



What's On Tap?

Chicago Social Drinking Project

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Director's Note



Hello again from the Chicago Social Drinking Project! We hope that you all are gearing up for fall. In this, our 13th edition of *What's on Tap?*, we're excited to tell you more about our renewal grant and future plans for the CSDP. We've also included information about an alcohol ban in the United Kingdom and a new movement to re-open the debate on the minimum legal drinking age.

Dr. Andrea King
Principal Investigator

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New Funding and Follow-Ups for CSDP

We have been thrilled to learn that we were awarded a renewal grant award from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) to continue the Chicago Social Drinking Project. **The CSDP is truly ground-breaking.** The success is due to the dedica-



tion of all of you and we are grateful. We hope everyone received their flying

discs over the summer. If not, contact us and we'll send out another one.

Over the next five years, we'll be contacting each of you for yearly follow-ups. Each of these annual follow-ups should take no more than 20 minutes of your time and will be accessible via Internet. At the 5-year anniversary of your original sessions, we will invite those who are available back to our offices to engage in two experimental sessions. These visits will include consuming a beverage and

completing many of the same measures as you did initially. All participants who complete the additional experimental sessions will be compensated for travel and lodging as well. We hope that you will continue to help us make this study a success. This level of follow-up represents a historic step in alcohol research. You have helped create this unique opportunity, and we appreciate the commitment that you have made to the CSDP. More information soon!

Controversial Alcohol Ban in London

Mayor Boris Johnson has drawn considerable criticism for his first policy announcement as London mayor—a ban on the consumption of alcohol on all buses and trains. According to an official statement, he is “determined to improve the safety and security of public transport in London.” While his critics applaud the sentiment behind his effort, they find fault with its execution. Enforcement will be extremely difficult, says transport spokeswoman Val Shawcross, as drivers and

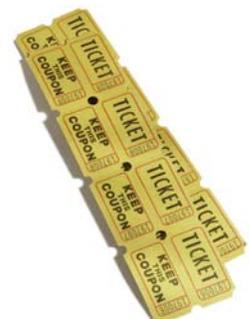
other staff “are effectively being forced into a policing role for which they are not trained.” The mayor’s failure to confer with transport representatives has made others wary of his tactics. Says the general secretary of the train drivers’ union, “This augers rather badly for changes in tube laws if the mayor pulls policy announcements out of the hat without any consultation with the people he expects to enforce them.”

“Johnson bans alcohol on London’s public transport.” Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/may/07/london.drugsandalcohol>

October Lottery!

The Chicago Social Drinking Project will conduct its 7th Bi-Annual Raffle on October 1, 2008.

If you have completed an Annual follow-up between April 2008 and September 2008, you are automatically enrolled! Prizes include a \$100 gift card and CSDP gifts. Best of luck to all!



Educators Debate Legal Drinking Age

Over a year ago, the Amethyst Initiative began recruiting college presidents to spark a national debate over the minimum legal drinking age (MLDA) in the United States. Now over 100 strong, this group hopes to demonstrate the need for a reevaluation of the country's alcohol policy. While their petition avoids recommending that the MLDA be lowered, it does call for a dialogue about underage drinking on college campuses and the federal law that penalizes states for lowering their MLDA from 21. According to John McCardell, a former college president who founded the organization, "This is a law that is routinely evaded. It is a law that the people at whom it is directed believe is unjust and unfair and discriminatory."

Even prior to the public phase of its efforts, the Amethyst Initiative had begun to draw

harsh criticism from groups like Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). MADD officials maintain that lowering the MLDA would lead to more fatal car crashes. They accuse the presidents of "misrepresenting science and looking for an easy way out of an inconvenient problem." Henry Wechsler, a researcher at the Harvard School of Health, has said that while he understands why some colleges support the movement, he wishes that more thought was put into prevention strategies rather than trying to "eliminate the problem by defining it out of existence." MADD CEO John Hurley takes a harsher view, saying, "They're waving the white flag."

"Amethyst Initiative unites educators in quest to lower drinking age." Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/features/health/chiamethyst-initiative-080819-ht,0,5371910.story>



**Questions? Suggestions?
Need a study gift replaced?
Contact us!**

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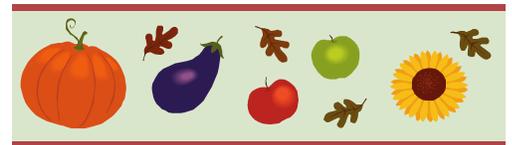
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Trivia Corner

Did you know...

...that the speed of a popped champagne cork ranges between 35 and 100 miles per hour?

...that sherry was so popular in 17th-century England (as a working wage and form of entertainment) that bottles and cases of it were used as units in accounting?



...that NASCAR got its start from moonshine runners during prohibition? They had to stay one step ahead of the law while running their whiskey into town, and the fastest way to do this was with the relatively new automobile. Evading arrest required the best drivers with the best cars. Runners began honing their skills with friendly competitions. When crowds began to gather, NASCAR was born.



...that the worm in tequila is not a worm at all? A certain type of tequila, called mescal, uses a butterfly caterpillar from the agave plant to improve the flavor of the drink. A distributor in Mexico City began using them as a marketing ploy in the 1950s, and when others followed suit, it became a proof of potency.

Source: Lendler, Ian. *Alcoholica Esoterica*. New York: Penguin Books, 2005.