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|  | e - NEWS |
| *April 22, 2005* | |

1. [Iowa City Drowning in Booze Culture, Arrests & Surveys Show](#First)

2. [Pernod Ricard, Fortune to Buy Allied Domecq in $14 Billion Deal](#Second)

3. [No Veishea, But Students Pack Ames Bars Anyway](#Third)

4. [CDC: Americans Getting 'Wrong Idea' On Alcohol, Health](#Fourth)

5. [More U.S. College Students Drinking and Driving](#Fifth)

6. [Official: Alcohol Abuse a Top Worry in County](#Sixth)

**1. Iowa City Drowning in Booze Culture, Arrests & Surveys Show**

By Erin Jordan*, Register Iowa City Bureau*

April 17, 2005

### Easy access to alcohol and an alluring bar scene contribute to a high rate of drinking-related arrests, even by college-town standards



IOWA CITY, IA -- Iowa City, with a reputation for easy access to beer and hard liquor, recorded more alcohol-related violations in 2003 than Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Davenport and Cedar Falls combined, data compiled by the Des Moines Sunday Register show.

In addition, hundreds of University of Iowa students were ordered into alcohol-related counseling in 2003-04, topping the numbers from Iowa State University and University of Northern Iowa combined, data show.

The consequences of overindulging could be life-altering. Just ask Derek Klein, a 21-year-old University of Iowa junior from Chicago who worries that a public intoxication citation he got in March will hurt his job search next year and cause the Federal Aviation Administration to suspend his pilot's license.

"When you walk out of (jail) the next morning, you're feeling pretty crappy," Klein said. "I hope it will just be erased."

Now that the weather has warmed, Iowa City's bountiful beer gardens and party rooms are filled with college students, many of whom are underage. While young people may enjoy downing alcoholic beverages, the fun comes at a cost. Hundreds of students are racking up fines that erode college savings, developing unhealthy drinking habits, and quitting school, say professors and community health specialists.

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| **Signs of alcoholism**  Signs of early alcoholism, according to the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, include: HEAVILY drinking after a disappointment, quarrel or when your boss/professors give you a hard time. HANDLING more liquor than when you first started drinking. WAKING up on the "morning after" to discover you can't remember part of the evening before. SNEAKING a few extra drinks when others will not know it. FEELING uncomfortable at a social event when alcohol is not available. BEING in a hurry to get to the first drink. FEELING guilty about your drinking. |

Excessive drinking is common in college towns, but data show the problem is worse in Iowa City. Some blame city officials for encouraging a Mardi Gras atmosphere where bar owners have an eye only for profits. Others say U of I officials have done little to discourage the excessive drinking that has become associated with the school.

"I think this place, these students, are probably at greater risk than all but a handful of students nationwide," said Peter Nathan, a U of I professor in community and behavioral health.

**Consider these statistics:**

• Almost 70 percent of U of I students surveyed in 2003 reported binge drinking in the previous two weeks, according to the Harvard School of Public Health's College Alcohol Study. Nationally, 44 percent of the more than 13,000 students surveyed reported binge drinking.

• Iowa City and U of I police had a combined 3,551 charges for public intoxication and liquor law violations in 2003, the most recent data reported to the state. In Des Moines, with three times more residents than Iowa City, police issued 804 citations.



Lots of empties: Beer truck driver Matt Rohwedder, with Dale Lee Distributing, stows empty 16-gallon kegs from a downtown Iowa City bar on Friday morning.

• More than 870 U of I students were required to participate in alcohol counseling or programming in 2003-04. The numbers dwarf counseling numbers at ISU and UNI, where a combined 624 students got help in 2003-04.

In addition, participation in U of I's most intense substance abuse counseling, a six-week outpatient program, has increased sharply in recent years, according to student health center staff.

Studies show access to alcohol is a key factor in excessive drinking.

About 60 bars or restaurants that serve alcohol are within walking distance of the U of I campus, according to Iowa City liquor licenses. In Ames, home to ISU, 20 bars are in Campustown; seven are on Cedar Falls' College Hill, which is adjacent to UNI.

More than half of the bars near the U of I allow people 19 and up to enter, a factor many say contributes to Iowa City's entrenched alcohol culture.

"In this town, it's easy to get alcohol, whether you're at the bars or anywhere," said Liz Greazel, 19, a U of I sophomore, as she sipped a beer with friends in a downtown sports bar.

Iowa City bar owners have repeatedly - most recently, last fall - persuaded city leaders not to raise the bar admittance age to 21 by saying it would push drinking into the community. A committee of bar owners will meet with the City Council on May 2 to explain their efforts to curb excessive drinking.

The issue hinges on money, say several city officials, residents and U of I employees. Bars, nightclubs and restaurants that serve alcohol are the economic force behind downtown Iowa City. Many bars flourish by charging minors $5 and $10 cover charges. While 19- and 20-year-olds are admitted to bars, they aren't suppose to consume alcohol. Yet many do, getting around the law by having older friends buy drinks and by using fake IDs.

The law is openly flouted, said Police Sgt. Troy Kelsay , who oversees Iowa City's alcohol enforcement. "Fifty percent of the people in the bars are underage. They are drinking, and they're not afraid to acknowledge it," he said.

On a recent Friday, two popular downtown bars touted Friday After Class, or FAC, drink specials.

"It's a good way to release stress. I've had three midterms this week," said Grace Brookfield, 19, a U of I sophomore.

Christian Donovan, 20, a sophomore from Spirit Lake, said the Friday specials are a way for students to kick off a weekend of drinking. "FAC is huge," he said. "It's $12 all you can drink of beer" at one establishment.

At another bar, customers can buy two pitchers of beer for $4, get extra plastic cups, and walk back to their tables. Underage drinkers - they don't have hand stamps or wristbands - pour glasses of beer and drink openly.

Last fall, Donovan told the council members that he drinks illegally in the bars. He described a number of ways minors obtain drinks, including finding discarded wristbands on the street and sticking them together with gum. "After 11 o'clock, easily 90 percent of the business (Iowa City police) do is alcohol-generated," said Kelsay, the police sergeant. "It's increasingly becoming more of an issue of enforcement."

Kelsay said the high number of arrests for public intoxication - more than 1,000 for Iowa City and U of I in 2003 - could be due to overreliance by police on the charge, or out-of-state students not being aware they can be taken into custody for exhibiting drunken behavior. Police also get tens of thousands of dollars a year from fines for underage possession of alcohol, but Kelsay said the money doesn't lead to more citations.

The hundreds of alcohol-related arrests made annually do little to deter underage and excessive drinking, Kelsay said. Police can't monitor every bar and nightclub.

"It's a little bit of that attraction of Mardi Gras," he said of downtown Iowa City. "You don't need it to be a home football game, you can go out every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night and have that experience."

The share of U of I students who said they binge drank - meaning they consumed five or more drinks per night for men and four or more for women - was higher than most of the other 119 colleges and universities surveyed in 2001 by the Harvard School of Public Health. The national average in 2001 was 44 percent. At the U of I, 64 percent of students said they binge drank.

The percentage increased in 2003, the last year for which data are available. At the U of I, 69 percent of students surveyed binged; 42 percent of ISU students binged.

Also, 64 percent of U of I students surveyed in 2003 said they drank to get drunk, up considerably from the 47 percent that said they did in 1993.

Elissa Weitzman , co-principal investigator for Harvard's College Alcohol Study, said the U of I has made progress in changing the alcohol culture by supporting changes like the 19 ordinance, which prohibits people 18 and under from being in the bars after 10 p.m. But Iowa, like other campuses, has faced opposition.

"They've encountered a fair amount of resistance from retailers and bars," Weitzman said. "We have communities that, despite what they're doing, there is a push-back."

Professors and community members agree the alcohol culture in Iowa City is complex. Recent studies show that people in the upper Midwest drink more than in other parts of the country and that heavy binge drinking corresponds with less-strict state laws on alcohol. Some people say the U of I has not done enough to discourage excessive drinking and provide alcohol-free entertainment.

"I wonder if the programs at the university are setting high enough academic standards," said Regenia Bailey, an Iowa City councilwoman who voted against a 21 ordinance. Professors should give tests on Fridays to deter Thursday-night partying and challenge students so they won't have as much time to go out, she said.

Yangbo Ye , a U of I mathematics professor, said he notices fewer students in class on Friday, so occasionally he takes attendance.

"I will never downgrade, but I might consider upgrading if their attendance and participation is good," Ye said.

University officials try to provide alcohol-free activities. The university hosts dry concerts and movies on campus and created Night Games, free late-night activities once a month at the U of I Fieldhouse. The events have drawn up to 300 people, a small percentage of the 20,200 students enrolled at U of I.

It may be too late for the alcohol-free activities to compete with Iowa City's alluring bar scene, professor Nathan said. In Ames, an ISU student group wants city officials to follow Iowa City by allowing 19- and 20-year-olds into some nightclubs as a way to prevent big off-campus parties, such as the one that turned into a riot last spring.

Leah Cohen, owner of Bo-James bar in downtown Iowa City, said allowing only those 21 and older into bars would likely decrease the amount of binge drinking. But she said she doesn't support the move because it might cause more house parties and would hurt Iowa City's downtown economy, which gets major support from bars and nightclubs.

"It's known as a party town, a party school," Cohen said.

Students who partake in the alcohol culture of Iowa City, going out four or five nights a week and skipping classes on Friday, often have trouble academically, professors said.

"Students who do that are usually here for only a semester," said Steve Thunder-McGuire, an associate professor of curriculum and instruction.

Health issues, such as alcohol abuse and dependency, also emerge, said Sarah Hansen, Health Iowa coordinator at U of I Student Health Services. The number of students required to attend short-term outpatient treatment for alcohol abuse at the center has increased sharply in recent years, to 88 students in 2003-04.

"We do see a number of people who have already moved past the services we have," she said. "We're in such a high-risk environment here."

The U of I sends about 70 letters a year to parents whose college-age children were taken to the hospital for alcohol poisoning or who were found passed out in public areas, said Tom Baker, associate dean of student services. Some of these near-death experiences make students wake up to the dangers of Iowa City's drinking scene, he said.

But other students shake off the impact or are outraged when the U of I suspends them for one semester when they've had two alcohol violations, said Phillip Jones, the U of I vice president of student services.

"When students show up here, they have no thought to the consequences," he said. "It's as if, somehow, the recognition of consequences is something we are initiating the teaching of."

**Where to go for help**

The following places offer help for alcohol abuse:  
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence,   
[www.ncadd.org](http://www.ncadd.org) or (800) 622-2255  
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism,   
[www.niaaa.nih.gov](http://www.niaaa.nih.gov)   
Iowa Substance Abuse Information Center,  
[www.drugfreeinfo.org](http://www.drugfreeinfo.org) or 24-hour drug and alcohol help line (866) 242-4111  
MECCA Substance Abuse Services, [www.mecca-ic.org](http://www.mecca-ic.org) ;   
in Des Moines, (515) 262-0349;   
in Iowa City, (319) 351-4357  
University of Iowa Student Health Service,  
[www.uiowa.edu/~shs](http://www.uiowa.edu/~shs) or (319) 335-8370  
Alcoholics Anonymous,  
Des Moines' 24-hour contact, (515) 282-8550; Iowa City, (319) 338-9111 and [www.aa-ic.org](http://www.aa-ic.org)   
Al-Anon/Alateen, Des Moines 24-hour contact, (515) 277-5059;  
Iowa City, (319) 341-7068



**2. Pernod Ricard, Fortune to Buy Allied Domecq in $14 Billion Deal**

By Jason Singer and Deborah Ball, Staff Reporters – *The Wall Street Journal*

April 20, 2005

LONDON -- [Pernod Ricard](http://interactive.wsj.com/pj/q-quote.cgi?sym=12069.fr&type=company) SA of France and [Fortune Brands](http://interactive.wsj.com/pj/q-quote.cgi?sym=fo&type=company) Inc. have agreed to a $14 billion takeover of the U.K.'s Allied Domecq PLC, sparking one of the biggest reshuffles of the lucrative global spirits industry in years.

Allied Domecq's board agreed to the deal today, in which the company will be broken apart and divided among Pernod and Fortune if the acquisition is successful, people familiar with the matter say. The deal is expected to be announced Thursday, when Allied reports its first-half results.

An Allied Domecq spokesman declined to comment.

Pernod and Fortune are set to offer the equivalent of 670 pence ($12.86) per share for Allied, valuing the Bristol, England-based firm at about £7.4 billion. The deal would be the biggest announced takeover in Europe this year.

Under terms of the deal, Pernod would acquire about two-thirds of Allied's spirits brands by value, vaulting the Paris-based company into closer competition with [Diageo](http://interactive.wsj.com/pj/q-quote.cgi?sym=deo&type=company) PLC, the London-based company that is currently the world's dominant company in spirits with brands such as Smirnoff vodka and Johnnie Walker Scotch. About 80% of the bid would come in cash, with the rest in Pernod Ricard shares. Fortune would supply nearly half of the cash and would walk away with more of the brands that enjoy heavy presence in the U.S. than international brands, these people said.

Allied Domecq and Pernod Ricard have been neck-and-neck for the No. 2 spot in the world in spirits by value, with Fortune, maker of Jim Beam bourbon, ranked only No. 15. A takeover of Allied Domecq would remove a key piece of the consolidation puzzle in the global spirits market and would create more pressure on Diageo, as well as on second-tier groups such as Bacardi and Brown-Forman.

Earlier this week, people familiar with the matter had said that Constellation Brands Inc., the world's largest wine company by sales, is interested in some of Allied's spirits brands. But Constellation is too small to buy all of Allied. So the Fairport, N.Y., company, which has been an aggressive acquirer, was looking for other companies to join with it, these people said.

The bidding was potentially all the more intense because the global beverage business stands to be reshuffled by a takeover of Allied, considered one of the last big acquisition candidates in a rapidly consolidating industry.

Allied, the maker of Stolichnaya vodka and Beefeater gin, among other well-known brands, said earlier this month it was in talks with Pernod.

Other big liquor companies would like to acquire several of Allied's successful brands, but like Constellation are either too small to make a run at buying the whole company or face the prospect of running into hassles with authorities, like Diageo, people familiar with the situation say. Diageo, based in London, for example, has a market share so large in several segments of the drinks business that it is unlikely to be allowed to acquire any further brands in those markets.

Constellation, which last year bought California wine maker Robert Mondavi Corp. for $1.03 billion, has a market capitalization of $6.5 billion. Among its wide range of wine labels are Almaden, Ravenswood, Simi and Franciscan Oakville Estate.



**3. No Veishea, But Students Pack Ames Bars Anyway**

By Madelaine Jerousek – *Register Staff Writer*

April 17, 2005

### 'It's probably not different from any other Saturday'

AMES, IA -- Iowa State University students packed Campustown bars Saturday night, held off-campus parties and enjoyed a spring night.

But the weekend that would have been Veishea, the college's annual spring celebration, was just like any other weekend, authorities said.

ISU Police Capt. Gene Deisinger said there were no major disturbances by about 10 p.m. Saturday night. Ames police also reported no arrests in the Campustown area.

Veishea was marred last year by rioting and vandalism, leading ISU president Gregory Geoffroy to cancel the event this spring.

Students were out Saturday night anyway, filling Campustown bars on the mild spring evening.

"It's probably not different from any other Saturday night," said Jenna Geason, 21, a senior industrial engineering major taking advantage of a bar promotion on Welch Avenue with two sorority sisters.

Most of the streets around Campustown were quiet Saturday night. A few house parties spilled out onto front lawns or porches.

Joe Hanigan gripped a Budweiser while on his front lawn on Knapp Street. He said the street - about two blocks from Campustown - was nothing like a typical Veishea weekend.

"Usually you look up and down the street and there are tons of people," he said. "Not tonight."

Hanigan and his roommates invited friends over throughout the day Saturday to drink, play "beer pong" and mark the weekend that would have been Veishea in the traditional way - by having a good time.

"Most of our friends are like, 'It's supposed to be Veishea. Let's party,' " said Trevor Wilson, 23, one of Hanigan's roommates.

There were some signs that last year's Veishea violence was on students' minds. Someone yelled from a Chamberlain Street balcony to buddies down below: "Hey, who's up for a riot?"

Four Campustown bars held a bar crawl Thursday through Saturday nights. Fliers for the promotion announced: "No Veishea? No problem!"

ISU police added a few extra officers, in large part because of an increased number of campus activities throughout the weekend, Deisinger said.

Ryan Magee, 21, a junior marketing major, said he considered staying home Saturday night to avoid a night that was likely to attract large crowds and perhaps trouble.

"There are a lot more people around from out of town," said Magee, who went out to the bars anyway with two friends. "I don't know if they're looking to cause trouble or what."

Warm weather and an afternoon intra-squad football game Saturday brought a steady stream of customers to the Keg Shop, a Campustown liquor store, said assistant manager Mike Kadolph.

"It's typical Saturday night spring traffic," Kadolph said. "It's slower than it would be for a normal Veishea weekend, but not much."

Geoffroy has announced the event will return in 2006, with some changes, including re-evaluating the no-alcohol policy. Some believed the ban led to large, uncontrolled off-campus gatherings, similar to the one that contributed to last year's riots.

Anthony Lanphier, 21, a junior mechanical engineering major, said he looked forward to Veishea's return.

"I definitely miss Veishea," he said. "I miss all the activities that go on and all the off-campus parties."



**4. CDC: Americans Getting 'Wrong Idea' On Alcohol, Health**

*Dow Jones Newswires*

April 19, 2005

ATLANTA (AP)--The government warned Tuesday that a few drinks a day may not protect against strokes and heart attacks after all.

Some studies in recent years have touted the health benefits of moderate drinking. Some have even said that up to four drinks a day can significantly reduce the risk of heart disease in people 40 and older.

But researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention analyzed data from 250,000 Americans who participated in a 2003 telephone survey. They found that the nondrinkers had many more risks for heart disease - such as being overweight, inactive, high blood pressure and diabetes - than the moderate drinkers.

Based on those results, the agency could not say that moderate drinking actually was a factor in reducing the risk of heart disease.

The findings were published in the May issue of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

"We're feeling the pendulum has swung way too far and Americans are getting sort of the wrong idea" on alcohol, said the study's lead author, Dr. Tim Naimi of the CDC's chronic diseases division. "The science around moderate drinking is very murky."

The CDC has long worried about alcohol abuse in the U.S. Studies have shown that drinking excessively - five or more drinks daily - can increase the risk of heart disease. The CDC says nearly one in three Americans drinks too much.

The agency said that Americans should follow dietary guidelines that limit daily consumption to two drinks for men and a single drink for women.

Other groups - such as the American Heart Association - say drinking alcohol increases the dangers of alcoholism, high blood pressure, obesity, stroke, breast cancer, suicide and accidents.

Alcohol is the nation's third leading cause of death, killing 75,000 Americans each year through related injuries or diseases, the CDC says.



**5. More U.S. College Students Drinking and Driving**

By Alison McCook - *Reuters*

April 18, 2005

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - The number of US college students who drive while intoxicated has risen to 2.8 million, new study findings indicate.

In addition, the number of students accidentally killed by injuries related to alcohol, including car accidents, increased by 6 percent to more than 1700 each year, the authors add.

"Even with the most conservative estimates, the numbers are staggering," lead author Dr. Ralph Hingson of Boston University in Massachusetts told Reuters Health.

Heavy drinking is a regular habit for many college students, studies show. A 1999 survey found that nearly one-quarter of college students say they binge drink -- defined as at least 5 drinks for men and 4 drinks for women in one session -- at least three times in a two-week period.

To investigate whether more college students are putting themselves at risk by drinking, Hingson and his team reviewed data collected by various surveys and federal agencies on 18-24-year olds in 1998 and 2001, about drinking habits, injury rates and accidental deaths.

Reporting in the 2005 issue of the Annual Review of Public Health, the authors found that college students were more likely to both binge drink and drive while intoxicated than 18- to 24-year-olds who were not attending college.

In 1998, 1575 college students were accidentally killed as a result of alcohol-related injuries. In 2001, that number reached 1717. Factoring in the change in the number of students enrolled in college, the authors calculated that the rate of accidental, fatal injuries related to alcohol increased among college students by 6 percent from 1998 to 2001.

In 2001, close to 600,000 students were injured as a result of alcohol, and even more were assaulted by another intoxicated student.

These findings suggest that colleges need to consider "new approaches to address this issue," Hingson said in an interview.

For instance, he suggested that schools cooperate with local police to enforce underage drinking laws, and blood alcohol limits while driving.

Previous research has also shown that screening people and providing those at risk of alcohol problems with counseling can reduce the risk of alcohol-related problems, Hingson said.

All of these interventions require time and effort, but these data show that more time and effort is desperately needed, said the researcher, who is also based at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, part of the National Institutes of Health.



**6. Official: Alcohol Abuse a Top Worry in County**

By Elaine Fabian – *The Daily Iowan*

April 21, 2005

Ralph Wilmoth, the Johnson County director of public health, said Iowa City needs to take more vigorous steps to reduce underage and binge drinking during a presentation Wednesday.  
  
"We have a significant concern about the use of alcohol in this community," he said. "No one is talking about prohibition. We're talking about legal and responsible use of alcohol."  
  
Wilmoth spoke to the crowd of 18 on behalf of the Alcohol Awareness Working Group, which is composed of local physicians, educators, law-enforcement officials, and other community members that came together last fall to address alcohol in Iowa City. The group supports raising the bar-entry age minimum to 21.

Leah Cohen, a co-chairwoman of the Iowa City Alcohol Advisory Board, spoke during the public discussion part of the meeting, saying she was concerned that the presentation didn't fairly represent her group. The alcohol board supports alternatives to raising the bar-entry age to 21.

The county Department of Public Health ranked alcohol abuse among the top five problems plaguing Johnson County in its community health-needs assessment; it held the same ranking five years ago, Wilmoth said.

The Alcohol Awareness Working Group is pushing several ideas that he said have proven to be effective, including enforcing existing laws, using zoning to control the number of bars, and regulating drink specials.

Wednesday's presentation and public discussion at the Iowa City Public Library was sponsored by the League of Women Voters, which eventually plans to take a stance as an organization on alcohol issues in Johnson County.

"There have been a couple of possible new laws at the state and local level," said Pat Cancilla, a co-president of the group.

The laws Cancilla was referring to were a keg-registration law that drew discussion in the state Legislature this year and an ordinance that failed to pass the Iowa City City Council last fall that would have raised the bar-entry age minimum to 21.

