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SAVE THE DATE

NABCA Annual Conference
May 22-25, 2017
JW Marriott Marco Island
Marco Island, FL
Registration is now open.
If you have questions, contact the Meetings Department at meetings@nabca.org

Inaugural Beverage Alcohol Retailers Conference
June 12-14, 2017, Minneapolis, MN
The organizers of the Beverage Alcohol Retailers Conference is offering NABCA a special members-only rate for this educational event.
Early bird registration ends February 9.
Flyer is available.

AUGUST 15, 16, 17, 2017
2017 Alcohol Education Summit
The summit will be held at the Big Sky Resort, Montana. Registration for our 2017 Alcohol Education Summit is now open. Call for proposals and call for award nominations is also open. Attached is a flyer. They can register at www.AlcoholServerTraining.mt.gov (code with this link Alcohol Education Summit

2017 NLEA Conference
August 21-23 at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel in Oklahoma City, OK. Rooms are available $98/night. Click here for reservations. For more information, visit the NLEA website.

April 11-13, 2018
Alcohol Policy 18: Evidence To Action-Building an Evidence-Based Social Movement
Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel, Arlington, Virginia
Early registration begins in June 2017

JULY 18-20, 2018
8th Biennial Northwest Alcohol & Substance Abuse Conference
Riverside Hotel, Boise Idaho
The Pre-Conference Sessions are on Wednesday. The official conference kicks off Thursday morning.
Visit NorthwestAlcoholConference.org for more information.
NABCA HIGHLIGHTS

• **Updated!** Alcohol-Infused Food/Beverage section in the NABCA Survey Database.

• The Control State Agency Info Sheets. Please view website for more information.

• **NEW!** A three-part webinar series regarding Communications Crisis Planning. Click to review webinar.

• NABCA Survey Database – now available for members on the website.

  www.NABCA.org
ME: LePage threatens to veto deposit on ‘nips,’ remove them from Maine stores

The governor responds to a bill, likely headed for his desk, that would add the miniature liquor bottles to the state’s bottle deposit bill to reduce littering.

Portland Press Herald
By Kevin Miller, Staff Writer
May 17, 2017

AUGUSTA — Gov. Paul LePage vowed Tuesday to veto a bipartisan bill that would impose a 5-cent deposit on miniature liquor bottles, and threatened to end sales of the popular “nips” in Maine.

LePage accused lawmakers of passing a bill to reduce litter without considering its administrative costs or possible effects on companies that do business in Maine. Facing a potential legislative override of his veto, the governor also said his administration would – in the event of the bill’s passage – immediately begin the process of “delisting” nips bottles from the state’s authorized liquor products, removing a product that accounts for a growing share of spirits sales and a growing litter problem.

LePage made the veto threat hours after the Maine Senate voted 32-3 to pass a bill that would order retailers to collect a nickel bottle deposit on each 50-milliliter liquor bottle beginning in 2019. The bill, which passed the House last week on a 111-34 vote, is touted by supporters as a way to reduce roadside litter and encourage recycling of the mini liquor bottles.

The bill faces more votes in both the House and Senate. Both chambers endorsed the bill by veto-proof margins during initial voting.

The governor also called out the bill’s sponsor, Republican Sen. Tom Saviello of Wilton, who has clashed with the governor in the past and who co-chairs the Legislature’s Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

“Senator Saviello said he would call my bluff that I would delist 50-milliliter ‘nip’ bottles if this bill passes. A Maine legislator should know better than that,” LePage said in a statement. “If this bill passes, I will veto the bill and I will instruct the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to begin working immediately with the Liquor and Lottery Commission to delist all nips from sale in Maine. I do so with regret, but the severe impact of this bill leaves me no choice.”

In the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2016, the Maine Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations sold an estimated 8.4 million nips bottles to agency liquor stores. That figure is expected to surpass 12 million bottles this fiscal year. Backers of the bill now under consideration, L.D. 56, contend that untold numbers of those bottles are causing litter problems as buyers toss the single-serve bottles onto roadsides or along the curb.

Just one brand of liquor, the cinnamon-flavored whiskey product called Fireball, accounted for 42 percent of nips sales in Maine last fiscal year, according to the bureau’s figures. Fireball is produced by Louisiana-based Sazerac, which has a bottling plant in Lewiston that employs an estimated 120 workers.

The liquor bureau opposed L.D. 56 in part because of the logistics and costs of applying deposit stickers to each tiny bottle. The version of the bill passed by both the House and the Senate carries an estimated price tag of more than $1 million a year and would potentially require a contract negotiation with Pine State Trading Co., which is the state’s liquor distributor. However, the fiscal note stated that it’s anticipated that “the Alcoholic Beverages Fund will have sufficient revenue to fund the additional allocation for the foreseeable future.”

Lawmakers have said that delaying the implementation date until 2019 should allow many companies to incorporate the 5-cent deposit notice into their labels, thereby reducing the costs in Maine.

LePage appeared to be responding to comments that Saviello made Tuesday during brief remarks on the Senate floor. Saviello, in turn, alluded to threats by LePage to work to remove nips from Maine stores if the bill passed.

“Somebody who pulls it off the shelf will pull about $7 million in revenue from the state, including about $1 million in tax revenue,” Saviello said. “I would think twice before I did that.”
Saviello said Tuesday night that any costs from the bottle deposit bill would come from the state’s dedicated fund that receives revenues from liquor sales, not from the General Fund, which finances state government. And that liquor fund, Saviello added, would take a financial hit if LePage were to remove nips from store shelves, because of the lost revenue.

**LICENSE STATE NEWS**

**KS: Senate passes bill to allow booze in more outdoor areas**

The Wichita Eagle  
By Jonathan Shorman  
May 16, 2017

TOPEKA - A bill that would make it easier for cities to establish outdoor drinking areas passed the Senate on Tuesday.

Senators voted 35-5 to advance House Bill 2277, after the House approved the bill in April. All south-central Kansas senators voted yes except for Larry Alley, R-Winfield, who voted no.

The bill authorizes cities to establish “common consumption areas” – or entertainment districts – where people could move around freely with their drinks.

State law now allows temporary permits for the consumption of alcohol. But common consumption areas would be in place long term. Cities would be allowed to set the time and dates when alcohol is allowed.

Supporters envision cities establishing districts that echo the Power and Light in Kansas City. There, restaurants and bars surround an open area and patrons are free to walk from spot to spot with their drinks.

“For me, it’s certainly supporting Wichita. Because Old Town, I was just there last weekend. It’s a consolidated area where people want to move about,” Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeau, D-Wichita, said.

The city of Wichita has spoken in favor of the bill. Ken Evans, a spokesman for the city, said last week that the city supports the concept overall.

Wichita probably would look to create smaller districts that are not the size of Old Town, he said. He mentioned Delano and College Hill as possibilities.

Lenexa is developing a market area that would use this type of district, said Sen. Dinah Sykes, a Republican from the city.

Under the bill, someone could get a beer at a brewery, then walk to a nearby pizza joint for dinner, she said as an example.

“With this bill you will be able to enjoy time with your family,” Sykes said.

Sen. John Doll, R-Garden City, voted for the bill but expressed concerns over increasing the consumption of alcohol. Several senators responded that they did not believe it would increase consumption.

“It’s sad we have to have alcohol to enjoy ourselves,” Doll said.

Because the Senate version of the bill is slightly different from the House version, the legislation will need to go through at least one more vote in the House before it goes to Gov. Sam Brownback.

Allafrica
By David Talima
May 17, 2017

In 2014, the Straight Talk Foundation carried out a baseline survey in four districts focusing on underage drinking.

The survey, carried out in the four districts of Adjumani, Soroti, Nwoya and Kitgum revealed that four per cent of parents interviewed consumed alcohol in their homes.

In Uganda today, it is illegal to sell alcohol to children and persons under the age of 18. However, it is common practice for parents to send their children to the local pub to buy them alcoholic beverages and bartenders and shopkeepers also sell the alcoholic beverages to the children without question.

Where then do you draw the line between a child that is buying alcohol for their parents and one that has moved on to purchasing it for themselves? Those on social media have been exposed to horrifying images of adults giving alcohol to their children and even to toddlers.

Further, the Straight Talk Foundation survey revealed that a good number of teachers in the mentioned areas teach while under the influence of alcohol. School-going children spend most of their time at school with peers and under the guardianship of their teachers.

As influential figures in society, what kind of example are these teachers setting for the learners if they are openly abusing alcohol?

Another study, done in March and April of 2014 in select slums around Kampala, by Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL), found that 46 per cent of the youth aged between 12 and 18 take alcohol.

Among the adverse effects that this study unearthed was that alcohol consumption among the underage led to a rise in school dropouts, health problems and worse, in many cases, engaging in sexual behavior.

It is very easy to blame alcohol beverage companies for underage drinking or blame it on adolescence and unruly teenagers, but when you look back, the adults closest to these teenagers have played a huge part in shaping the perceptions of these children about alcohol and in initiating the children into alcohol consumption at an early age.

In more advanced economies, the age limit for alcohol is strictly adhered to with all bars and stores requiring identification (to ascertain age) before they serve customers suspected to be under the legal purchasing age.

Now, with national identity cards available in Uganda, it is imperative that an ID check is strictly observed, especially for consumers that look suspiciously underage.

We have seen self-regulation of alcoholic beverage companies like Uganda Breweries Limited in terms of not placing advertising content during family shows, not advertising on radio until late in the evening and actively advocating zero tolerance to underage drinking.

These need to work hand-in-hand with deliberate actions starting at home in the family unit and community level to reduce exposure of their children to alcohol.

So, while both government, from legislation and enforcement perspectives, and the alcohol companies have their responsibilities to play in terms of minimizing exposure and access of underage children to alcohol, parents, teachers and guardians play a bigger role in ensuring they are the first gatekeepers between their children and alcohol.

The author is the director of programs at Straight Talk Foundation Uganda.
India: Sale of country liquor and beer sees marginal decline in Nashik

The Times of India
By Tushar Pawar, TNN
May 17, 2017

NASHIK: The district has registered marginal drop in sale of country liquor and beer during the 2016-17 financial year.

The sale of beer in Nashik district has declined by 4%, while sale of country liquor declined by 1%. On the contrary, sale of grape wine and Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) have increased by 12.18% and 4%, respectively during the last financial year.

According to sources from state excise department, the sale of beer declined by 4% to 1.19 crore litre in 2016-17 as against 1.24 lakh litre in 2015-16. The sale of country liquor declined by 1% to 1.83 crore litre in 2016-17 as compared to 1.84 crore litre in the previous financial year.

An official from excise department told TOI that the decline in sales of beer and country liquor was due to demonetisation. "Non-availability of cash during three months from November to January affected the sale of country liquor and beer," the official added.

The sale of grape wine increased by 12.18% to 5.88 lakh litre in 2016-17 as compared to 5.24 lakh liter in 2015-16. According to an excise official, "Awareness pertaining to wine is increasing among people. The wineries have been taking promotional activities for the past few years to promote wine sale."

He added, "Moreover, there is also rise in the number of wine tourists coming to the city. Wineries have also provided wine testing facilities."

The sale of IMFL went up by 3.86% to 88.17 lakh litre during 2016-17 as compared to 84.89 lakh litre during 2015-16.

The sale of IMFL had gone up by 11.39 per cent to 84.89 lakh litre during the 2015-16 as against 76.03 lakh litre in 2014-15. On the contrary, the sale of country liquor declined marginally by 1.07 per cent to 1.84 crore litre in 2015-16, against the sale of 1.86 crore litre in 2014-15.

The sale of beer increased by 4.20 per cent to 1.24 crore litre during 2015-16, against the sale of 1.19 crore litre during the financial year 2014-15.

PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Study finds tens of millions of Americans drink alcohol at dangerously high levels

National Institutes of Health
May 17, 2017

Nearly 32 million adults in the United States (13 percent of the U.S. population aged 18 and older) consumed more than twice the number of drinks considered binge drinking on at least one occasion, according to a 2013 survey that asked about past-year drinking. This higher level of drinking is associated with increased health and safety risks. A report of the findings is online in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine. The study was conducted by researchers at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), part of the National Institutes of Health.

“This important study reveals that a large number of people in the United States drink at very high levels and underscores the dangers associated with such ‘extreme’ binge drinking,” said NIAAA Director George F. Koob, Ph.D. “Of the nearly 90,000 people who die from alcohol each year, more than half, or 50,000, die from injuries and overdoses associated with high blood alcohol levels.”
Binge drinking, defined as having four or more drinks on an occasion for women, or five or more drinks on an occasion for men, can produce blood alcohol levels greater than 0.08 percent, which is the legal limit for driving in the United States. Reaching this level is well known to increase the risk of harms to the drinker and others. However, evidence suggests that many people drink far beyond four or five drinks per occasion, defined as extreme binge drinking. The current study analyzed three levels of past-year binge drinking - Levels I, II, and III. These levels were defined as four to seven drinks, eight to 11 drinks, and 12 or more drinks on a single occasion for women; and five to nine drinks, 10-14 drinks, and 15 or more drinks on a single occasion for men.

Researchers, led by Ralph Hingson, Sc.D., director of the NIAAA Division of Epidemiology and Prevention Research, analyzed data from two waves of the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (NESARC), which is a series of large epidemiologic surveys that examine alcohol use and its co-occurrence with drug use and related psychiatric conditions. In the 2001–2002 and 2012–2013 waves of NESARC, 42,748 and 36,083 U.S. adults, respectively, reported the maximum number of drinks they consumed on any day in the past year.

The researchers found that in the 2012–2013 survey, 39 percent of adult males and 27 percent of adult females reported Level I binge drinking during the previous year. Eleven percent of males reported Level II binge drinking (two times the binge drinking threshold for adult males) at least once in the past year, and 7 percent reported Level III binge drinking (three times the binge threshold) at least once in the past year. Five percent of females reported Level II binge drinking (two times the binge drinking threshold for adult females) at least once in the past year, and 3 percent reported Level III binge drinking (three times the binge threshold) at least once in the past year.

After controlling for age, race, sex, marital status, education, drug use, and smoking, compared to people who did not binge drink, people who drank at the various binge levels were much more likely to experience an alcohol-related emergency department visit; have an alcohol use disorder; be injured because of drinking; be arrested or have legal problems resulting from alcohol use; or be the driver in an alcohol-related traffic crash. Compared to non-binge-drinkers, Level I binge drinkers were 13 times more likely, Level II binge drinkers were 70 times more likely, and Level III binge drinkers were 93 times more likely, to have an alcohol-related emergency department visit.

Comparing data from the 2001–2002 and 2012–2013 NESARC waves, the researchers found that the prevalence of drinking at levels two and three times or more the standard binge thresholds in the past year was significantly higher in the most recent NESARC wave, suggesting that more adults are engaging in extreme binge drinking now than a decade earlier."

“As a society, we are justifiably concerned about extreme binge drinking among underage individuals and college students. This study indicates that other groups in the U.S. population also engage in this harmful behavior and are at increased risk for adverse consequences,” says Hingson.

Extreme binge drinking was particularly common among study participants who used other drugs. This is a concern because combining alcohol with other drugs can increase the risk of injuries and overdose deaths.

“Drinking at such high levels can suppress areas of the brain that control basic life-support functions such as breathing and heart rate, thereby increasing one’s risk of death,” said senior author, Aaron White, Ph.D., Senior Scientific Advisor to the NIAAA Director. “The risk increases further if other sedative drugs, particularly opioids or benzodiazepines, are added to the mix.”

The researchers noted that their findings highlight the need to identify interventions to reduce extreme binge drinking and its negative consequences. Additional research is needed to determine how questions about peak alcohol consumption levels can be valuable in screening for alcohol misuse, as well as in assessing gender-specific risk factors and harms for drinking at extreme levels.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, part of the National Institutes of Health, is the primary U.S. agency for conducting and supporting research on the causes, consequences, prevention, and treatment of alcohol use disorder. NIAAA also disseminates research findings to general, professional, and academic audiences. Additional alcohol research information and publications are available at: https://www.niaaa.nih.gov.
Goose Island founder shuts down the argument that craft beer is dying

Business Insider
John Hall, Goose Island Beer Co.
May 16, 2017

I've spent nearly 30 years in craft beer and I strongly disagree with those who fear craft is on the verge of collapse. This is an argument made most recently by Boston Beer founder and CEO Jim Koch in an op-ed in The New York Times, where he rhetorically asked: "Is it last call for craft beer?"

It is understandable why Jim is concerned, his company is experiencing a rough stretch. But a look at craft beer's history and its current position all point to a bright future for our industry as a whole because it is so diverse, innovative and in-sync with customers.

When Goose Island opened in 1988, there were fewer than 100 breweries in the country. Most wholesalers, retailers and beer drinkers treated us a curiosity if they were aware of us at all. We had to battle many times to get a single craft draft handle in an on-premise account. Any bottle placements were on to the bottom shelf at grocery and liquor stores.

With small brewers in many states now allowed to self-distribute and/or operate taprooms, it completely changes their economics. No longer is scale the critical factor in their success. This dynamic shift with more new breweries and more amazing high-quality beers has and will continue to make the craft segment stronger and increase market share.

In 2011 like many other craft brewers, Goose Island had to make a choice. We could contract brew, like others, including Boston Beer, did for many years. We met with private equity investors and contemplated doing an IPO, but didn't like the idea of reporting every quarter to Wall Street. So, we struck a deal with Anheuser-Busch. Like all big business decisions, it was risky being one of the first craft brewers to partner with a big brewer. But we preferred to partner with brewers who understood the beer business.

Through our partnership with Anheuser-Busch, Goose Island was able to do what Boston Beer did, reach consumers nationwide while retaining the quality and integrity of our beer, and our brand.

Today, over 5,300 brewers across the U.S. face similar choices. Some will stay small and local. Others will seek to grow through partnerships, IPOs or other means. Some will succeed and others will not. But craft beer will be more vibrant and creative than ever and beer drinkers will be the big winners.

Canned Wine is the Drink of Summer 2017

The Daily Beast
By Frances Dinkelspiel
May 17, 2017

In the past year, Hong Lieu Tada, a San Francisco stay-at-home mom, has found a slew of unexpected places to drink wine: She has snuck her favorite vino into hotel rooms and sipped it on the beach in Hawaii.

Her secret? Tada’s libation of choice is canned wine. Last year, she discovered Sofia Blanc de Blancs, bubbly made by the Academy Award-winning filmmakers-turned-winemakers Francis Ford Coppola and his daughter, Sofia. Tada not only loves how it tastes but also the convenience of the diminutive pink can, which comes with a straw and fits unobtrusively in her purse.
“The best part is you can take it to the movie theater,” said Tada, who adores Champagne but who is loathe to open a full bottle because it generally goes flat before she can finish it.

Tada is part of the growing number of drinkers who have made canned wine an unexpected best-seller. From 2015 to 2016, according to Nielson, sales have more than doubled and last year alone consumers bought $14.5 million worth of the stuff. As a result, more wineries, both small and gigantic, are getting into this category.

One wine industry veteran, Grant Hemingway, estimated that there will be between 20 and 40 new canned wines introduced in the next few months, much of it coming from California. That list includes Ruza, a sparkling rosé from Lodi, and Essentially Geared Wine Company’s new chardonnay, red wine, and rosé. Sofia Coppola also recently added a Sparkling Brut Rosé to her line.

Even Trader Joe’s has gotten on the bandwagon. At the end of April, the company came out with a four-pack of Italian vino frizzante (bubbly) from Simpler Wines at the bargain price of $4.

While canned wine may be the hot thing to drink this summer, this trend actually stretches back to 2004, when Niebaum Coppola put its Sofia Blanc de Blancs in cans. The winery made the unorthodox decision after Sofia Coppola admired the soda packaging in Japanese vending machines and decided to replicate it. Ball Manufacturing, which makes those ubiquitous glass canning jars, assisted Niebaum Coppola and now does a brisk business in manufacturing single-serve wine cans for a number of other wineries.

It took a bit of time to win over drinkers but during the last five years canned wines have really taken off. Craft beer’s adoption of cans has no doubt helped pave the way. Field Recording, a winery in Paso Robles on California’s Central Coast, has certainly benefited from this uptick in interest. The company first put its everyday wine, Fiction, in cans back in 2013. It was an unexpected success.

“My first run of cans took off on us,” said the company’s owner Andrew Jones. “I sold out in about four weeks. I tripled production and we sold out our second run in 10 days.”

Jones now sells chardonnay, pinot noir, and grenache rosé in 500-milliliter silver cans, which make up nearly half his company’s production.

What has definitely allowed small wineries join this movement is that the technology to can wine has become more accessible in recent years. That’s one reason why Andrew Mariani, the co-owner of Scribe Winery in Sonoma, decided last year to make a couple of hundred cases of canned wine. Mariani had always admired Francis Ford Coppola, not the least because he named a wine after his daughter. When Mariani and his wife had a daughter, Una Lou, during the 2016 harvest, he decided to make a canned wine named after his progeny. It was easy to do, he said.

The wine Mariani put in cans is a rosé, but not a sparkling one. While fizzy wines originally counted for the bulk of the canned market, since 2015 consumer tastes have shifted toward table wines, which are now more popular, according to Nielsen.

That may be a reflection of the growing quality of table wines. Mariani made his UnaLou Rosé with the same attention to detail as the wines he sells under the more expensive Scribe label. The wine was pressed from whole clusters of pinot noir grapes from the Kiser-Sangiacomo vineyard in the Carneros district, which straddles Napa and Sonoma counties. The wine was fermented for 36 days in stainless steel tanks and was packaged on January 25. Not bad for a canned wine!
Toben F. Nelson and Spruha Joshi

May 12, 2017


These words have become synonymous with college fraternities as a steady stream of media reports expose misbehavior, and criminal behavior, at fraternity social events. On February 2nd, 2017, Timothy Piazza, a Penn State University student, died after a night of excessive drinking on a ‘bid acceptance night’. This is one extreme and horrifying example of the problems with alcohol culture on college campuses, but the problem goes beyond one fraternity chapter in Happy Valley. Many more young men and women across the nation experience physical and psychological damage from alcohol-involved hazing. The scrutiny on fraternities has increased dramatically over the past several years. What has not increased is our clarity about what to do to keep these negative consequences from happening.

Fraternity members insist they can take care of themselves. The evidence suggests that this is not true and it is not reasonable to expect these young people to appropriately manage alcohol at their events. College administrators and prevention professionals have tried developing programs to educate fraternity and sorority members about the risks of excessive drinking. A recent review of existing scientific studies came to an alarming conclusion: Extant alcohol interventions show limited efficacy in reducing consumption and problems among fraternity and sorority members. In other words, what we are currently doing does not work.

A first step is for all people involved to recognize that alcohol is a dangerous substance. All people includes fraternity members, their guests, college administrators, and faculty members. It also means parents, law enforcement (both on- and off-campus), the general public, and the alcohol industry. Heavy drinking is not simply an expected and necessary part of fun and socializing. Excusing heavy drinking or facilitating it leads to more excessive use and associated problems.

More attention is needed on how fraternities facilitate heavy drinking by others. Too often fraternities function as unlicensed alcohol serving establishments on college campuses: a place where underage people, and those who are already intoxicated, can easily get alcohol. These practices are illegal in most states. Bars and restaurants have reduced service to people under the legal drinking age in the past 25 years because society established that standard and made them accountable to it through regular compliance checks by law enforcement. More progress is needed to reduce service to people who are already intoxicated. Fraternities need to be held, and hold themselves, to these same standards.

In our research we have found that fraternity members hold strong values and don’t want the negative consequences that result from alcohol. Establishing that common ground is a critical step toward change. The activities leading to hazing deaths like the one at Penn States are explicitly banned by Universities and in fraternities own “pledge manuals”. The policies are in place, but there remains a lack of accountability. We have also found that fraternities don’t understand why or how to keep adequate controls on alcohol service. In a project funded by the National Institute for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, we are developing and testing an intervention that instructs fraternity members on how to host an event with alcohol, makes them aware of laws that govern alcohol service, and shows them how to comply. Procedures need to be in place to address problems before they get out of control. Events need to be staffed with people who are sober who can recognize a dangerous situation and can reach help if needed. Young fraternity leaders need help to set these processes in motion. They need to be open to being held accountable to these standards and participate in regular checks to make sure they are. These conditions can help prevent situations like that one that occurred at Penn State.

If fraternities continue on the current path and society allows them to, fraternities risk losing the parts of fraternal life they value.
Which EU state is the world’s heaviest-drinking country?

Euronews
By Chris Harris
May 17, 2017

Lithuanians are the world’s heaviest drinkers and their boozing is showing no signs of slowing, new data reveals.

They knocked back, on average, the equivalent of 18.2 litres of pure alcohol per person in 2016, up from 14.9 litres more than a decade ago, according to latest figures from the World Health Organisation (WHO).

That is the same as 910 large beers (500ml) or medium glasses of wine (152ml) over the year, or two-and-a-half a day.

But the country bucks a general European trend of falling consumption, as governments have targeted pricing, availability and marketing of alcoholic drinks.

Michael Hastings: New book offers guide to N.C. craft distilleries

Winston-Salem Journal
By Michael Hastings Winston-Salem Journal
May 17, 2017

A new book offers a look inside the growing industry of craft distilleries in North Carolina.

“Still & Barrel: Craft Spirits in the Old North State” ($19.95), by John Francis Trump, has just been published by John F. Blair, based in Winston-Salem.

Trump will have a launch party and book signing for the book at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at Broad Branch Distillery downtown.

Trump, 53 and no relation to President Donald Trump, is the managing editor of the Carolina Journal, which covers state government.

But in his spare time, Trump is known to enjoy a drink or two. His interest in the burgeoning craft distillery industry in North Carolina began after a trip to Kentucky.

“ ”A couple of years ago, my wife and I took a trip to Kentucky and did the complete Bourbon Trail (a self-guided tour of bourbon distilleries),” he said. “I was just fascinated by the process, the stories, the whole tradition of it.”

When the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences put out a booklet outlining a trail of N.C. distilleries, Trump’s curiosity was aroused and he started visiting them.

“I wrote a couple blogs about it, and my wife said, ‘If you’re going to keep writing blogs, you might as well get paid for it.’”

He got in touch with Blair and soon was hard at work on “Still & Barrels.”

The book is essentially a travel guide that lists 36 distilleries in the state. Each entry includes details for a visit as well as a short essay about a distillery’s owner, origins and products.

Sidebars cover such topics as the current state of liquor legislation, distilleries’ ties to the local food movement and more.

Though Trump includes 36 N.C. distilleries in the book, the ABC Commission now lists 46 as having liquor for sale in stores. More are on the way.
Unlike Kentucky, North Carolina is full of young, small companies. “It’s more grassroots and there are such rich stories. In Kentucky, the distilleries are all owned by big companies and they have hundred years of history,” Trump said. “Here, they are all new. Sutler’s Gin (based in Winston-Salem) has been out only a couple of years. And it’s just two guys putting out this wonderful gin.

“So in North Carolina, it’s more of a hands-owned thing — small operations — where you know the people making it.”

Many N.C. distillers, including Piedmont Distillers in Madison, start with clear corn liquor in a nod to our moonshine industry. Piedmont even partnered with NASCAR legend and former moonshiner Junior Johnson to develop an authentic recipe.

But more and more distillers are moving on to create other types of liquor — often with North Carolina products. Covington makes a vodka with sweet potatoes. Several, including Sutler’s, are barrel-aging rum. Others, such as TOPO, now are barrel-aging whiskey.

**Fast-food chains have discovered what will bring customers back: alcohol**

_Quartz_
Written by Chase Purdy
May 16, 2017

Burger King wants to serve booze alongside its Whopper cheeseburgers at another of its locations in New York City—a bold move for the burger chain and a clear sign that your favorite fast food joints are increasingly looking to add alcohol to their menus.

Fast food companies are trying to reinvent themselves in order to compete more effectively against fast-casual restaurants such as Panera Bread Company, which generally offer more choices and customization in ordering. Same-store sales at McDonald’s, in particular, have been shrinking for several quarters in a row now.

But aside from Chipotle Mexican Grill and their margaritas, most fast food is a dry affair. The industry needs new ideas to stay competitive, and alcohol offers a unique opportunity to stay ahead of the curve.

More and more, fast food giants such as Burger King and Taco Bell are testing how consumers respond to the option of buying beer with their burgers. Burger King already offers beer at one of its downtown Manhattan locations, and in a few in the United Kingdom.

Burger King isn’t the only fast food chain flirting with putting alcohol on its menu. Several new Taco Bell restaurants in Canada will offer beer this summer when they open as a way to test consumer interest in the sudsy beverage. The concept is akin to the few “cantina” style Taco Bells in the United States, which already offer alcoholic drinks. The hope is that adding booze to the menu will encourage people to sit in the restaurants longer and, of course, spend more money. There’s even been talk of serving margaritas at a Canadian location.

Adding liquor to the menu is no easy task, due to the many legal restrictions. No underage employees are allowed to handle the alcohol, creating an extra layer of in-store regulation that managers are responsible for. Such drinks also must be consumed on the premise of the restaurants and in clear cups only. Customers are not permitted to take the drinks to-go. (Though there are some areas of the US, including New Orleans, where customers can take open alcohol containers onto the street.)

Even if individual restaurants are prepared to oversee and manage the complications of having a liquor license, obtaining one remains a hurdle. In New York City, for instance, Burger King’s request will fall to a state liquor authority board, which processes many requests at any given time.

Whether the new Burger King request will be approved remains to be seen. But if booze is added to more fast food menus, expect your favorite quick-serve burger joint to become a new happy hour contender.
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