

Opinion

Sex, Drugs, Rock and Roll

The Hard News on UCSB's Status as a Party School

TONY BIASOTTI

From the Ivy League to the West Coast, the 1990s have seen an all-out attack on fun on college campuses. Prompted by a number of suicidal drinking binges, lawmakers and administrators have tightened the leash on student drinking. Sexual assault and disease make sex scarier for everyone, but college students run a particularly high risk of both. And of course, the rising costs of living and education have left less money in the average student's budget for illegal drugs. Despite the boom times we are living in as a nation, it is doubtful that we will make our children jealous with stories about going to college in the depraved '90s.

The latest example of an authoritarian administration is in Florida, a place as infamous for college students run amok as UCSB once was. The University of Florida Board of Regents is entertaining a proposal to notify a student's parents if the student is caught in violation of campus policy or local law regarding alcohol. That's right — get an MIP, or even a citation for booze in the dorms, and Mommy and Daddy will get a letter sent home from school regarding the behavior of their (adult) child.

UCSB has not survived these dark years unscathed. In 1995, the Princeton Review rated us the third-biggest party school in the nation. By 1997, we had disappeared from the annual list. What happened? Is this decline irreversible? Is it possible for UCSB to retain its lofty academic rankings (#13 this year among public universities, according to *U.S. News and World Report*), while reclaiming its position as one of the best places in the world for young adults to get stewed, screwed and tattooed?

For most students, these questions are just as pressing as serious ones regarding the academic future of the university. Fortunately, fun seems to be making a comeback these days, perhaps as a backlash to the politically correct climate of the early and mid-'90s. Venture out onto Del Playa a week from Friday, on the first weekend of the school year, and you will see evidence that sex, drugs and rock and roll are alive and well here.

SEX

We've all heard the rumors, from the allegation that Isla Vista has the highest concentration of STDs in the Western World to the real meaning behind FT's initials (that's Fuck Towers, for all you freshmen).

I'll leave it up to you to investigate the truth behind FT's name. As for the rumors about AIDS and other STDs, they make a perfect urban legend because they have no basis in fact, but can never actually be disproved. No statistics are kept for infection rates in I.V.

Dennis Feeley, director of the AIDS program at the I.V. Medical Clinic, says the rumors about HIV in I.V. are pure fantasy. "I was told by a number of people that there was a chemistry professor a few years ago trying to scare people into abstinence, and he was telling people every tenth person in I.V. is infected," Feeley said. Reality check: there have been 633 documented cases of AIDS in Santa Barbara County, ever.

This is a college town, filled with bet-

ter-than-average looking young people, and so sex is never very hard to come by. The only change in the past decade is probably increased responsibility. AIDS has changed all of our lives in the past 15 years, and now STDs that have been overshadowed by AIDS (herpes, chlamydia and other infections your grandfather probably brought home from a French prostitute) have cropped up again, more powerful than ever.

DRUGS

UCSB's drug of choice is, of course, alcohol — although *choice* might not be the right term when the alcohol in question is usually Natty Light poured from a \$39.99 keg.

According to surveys conducted by Student Health Services, in 1989, two years after I.V.'s Halloween celebration drew over 30,000 people and received national recognition in *Playboy*, 88 percent of UCSB students drank alcohol. By 1993, the first year of the Sheriff's Dept.'s "no tolerance" policy, that number had fallen to 77 percent. However, in 1999 the percentage of drinkers grew for the first time this decade, to 83 percent.

Judy Hearsom, director of Student Health's Alcohol and Other Drug Program, believes university policies and stricter local laws have contributed to this decline. "The residence hall policies have slowed drinking down in the past few years," she said. Today, nearly half of UCSB students binge drink (consuming more than four alcoholic beverages in one night), which places UCSB at about the middle of the spectrum when compared to other colleges.

Believe it or not, when longtime Isla Vista resident Henry Sarria came to UCSB as a freshman in 1986, there was

no open container law or noise ordinance. Giving Isla Vistans the freedom to drink in the streets may sound like a recipe for disaster, but Sarria says revelers in the '80s handled it well.

"I think the open container law made it worse," he said, referring to the fact that drinking between parties let people imbibe at a more reasonable pace. "Nowadays, you get to a party, you drink all you can."

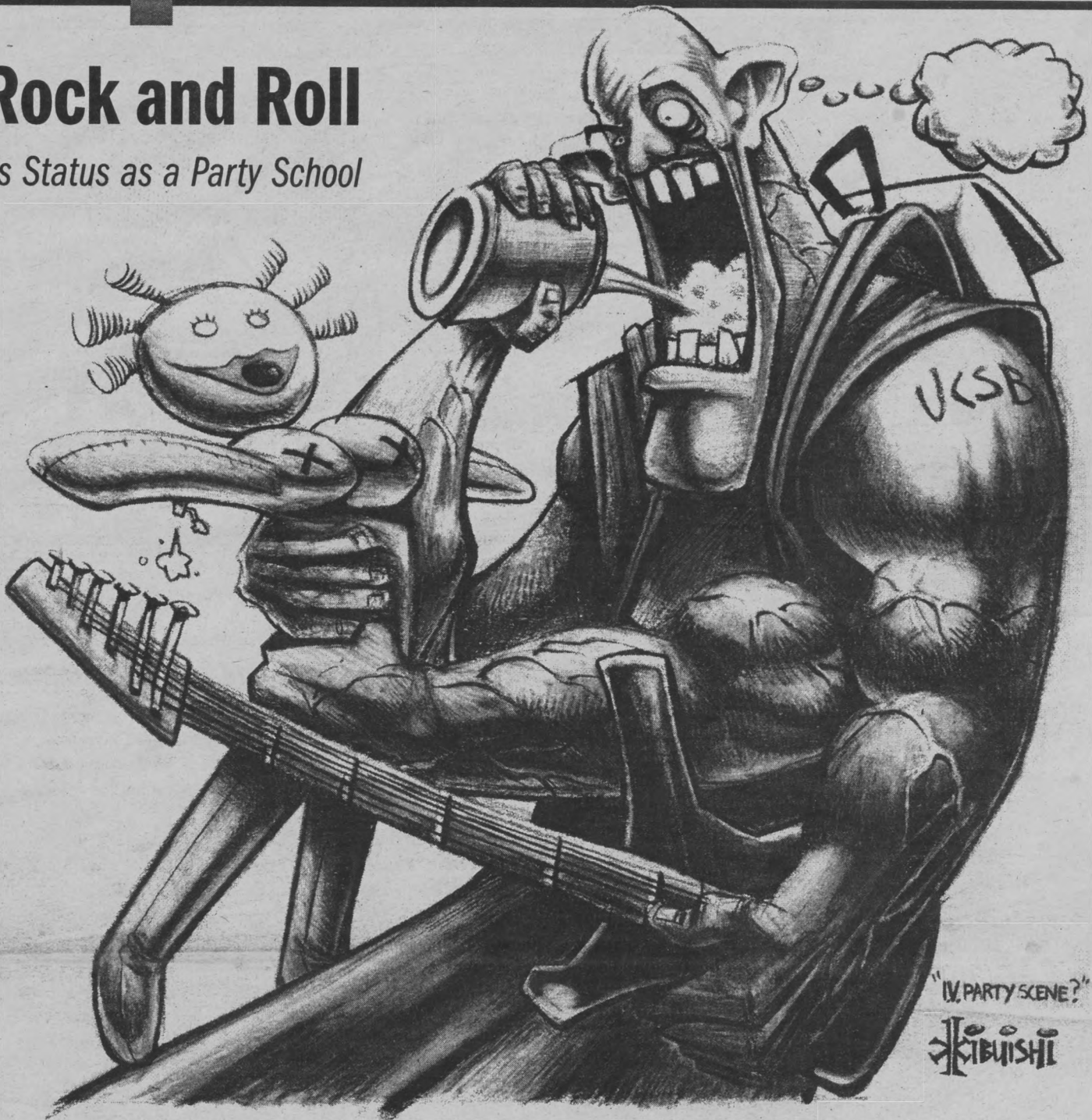
In 1992, the county neglected to renew the open container law, and Isla Vistans had three months to party like it was 1979 again. "It was great, towing a keg of beer to the Foot Patrol station on my skateboard, sitting out in front and toasting the cops," Sarria said.

Despite the seeming resurgence in marijuana use in the past few years (one-third of students are tokers), Student Health surveys have shown no significant change in illegal drug use over the past decade. The only real difference on the drug scene is that you can no longer clean out your couch cushions and buy a nickel or dime bag.

In the '80s, the media sensationalized cocaine as the "drug of the moment," and a few years ago it was heroin. Now ecstasy and GHB are all over the news, but it is hard to believe that heroin is really any less prevalent, or that coke ever really disappeared. While law enforcement must give the drug war some focus by concentrating on a few drugs at a time, and the media is always quick to pick up on a trend (perceived or real), the truth is that just about any drug you could ever want is out there somewhere in I.V.

ROCK AND ROLL

"And on the morning of the seventh day, Isla Vista had a hangover." So stated



KAZUHIRO KIBUSHI / DAILY NEXUS

the *Daily Nexus* on Monday, November 2, 1992, commenting on the previous Saturday's Halloween festivities.

In its heyday as a party school in the late '80s and early '90s, UCSB was known for one party, and that party was Halloween. If the holiday fell on a weekend, over 40,000 people would line Del Playa, listening to bands, drinking and showing off their costumes. Although the party was huge in the '80s, Sarria says it didn't get out of hand until 1992. "I was here in '87, when it was the bomb-ass shit," he said. "You couldn't even walk down DP, and there were no assaults, no attempted rapes or anything like that."

After 1992, the party was effectively over. Sheriff Jim Thomas pleased his Montecito constituents by instituting a "five-year plan" (we are now entering year seven) of increased enforcement surrounding Halloween. Despite the fact that the past few Halloweens have been mellow and community-oriented, "no tolerance" now lasts from August to November.

If UCSB is to regain its past glory as a party school, we must recapture the spirit of those Halloweens, before out-of-town meatheads and cops on horseback resulted in over 1,000 arrests and two cliff-diving injuries in 1992. We must prove to Sheriff Jim, Chancellor Henry T. Yang and the rest of the world that we can handle legendary parties and not wake up with our town looking like Hiroshima, the morning after. Since every freshman class these days is smarter than the one before, UCSB should be able to rise to the challenge.

Tony Biasotti, the Daily Nexus assistant opinion editor, thinks we can party without acting like the guy in the illustration.

Opinion

Staff Editorials:

Editorials are the consensus opinion of the Nexus editorial board. All editors are invited to sit on the board by the editor in chief.

Columns and Letters

We welcome all submissions of any length. All submissions become the property of the Nexus.



What Is That Smell?

Classes Resume and With Them Comes the Daily Nexus' Assessment of This Summer

Whether you spent the summer in Isla Vista or elsewhere, without the *Daily Nexus* to help you, you might be left in the dark about the news in our seaside hamlet. For your amusement and edification, we will take this opportunity to present our assessment of the good, the bad and the smelly from summer '99.

Tulips to the I.V. Foot Patrol for staying open 24 hours. Now students in I.V. can feel somewhat safe from harm at any hour of the day. (Of course, we can now worry about getting in trouble at any hour of the day ... alas).

Turds to the out-of-town visitors who will descend on I.V. the first weekend of school. Students and residents, please remind your meathead friends not to wreak havoc upon our quaint little town.

Giant tulips are in order for the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Dept., who apprehended a likely suspect in a rape and an attempted rape in I.V. this summer. Also to the District Attorney's office for the conviction of two of the I.V. gang members involved in assaults on residents last year.

Smelly turds to Kinko's for leaving I.V. and forgetting their roots. The I.V. location was the first-ever Kinko's, and their departure is disappointing. Since Kinko's no longer resides on Pardall Road, we hope the Alternative Copy Shop will stay open later hours to accommodate students' needs.

Tulips to the administration for starting school on a Thursday again. The two-day ease-in to classes makes for a much smoother adjustment to the new school year.

Turds to the Financial Aid Dept. for moving the deadline to reserve class space to an even earlier date ... again. The deadline keeps moving back in the summer, without adequate notification. Either do a better job of letting financial aid recipients know when they have to call RBT to reserve their space, or stop moving the deadline.

Tulips to Internet booksellers. This translates into buying books on the Net at lower prices, no more waiting in long lines and more competition for book stores.

Old, dried-out turds to the desert that is the reflecting pool. Last school year the pool was drained and cleaned to get rid of the pollution. However, it now needs to be refilled in order for it to be a reflecting pool.

To end on a smelly note, turds to UCen Dining Services for raising the price of coffee on campus. Those extra 10 cents hit us at the *Daily Nexus* extra hard, since we have the greatest need for caffeine and the smallest disposable income of anyone on campus.

Help in Finding Yourself

Advice, Challenges From a Vice President

MICHAEL YOUNG

The beginning of the year is a hectic time for you and for me, too, but I think it is important to take a few moments to reflect on the last year and to take a hard look down our path toward the future. I have been talking to students and faculty and thinking over the summer about our community, who we are, what we aspire to be and how we can make UCSB a better place. This reflection has come out of experiences the campus had last year.

We saw a number of troubling incidents involving violence, intolerance, substance abuse and behavior that might best be characterized as "out of bounds" and unacceptable. These events were distressing and disheartening, but in the aftermath something extraordinary occurred. Students, faculty and staff from across the campus gained renewed commitment to forge a greater sense of campus community.

As we begin the academic year and move toward a new millennium, what better time to reexamine, reaffirm and, if necessary, redefine the principles and values at the foundation of our academic community — to focus on the kind of campus community we want to be in the 21st century. All communities have a set of values understood and shared by their members, a set of common traditions, a shared purpose and a set of common goals.

First and foremost, our community is an academic community. An academic community is one dedicated to educating, learning and seeking truth. This definition colors our values, traditions and goals and sets us apart from other types of communities. It is from our understanding of what we are — first a community, and second a community composed of scholars — that we derive our values. Here is my attempt to articulate a set of values, and to discuss how students might use these each day.

Integrity in academic pursuits.

In an institution where the search for knowledge and truth is the primary goal, integrity in teaching, learning, research and scholarship is paramount. Dishonesty undermines our common missions. This translates into the obvious: writing your own papers, taking your own tests, doing your own work. It also means approaching this extraor-

Deconstructing the Reality of Sexual Abuse

The I.V. Party Scene Will Soon Be in Full Swing; How Can You Remain Safe?

CAROL MOSELY

Welcome or welcome back to UCSB. Let me catch you up on what's been happening lately. The bikepaths have been repaired, the Women's Center deck has been painted, the Art Museum is closer to reopening and already several rapes have been reported.

When I get a call from a reporter saying a UCSB student has been raped, I can pretty much assume two things in these cases: the rape was committed by a stranger, and no one who has heard about it doubts that it happened. I'm pointing this out to you because you need to know that a lot of rapes happen here that do not fit this description.

These rapes are rarely committed by strangers, rarely receive any public attention and many times the people who hear about them doubt that it was really rape. It's important that you know there was a man breaking into houses in I.V. and assaulting sleeping women this summer. You need this information so you can consider things like locking doors and staying aware on the street. It's equally important that you know that this kind of assault is not what usually happens.

Acquaintance rapes are real rapes, with the same issue of consent at stake. Most of us get that concept when it's a stranger, but when the rapist is an acquaintance it gives

us trouble.

Consider this story: I invite you to go to a movie. You'd like to see that movie and you would like to have a friendship with me, but you had already planned to stay home and catch up on some reading. You tell me, "I don't think so this time," but your hesitation is apparent. I don't want to go alone and I can't think of anyone else to invite so I start trying to change your mind, nagging you, attempting to convince you to go. You keep saying, "I don't think so." Who has a problem here, you or me? I think it's clear that it's me. You have the choice to go, or not go, to the movie. I have the responsibility to listen and respect your decision and say, "Maybe next time." It's your decision.

I have a problem with power and control. It's not really about the movie: It's about what I want and what I think you should do for me.

OK, it's different when sex is involved — or is it? I want to have sex with you. You aren't sure. If I push you, or wait until you're too drunk to know what you're doing, or put you in a situation where you're scared for some reason, then it's not about sex. Sex is mutual pleasure. Mutual means both people are into it. If you don't really want to do it, and I go forward, then I have a problem with power. I'm the one who's responsible.

Analyze this sentence: "I'd do her." Even if you've never heard this before, you probably know what it

means. It's a simple sentence with massive implications for our community. It's not meant to be flattering or expressive of an idea of mutual pleasure. It means I have the power and I'll do whatever I want. It implies that her consent is not wanted, needed or considered. It's really messed up.

If you want to talk about these issues, or you want to try to figure out how we can all impact the culture that leads to rape and confuses the definition of consent, come by the Women's Center on Wednesdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Students Stopping Rape meets every week to grapple with this.

If something happens to you or someone you know, female or male, gay, lesbian or straight, remember that the Rape Prevention Education Program is on this campus to help in any way they can. It's free and confidential.

On another tough topic, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. "What does this have to do with me?" you may be thinking. Remember that nasty dating relationship everybody knew about in your high school? Now imagine that one of those people was accepted to UCSB and lives on your hall. Then one day the other one shows up for a "visit" and starts doing that same old stuff. Now it has to do with you.

Call it what it is. Dating abuse is the same as domestic violence, only the two people don't live together and maybe it hasn't gotten to the stage of beatings. Call it the way it is: it's abuse and it's wrong. Tell them it affects you, too. Tell them it's not welcome in your community. Come by the Women's Center or call us at 893-3778 if you want to talk about it.

Carol Mosely is the coordinator of the Rape Prevention Education Program at the UCSB Women's Center.

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Letters:

All submissions, but please include your name and phone number. For columns, maximum length is three pages, typed and double-spaced; for letters, one page. All submissions are the property of the *Daily Nexus* upon being turned in and are edited for length and clarity.

How to Reach Us:

Drop by the Nexus office under Storke Tower, call us at (805) 893-2691, call the Hot Line at (805) 893-2692 or fax us at (805) 893-3905.

HOT LINE

This is the Hot Line, compiled by the opinion staff to bring you stray news, insights and other random factoids. If you have a comment or other tidbit for the Hot Line, call us at 893-2692, and be sure to leave your full name and phone number.

Hot Line Cause of the Century

This is September, Jack Daniel's birth month (country folk in the 1800s weren't too big on exact dates). If you'd like to see Mr. Daniel's birthday become a national holiday, drop the Tennessee distillery a line at www.jackdaniels.com. C'mon, show 'em college students aren't apathetic.

You Know You're in California

When ... According to a survey conducted by Student Health last winter, more UCSB students have smoked marijuana (67.4 percent) than tobacco (61.8 percent).

Condomania

(Courtesy of Gear magazine): The condom was invented in 1564 by Italian anatomist Gabriel Fallopius -- er, Fallopius.

In the 1700s, London condom vendors sold washed, secondhand skins to those who couldn't afford new ones.

A Japanese saying asserts that a good housewife should always pack a condom in her husband's suitcase when he travels. Wonder what he's doing on that business trip ...

How to Play:

Give us a ring at (805) 893-2692. Leave your idea or fact, full name and phone number (without which we won't let you appear in the Hot Line). Thanks.

Getting Your Place at UCSB

Vice Chancellor for the New School Year

Ordinary opportunity in your life with a commitment to learn and to squeeze the most out of your time here.

You have worked hard to become a member of the UCSB academic community. Go to class, read your texts and behave in a way that lets you and your classmates get the most out of the course material and experience. Engage your friends, classmates and professors in intellectual conversations. Learn and practice the fine art of arguing over intellectual points with passion and integrity, but also with civility and an open mind.

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tional experience is all that it should be, you will graduate prepared to navigate a society with many different kinds of people. You will also graduate having seen and understood different worldviews, and will perhaps expand your own. These are the key skills of the new century, and your education will be incomplete if you graduate without these abilities.

I believe that mutual respect is non-negotiable. Intolerant and disrespectful behavior, especially regarding race, sexual orientation, gender, ethnicity and religion, compromises our sense of community and our ability to live and learn together. I mention race, sexual orientation, gender and the rest because it is around these issues that people typically falter in their ability to interact respectfully and considerately.

Free, open and respectful exchange of ideas.

The success of everyone in an academic community requires freedom of expression. In our community, this does not mean that anyone should say anything to anybody, even if it is within their legal right to do so. Some words may be within the rightfully broad legal boundaries of free expression, but they have no place in an academic community.

Our community requires the respectful exchange of ideas. People should be passionate about what they believe and how they express those beliefs, but they must also be civil in both word and deed. This principle is particularly important when a community encompasses people who have different backgrounds, worldviews, etc. I am not talking about political correctness, I am talking about basic respect -- about how people treat one another, not about what people think or

of classes and services designed to help students learn about and establish essential health habits, such as: and 7.9 percent of UCSB men.

Nutrition and Exercise: Follow the food guide pyramid and get at least 30 minutes of moderate exercise most days of the week. Nutrition and exercise are keys to good health because good nutrition can help prevent cancer and heart problems, while exercise can help relieve stress and depression.

However, too much emphasis on them can cause problems such as compulsive exercise, over-training and preoccupation with dieting. These can be signs of poor body image in both men and women, which can lead to eating disorders, a problem faced by 23.4 percent of UCSB women

Sexual Health: Practice health-promoting behaviors such as open and honest communication, regular checkups, breast and testicular self-exams (men under the age of 34 are at a higher risk of testicular cancer than any other age group), and, if you are sexually active, use protection against STDs and unintended pregnancy.

Alcohol and Tobacco: Drink alcohol in moderation or not at all, and don't use nicotine.

If you'd like more information about any of these health issues, call the Health Education Department at Student Health at 893-2630. We'd love to work with you to help make your college years the healthiest yet.

Sabina White is the director of health education at Student Health Services.



Respect and consideration in interactions with others.

This really boils down to one familiar maxim that is profound in its simplicity: Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. As commonplace as the Golden Rule is, it sums up so much of what our community stands for. Each one of us arrives with an entitlement -- the right to have respect and consideration from other community members.

The real test of this value comes when we encounter people whose backgrounds, beliefs and worldviews differ from our own. If your educa-

What About the Frosh-15?

How to Maintain Good Health During the College Years

SABINA WHITE

The not-so-good news for college students is that their age puts them at risk for two serious health problems: motor vehicle accidents, which are the number-one cause of death for young people up to age 25, and STDs, for which this age group is at the highest risk.

The good news for college students is that these risks can be dramatically reduced by not drinking excessively. Current research shows that the majority of college students who abstain from drinking or who drink moderately run a significantly lower risk of these and other problems (such as sexual and physical assault, unintended pregnancy or homicide) than the minority of college students who binge drink -- those who consume more than 4 alcoholic drinks at a time.

More good news for college students is that their extra education is correlated with fewer health problems than their non-college-educated peers. One reason for this is that college-educated people are less likely to smoke.

Smokers run the greatest risk of heart problems, the number-one killer of all

Student Health Services offers a variety of classes and services designed to help students learn about ... health habits.

Americans. So, if you don't smoke, don't start. If you do smoke, quit now, and if you are a social smoker (someone who only smokes at parties, for instance) quit before you find out you are one of the 80 percent of social smokers who will become addicted to nicotine.

College is a good time for people to learn more than academics. That is why Student Health Services offers a variety

Opinion

Why Should Anyone Get Involved?

Nexus Editor in Chief Explains the Merits of Getting Off Your Butt

MATT HURST

Most of you probably hate reading articles about the writer's first experiences at UCSB: how much they missed home and what it was like meeting their new friends and eating in the dining commons and then throwing it up, and drinking and partying and all that freedom crap. Well, that's exactly what this column is not about.

No sir, this column isn't about that, nor is it a list of what fun activities you

should do to make the most out of your college experience. It is, however, about one thing: getting involved. Yes, that's it. Get involved.

I wish someone had just said those two words to me. I had to figure it out for myself, but one sure-fire way to meet friends and enjoy UCSB is to join a club, fraternity or sorority. These things will definitely help you in the long run, and not only on your resume, but also by teaching you about different types of people and all the things this particular university has to offer. One way to get

involved is through the *Daily Nexus*.

Each weekday throughout the school year, we bring you news about everything from the campus to the community to the nation and the world; UCSB sports information; a place where people can express their viewpoints; an arts and entertainment section; and numerous features on just about anything.

Working for the *Daily Nexus*, you can help yourself in many ways. For example, you can amaze your friends about how much you know about everyday issues and events. In addition, you can set up connections with people around Santa Barbara to pursue whatever you aspire to do. And, it's a chance for you to work on an award-winning product that you can pick up and read every day.

We are not an exclusive club. We invite anyone who is interested. You don't even have to want to write. You might not know how to form words into sentences (but if that's the case, it amazes me that you are even here), because there are a whole mess of other jobs waiting for you. If you show interest in helping us out, we will hook you up with a job.

Feel free to check us out on Oct. 3 at 3 p.m. for our Open House. There will be free food and you can meet and chat with the editors. We are located under Storke Tower, so we're hard to miss. Come on down and get involved.

Matt Hurst is the Daily Nexus editor in chief and got involved because he was sick of sitting on his ass all day long.

Party With Discretion and Have a Good Time

An Isla Vista Resident Imparts His Wisdom on How to Party Responsibly

HENRY SARRIA

Well, summer is almost over and, as I sit here in my cozy apartment that I have called home for 10 years now, I can only appreciate the quiet before the storm known as "Fall Quarter." It may come as a shock to some of you who have known me for a long time, but I almost moved out of Isla Vista this past summer. Something said, "Henry, you've had enough and it is time to move on," and I was prepared to do so. I did some looking, but that's as far as I got.

I figured that it's not a matter of where you live, but rather how you treat the place, and thus far where I am has done me very well. Sure, I've had it with the party scene, but that doesn't mean that I hate parties.

In fact, it's at many of these parties that I've made friends that have lasted me through the fun years in this little college town by the sea. These days I'd rather spend my Friday and Saturday nights racing BMX somewhere than standing around a keg. I guess I'm over it.

The one question I get asked a lot is if I ever lived on Del Playa during my tenure in Isla Vista, and this I can answer with a solid "NO!" for many reasons. I used to be part of the problem on those fuzzy Friday and Saturday alcohol-and-punk-rock-fueled nights. If I wasn't a party-goer, I was playing in a loud punk rock band. It was fun, but looking back it was sometimes at someone's expense. Hindsight can be a sobering thing.

I have to admit that during the days before the open container law, the streets of this town were a lot more peaceful. Back then, you could sip your beer while going from one party to the next. Sure, you might get stopped by the cops for an I.D. check, but if you were over 21 and you weren't a jackass, there would be no problem.

These days people go to a party, guzzle up and then try to head off to another party in a thrashed haze. I call this phenomenon the "Freshman Shuffle," and it is usually easy to spot, just look for the people with the residence hall cups and T-shirts being held up by the relatively sober members of the group while yelling all sorts of stupid shit at everyone and anyone who passes by.

All this usually leads to is getting into a fight on the way to the next party if you're a guy, or risking sexual assault if you're a girl. The bottom line here is to know your limits. It will do you wonders in the long run.

One of my favorite freshman ailments is the "I hate the cops" syndrome many get as a function of getting a

Minor In Possession ticket. This form of citation is the equivalent of the Darwin Awards for stupid people that do stupid things. Most everyone who has a beef with the cops is upset because they got an MIP while walking, underage, on the streets of Isla Vista with an open beer.

The only problems with this are that a) there is an open container law in Santa Barbara County and b) possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by a minor is against the law. But yet, here's Joe Toughguy walking down Del Playa, sporting an open 40 oz., knowing 21 is a ways away. If you're dumb enough to pull this one off, you deserve to be arrested just for being stupid.

You can quote all of the Sublime, NWA or Offspring lyrics you want, but you're still going to get busted for your own stupidity. I know plenty of you who are underage are going to drink. It's a fact of life. But when you do,

fact of daily Isla Vista life, so accept it. In my total of 12 years living of this area, I can count the number of times I've driven on Del Playa on a weekend night on one hand and not even use all of my fingers.

The Del Playa party scene is the one aspect of Isla Vista that I know will never change, simply because it is very easy to repeat the patterns involved. Hey, everyone wants to get drunk, laid or both, but don't be surprised if your expectations aren't met. Chances are that you'll discover the wonderful world of hangovers many times long before the above-mentioned hopes and expectations come true.

On a personal basis, my only expectation of the party scene is to have some fun, hang out with fun people and avoid the trippers, tweakers and meatheads. So far my expectations have been fulfilled.

Yeah, I don't go to too many parties anymore, but it's probably a good thing since I have a billion other things to do. I still get a kick out of taking a walk down Del Playa on the first weekend when all of UCSB is back, wandering in droves in search of whatever the night will bring. It is a ritual that I know will live long after I'm

gone, and one that is traditional to our little seaside haven.

College is supposed to be the best time of your life. Live a little, play enough, but don't forget why you're here in the first place. Classes won't be held up for you and homework will be due on time, regardless of the raging hangover from that 10-kegger on Saturday night.

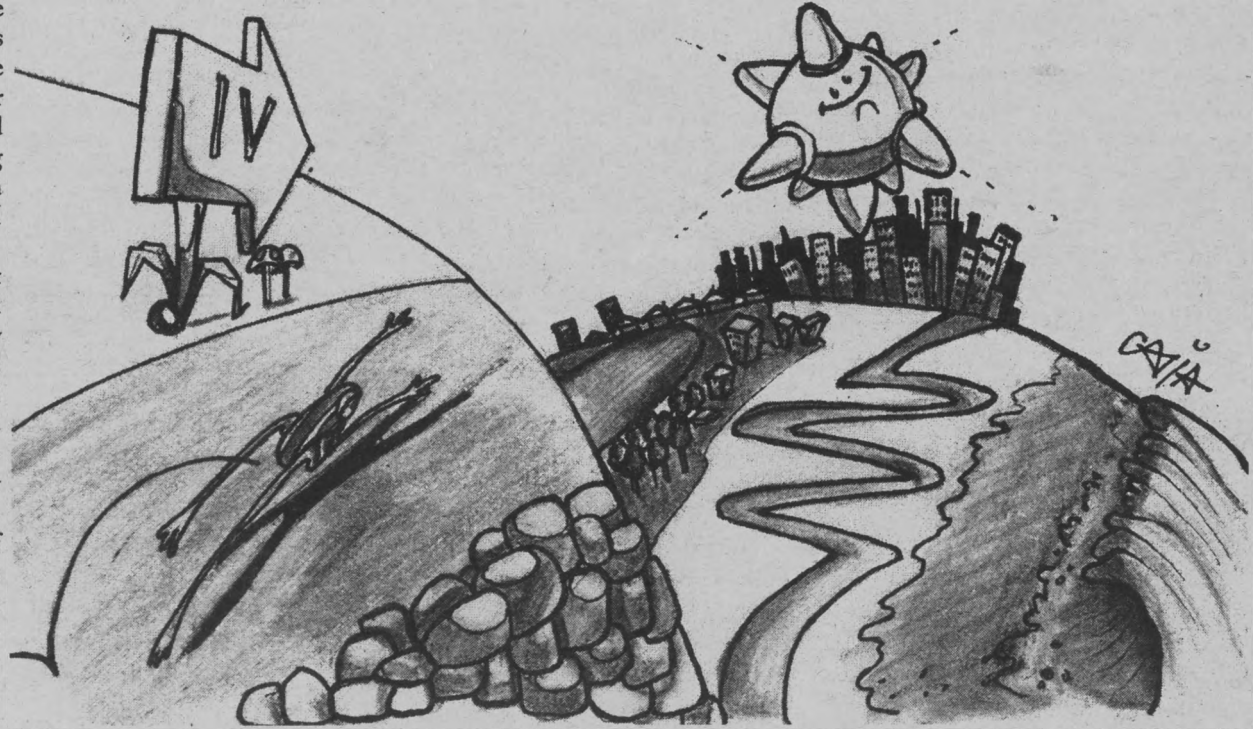
There comes a time to clutch up and get the job done, and after that, it is play time, Miller time or whatever you want to call it. So have fun, learn all that you can, and treat this place with the respect it deserves, because to some of us it is home, even if only for a short while.

Someday I'll move out of Isla Vista, but when I do I know I'll leave behind a

place that never did me any wrong. I've met many cool people here that I'll never forget, and I hope wherever they are now they haven't forgotten me or the great times we had together, gathered around a keg of foamy beer on a cold weekend night on Del Playa.

For me those days are over, but they taught me that there are genuinely good people where you least expect it. Most of the time the conversation was inane or we were all drunk beyond the point of recognition, but sometimes that's all you need for a good time, and good times were had. So to all of you freshmen living in "Bubble Land" (the dorms), don't be afraid to wander from the safety of your little sanctuary and venture out into the wilds of Isla Vista.

Henry Sarria is a Daily Nexus columnist and a longtime Isla Vista resident.



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