



There's more to beer than great taste and less filling

by Brian Hurlburt

When the average college student decides to partake in a nice, cold glass of beer, probably the last thing on his mind is the physical makeup of the beer bubbles in the glass. That's not the case for Neil Shafer and Richard Zare.

The two Stanford University chemists decided they wanted to do an "educational project" and chose a quantitative analysis of the everyday beer bubble.

Shafer said that what he thought would be a simple project turned out to be more complicated than expected. He specializes in the study of gases and said that learning about fluid dynamics was interesting as well as challenging.

The two said that a glass of beer reveals a remarkable interplay among gases, liquids and solids, temperature, pressure and gravity. Even after doing the study they still don't completely understand the inner workings of a glass of beer.

While Shafer said he is not a big beer drinker when he does have a beer he looks at it in a very different way.

"I like to have a beer when I have the time," he said.

So, when suffering from a hangover after a long night of beer drinking, just tell

yourself that you were out experimenting with the interplay of beer bubbles. That probably won't get rid of your headache, but it might help your conscience.

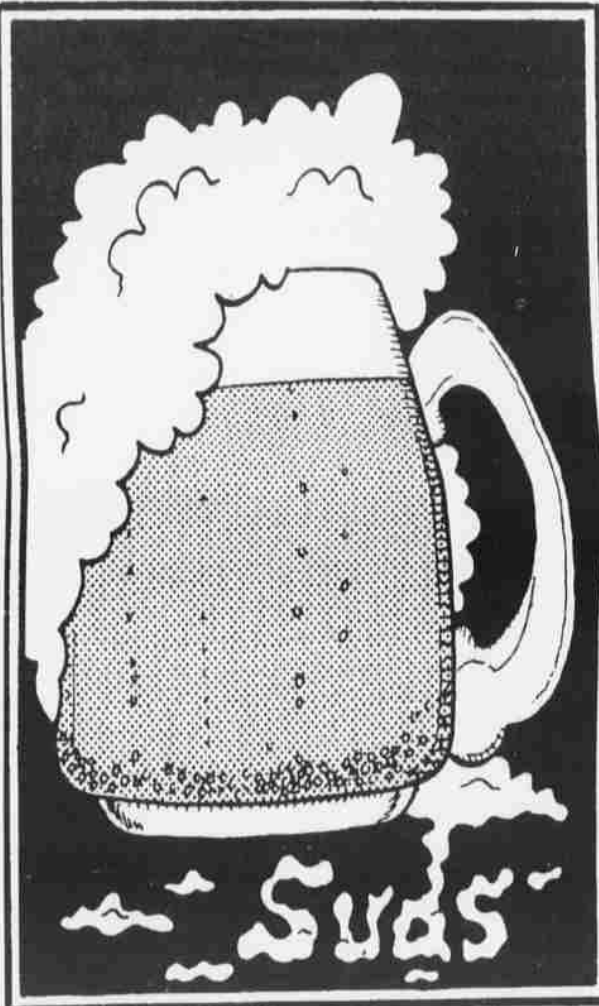


Illustration by Jason Birmingham

Spermicide users are more likely to contract UTIs

by Adejoke Adenle

Spermicides may cause urinary tract infections (UTIs) in men and women.

Spermicides come in foams, gels and suppositories. Foams and gels are applied by a syringe inserted into the vagina and deposited next to the cervix. A suppository is applied with the fingers and also deposited next to the cervix.

Research conducted at the University of Washington by Thomas M. Hooton, last year showed that frequent spermicide users were nearly six times as likely to contract UTIs.

Infections are caused by the imbalance of bacteria in the vaginal tract.

The active ingredients in spermicides—nonoxynol 9—that kill sperm on contact may also kill other organisms present in the vagina. In the vagina there are different kinds of bacteria. There is the 'normal' bacteria and the E. coli bacteria which is

the kind that leads to UTIs.

"The nonoxynol 9 kills off some of the 'normal' bacteria which is meant to be present in the vagina" said Ray Rodriguez, health educator at the Student Health Center.

This action upsets the bacteria balance in the vagina and makes a user susceptible to infections. Rodriguez said that "women are sometimes advised not to douche because this action may also kill certain good bacteria."

The bacteria imbalance in the vagina affects the urethra because of the close proximity of the vagina to the urethra.

Men are also susceptible to UTIs but "have a lower risk since women are the ones who actually use spermicides and men's organs are external," Rodriguez said. Men can contract UTIs through allergic reactions but chances are very minimal.

see UTIs page 8

Young Democrats begin the year with a fresh approach

by Natalie Lutz

The Young Democrats club is beginning the year with a fresh approach. This year the club is encouraging students to become involved in all aspects of the political process and especially party activities.

"The Young Democrats is an opportunity to get involved in the community and the political process. The club introduces one to a process that not even the political science department can," said William Elliott, chapter advisor and founder of UNLV's Young Democrats and national committee man for Young Democrats of Nevada.

Members will have the opportunity to get involved in state and local caucuses as well as meet affluent politicians. Each club meeting will have a guest speaker from either the state legislature or local government. People are especially needed for the Clark County Democratic caucus.

"There is a need for Young Democrats on campus. We can be a viable force for the party and on campaigns," said Sam Lieberman, president of UNLV's Young Democrats and national co-chairman of the caucus of the disabled for the Young Democrats of America. "Yes, we have a presence at UNLV and in the community."

The Young Democrats club of UNLV has 20-25 members. The club hopes to expand with its new officers. In the past, membership was relatively small and went in cycles. There has always been a Young Democrats club, but it has been dormant the last three to four years.

This year's club invites anyone who is interested in politics to attend a meeting.

Lieberman said the stigma of Democrats as liberals who just protest is not true.

"I want to change the image of Young Democrats," he said. "UNLV students and the Democratic Party have given me a lot. I want to give them something back."

I am currently working with the state and national party to build a foundation for the group so someone can take over in the spring. The club will be going strong in the spring."

Lieberman has worked on several local campaigns with Dina Titus, professor of political science. In 1986, he was the office manager for Helen Foley who ran for Congress. He has also been involved in student government since 1980.

Being chairman of the disabled caucus helps Lieberman make disabled issues part of the Democratic platform as well as help keep mainstream people with disabilities in the party, involving them in campaigns which are part of the national platform.

As a member of the national Young Democrats, Elliott represents Nevada in nation-wide strategy as in party and

see YOUNG DEMS page 8



photos by Wray Halterman

Students at the UNLV College of Education Preschool prepare for Halloween.