

Student Life: Guelph Inquest Looks at Student Boozing

By Ian Jack
Canadian University Press

TORONTO (CUP) - A coroner's inquest into the death of a nineteen year old at the University of Guelph has heard some startling figures about student drinking.

Louis Glikzman, a scientist with the Addiction Research Foundation, told the jury almost 12 per cent of Ontario university students who drink consume at least 29 drinks per week. Another 18 per cent consume between 15 and 28 drinks a week, he said.

Glikzman testified at an inquest into the death of Richard Sloan, who was visiting friends at the University of Guelph last January when he choked on his own vomit, went into cardiac arrest, and died after a drinking binge.

Sloan is reported to have consumed 16 drinks in the three hours preceding his death, many of them served at a campus pub run jointly by students and the administration.

The five-member coroner's jury released a summary of the evidence and a report containing 18 recommendations on alcohol policies for Ontario's universities September 22.

The report recommends shorter operating hours for campus bars, a graphic alcohol abuse awareness program, the monitoring and control of alcohol consumption in student residences, sanctions including expulsion and reduction of academic credits for students violating alcohol policies and raising the drinking age to 21.

Much of the testimony at the inquest centered around alcohol education policies.

"We've bought into this Miami Vice attitude that drugs are bad but alcohol is relatively benign," said Robert Solomon, a law professor at the University of Western Ontario who specializes in alcohol policy.

He said university students are "a uniquely vulnerable constituency" because they are inexperienced both with drinking and with driving, and because alcohol is so readily available on campuses.

"Deaths and near deaths have occurred at all our campuses," said Solomon, who testified September 20. "What distinguishes Guelph from the other campuses is luck. Just luck."

Solomon advocates raising al-

cohol prices at university pubs until they match off-campus prices, increasing alcohol awareness programs, and emphasizing the legal responsibilities of pubs to patrons.

Glikzman, who also testified September 20, said education programs should target first year male students, who drink about twice as much as anyone else. Glikzman's study also showed the average drinker downs 11.6 alcoholic beverages per week.

One person who did not appear at the inquest, but is following it closely, is Carmi Cimicata, national director of BACCHUS, a

student organization dedicated to responsible drinking.

Cimicata believes education programs need more money. "I hope that the inquest would require that universities direct a substantial part of their alcohol profits to education," she said.

"Campus drinking is so much a part of tradition that it doesn't matter where it is, it'll happen," Cimicata believes. "There's no reason why we can't have great bars on campus (but) a campus bar should be there for social atmosphere. They're in a position to teach people responsible drinking."

National Students' Day

Well, another National Students' Day has come and gone, leaving in its wake many tired and happy students. On Wednesday, October 18, a large number of students participated in various events held throughout the day, making the day a huge success.

All Wednesday, large numbers of students took advantage of the 50% discount offered by Smitty's Restaurant. Many thanks to David MacKenzie for offering this great discount and the staff at Smitty's for coping with the extra traffic that day.

A special thanks to Dwight Thompson, "Mr. Van Man" for his time and talents shuttle-bussing.

At noon, noontime pit-sitters were treated to a lively debate, on the issue, "Chastity is Prudent". Thank-you to the members of the UPEI Debating Society, you did a great job and raised some interesting points.

Later in the afternoon, some brave students joined the men's and women's soccer teams in an exciting soccer match. By introducing a few new rules, (some simply by the whim of players midway in the game!), soccer players had the chance to demonstrate some amazing skills and were, also, able to get to know one another a bit better! Awards given for shining performances on the field were;

Most Sports "Man" Ship Award - Andy Gallant

Most Sports "Person" Ship Award - "Assburn"???

Most Improved Player / Female - Louanne Campbell

Most Improved Player / Male - Mark Walker

Most Accident Prone / Female - Stephanie Knickle

Most Accident Prone / Male - Trevor Campbell

young Colt Awards "Awkward yet Graceful" - Two Teams

1) Laura MacPhee and Brian MacMillan

2) "Boomer" and Daweet

Best Dressed Award / Male - Andrew Barlett

Best Dressed Award / Female - Laurie Murphy

Best "Legs" / Female - Lou-Lou McQuaid

Best "Legs" / Male - Mike Blanchard

MVP / Male - Adrian

MVP / Female - Mary Stordy

Executive-Type Trench Coat Award - Andy Cameron

Thank-you to Coaches Vince Mulligan and Andy Cameron, Referees Doug Blaine and Marin Fobes and to both soccer teams, they were great sports and made this event a lot of fun. Following the game, participants enjoyed cake and hot chocolate served by celebrity hockey players from the UPEI Hockey Team. They did a wonderful job!

Woodstock, the movie, set the stage for the musical experience of Mike Woods, the musician, who was, as usual, hilarious as well as entertaining.

Special thanks to those students who helped organize various events;

Susan Arbing

Dwight Thompson

Patricia Balcolm

Mary Anne Fitzpatrick

Men's and Women's Soccer

Meanwhile, Guelph students are saying what happened there could have happened on any campus, and that they are not the beer-guzzling lusers they are sometimes portrayed to be.

Student council vice president Paul Burns, says a Brewer's Retail survey done last year placed Guelph fourth on a list of provincial beer accounts. Exhibition Stadium in Toronto was one of the accounts that beat Guelph out.

Burns said Guelph is in a unique position, since all its beer-buying is done on one account,

and because the campus caters not only to students but also to the surrounding community.

"Take all the student bars (in another university town) and see what they add up to," he said. "I don't think we drink any more than anyone else."

Burns feels people come to university with drinking patterns already set, but that the university can "teach people to drink responsibly."

"Do you think a bar manager running their own business is looking at education, or at profits? We look at both."

Teams

UPEI Hockey Team

Thank-you to the following businesses for donating prizes;

Alma's Unique Boutique - Loofah Nature's Sponge

Barry's Men's Wear - Scarf

Christopher's/Dave's Cave - Sweatshirt

Dandy Duds - \$25.00 gift certificate

Dow's Men's Wear - \$10.00 gift certificate

Heart's and Flowers - Sunshine Bouquet

Norton's Jewellers - \$20.00 gift certificate

People's Jewellers - Crystal Contessa vase

Really you - Eyebrow Styling and Waxing and 10% gift discount

Samir's Tailor Shop - Alterations Gift Certificate

Swenson's - Free Earthquake

UPEI Student Union - 2 free tickets

Video Pros - Scotch Watch

Vogue Optical - Sun Glasses

As well, thank-you Bill Ledwell for helping us out and to Hertz Rent-a-Car for assistance.

The CFS/UPEI Advisory Committee is pleased with the success of its National enthusiasm of all participants. Committee Chair, Cathy Campbell, commented, "The spirit of the event was overwhelming in its capacity to unite students in their celebratory endeavors." She will be bringing the success of UPEI's National Student Day to the CFS National Conference in Ottawa, where, no doubt, UPEI will stand as, at least, equal stature in reports of the day's success, from across the country.

For further information about this annual event or the CFS/UPEI Committee, please contact Cathy Campbell, Chair of the CFS/UPEI Advisory Committee through the UPEI Student Union at 566-0430.

