

# UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



## SECURITY BULLETIN – NOVEMBER 15, 2002

### ALERT:

Critical / Major Incident

### ADVISORY:

Important Incident

### BULLETIN:

General Information

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In light of recent news reports regarding missing college students, the University of St. Thomas Public Safety and Parking Services Department offers this background on the situation as well as some safety tips and facts about alcohol.

Four college-age students are missing in the Upper Midwest; in each case they were missing after visiting bars or being at parties late at night. The latest incident became public Monday morning, Nov. 11, when authorities in central Minnesota began looking for a St. John's University student missing since Saturday night, Nov. 9.

Investigators involved in the searches say that despite a few similarities in the cases, they have no information that any of them are related.

Public Safety would like to remind students and all members of the St. Thomas community of the following safety tips and alcohol facts:

- **Alcohol affects your brain.** Drinking alcohol leads to a loss of coordination, poor judgment, slowed reflexes, distorted vision, memory lapses and even blackouts.
- **Alcohol affects your body.** Alcohol can damage every organ in your body. It is absorbed directly into your bloodstream and can increase your risk for a variety of life-threatening diseases, including cancer.
- **Alcohol affects your self-control.** Alcohol depresses your central nervous system, lowers your inhibitions and impairs your judgment. Drinking can lead to risky behaviors, including having unprotected sex. This may expose you to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases or cause unwanted pregnancy.
- **Alcohol can kill you.** Drinking large amounts of alcohol can lead to coma or even death. Also, in 1998, 35.8 percent of traffic deaths of 15- to 20-year-olds were alcohol-related.
- **Alcohol can hurt you -- even if you're not the one drinking.** If you're around people who are drinking, you have an increased risk of being seriously injured, involved in car crashes, or affected by violence. At the very least, you may have to deal with people who are sick, out of control or unable to take care of themselves.
- Never leave your glass or **drink unattended.**
- Use a **buddy system or the university's escort program** when walking alone.
- Never leave a bar or party with someone you do not know.
- Have a **plan** and stick with it.
- **Don't leave friends alone.**

### Campus Resources:

For an escort on or near campus, 962-5100  
For information on the campus Safe Zone Project, 962-6461  
Department of Public Safety, 962-5100  
Student Health Services, 962-6750  
Wellness Center, 962-6125  
Personal Counseling, 962-6780  
Dean of Student Life, 962-6050  
Campus Living, 962-6470

**Public Safety urges you to be pro-active and alert. You can help prevent crime!**

If you have information regarding crimes on campus you are urged to contact  
Public Safety at (651) 962-5100 and the police (651) 291-1111

Removal Date: 11/29/2002