



Public Safety Newsletter

St. Olaf College

March 1, 2010

Volume 2, Issue 3

This Month:

- **Binge Drinking Consequences**
- **Charitable Giving Scams**
- **Travel Safety Tips & Awareness**

Do you have a question or concern you would like to see addressed in a future newsletter?

E-Mail us at:

dpsnews@stolaf.edu

24-Hour Public Safety Dispatch:

On-Campus: 3666

Off-Campus: (507)-786-3666

Police, Fire & Ambulance 9-911
(Emergency)

Northfield Police 9-645-4477
(Non-Emergency)

Other Important Numbers:

Counseling Center	3062
Dean of Students	3023
Health Services	3063
Parking Office	2972
Safe Ride	3666
Sexual Assault Resource Network (SARN)	3777
Hope Center	1-800-607-2330

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Binge Drinking: Consequences On and Off Campus

The National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism defines binge drinking as a pattern of drinking that brings a person's blood alcohol concentration to 0.08 percent or above. This typically happens when men consume five or more drinks and women consume four or more drinks in about two hours. Yet, most people who binge drink are not alcohol dependent.

Binge drinking affects much more than just the person who consumes the alcohol. Nationally, 60% of campus incidents involving campus public safety departments involve binge drinkers. Binge drinking causes personal injury accidents, assaults, property theft, and vandalism. There are also victims, families, peers, counselors, and judicial administrators to consider. But real consequences usually have more of an impact. So, what are they?

At St. Olaf the consequences typically begin with Public Safety and/or Residence Life. When college staff responds to an incident on campus, a report is typically generated and kept on file with the appropriate office, and copies of reports are forwarded to the Dean of Students Office for potential follow-up. This can have long-term affects when a future employer requests and obtains (with the proper release forms) copies of said reports and the perspective employee/former student may fail to be hired based on a particular incident that may have happened years earlier. This is especially true with former students who apply for government jobs.

If the incident has occurred in a Residence Hall or Honor House then Residence Life imposes sanctions. This could be in the form of a written warning, a behavioral contract, restitution, a fine, loss of privileges, remedial class, or other sanctions or even a combination of several of these. If the incident is more serious or is a repeat

offense, additional or increased sanctions are imposed. These sanctions could include larger fines, counseling, probation, suspension, or even expulsion.

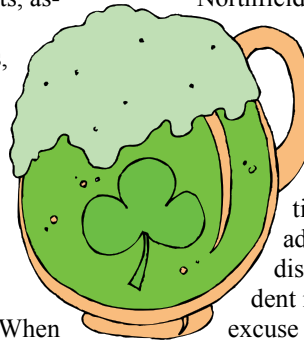
If the violation of campus policy also violates Minnesota law the Northfield Police Department may become involved. The violator could be charged criminally. A serious violator can expect both campus and criminal penalties to be imposed.

Binge drinking on campus often leads to alcohol poisoning, and an ambulance is often called to care for those students.

Northfield city policy states whenever the ambulance is called the police must respond as well. If the student is under the legal age to consume alcohol in the State of Minnesota, they can expect a citation for minor consumption in addition to potential campus discipline. The fact that the incident may occur on campus does not excuse students from potential legal sanctions for violating state law.

If an incident involving St. Olaf students and alcohol happens off-campus, the police become involved first—key word: first. If there is a violation, a citation is usually issued. Citations can range from small to large fines and could include probation or incarceration. In addition the police typically inform the Dean of Students Office of the activity that took place off campus. The campus has the authority to impose additional sanctions and typically does.

In addition to the potential physical consequences of binge drinking, including alcohol poisoning (as covered in the [October Newsletter](#)), there are many social and personal consequences that students may face for binge drinking. Being responsible and using common sense when drinking will help you to safeguard your future.

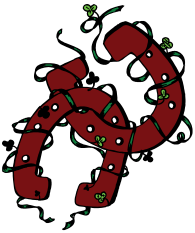




Charitable Giving Scams: Donate Safely

According to the FBI, there are more fraudulent charities for disaster relief than there are legitimate charities. One month after Hurricane Katrina most of the 4,600 web sites soliciting money in behalf of the victims were fraudulent. So how does one know if a charity is fraudulent or legitimate? Following some simple rules for giving can greatly reduce your chances of being victimized by an illegitimate charity.

1. Never give any money or personal information to anyone who contacts you. You should contact the charity yourself.
2. Be skeptical of all e-mails and social networking sites. Do not open any attachments or click on any links.
3. It is OK to be suspicious and ask questions. Reputable and honest charities typically welcome questions and encourage you to learn more about them.
4. Do not rely on any charity that sounds familiar. Professional cons will market themselves like this and use common, well-known charity names.
5. Ask if the charity is registered. Get the registration number (public knowledge) and follow up by checking it with local and state government, the Better Business Bureau, or Charity Navigator.org.
6. Ask what percentage of money you donate actually reaches the needy. You can also designate how your donation is to be used.
7. Never donate cash. Write a check with the name of the charity on it, never a person's name. Never give a credit card number, bank account number, or social security number. Always get a receipt with the name of the charity on it.
8. Always be wary of anyone asking you for more. Something is most likely wrong here.



Travel Safety Tips & Awareness

Spring Break is coming up at the end of the month, and we want everyone who is traveling away from campus during the break to have a safe and enjoyable time. To that end, your personal safety starts with **YOU**. Although there is no perfect way to protect yourself, you can minimize your risk by adopting an assertive attitude. Before you leave on a trip, decide what items you will bring with you and what you will do to protect those items :

1. Make copies (front & back) of all of your credit cards, airline tickets & important documents. Leave one copy with a friend or family member not traveling with you and keep an extra copy in your luggage.
2. Avoid carrying expensive items such as jewelry, electronic games, stereos, etc.
3. Avoid carrying and flashing large amounts of cash.
4. Do not leave cash and credit cards in your wallet or purse. Instead, keep them on yourself.
5. Wear a fanny pack or money belt to keep your cash, credit cards, and other valuables in.
6. Do not leave purses, backpacks or jackets unattended.
7. Avoid leaving cash, jewelry, or other valuables in plain view in your room/residence.
8. Keep your plane or bus tickets in a safe place on your body, or in your room (a safe, etc.).
9. If someone tries to take your purse, backpack, or other property by force, let the person have it. Your personal safety is far more important than any property.
10. Report any crime or suspicious activity to the local police.

You can locate more travel tips and information at: <http://www.tsa.gov>

Important Dates for March:

March is **Poison Awareness Month**

March 14	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 15-19	Flood Safety Awareness Week
March 17	St. Patrick's Day
March 27	Spring Break Begins
March 28	Palm Sunday

Please visit our web sites at:

<http://www.stolaf.edu/stulife/safety>
<http://www.stolaf.edu/stulife/parking>

Mission Statement

Department of Public Safety

St. Olaf College

The mission of the Public Safety Department is:

"To support and advance the educational objectives of St. Olaf College by fostering and maintaining a safe, secure and stable environment for living, learning, and working."

Did you know?

On one weekend night this past February, Public Safety and Northfield Ambulance responded to four separate alcohol-related calls on campus in a two-hour time span. All four individuals were transported to Northfield Hospital for additional care. In reports by the college staff on scene at each incident, the four individuals consumed a COMBINED total of 39-51 shots/drinks of alcohol.

The 'average' amount of alcohol for a person to be considered 'legally' drunk (and other factors such as weight, gender, medications, etc. also contribute to this average) is usually between 2-5 drinks.