



Parent Resources and Information on Drug Education

3534 South 108th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68144  
402-397-3309 Fax 402-397-9924 www.pride.org

**M.I.P. HOTLINE**  
Call 393-4444 or 1-866-393-4445 (toll free) to report

- teen alcohol parties before they happen
- license holders who sell alcohol or tobacco to minors

www.pride.org ✦ www.safehomes.org

## IS YOUR CHILD BLOGGING?

Blogs are an Internet phenomenon that can tell parents much about their child.

A blog, or weblog, is a personal Internet journal or diary. Bloggers set up web pages and record their activities. They can talk about their personal observations and innermost secrets. Bloggers can provide links to other sites.

Blogs offer parents a unique opportunity to discover what their children are really doing and thinking. Most parents do not know that their child is baring his or her soul to friends through this method. Most adolescents don't realize that they are publishing this information for all of the world to see.

Blogs are sometimes buried fairly deeply in the Internet. However, parents have several ways to search to see if their child is blogging.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

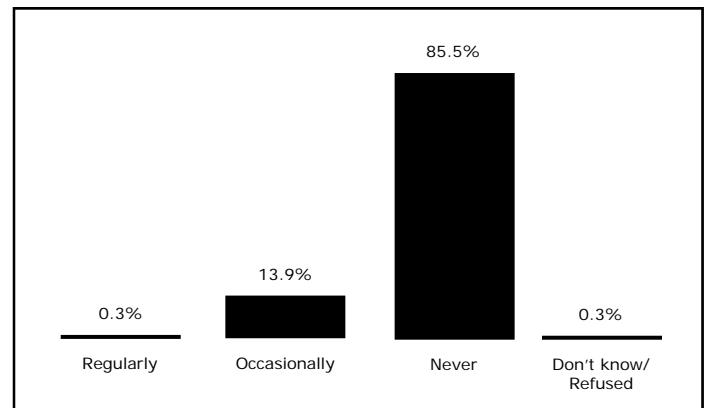
## MOST PARENTS CARE ABOUT DRUG-FREE KIDS

A survey conducted by the Nebraska Broadcasters Association has some reassuring information for parents who care about drug-free children.

The random, statewide survey, conducted by the MSR Group, interviewed 1,125 adults between the age of 21 and 54. One of the goals of the survey was to determine if the "Drugs Are a Dead End" campaign is effective.

The graph below shows the responses to one question:

***"Do you allow your oldest child under the age of 21 to drink in your home with you or other adults, even if it is a small glass of wine or beer with dinner?"***



Over 85% of parents said, "Never!" Only 13.9% said they would occasionally allow their minor child to drink in their home. This information tells parents who care about drug-free children that they are not alone. Most other parents agree with them.

Susie Dugan, Executive Director of PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. states, "Parents who are trying to keep their children drug free need to be reminded that they are in the clear majority of Nebraskans. It is time for the 85% to stand up and hold the 14.2% accountable for allowing children to use alcohol."

*(Continued on Page 2)*

### JUST A TURN OF THE PAGE...

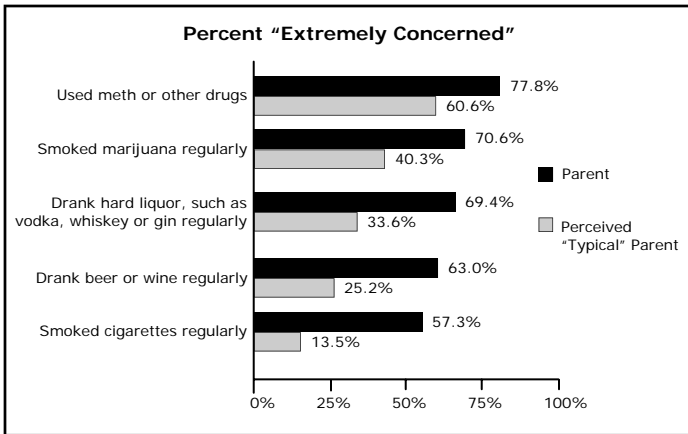
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# MOST PARENTS CARE ABOUT DRUG-FREE KIDS

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Another two questions compared parental answers about how concerned they would be if their minor child used drugs and compared that number to what these parents think the attitudes of other “typical” parents would be.

The graph below compares the answers.



Over 77% of the parents would be extremely concerned if their minor child was using meth. Those same parents think that only 60% of other “typical” parents would be concerned.

The same pattern of high concern if their child used marijuana, hard liquor, beer, or cigarettes was offset by the belief that far fewer other “typical” parents would be concerned.

“Both of these survey statistics tell parents who are concerned about children and drugs that they are not alone,” states Ms. Dugan. “As parents, we sometimes think we are the only ones trying to keep children drug free. But most of the other ‘typical’ parents agree very much with us. If we were to unite our voices, we could send a very loud message.”

~ Nebraska Broadcasters Association Substance Abuse Prevention Survey, June 2005

# TEENS SICKENED BY MARIJUANA BROWNIES

Seven teenagers were hospitalized January 29, 2006, after they became sick from eating brownies laced with marijuana in Montpelier, VT. The teens had made the brownies and consumed them during an unsupervised party. The seven became nauseated and were vomiting when taken to the hospital.

~ Burlington Free Press, 2/1/06

# IS YOUR CHILD BLOGGING?

(Continued from Page 1)

The easiest method is to conduct a “Google” search of your child, or your child’s friends. Simply go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com). Type in the child’s name or nickname and hit the Google “Search” button.

Popular websites used by many young people include [www.myspace.com](http://www.myspace.com), [www.livejournal.com](http://www.livejournal.com), [www.xanga.com](http://www.xanga.com), and [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). Many parents have been shocked to learn of drug use and sexual activity reported on the blogs. For parents who hesitate to invade their child’s privacy, PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. reminds them that it is a parent’s duty to protect his or her children and to know what they are doing.

# STUDY: PARENTS CAN SWAY TEEN DRUG USE

A new study finds that peer pressure is not the only major factor influencing adolescent drug use. Parents also play an important role.

Stephen Bahr, a professor at Brigham Young University and the study lead author, reports that, “Much of the previous research in this area shows that adolescents make their decisions about drugs based on influence from their friends.” Professor Bahr found that, “Some steps taken by parents had a direct effect on lowering drug abuse, even in the face of peer influence.”

The study of more than 4,000 students in grades 7 through 12 found that:

- ❖ For each degree of tolerance (on a five-point scale) toward marijuana that teens perceive in their parents, there is a 33 percent increase in frequency of teen marijuana use.
- ❖ Frequency of marijuana use declines 10 percent for each degree that teens perceive their parents are monitoring their activities, even after taking into account peer influence.
- ❖ Risk of illegal drug use is reduced by 14 percent for each degree that teens believe parents are monitoring their activities.

The study also found that siblings have a major impact on teen drug use. Having an older sibling who used marijuana was associated with a 58 percent increased likelihood that a teen would also use the drug.

~ HealthDay News, 12/09/05  
~ Journal of Primary Prevention, December 2005

## HOTELS GOING SMOKE FREE

Westin Hotels & Resorts are now smoke free. The chain of 77 hotels went completely smoke free January 1, 2006.

In an article in USA Today, a Westin spokesperson stated that only 8% of customers were requesting smoking rooms.

Beginning March 1st, the Disneyland Hotel and Disney's Paradise Hotel will become smoke-free hotels. Management reports that no more than two requests per day come in for smoking rooms. Disney's Grand Californian Hotel opened in 2001 as a smoke-free facility.

Over 200 North American hotels now prohibit smoking in rooms and other indoor areas.

You can contact Westin Hotels & Resorts. Tell them thank you for going smoke free.

[www.starwoodhotels.com/westin/support/contact/index.html](http://www.starwoodhotels.com/westin/support/contact/index.html) ☒

~ USA Today, 1/31/06  
~ [www.magicalmountain.net/WDWNews](http://www.magicalmountain.net/WDWNews)

## EXPERT NOT "UNBIASED"

Steven Milloy, author of the "Junk Science" column for FoxNews.com, now admits that he has taken hundreds of thousands of dollars in consulting fees from the tobacco industry.



Mr. Milloy has regularly challenged health claims about smoking in his column. His work has included columns attacking research on the health risks of secondhand smoke.

Phillip Morris's budget report shows that company paying Milloy \$92,000 per year in 2000 and 2001. He continued in that role through last year. ☒

~ The New Republic, 1/26/06

## RESOURCE AVAILABLE

A kit is now available that helps employers create a drug-free workplace. The kit offers guidance, specific strategies, and easy-to-follow steps for creating a drug-free workplace program or for enhancing an existing one.

Log on to [www.health.org/govpubs/workit/](http://www.health.org/govpubs/workit/). ☒

## TAKE THE SMOKE-FREE HOME PLEDGE TODAY

The Douglas County Health Department is asking parents not to smoke in their homes and cars and to not allow others to do so. Breathing secondhand smoke can be harmful to children's health.

You can protect your children by making your home and car smoke free.

The Environmental Protection Agency has found that children who breathe secondhand smoke are more likely to suffer from:

- ✦ **bronchitis and pneumonia**
- ✦ **wheezing and coughing**
- ✦ **more frequent and severe asthma attacks.**

According to the National Cancer Institute, there are links between secondhand smoke and:


- ✦ **Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)**
- ✦ **new cases of asthma**
- ✦ **behavioral and cognitive problems in children.**

The Health Department urges parents to encourage family, friends, and caregivers to also take the pledge and make their homes and cars smoke free. Parents are also reminded that, until they can quit, they should choose to smoke outside.


**Please take the smoke-free home pledge.**

Protect your children from the health risks of secondhand smoke. Please complete the form below and mail to the Douglas County Health Department.

**Health Promotion**  
**1819 Farnam Street, Room 403**  
**Omaha, Nebraska 68183-0401** ☒



Do the  
Right Thing!  
Go Outside  
for Your Kids.




Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
street city/state zip

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I pledge to maintain a smoke-free home and to protect children from the health risks of secondhand smoke.

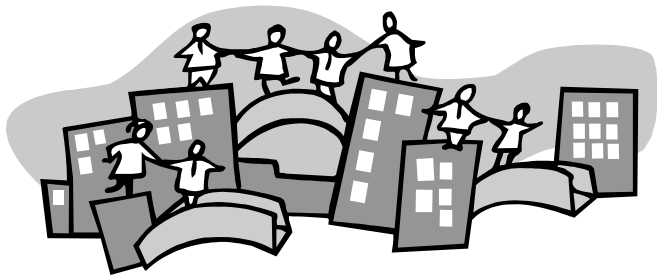
I would like more information on quitting tobacco.



## TOWN HALL MEETINGS: A NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION

On the evening of March 28, 2006, all across America, community town hall meetings will be held to focus on preventing underage drinking.

PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. is helping to organize and sponsor the events at three locations: Ralston High School, Plattsmouth High School, and DC West High School in Valley. At least 30 other communities in Nebraska will host similar town hall meetings simultaneously.



The town hall meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. at each location.

Parents, youth, teachers, administrators, law enforcement, businesses, church members, media, service organizations, lawmakers, mayors, city council members, and the public are all invited.

These town hall meetings are meant to bring the topic of adolescent alcohol use to the forefront in our communities. Alcohol remains the number one drug problem among the youth of Nebraska. These forums are meant to draw attention to the problem of underage drinking. They are also meant to help communities begin working on meaningful solutions to this problem.

Adults from anywhere in Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders, or Washington Counties are invited to attend any one of the town hall meetings.

For more information, contact PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. at 397-3309. ☒

## ANOTHER MARIJUANA DEATH

Mallory McLaughlin pleaded guilty January 31, 2006, to manslaughter in the death of her 11-month-old son Josiah last February in Dover, Delaware.

McLaughlin fell asleep after smoking marijuana and the toddler drowned in the bathtub. ☒

~ The News Journal, 2/01/06

## ANOTHER STUDY LINKS ALCOHOL AND VIOLENT CRIME

Over the years, many studies have linked alcohol with crime. On December 22, *Medical News Today* announced that more than one half of the violent offenders studied had consumed alcohol within 24 hours of committing the crimes that landed them in prison.

Researchers from the Karolinska Institute in Sweden found that 58% of the 133 offenders studied drank shortly before their violent incidents. Researchers found that the relative risk of violence increases 13.2-fold within 24 hours of alcohol consumption.

Also associated with increased risk of violence was the use of other drugs, such as benzodiazepines and antidepressants. However, "Alcohol seems to have the largest triggering effect on violence compared to other substances we investigated," states Ulrika Haggard-Grann of the Karolinska Institute. ☒

~ *Medical News Today*, 12/22/05

## NATION'S CAPITAL PASSES SMOKE-FREE WORKPLACE LAW

On January 30, 2006, Washington, DC joined eleven U.S. states in enacting comprehensive smoke-free workplace legislation.

By January 1, 2007, the law will extend to all District of Columbia workplaces, including bars, pending mandatory review by Congress.

The nation's capital joins eleven states that have enacted comprehensive smoke-free workplace legislation: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington.



Worldwide, the entire countries of Bhutan, Ireland, Italy, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Uganda, and Uruguay have enacted such legislation.

Research indicates that smoke-free workplace laws encourage smoking rates among adults to fall. More importantly, studies show that smoking rates among adolescents also decrease. ☒

~ *Washington Post*, 1/5/06

~ Joe Cherner-Announce@smokefree.net, 1/30/06

~ [www.breatheeasydc.org](http://www.breatheeasydc.org), 1/31/06

## YOU CAN HELP HOLD MULTIPLE OFFENDERS ACCOUNTABLE

PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. continues to work with the Omaha Police Department and the Nebraska State Patrol on tobacco compliance checks.

The latest quarterly check of all tobacco license holders in Douglas County found that 47 of the 588 stores sold tobacco to minors. This figure represents an 8% failure rate.

Regular quarterly compliance checks that keep the failure rate at 10% or below have been shown to be an effective measure to help reduce youth consumption of tobacco.

The compliance checks are sponsored by the Metro Omaha Tobacco Action Coalition. Funding, in full or in part, is provided by the Nebraska Health and Human Services System/Tobacco Free Nebraska Program as a result of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.

PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. is coordinating efforts to follow the adjudication of these citations as they proceed through our courts. Currently, only the clerk is ticketed, not the business. A business can be taken to court if the management continues to knowingly sell tobacco to minors.



Following thirteen rounds of compliance checks in the past four years, we now have records of all failures. More than seventeen businesses have failed four times. Three businesses have failed five times and one has failed seven times. For a list of failures, log on to our website at [www.pride.org](http://www.pride.org) and click on "Tobacco Compliance Check Results."

If you would like to volunteer to attend court with us when these businesses face charges for repeatedly selling tobacco to minors, please contact our office at 397-3309. ☒

This publication is funded in part by the

**Manota E. Simon  
Foundation**

## PROJECT PROM/GRADUATION PROTECTING STUDENTS

For the 22<sup>nd</sup> year, PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. is working to coordinate efforts to make the prom and graduation season a safe, drug-free, and enjoyable experience through our **Project Prom/Graduation**.

In the past, too many lives have been lost or negatively impacted by the combination of teens and alcohol or other drugs.

Project Prom/Graduation is a drug prevention awareness campaign aimed at encouraging students, parents, schools, businesses, and other concerned citizens to actively participate in fun activities that are free from alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use during this special time of the year.

The primary goal of this project is to save the lives of young people.

Each year, PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. contacts high schools throughout the Omaha metropolitan area for dates and locations of prom and graduation activities. This list is then shared with other schools, hotel/motel management, media, limousine services, and law enforcement so that all can take extra care to assure safe, healthy, and memorable celebrations.

PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. will provide to schools 12,000 free plastic tote bags for post-prom use on a first-come, first-served basis. We will also provide parent information, table tents, and other materials to schools, free of charge. Please call our office at 397-3309 to request materials and arrange for pick up. ☒

## NEW DRUG-FREE STUDENT CLUB THRIVING

Seventy-five percent of the seniors in Portage (Pennsylvania) High School belong to a drug prevention club. Members of the **Remembering Adam Club** pledge to stay away from alcohol and other drugs, and they volunteer to be randomly drug tested. The club is named for Adam Fowler, who died of a drug overdose in 1998.

Every week four students are chosen at random to submit to an oral drug screening. Parents are notified when their child is tested, regardless of results. All testing results are kept confidential.

The club has 300 members. ☒

~ The Tribune-Democrat, 2/1/06

# YOU CAN HELP FIGHT THE "MEDICAL" MARIJUANA SCAM

The Boards of Supervisors of San Diego County and San Bernadino County in California filed suit in January against the State of California to invalidate that state's "medical" marijuana law.

Both counties contend that the California "medical" marijuana law conflicts with federal law. Both also point out that California is in violation of a 1961 international treaty signed by the United States that puts responsibility for halting the flow of illegal drugs on each participating nation.

Marijuana supporters immediately threatened to picket each member's home and to impeach or recall all of the Supervisors.

Drug prevention experts, including PRIDE-Omaha, Inc., are supporting both counties and are considering filing an amicus brief in support of both suits. Prevention organizations know that the "medical" marijuana promotions are encouraging adolescents to use marijuana. Many teens think that if marijuana is "medicine," it can't hurt them.



Please send a note of thanks to Greg Cox, Dianne Jacob, Pam Slater-Price, Ron Roberts, and Bill Horn at:

**San Diego Board of Supervisors  
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335  
San Diego, CA 92101**

**greg.cox@sdcounty.ca.gov  
dianne.jacob@sdcounty.ca.gov  
pam.slater@sdcounty.ca.gov  
ron-roberts@sdcounty.ca.gov  
bill.horn@sdcounty.ca.gov**

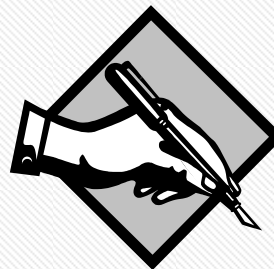
Also, please send a note of thanks to Bill Postmus, Paul Biane, Dennis Hansberger, Gary Ovitt, and Josie Gonzales at:

**San Bernadino Board of Supervisors  
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, Fifth Floor  
San Bernadino, CA 92415-0110**

**SupervisorPostmus@sbcounty.gov  
SupervisorBiane@sbcounty.gov  
SupervisorHansberger@sbcounty.gov  
SupervisorOvitt@sbcounty.gov  
SupervisorGonzales@sbcounty.gov** ☒

~ NCTimes.com, 1/25/06

## PLEASE WRITE AND LET US KNOW!



**Your input on the services provided by PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. is very important to us. Please circle one response per question.**

**1. Do you read the PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. Newsletter?**

Always Often Sometimes Rarely Never

**2. How much of this Newsletter do you read?**

100% 99-75% 74-50% 49-25% 24-1% 0

**3. Do you share this Newsletter's information?**

Always Often Sometimes Rarely Never

**4. Do you use this Newsletter's information?**

Always Often Sometimes Rarely Never

**5. Which articles are most or least helpful to you?**

(Please list)

**6. Which category most accurately describes you?**

Parent	Student	Teacher/Administrator
Business	Policy Maker	Human Services
Media	Law Enforcement	Other

**7. Overall, how do you rate this newsletter?**

Excellent Very Good Average Fair Poor

**8. If you want your name removed from our mailing list, please print your name, address, and "unsubscribe" in the comments section below.**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Comments:**

**Please complete this survey and mail to PRIDE-Omaha, Inc., 3534 South 108 Street, Omaha, NE 68144. Additional comments on how this newsletter - or any of our services - might be improved can be written on a separate sheet and attached. Thank you for your assistance.** ☒

## NEW OVER-THE-COUNTER WORRY: MOTION SICKNESS DRUGS

Over-the-counter motion sickness pills, such as Dramamine, are now being used by some teens.

In June 2005, a 15-year-old boy from Oregon drowned in a pond after mixing a large dose of Dramamine pills and whiskey. In 2004, five high school freshmen were hospitalized in Virginia after taking large doses of motion sickness medicine.



High doses of dimenhydrinate, the active ingredient in Dramamine, can have hallucinogenic effects.

The Partnership for a Drug-Free America released data from its 2005 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study of 7,270 students in grades 7 through 12. The study found that teens are using more over-the-counter drugs than ever before. Most teens report taking these drugs simply to get high.

Parents are urged to:

- ✦ educate themselves on over-the-counter drugs
- ✦ monitor medicine cabinets
- ✦ talk to children about the importance of always following directions on medicine labels
- ✦ monitor children's use of the Internet, where these products are promoted and sold. ☒

*~ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Television Series, 4/21/05  
~ Bradenton (Fla.) News-Democrat, 1/13/06  
~ www.magellanassist.com/mem/library*

## SUICIDE DRAWS ATTENTION TO KLONOPIN USE

The suicide of a popular 17-year-old Arlington, Massachusetts, high school lacrosse player is drawing attention to teens' use of prescription drugs.

Cameron O'Connor shot himself after a night of using alcohol and Klonopin, the anti-anxiety medication. Two of O'Connor's classmates were subsequently arrested for selling Klonopin and other prescription drugs.

Law enforcement officials report that Klonopin is distributed in tablets known as K-pins. Its use is hard to detect. The drug can be found in family medicine cabinets or purchased online for between \$2 and \$5 per dose. ☒

*~ The Boston Globe, 1/28/06 and 1/29/06*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR RED RIBBON ACTIVITIES

**October is Red Ribbon Drug Prevention Month** in our community. The Kick-Off Walk and Rally will be held this year at the Heartland of America Park, 8<sup>th</sup> and Douglas Streets, on Sunday, **October 1, 2006, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.** Please mark your calendars now!

Everyone is invited to participate in the Walk Against Drugs and the Rally that follows. There will be free games, information booths, music, t-shirts, food, prizes, contests, and fun for the whole family. Youth groups are invited to sponsor a booth, game, or other activity for younger children.



This year's local theme is "**Hand in Hand We Stand Drug Free.**"

October is the only time during the entire year that is set aside to raise awareness about the problems caused by drug use, especially among children. The Red Ribbon Drug Prevention Campaign is also meant to emphasize and support the positive ways that parents and communities can work together to prevent drug use.

Schools, organizations, businesses, families, and individuals are encouraged to start planning now for special drug prevention activities during October. Besides participating in the Red Ribbon Drug Prevention Walk and Rally, groups can plan to sponsor parades, walks, poster contests, education programs, skits, essay contests, and other special events. Fundraising events can be conducted with proceeds going to drug prevention organizations.

Contact PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. for more activity ideas or to volunteer with our community campaign. ☒

### JUST A REMINDER...

**National Inhalants & Poisons Awareness Week**, beginning March 19th, is designed to increase understanding about the use and risks of inhalant involvement.

April is **Alcohol Awareness Month** designed to recognize the serious problems of alcohol abuse.

Please contact PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. at 397-3309 for more information. ☒



# SAFE Homes Parents Network Leaders Training

## *What Is SAFE Homes?*

Learn about the *SAFE Homes Parents Network*, a free pledge-based program that encourages parents to supervise their children’s activities and to network with other parents to assure that all children’s activities are safe and drug free.

The *SAFE Homes Parents Network* is for parents and guardians of youth in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grades. The network provides parents an opportunity to talk with each other and to unite in a clear message to all youth that there will be NO USE of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs in the community.

PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. is sponsoring a SAFE Homes Leaders Training that will equip you with the necessary tools to start a *SAFE Homes Parents Network* or to present the *SAFE Homes Parents Network* program to parents, schools, faith-based groups, or other interested groups within your community. Following this training, it is our expectation that some of you will be available to start your own *SAFE Homes Parents Network* in your community.

We invite you to join us to learn more about this valuable program.

**WHEN:** Monday ~ March 27, 2006

**WHERE:** PRIDE-Omaha, Inc.  
Westside Community Conference Center  
3534 South 108 Street, Omaha, NE

**HOURS:** 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

### Respond now to register for this valuable training!

*Mail registration to:* PRIDE-Omaha, Inc.  
3534 South 108 Street  
Omaha, NE 68144

*Fax to:* 402-397-9924

*E-mail to:* mgrove@pride.org

Need more information?  
Call Marj Grove at PRIDE-Omaha, Inc.  
397-3309 or e-mail mgrove@pride.org

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDY: ADS BOOST DRINKING AMONG YOUTH

A new study published in the *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*, January 2006, finds that exposure to alcohol ads increases the likelihood of young people drinking alcohol.

The study was conducted by author Leslie Snyder of the University of Connecticut in Storrs and studied 1,872 people ages 15 to 26.

The research found that for each additional alcohol advertisement young people are exposed to each month, there followed a one percent rise in the average number of drinks consumed.

The study also found that for each additional dollar spent per capita on alcohol advertising in a particular media market, participants drank three percent more per month. In markets with heavy alcohol advertising of more than \$10 per capita per month, alcohol consumption increased over time and reached a peak of 50 drinks per month by age 25.

The research is the first-ever longitudinal survey of the influence of alcohol advertising on youth. It studied youth exposure to each of four media: television, radio, magazines, and billboards.

Dr. David Jernigan, executive director of the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth at Georgetown University states that, "This study shows alcohol ads are a contributing factor in youth drinking. It also underscores the importance of reducing youth exposure to alcohol advertising."

The study was funded by the **National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism**. ☒

~ Reuters, 1/2/06

~ Common Sense Media, 1/3/06

~ Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine, January, 2006

## NEW STUDY LINKS MARIJUANA AND PSYCHOSIS

New research has found more dangers linked to marijuana use. Adolescents who have some genetic pre-disposition to mental illness problems are at greater risk to develop psychosis or schizophrenia if they smoke marijuana.

In January two medical journals, *PLOS Medicine* and the *British Medical Journal*, published internal reviews of research to date. The studies note that adolescence is a particularly vulnerable time for those genetically pre-disposed to mental illness to smoke marijuana. ☒

~ The Boston Globe, 1/26/06

## SPENCER'S STORE CHARGED WITH PARAPHERNALIA SALES

Police in Middletown, PA seized water "bongs" and other marijuana-related items and charged the manager of Spencer's Gifts at the Oxford Valley Mall and the CEO of Spencer's Gifts, LLC with drug paraphernalia possession and intent to deliver.



The misdemeanor charges came after a raid on September 21, 2005, when police entered the store and bought a \$39.00 bong and other pro-marijuana merchandise.

The store was selling key chains, t-shirts, hats, boxer shorts, candles, ice cube trays, coasters, games, and other pro-drug gear.

"This is certainly irresponsible marketing for a store to sell such items at a public mall where families and children shop," said Middletown Detective Dan Baranowski. Spencer's officials maintain that the merchandise is perfectly legal.

If found guilty on all charges, the officials face a maximum fine of \$5,000 and two years in prison.

PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. has been reporting on sales of pro-drug merchandise in the Omaha Spencer's Gifts stores for over six months. Recent visits to Spencer's Gifts in Omaha have found a mixed bag of pro-marijuana merchandise. The Oakview Mall store features almost no merchandise that promotes marijuana. On the other hand, the Westroads store has a four-foot wide, floor to ceiling display of pro-marijuana games, ashtrays, light strings, cookie cutters, and other gear.

Thank you to all who have called and written to Spencer's and the malls over the past six months.

PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. will continue to pursue ways to create more family-friendly shopping environments in our community. Please continue to talk to merchants about responsible marketing. ☒

~ The Trentonian, 2/2/06

### FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION...

**"Knowing is not enough;  
We must APPLY.  
Willing is not enough;  
We must DO"**

~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



Parent Resources and Information on Drug Education

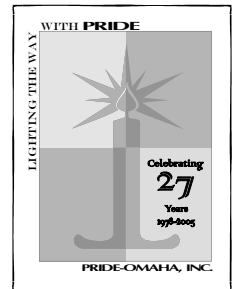
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President: Tim Grollmes  
Editor: Susie Dugan  
Layout Editor: Margaret Grove

The mission of PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. is to prevent the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs by young people. Our goal is to activate parents and other adults and youth by raising awareness and educating the community regarding the effects and dangers to youth caused by the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Permission is hereby granted to reprint articles from this newsletter, providing proper credit is given.



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YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION IS A STAKE IN THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN.

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