

opinion

Alcohol rules on campus

Alcohol

Ashland University does not permit possession, use, sale, manufacturing, or distribution of alcohol, alcohol infused food or drinks, vaporized or powdered alcohol, or "non-alcohol" beer by students, faculty, or staff on Ashland University property; except under specific guidelines for student and staff apartments as well as catering and conference services. Student organizations, including the Greek community, must receive approval from Student Life before hosting any event where alcohol is present, including alcohol that is purchased or donated for the purpose of fundraising (i.e., wine basket raffles, etc.). Student Life reserves the right to deny requests. Student organizations failing to adhere to this policy will be in violation of the university alcohol policy. In addition, the federal law entitled "Drug Free Schools and Campuses Law" requires all institutions to adopt and implement a program to prevent illicit use of drugs and the abuse of alcohol by students and employees. Use and/or possession of alcoholic beverages and/or containers outside of designated areas (i.e. apartments, residence halls and fraternity houses on University property) is not permitted. Also, individuals under the legal drinking age of 21 may not consume any alcohol on campus under any circumstances. Those individuals of age may only consume alcohol in approved senior apartment areas.

Behavior, regardless of location, that is judged irresponsible or inconsiderate while under the influence of alcohol is considered to be an abuse of alcohol and a violation of the regulation. When alcohol and alcohol paraphernalia (i.e. beer bong, keg taps, decorative bottles, shot glasses or any other container which at a point held alcohol) are found in unauthorized areas on University property, the items will be confiscated by Ashland University officials. Confiscated alcohol will not be returned to the offender. Alcohol policy violations can include behavior which occurs off campus. Being present in a room where alcohol and or alcohol paraphernalia are found against policy is at maximum a violation of this regulation. At minimum, presence in such a room equates to an accessory violation.

ASHLAND UNIVERSITY STUDENT CONDUCT MANUAL

Ashland University is a dry campus.

HANNAH WITTEMAN
AU Student

It's no surprise to anyone that the drinking age is 21, however Ashland University is a dry campus which does not allow alcohol on university grounds even if the student is 21 or older.

If any student is caught, they may have to attend a student conduct meeting and if found guilty, they can face a fine, probation, and community service work as punishment.

Many students believe that AU should change these rules to be more lenient on those who are legally able to drink. I personally agree with these students but I do believe that AU is just trying to look out for their students' safety and well-being. With that being said, I am not 21, but I had the chance to talk to a couple of students that feel like the rules in place now need to change.

AU student Griffin Lusk explains that he understands why the university limits the amount of alcohol on campus, but thinks that if people who are 21 do get caught with beverages like beer or wine that they should not be punished by the school since they won't be punished by law.

He also states that if you do get caught with alcohol at AU, you will have to take a class online. Lusk thinks that if people are 21-years-old, they should not have to take that class because they are not legally doing anything wrong.

Derek Reynolds, senior at AU, also agrees with Lusk. However he points out that if rules do change that the students should be respectful to the school and to others if they participate with having booze. He believes that the drinks should be allowed to be kept in the rooms if a change is made.

Before Reynolds, I never would have thought about this. I feel like everyone

is too quick to judge about the basic idea of no alcohol in the dorms and most students don't think about the 'what if's'. If AU does change their views on alcohol being in rooms with students who are 21 and have rules regarding where the alcohol is kept, then will people actually follow the rules? Or will it turn the campus into a rave 24/7?

Reynolds adds that there does have to be rules in order to limit underage drinking and that students should only be able to have alcohol in the room if everyone who lives in the dorm room are 21.

Now this won't stop people from giving underage students alcohol but there really isn't a way the school or law can stop underage drinking completely. I do think that if someone is caught providing alcohol to someone who is not of age, that person should get in trouble as well as the student who is taking the drink.

Senior Liz Bucci says she does understand why there are rules now, but because students who are in the senior apartments are allowed alcohol, it just makes people sneak around and participate in unsafe habits. However, if the school was less restrictive on the rules, the sneaking around would not be as big as it is now.

While these three students and I love and respect Ashland University and know that AU is just looking out for their students, we believe that it is time to make a change to the dry campus rule at AU for 21-year-olds.

To submit your own opinion article or letter to the editor, email bgannon@ashland.edu

Pit Bulls: judged unfairly

ADIE GOODYEAR
AU Student

Pit Bulls are being looked at in the wrong light. As far as I can remember, I have never owned an aggressive dog. I have owned dogs since I was little and they were always well behaved and never bit any person that came near them. However, I have also been around many dogs that have been aggressive. A dog's behavior is not by nature, but it is the atmosphere that they live in that changes their personality; and I believe that the Pit Bull breed has no exceptions.

Pit Bulls are used as fighting dogs. They are actually raised and taught to be mean. In fact, when you look at the most common breeds of dogs used as fighting dogs, most of them are a type of Pit Bull. According to a statement made by The Humane Society of the United States, 'Breeders take advantage of Pit Bulls' inherent loyalty to make them more aggressive with outsiders and other dogs.'

Their loyalty to their owners is an inherited trait that is used against them, and they are bred with bigger dogs to enhance the aggressiveness. Dogs are known as man's best friend. They are loved by most people and is the number one top choice for pets. If humans love the dog species so much, then why are

we leaving out one specific breed over things they cannot control?

A lot of my friends in high school had Pit Bulls and they were just big babies. The dogs loved to cuddle, have their bellies rubbed, and just be around people. Pit Bulls are natural born people pleasers. In fact, according to Pit Bull Rescue Central, "Pit Bulls were bred for fighting and bull and bear baiting. This does not, however, mean that fighting is the sole purpose of these breeds."

They go on to say, "Greyhounds and Whippets were (and still are) bred for 'coursing,' chasing, and killing small prey like rabbits, and squirrels. Like pit bulls, these dogs still make excellent family pets."

We should not judge an animal species because of the reason they were or still are bred. An animal's natural born personality is not to be destructive. And it is not humane to hold a certain species to higher standards, and if those standards are not met then the species is killed. That is just not right. Almost two-hundred Pit Bulls are killed everyday in Los Angeles alone due to biting people trying to defend their owners. Most dogs that came out of the dogfighting lifestyle, already has that internal instinct to protect their owner at all costs, because that is how they were raised.

When Pit Bulls are training to be in fights they are forced to hang on a chain with meat attached to it by their mouth, forced to tread water in pools, and forced to run on treadmills while caged animals are dangled in front of them. Dogs who win fights, are forced to fight many times and are used to bred puppies. When dogs can no longer fight, lose fights, or refuse to fight, they are used as bait animals.

Dogs are not violent at birth. When they are raised in good, healthy environments, they are wonderful dogs. But when they are abused, tortured, and forced to live in such a harsh environment they can tend to be violent. It is not their personality, but how they were raised. When those fighting dogs escape or are sold they hold the possibility to attack because they were raised to protect their owner at all costs. Their inherited loyalty is used against them and it has made people turn their backs to their breed.

Pit Bulls are looked at in the wrong light, and it is time that we stand up for the Pit Bulls and help them regain people's trust and rebuild their reputation. It is not the dogs who are evil, but it is the dog fighting trainers who are evil.

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ASPCA

Pit Bulls are loved by many but are misrepresented and looked at in the wrong light.



the Collegian

EDITOR'S NOTE

The views expressed in the columns do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Collegian* or Ashland University.

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