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| *February 11, 2005* | |

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**1. Bisignano Got Alcohol From Adult, Police Say**

By Tom Alex, Staff Writer – *Des Moines Register*

February 10, 2005

**The man is charged in connection with the crash that killed the D.M. teenager.**

DES MOINES, IA -- A Des Moines man is accused of giving a bottle of rum to a south-side teenager the night of a fatal traffic accident in December that left a passenger seriously hurt.

Gino Pane, 37, of 1324 Bundy St. was charged Wednesday with two counts of providing alcohol to minors. The charges carry a combined maximum penalty of seven years in prison.

Nick Bisignano, 17, was killed when his car went out of control about 1 a.m. Dec. 27 and struck a brick wall and two utility poles near the intersection of Southeast Fifth Street and Pleasantview Drive. A police report estimated the vehicle was traveling at least 90 mph.

Bisignano's blood-alcohol content was later measured at .204. A person with a level of .08 is considered to be driving drunk in Iowa.

Bisignano's father, Tony, said he knows Pane's family.

"They immigrated from Italy when I was a young kid and lived in my neighborhood. I respect his brothers; I don't respect someone who contributes to minors," he said. "It's up to the prosecutors to determine the fate of Gino Pane. Nothing the courts can do can change results of that evening."

Police said the younger Bisignano was at a party in the 1100 block of Johnson Street on the night of Dec. 26 and into the next morning. A teen who lives at the house has an uncle who is Pane's friend, said Officer Denise Schafnitz.

Police say Pane provided a 1.75-liter bottle of rum to the partygoers.

Bisignano's friend and passenger, Corey Wheeler, 17, survived the crash. Police said Wheeler was not drinking alcohol. He suffered a fractured skull, broken facial bones and other injuries in the crash and was released from the hospital Jan. 23.

Wheeler's parents say their son will require additional physical therapy and 24-hour care. Donations to help pay his medical bills can be made at any West Bank branch.

Bisignano was a popular athlete at Lincoln High School.

"To all of the young people who joined us in mourning Nick's passing, we can only say that the best way that you can honor his memory is to learn from his death," Bisignano's parents said in a written statement issued last month.

Pane's criminal record includes a drunken driving charge in 2003 and an intoxication arrest in 2000.



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| **2. Molson Coors Brewing Debuts Amid Mixed Earnings**  By Rachelle Younglai  February 9, 2004  TORONTO (Reuters) - Molson Inc. and Adolph Coors Co. joined the beermaking big leagues on Wednesday with the close of their merger, but the chief executive of the new firm said it's too early to detail how he will tighten up operations.  "We will lay out the year-one initiatives, pace them out and get a feeling quarter by quarter when those initiatives will allow (cost savings) to hit the bottom line," said Leo Kiely, the Coors' CEO who heads the merged brewer.  The deal, which created the world's fifth-largest beermaker by volume, is expected to achieve annualized cost savings of about $175 million over three years.  Improving Molson's declining market share in Canada and turning the money-losing Brazilian operations around are high on Kiely's list of priorities.  "We will focus on core markets, invest in growth in our leading brands, rejuvenate growth for Coors Light in the U.S. and drive profitable growth in Canada," he said.  "We have to get a team down to Brazil and really assess the total business.... We have to do a good scrub of this business from a cash flow point of view and strategic point of view."  Shares of Molson Coors Brewing Co. were at $73.75 on the New York Stock Exchange on Wednesday afternoon, after debuting at $75.65.  On the Toronto Stock Exchange, the exchangeable shares were at C$92.91, down from the open of C$94.48.  Shortly after announcing the close of the merger, both brewers reported their quarterly results for the last time as independent companies.  Montreal-based Molson, Canada's oldest brewer, said third-quarter profit slipped because of aggressive price-cutting in Ontario and because of higher costs.  It earned C$17.7 million, or 14 Canadian cents a share, for the period ended Dec. 31, up from a year-earlier profit of C$43.6 million, or 34 Canadian cents a share, in the year-earlier period.  Excluding items such as the merger related costs, Molson said it earned C$51.9 million, or 41 Canadian cents a share, compared with C$59.6 million, or 47 Canadian cents a share in the year earlier period.  Revenue for the quarter was flat at C$623.2 million compared with the year-earlier quarter's C$623.3 million as flagging sales in Brazil offset stronger Canadian numbers.  Demand for the brewer's flagship brand -- Molson Canadian -- fell 0.5 share points nationally while domestic market share for all Molson beer fell 1.1 share points to 41.8 percent.  "It continues the trend of weakening market share and weakening margins," said Michael Palmer, president and analyst with Veritas Investment Research.  "The problem with Molson's market share in Canada, there's a great deal of activity in the discount segment and I don't think that will go away just because Coors now owns Molson."  Coors, the third-largest U.S. brewer before the merger, said on Wednesday its |  |



**3. Pernod Ricard: Allied With Domecq?**

Source: *Datamonitor*

February 9, 2005

Pernod Ricard has played down speculation of a takeover bid for Allied Domecq.

February 8, 2005 4:09 PM GMT (Datamonitor) - Following the Wall Street Journal's suggestion last week that the French wine and spirits giant Pernod Ricard [RI.PA] may be looking to acquire its UK rival Allied Domecq [ALLD.L], rumors of a deal have continued to surround the companies. Although a deal is far from assured, there are certainly signs that the two players would fit well together.

Pernod Ricard has so far refused to confirm or deny the rumors that it is plotting a takeover attempt for its UK based rival.

The wine and spirits industry remains a fragmented sector. Together, the four leading companies in the field have a market share of less than 20% of the global market, according to figures quoted in Le Monde newspaper. There remains, therefore, great scope for consolidation in the sector. To this end, Pernod attempted to buy the Glenmorangie whisky brand in 2004 although it eventually lost out to luxury goods company LVMH.

The acquisition of Allied Domecq would see Pernod Ricard's value increase to two-thirds that of Diageo, significantly strengthening its position. Pernod would obviously benefit from its increased size, allowing the company to spread its costs over even more markets, with the French company reportedly looking to grow its white spirit and new world wine offerings.

Furthermore, the wide variety of Allied Domecq's offerings would also strengthen Pernod's position. Currently, Pernod's portfolio is geared towards the premium end of the market, with its upscale whisky and cognac brands in particular showing impressive returns in emerging markets such as China. Meanwhile, Allied Domecq has enjoyed strong growth at its Quick Service Restaurants division, which includes fast food chains such as Dunkin Donuts. It may be that Pernod would view this as a useful addition to its business.

Yet given the similar market capitalization of the two firms, a merger of equals seems more likely than an overt takeover, and potential antitrust issues concerning markets where the two already have a sizeable presence, such as Spain, mean any deal seems unlikely to be finalized in the immediate future.



**4. Where Your Dreams Will Go Up in Smoke**

By Meghan Sims *- The Daily Iowan*

[February 9, 2005](http://www.dailyiowan.com/main.cfm/include/displayIssueArticles/issue_date/20050209.html)

Sakshi Handa draws in apple-flavored tobacco vapor from her sleek onyx hookah hose as the pipe's water softly rumbles. She exhales a thin fog a moment later and passes the hose to friend, Robin Hickenbottom, who is lounging next to Handa at a low mahogany table in their living room.

"You might get a slight buzz off of it," she said. "But it's really like flavored steam."

Handa's cardinal-, violet-, and tangerine-walled hookah and tea room, Red Poppy, 341 E. College St., will open next week as what is apparently the first business of its kind in Iowa City and only the second in the state. The 22-year-old's business will feature 11 different shisha tobaccos, including rose, sweet melon, and mint, and 23 organic teas - from the rare Chinese white to South African red.

Shisha is a sticky, tarless tobacco with less nicotine than cigarettes, designed for hookah-smoking. Though rare in Iowa - Red Poppy is second to Ames' Chicha Shack, which opened in October 2004 - hookah parlors are spreading nationwide, offering customers a drag of Middle Eastern tradition.

Iowa Assistant Attorney General Donn Stanley had never heard of such a business until August 2004, but he has since experienced a "spike in inquiries" from would-be hookah bar owners in Cedar Rapids and Sioux City. In conversations with other attorneys general, he learned that other states such as Pennsylvania have witnessed the trend in the past year.

Reps. Kevin McCarthy, D-Des Moines, and Clel Baudler, R-Greenfield, introduced a bill Feb. 1 to govern the as-yet unregulated tobacco retailer.

Baudler, who has a daughter and granddaughter in Ames, said he noticed "bars that are starting to pop up [with] people sitting around, smoking on the same pipe." House File 167 is not a ban, he said, but will "just make them step up to do what they're supposed to do."

State law only requires the estimated 6,000 Iowa cigarette and tobacco retailers to obtain cigarette permits, and such establishments risk punishment for selling to minors, McCarthy said. He said the estimated 10-20 alternative tobacco retailers in Iowa, such as bait shops that sell chewing tobacco and hookah parlors, do not need a permit and face no legal repercussions for selling to underage smokers.

The lack of regulations on hookah rooms struck Handa almost instantly.

"I was so shocked, I gotta say," she said. "I was totally ready to get a license."

Nevertheless, Handa plans to card those who appear too young.

"I'm not going to be smoking-up a 15-year-old," she said.

Handa, who spent her early childhood in New York, first noticed hookah bars popping up during recent family visits to the city. The New Delhi-born UI alumna only began smoking shisha six months ago, but she saw a market for her parlor in the liberal, youth-dominated academic community.

Handa said, "I mean, I've always believed that Iowa City is a pretty diverse community for being in," then paused before both she and Hickenbottom said with a laugh, "Iowa."

Red Poppy will appeal to those interested in a British afternoon tea-time experience, as well with breads and jams Handa will make herself.

"Have some tea, have some jam and bread," she said. "If you want to try the hookah, do so."



**5. Arizona Proposal: Give Teens Booze, Lose Driver's License**

*The Arizona Republic*

February 8, 2005

A coalition of law enforcement officers, liquor industry executives and government representatives pledged Tuesday at the State Capitol to eliminate teen drinking in Arizona.

Rep. Michele Reagan, R-Scottsdale, introduced a bill that will suspend the driver's license of any adult who provides alcohol to someone under 21.

She hopes that the bill makes friends, siblings, co-workers and parents think twice before they give alcohol to minors. More than 65 percent of people under 21 who drink got the alcohol from an adult they know, according to The Century Council.

Attorney General Terry Goddard called the measure a "simple, elegant solution that puts some real bite into our conviction that we must put a halt to teen drinking."

"The solutions that have been tried just don't seem to be working," he said.

Arizona law now allows authorities to arrest and jail adults who buy alcohol for people under 21. But that rarely happens. County Attorney Andrew Thomas said the new penalty would be more easily and effectively used to enforce the law.

"A license revocation hearing is often easier to accomplish and a more reasonable action (than jailing)," he said.

Meanwhile, a major company in the liquor industry is promoting similar legislation around the country.

Diageo, which makes Guinness drinks, Captain Morgan Original Spiced rum and Johnnie Walker, is pushing for similar laws in Virginia and California. They have succeeded in South Carolina and South Dakota, Reagan said.

"Diageo is a company of families," said Gary Galanis, the company's vice president of corporate affairs. "We're committed to working in every community in the United States to ensure that underage drinking is put on the wayside."

The tragedies of teen drinking play themselves out on the streets every day for the victims' peer and parents, advocates said.

Arizona ranks higher than the national average in underage consumption and impairment, said Jessica Smith, a leader of Arizona's Students Against Destructive Decisions.

"We've seen too much carnage on our roadways," Smith said. "Enough is enough."

Jake Jacobsen, president of the Phoenix Law Enforcement Association, lamented the effects of underage drinking and called the legislation a "dynamic" way to influence adults.

"We have the unenviable task of too often contacting the parents and notifying them of a tragedy," he said.

Representatives will consider the bill, HB 2525, Wednesday at a 9 a.m. Commerce Committee hearing.



**6. Ordinance's Goal: Limiting Minors' Drinks From Kegs**

By Natalie Spray,Staff Writer – *Iowa State Daily*

February 10, 2005

The Story County Board of Supervisors is considering an ordinance that would track the purchase of kegs in hopes of discouraging underage drinking in the area.

Two years ago, the Story County Prevention Policy Board, a committee of Youth & Shelter Services in Ames, presented the idea for keg tracking. At the time, the board had reservations because cities could potentially pass similar ordinances on their own, said County Supervisor Wayne Clinton

.

The board identified kegs as a growing problem when underage citizens attend or are invited to parties where alcohol is readily available. The group presented registration as a way to prevent or restrict alcohol consumption by minors, he said.

"My personal experience indicates [underage alcohol consumption] is a significant problem, not only nationally but also in Ames and Story County," said Capt. Gary Foster, chief deputy of the Story County Sheriff's Office.

The policy would create a process to regulate the sale of large quantities of accessible alcohol, including beer kegs. Its key component is to aid law enforcement in tracing and prosecuting providers of alcoholic keg beverages to minors, Clinton said.

Foster said he thinks the ordinance will have a positive effect on residents by reducing underage drinking.

The ordinance would also be preventive.

If adults planned to purchase a keg they knew would be used by minors, that person might not do so knowing personal information would be attached to the purchase, he said.

"Anything we can do to cut down on underage and binge drinking is a benefit to society," said Foster.

Mike Kadolph, assistant manager at the Keg Shop, 218 Welch Ave., said he does not think that kegs contribute to underage drinking.

Although there are large quantities of beer available when kegs are present, there is also a lot of alcohol in general available at parties, regardless of the drinkers' ages, he said.

He also said he is pessimistic the ordinance would dissuade underage drinking. People are just going to purchase smaller quantities instead of a keg, Kadolph said.

The proposed ordinance would require all retail sales of kegs of two or more gallons to be assigned a number and have it prominently displayed.

When people purchase kegs, they would be required to provide current photo identification to the seller -- which would be recorded with the keg's identification number in a log for one calendar year.

The log would also note when and by whom the keg is returned and the condition of the sticker; it should be attached and undamaged upon return to the vendor.

The log is to be presented to any law enforcement officer upon request, according to the ordinance.

Although the keg tracking process would create more work for The Keg Shop, which sells anywhere between 30 to 100 kegs per week, Kadolph said the business will not suffer.

If people end up buying more cases of beer, the business would profit because kegs are cheaper compared to individually packaged beer, he said.

Twenty-three states have passed keg registration laws similar to the ordinance, including North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Utah has banned kegs all together, according to the Alcohol Policy Information System.

"These are not just Iowa concerns; these are national concerns," Clinton said.

"It's important to have a mechanism ... to discourage underage drinking and make access to these things more difficult."

Although keg registration would create more work for vendors and customers, anything that can be done to reduce alcohol consumption by young people is beneficial, Foster said.

"There are probably others who don't feel that's a problem or who don't want to be part of a solution," he said.

If the ordinance is passed, it would become effective 60 days after its approval.

The extra time gives retailers an opportunity to secure the necessary stickers and give law enforcement and the county attorney time to educate merchants and the public about the proposal, Clinton said.

The board will next meet on Tuesday.

