

Organizations to fight drug, alcohol abuse

By ELIZABETH LYNCH
Carolina Life Editor

Among the midterms, football games and new episodes of *The Simpsons*, college students across the country are thinking about alcohol.

"The No. 1 drug of choice for people ages 18-24 is alcohol," said Kimbra Robinson, assistant director of the Office of Alcohol and Drug Programs.

"A leading cause of death for college students is alcohol related, whether it be accidents or health problems like cancer or diseases of the liver," Robinson said.

National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week is this week.

"At least 10 percent of college students have drug or alcohol problems," said Thurman Williams, a community relations specialist for Bruce Hall, a center for the treatment of alcohol and drug dependency.

Both Williams and Robinson said college campuses are conducive to creating alcohol and drug dependencies.

"Students may think they can abuse alcohol now, but they're setting bad habits and high risk patterns that very well may lead to

addiction," Robinson said.

Thurman added that a teenager can start these high risk patterns in a typical family environment as well.

Robinson said students that are "high risk" usually participate in drinking games, use a fake I.D. or "chug" alcoholic beverages.

"We make drinking so glamorous rather than confronting it. Instead, we encourage it," Robinson said.

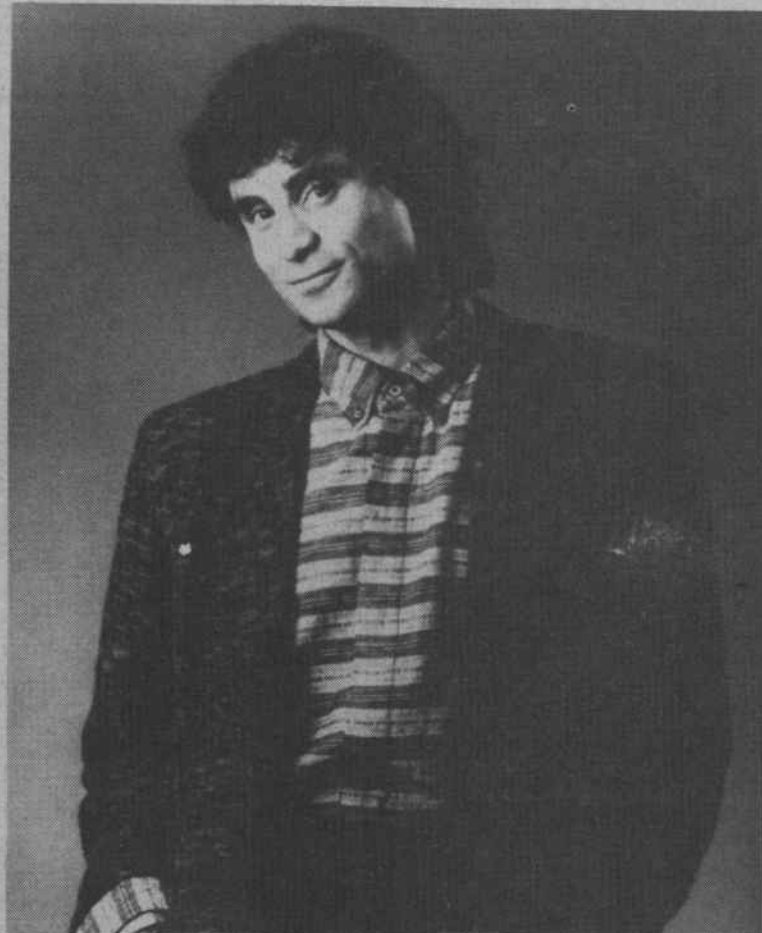
Blackouts, excessive absenteeism, tardiness and anything that interferes with friendships are just a few of the symptoms of an alcohol abuser, according to Williams.

"One DUI (Driving Under the Influence) may not be a red flag, but two or more should be an indicator that this person has a problem," Williams said.

The alcohol awareness week began with a student organization banner contest on Saturday at the USC vs. The Citadel game.

"The purpose of this week is to heighten people's awareness and to get them to look at their own patterns of alcohol use and see if it is a low risk or a high risk," Robinson said.

Williams said the purpose of



Comedian Paul Provenza will perform Wednesday in the Russell House Ballroom as part of Alcohol Awareness Week.

this week is twofold: education and positive peer pressure. "A week like this highlights both of these components. There's a greater awareness on campus of alternatives to help people enjoy life without alcohol. More and more people are finding about their addictions earlier," Williams said.

On Monday, Graduate Art Student Organization and Gamecocks Advocating Mature Management of Alcohol sponsored a "Help Get This Man Plastered" event on the Russell House Patio. Students were served mocktails from noon to 1 p.m.

"When people hear the word plaster, they immediately think of alcohol. By having this (event), we say you can have fun without alcohol," Robinson said. One highlight of the event was Student Government President Stephen Benjamin being covered in plaster.

Also on Monday, from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Golden Spur, GAMMA and the National Speech Language Hearing Association sponsored "Has it Happened to Your Friend? ... DUI Panel Discussion."

On Tuesday, GAMMA sponsored "Learn more about alcohol, drugs and other health-related resources: Patio Extravaganza." Ro-

binson said approximately eight organizations gathered on the patio handing information and pamphlets out to students.

Later that night, Leslie Durant, the director of treatment for the Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council, spoke about alcohol and women.

Today from 1 to 2 p.m., "Family Feud: Staff vs. Students" will be held in the Golden Spur. From 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., "Lust, Love and Low Risk: Alcohol and STDs" will be the topic of a lecture by Dr. James Turner, the director of the Thompson Student Health Center. He will speak in Russell House room 332.

Continuing the alcohol awareness theme, comedian Paul Provenza will perform at 8 p.m. in the Russell House Ballroom. Provenza has made regular appearances on *The Tonight Show* with Johnny Carson, *Late Night* with David Letterman, *MTV* and *HA!*, the comedy network.

Provenza's show is \$2 for students and \$3 for the general public.

The week's activities will end Thursday with "RisQue Business" performing in the Belk Auditorium at 4:30 p.m.

Condoms not only safe but fun

Sexually Speaking

By LISA MOHN
Guest Columnist

As promised, this column will address your questions about sex in each Wednesday's edition of *The Gamecock*. Frankly, there has not been an overwhelming response to our call for questions.

Come on, Gamecocks. We know you're out there, and we also know you don't know everything about sex. Get those questions and letters coming so we can discuss what you want to know. The following are some questions left over from last time.

How do I know if I have a sexually transmitted disease?

The only way to know for sure is to be checked out by a doctor. If you are having symptoms, the lab tests for most diseases are fairly accurate.

However, if you don't have

symptoms, you cannot go to the doctor and ask for a clean bill of health. The technology is just not there. And, by the way — a Pap Smear is just an exam for cervical cancer. It does not rule out or detect STDs.

Some common symptoms of STDs are pain and burning with urination; a discharge (drip) from the penis or a change in vaginal discharge; redness and swelling in the genital area; unusual lumps, bumps, sores or warts (sometimes painful, sometimes not).

The important thing to know is that a large percentage of people, particularly women, do not have any symptoms at all. For example, as many as 25-to-65 percent of women infected with chlamydia do not have any symptoms. A large percentage of people with herpes may be asymptomatic. These people are still contagious but do not know they have a disease.

The thing to do if you have any symptoms is to seek medical care immediately. The diseases will not go away by themselves. They often become more difficult to treat as time goes on, and if you keep

having intercourse, you run the risk of transmitting the disease to any and all sexual partners.

An even better thing to do, of course, is to avoid getting the disease in the first place by always using condoms, using abstinence or having only one lifelong sexual partner.

How do I get my partner to use condoms?

In this age of sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, condoms are important. Many people, however, do not know how to deal with getting their partner to agree to using condoms, especially if that partner is negative about it. We hope the following suggestions will give you some ideas:

■ Take a trip to the drugstore. Look through the variety of condoms, lubricants and spermicides together and try to decide on one or more kinds of condoms that your partner finds interesting. You can get them in colors, flavors, studded and even in sizes for the "larger" male. Being creative can only help.

■ If the unwilling partner is the

one to be wearing the condom, the other partner needs to make it seem as appealing as possible. Offering to put it on your partner and incorporating it into your lovemaking can be a turn-on, instead of a turn-off.

■ If your partner seems offended that you have condoms available, explain that it's because you take sex with them seriously, you care about them, and if you do end up having sex, you want to make sure the worry of disease or pregnancy doesn't get in the way.

■ If your partner insists that a condom is out, you need to insist that intercourse is out. If sex with you is really important to them, they will use a condom. There are also many intimate behaviors other than intercourse, which you can share in the mean-time, until you resolve your condom disagreement.



ANNOUNCEMENT

New Dimension Comics is
Columbia's hottest comics store, offering:


- a complete line of new comics, all on the shelves by 4 pm on Thursday, earliest in town,
- computerized subscription service, no minimum to join, discounts up to 20%,
- lowest prices and largest selection of back-issue comics in town, all back-boarded,
- collecting supplies, bags, boards, boxes of all sizes at the lowest prices,
- Limited Edition books,
- Japanimation videos and more!

Visit Our Newly Renovated Store Under
the New Management of Jesse Willis, a
comics collector for over twenty years!

1930 Main Street, next to Manifest
779-HERO (4376)

"The United Way works 365 days a year, not just the day they take up the money."

The United Way is The Way Of Love.



CAROLINA PROGRAM UNION

Ideas and Issues Committee presents


The Cousteau Society
featuring
Peter Burtchell

"Environmental Issues
of the 1990's"


Monday, October 29, 1990
7:30 p.m.
Admission: Free

For more information call the
Carolina Program Union at 777-7130.

This program is sponsored, in part, by student activity fees.





Attention USC Students... THE CHAMPIONS ARE HERE!



Reverse weave, heavy weight, cotton
Sweat Tops in two styles! Reg. \$40.

NOW JUST **\$32.99!**

Store Hours: Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-6 YOUR BELK CHARGE WELCOME Parkland Plaza • Cayce

Ad Council

DON'T CHICKEN OUT.

EXCUSES DON'T SAVE LIVES.
BLOOD DOES.



**Be a part of
THE MENTORING
Network**

The office of Women's Student Services is developing a mentoring program to provide students with personalized guidance and support from volunteer faculty and staff.



Student That Would Like a Mentor:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Major: _____ Year: _____

Staff or Faculty That Would Like To Be a Mentor:

Name: _____

Dept.: _____

Position: _____

Degree: _____ Area(s): _____

Please return this form to: Women's Student Services • Campus Activities Center • Russell House Deadline is November 2, 1990