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### Campus News March 11, 1994

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# CAMPUS NEWS

**LA SALLE UNIVERSITY'S WEEKLY INFORMATION CIRCULAR**

**MARCH 11, 1994**

## La Salle University Computer Center MEMO

To: The Campus Community  
From: Art Edwards  
Re: Telephone System Power Supply Cutover

Date: March 9, 1994

In an effort to increase the length of time that the telephone system will continue to operate in the event of a power failure, we will be installing another power supply. This is tentatively scheduled to occur on Thursday, March 31st.

While the work is taking place, we expect there will be two short periods when the entire system will need to be shut down. These periods should occur once in the morning and once later in the afternoon. The duration of these shutdowns should be no longer than 15 minutes. As this day is a holiday, we are hoping the inconvenience will be minimal.

If there are any problems with this date, please let us know by calling extension 1045.

*Campus News* is distributed weekly to foster communication and encourage information sharing among University departments. Articles submitted are the responsibility of their authors alone and do not imply an opinion on the part of La Salle University or the Department of Mail and Duplicating Services.

The English Department  
(Richard Lautz Memorial Fund)

and

Women's Studies

Presents

A Reading by

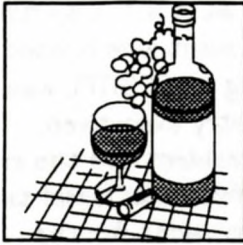
A. M. Homes

12:30, Olney Hall Room 100  
Tuesday, March 15

Called "the most original writer to come along in years" by *Christopher Street*, Amy Homes is the author of *The Safety of Objects*, a collection of stories, and the novels *Jack* and *In a Country of Mothers*. She teaches at Columbia University.

"[Amy Homes] is what you would get if you crossed David Lynch with John Cheever, and added a bit of Virginia Woolf. The more bizarre things get, the more impressed one is by [her] skills as a realist, a portraitist of contemporary life at its most perverse."  
--David Leavitt

As part of Professor Justin Cronin's English 370 (Living American Writers), several distinguished American writers will read at La Salle this semester.



# BOOZE NEWS

AOD Program  
Box 821

March, 1994  
X-1355

## RISKS & NON-ALCOHOLIC BEER?

Are non-alcoholic beers teaching youth to be future drinkers? One PA. state lawmaker thinks so, and wants to put a stop to it.

Rep. Tom Yewcic is pushing a bill that would prohibit the sale of non-alcoholic beverages to those under 18. Yewcic said non-alcoholic brews contain a small amount of alcohol, usually about 0.5%. But his real concern isn't the alcohol content. He fears that allowing youngsters to drink beer and wine- with or without a significant amount of alcohol- sends a harmful message.

He said such drinks were meant to be consumed by adults who enjoy the taste of beer, wine or other liquors, but don't want to endure the effects of alcohol. Instead, he said, they have become a way for young people to drink alcohol legally.

At La Salle, drinking non-alcoholic beer is a frequent suggestion to students who indicate they like the taste of beer and report consuming in excess of 1 drink per hour, a rate which leads to intoxication over several hours. By interspersing the non-alcohol brews with one's favorite beer or switching to non-alcoholic beer altogether, one is able to radically reduce alcohol intake without having to significantly alter the personal approach to drinking. With better than 22 different brands of non-alcoholic beer available, finding a brew which parallels one's personal tastes should not be difficult.

While a successful strategy for reducing alcohol intake when drinking, this should only be attempted by those who have no problem with alcohol. Drinking any beverage with even .05% alcohol, especially one which tastes just like 'real beer', is not advised for those with alcoholism.

## COLLEGE WOMEN & ALCOHOL



While college males continue to drink more often and in greater quantity than their female counterparts, William & Mary found a 9% increase in the last 2 years in the number of women reporting 5+ drinks at one sitting. At

Virginia Tech, the percentage of women violating university conduct policies after drinking increased from 21% in 1989-90 to 31% in 1992-93.

These changes speak not so much to increased numbers of collegiate women who are drinking, but to changing attitudes regarding drinking in general. As drinking- and more importantly drinking to get drunk- becomes an acceptable alcohol related objective on college campuses, there are bound to be increased numbers of women who experience the traditional consequences of intoxication as they too adopt the 'party till ya drop' approach to collegiate socializing.

Historically, sexist attitudes have resulted in viewing intoxicated men and woman differently. Men have tended to be viewed as "just being men" or "sowing their wild oats". Inebriated women on the other hand, have been viewed as "loose women" or "of questionable moral character". As prejudiced as these likenesses are, they did apparently tend to influence the number of women seen intoxicated in public.

As the result of the changing attitudes towards women in general and more specifically,





on the college campus, it would appear the old sexual stereotypes related to drinking and intoxication are being replaced by a more unisexed view of public inebriation.

Kinney & Leaton report in their handbook on alcohol, Loosening the Grip, that cultures which tolerate public intoxication have abnormally high rates of alcohol abuse and alcoholism. They suggest that drinking problems are not so much related to per capita rates of alcohol consumption in a culture, as they are sensitive to that culture's tolerance of publicly intoxicated behavior.

If women are drinking to get drunk, drinking in excess of 5+ drinks per sitting- the Center for Disease Control's definition of binge drinking- or experiencing the consequences of intoxication (particularly in public), then this may herald a mixed blessing- the fall of a sexually stereotyped view of public intoxication while at the same time recognizing alcohol abuse as an 'equal opportunity' consequence of heavy drinking.

## HEALTH CARE REFORM AND TAXES



It would appear that the President's health care plan will look to other places than the federal excise tax on alcohol for its funding. As of this point, funding will come primarily from a hefty increase in the cigarette tax

(\$.75 additional per pack) and a charge for large corporations opting out of health alliances to raise revenue to provide universal health coverage.

The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CFSITPI) reports that heavy lobbying by brewers, distillers, and vintners has apparently had an impact on the administration's funding strategy for universal health care. This included a N.Y. Times advertising campaign by the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States (DISCUS). Edgar Bronfman, head of the Seagrams Company, met for dinner with the president just days before his 22 September speech on health-care reform. Several days after that speech, the President

was the guest of honor at a N.Y. City fundraiser for Mayor Dinkins. The event was hosted by Bronfman and, according to CFSITPI, was well attended by liquor industry executives.

Critics of the President see the exempting of the alcohol industry from additional taxes as a political dodge. Spokespersons for the administration have repeatedly said the plan is not "rock-solid" in an attempt to assuage criticism. Time will tell if the price of universal health care will include concessions from the industry responsible for a product purported to be the 3rd largest cause of preventable deaths in the country.

### NOTE:

50% of all the alcohol sold in this country is consumed by only 10% of its drinkers (Center for Disease Control; Jean Kilbourn, Calling the Shots).



## COVER FOR A PROF

A reminder for faculty...

If you have need to be away from campus for any professional activity, why not consider having the AOD Program take your classes for the day. Especially this semester with the snow-days we have had, the 'Cover For A Prof' program can assist you with the academic agenda for your students. With as little as 24 hours notice, a general program on alcohol and other drugs can be arranged. With several days notice, a special class can be created which will compliment your syllabus with pertinent AOD information. In addition, the AOD Program can assist in locating handouts, videos, speakers, or work with your students to identify electronic data bases which may be helpful in their work for your course. For more information, call Robert Chapman at X-1355 or 'chapman' on the HP.