

the CATAMOUNT

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WHAT'S INSIDE?



Members of Student Council prepare for many school events and contribute to the community.

PAGE 9



Students learn how to prepare meat products during the first year of the food processing class.

PAGE 13



Art students are inspired to express themselves through their passions.

PAGE 20

INDEX

News	2-6
People	7-11
Opinions	12-15
Sports	16-17
Entertainment	18-19
Etc.	20

9

13

20

"JUST A DRINK"



Underage drinkers overlook dangerous reality of alcohol

AJ Jones and Lisa Liu
Features Editor and Editor-in-Chief

**Name changed to protect the student's identity.*

Getting caught by his parents didn't stop him. Tangles with the police didn't stop him. Seeing his friend get hit by a car finally made Joseph Quinn* reevaluate his choices to drink.

"He just had a broken leg and a broken arm, but it still kind of shook me that anything can happen while you're drunk," said Quinn, who had been walking the streets intoxicated with his friend when it happened. "I didn't want to do it anymore, but at the same time, since I was already hooked on it, it didn't stop me that much."

Although Quinn couldn't quit cold, he did lower the rate at which he drank and eventually stopped completely. His story is not uncommon among underage drinkers, who sometimes ignore the possibility of consequences until they're confronted directly

with them.

"It's kind of a false reality of 'That'll never happen to me, that happens to someone else,'" assistant principal Kim Rodgers said. "But it could. I think it's a false sense of security."

Rodgers is one of the school's staff members who have received training in detecting intoxication in students. If a student is caught on campus under the influence, the administrators handle the incident on a school level first, then take legal action if needed. The limitations of the process are relatively relaxed.

"Something I think people don't realize is that schools do not fall under the same regulations that a police officer does," principal Tiffany Parkerson said. "If we have a reasonable suspicion that a student is under the influence, we do have full right to search backpacks, lockers and cars in the parking lot."

continued on page 3