suit them.

"I don't think anyone has the right to make their opinions the laws you have to live your life by," said Angela Slayton, Students For Choice representative.

"If you can make a choice to better your life it shouldn't be banned," said Jennifer Condit, who was a member of the pro-choice organiza-

(CPS)—The old image of an "Animal House" beer-swilling fraternity soiree doesn't make it with the new generation. Drunken behavior, say students, is definitely uncool.

This new attitude toward alcohol is showing up on American campuses during the 1991 National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week. From booze-free nightclubs to "mocktail" parties, the message is clear: imbibing is OK—getting wasted is not.

A recent Roper survey showed that more than half of all students (53 percent) consider alcohol abuse a major problem on campus. That was dramatically higher than student concern about non-violent and violent crime, drug abuse and AIDS.

In addition, a newly released University of Florida study claims the number of students who drink is less than it was a decade ago, and those who do are drink-

ing less. The study showed the percentage of student drinkers decreased from 89 percent in 1981 to 80 percent in 1991. Average consumption among drinkers also dropped from 40 drinks per month in 1981 to 34 drinks in 1991.

While the figures appear encouraging, experts say that one in 10 drinking students will develop a chemical dependency.

Approximately 430 million gallons of beverages are consumed annually by college students who spend about \$4.2 billion on booze each year, according to the Public Health Service's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention.

In 1990, 33.5 percent of drivers in fatal crashes between the ages of 20 and 24 were intoxicated, a 6 percent drop since 1982, says the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Still, the government estimates that 1,093 lives were saved in 1989 by laws that prohibit alcohol sales to those under 21.

Even when alcohol use doesn't become chemical dependency, college campuses must grapple with its effects, such as poor academic performance, aggression, property damage, accidents and strained relationships.

Experts say alcohol also plays a significant role in cases of date rape, a problem receiving increasing attention.

Many campuses now offer resident drug and alcohol counselors and some programs for those dealing with the devastating effects of alcohol dependency. Programs run the gamut from chemical-free housing to alcohol-awareness speakers and seminars.

GOATS

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ues for a prolonged period of time. The muscles don't immediately relax.

All of this information has led researchers to begin studying the genetics of myotonia in both goats, humans and mice (in Germany, where the little myotonic creatures are again the result of inbreeding.)

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Stomach	Liver