

ALCOHOL

Continued from page 1

different strategies to catch minors in possession of alcohol and vendors selling alcohol to minors. Some of the strategies include compliance checks, where an underage youth with a valid ID goes into stores or restaurants and tries to purchase alcohol. Since June 2003, the team has made 662 compliance checks and made 107 cases made for vendors selling to minors, Anderson said.

Other strategies include officers in uniform or undercover going into bars and restaurants checking identification for those drinking. The team also uses shoulder taps, where an undercover officer will ask random people to purchase alcohol for him.

"Parents need to feel good about their children being at college and know that if their children are out of line, they will get caught," Anderson said.

While the enforcement team is working to catch those that drink illegally or sell alcohol to minors, their goal is to educate, not just to get individuals and businesses in trouble, Ellis said. LRADAC, the behavioral center of the midlands, has set up classes in its merchant education program to educate vendors and their employees about tobacco laws, effects of alcohol and consequences of selling alcohol to minors. Carolyn Moorhouse, LRADAC merchant educator, said those consequences are civil liability, criminal offense and administration violation. During the 2004 fiscal year, 189 merchants from the downtown area attended the class.

"If a merchant has trained one person that does not mean everyone knows," Moorhouse said.



JASON STEELMAN/THE GAMECOCK

A law enforcement team is cracking down on underage drinking in Five Points clubs and bars such as Group Therapy.

The merchants can become more conscious and aware of the laws and seriousness of selling alcohol to minors.

Ellis said the their goal is to work with the merchants to make sure they know the law before they violate it.

"We have had very good cooperation," Anderson said. "The merchants do not want to get caught."

Merchants in The Vista and Five Points have participated in at least

one of the four two-hour sessions given each year by LRADAC. However, some of the convenience stores struggle with the alcohol laws, Anderson said.

For more information about merchant education classes, call Carolyn Moorhouse at 733-1390, ext. 158. To find a speaker on underage drinking, call Shannon Anderson at ext. 159.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

BRACELET

Continued from page 1

would be doing well," Curran said. "I sold those 150, ordered 400 more, and the next thing I know I had already sold close to 1,000."

According to Curran, most of the customers who had an interest in purchasing the bracelets are students from USC and area high schools, and many of the customers are teenage girls.

Though the bracelets might appear to be a fad, with both presidential candidates wearing them, some students say the "Live Strong" motto means something more.

"Three of my grandparents died from cancer before I was four," third-year sports management student Brian Wasko said. "Don't

wear it because it is sporty."

Though the bracelets are easy to spot on wrists in Columbia, actually finding one to buy is harder to do. All orders on the bracelets are on back order, creating more buzz about where to find them.

"One of my friends had 10 bracelets, so I was able to get one," third-year retail and tourism student Brent Simmons said.

Whether the bracelets are a fad or a symbol of a form of cancer awareness, Armstrong has managed to created enough excitement around his product and organization to bring awareness to not only finding a cure for cancer, but to help those who live with it everyday be able to survive.

According to Wearyellow.com, the "Wear Yellow" campaign began

as a tribute to Armstrong's fight with cancer. The color was drawn from the Tour de France leader's jersey, which Armstrong has worn six consecutive times. The campaign began as an effort to raise \$5 million for the Lance Armstrong Foundation, which provides information and tools to those who live with cancer, through core programs such as education, advocacy, public health and research. Nike, which donated \$1 million to the fund, has also teamed up with LAF to promote the sales of bracelets.

For more information about "Wear Yellow," the Lance Armstrong Foundation and "Live Strong" bracelets, visit www.Laf.org.

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READS

Continued from page 1

communities and shaping our nation's future."

The program was adopted by USC in late 1997 shortly after it became law. Since then, the university has been involved in sending countless students to help volunteer and educate in several area Richland County schools.

According to Pinkney Epps, coordinator of USC's Office of Community Service

Programs, the America Reads program is part of an overall effort by USC to "make community service a major part of the education experience at USC."

Epps also pointed to the benefits that USC students have gleaned from the program. Shaunda Prince, who graduated last May from the Moore School of Business, spoke to Epps about the experience she

walked away with from volunteering at South Kilbourne.

"The first day she did it, she just kept talking about the kids," Epps said. "She as a business major had a great opportunity. It gave her an outlook on the options she had after college. Now she can always fall back on teaching or use her experience as an asset in her future career."

It would be difficult to convince South Kilbourne's discipline coordinator Roberta Moyd that anybody has benefited more than her students.

In the two previous years that USC has been involved in her school, she has witnessed an increase in test scores and a drop in discipline problems in those students who interacted with the volunteers.

In addition, the volunteers have helped to ease the effects of steadily increasing class sizes.

And for South Kilbourne, these are improvements that are hard to come by. The school is considered a Title 1 school, meaning that at least 80 percent of its students are on free or reduced-cost lunch.

Moyd and several teachers describe it as a school where students possess few of the advantages enjoyed by average children.

But Moyd continues to hope for her children's future, especially with means for improvement like the school's relationship with USC.

"Many of our students come from single parents or parents with needs ... But even though they are at a disadvantage, they can overcome," she said. "Sometimes all they need is someone to listen to them."

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men·tee: one who is mentored.

men·tor

men·tee

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