

The Courier-Journal

METRO EDITION • 38 PAGES

COPYRIGHT © 1994, THE COURIER-JOURNAL, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY • A GANNETT NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1994 • 35 CENTS

Alcohol abuse rampant on college campuses, report says

By CHRISTOPHER CONNELL
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — College campuses are awash in alcohol, with white men the biggest drinkers but a quickly increasing number of women now getting drunk as well, a commission said yesterday.

"Binge drinking on our campuses has devastating consequences," from rape and violence to academic woes, said the Rev. Edward Malloy, president of the University of Notre Dame and chairman of the private Commission on Substance Abuse at Colleges and Universities.

"Alcohol abuse must not be accepted as

simply a part of the 'rites of passage' of college students," said Malloy. "It is unhealthy and it is contra-educational."

The 16-member commission, set up two years ago by the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, urged colleges to take steps to discourage binge drinking, including banning alcohol ads and promotions from campus mixers and athletic events and from campus newspapers.

Malloy and others expressed alarm at statistics showing a sharp rise in the percentage of college women who drink to get drunk, from 10 percent in 1977 to 35 percent today.

The 98-page report, "Rethinking Rites of Passage: Alcohol Abuse on America's Cam-

puses," cited statistics from a federal student survey and other studies that indicated:

- Fifty-one percent of college men and 37 percent of college women reported going on drinking binges — five or more drinks at one time — in the previous two weeks.

- Thirty-five percent of men and 21 percent of women had gone on binges at least twice in the previous two weeks.

- Ninety-five percent of violent crimes and 53 percent of injuries on campus are alcohol related.

- In 90 percent of campus rapes the assailant, the victim or both had been drinking.

- Sixty percent of college women who ac-

quire sexually transmitted diseases were drunk at the time of infection.

- Students spend \$5.5 billion on alcohol each year, more than on their books, coffee, tea, sodas and other drinks combined.

Malloy said white males are the biggest problem drinkers, averaging nine drinks a week. Hispanic men downed almost six drinks a week, white women four drinks, black men 3.6 drinks and black women one.

Malloy said fraternity and sorority students have 15 drinks a week, three times as many as other students. And today's students drink "every day or three or four times a week instead of just on the weekends," he said.

Secondhand smoke threat to women

A sizable study indicates non-smoking women face a greatly enhanced risk of lung cancer from secondhand smoke, particularly from workplace exposure. Childhood-only exposure does not raise their risk.

Page A 6.

FOOD & FEATURES

GONZO GRILLING

New-style barbecue is bone-in, flavor-in style that's part arts-and-entertainment. These days, everyone's cooking everything over the coals. **C 1**



INSIDE

WASTE LINE

Starting Sept. 1, Jefferson County residents will have to set out grass clippings and leaves to be collected separately from other garbage.

Metro, **B 1**

SURPRISE PACKAGE

LOUISVILLE AREA: Partly sunny, with a chance of showers or storms today and tomorrow. Highs, 80 to 85 today, mid-80s tomorrow. Lows, 60 to 65.

Details, **B 2**

BUSINESS	B8
CLASSIFIED	C6, D7
COMICS	C10
DEATHS	B4
HORSE RACING	D6
LOTTERY	A2
SPORTS	D1
TV, RADIO	C2