The Daily Collegian
New England's Largest College Daily online

Amherst bylaw looks to quiet off-campus partiers

Matt Rocheleau and William McGuinness, Collegian Staff

Issue date: 9/9/08 **Section:** News

Media Credit: Shelby Kinney-Lang/Collegian
The proposed Nuisance House bylaw aims to cut down on off-campus partying, like at the apartments on Hobart Lane.
[Click to enlarge]

Off-campus partiers may soon have to quiet down or pay up under Amherst's proposed Nuisance House bylaw which could hold landlords financially responsible for repeatedly disruptive tenants.

If approved, the law allows officers to issue a $300 ticket "for the nuisances and harm caused by loud and unruly gatherings on private property."

Amherst Police Capt. Michael Kent said he does not know exactly when the change will come, but expects approval from the Massachusetts Attorney General's office "any day now," thereby putting the law into effect.

The University of Massachusetts was recently lauded for its campaign against binge drinking.

UMass estimates a 36 percent drop in the activity, and cite dormitory restrictions and heightened enforcement of these rules as a major factor. In residence halls, drinking games are prohibited, no empty containers of alcohol are allowed and fewer students can be signed into dorm rooms.

The Campus and Community Coalition (CCC) is a major supporter of the action, and co-chairs Martha N. Patrick and Sally Linowski said in a letter to the Amherst Select Board that the move will do much to curb underage drinking, a common activity around campus.

In 2007, Amherst Police reported 429 arrests for the unlawful possession of liquor by an individual under 21 years old. Citing that these arrests take a lot of police resources and town money to process, the committee suggests passing the bill.

But UMass and the Amherst community are working to make sure that they have not simply channeled the flow of alcohol off campus, resulting in a financial burden for the town.

"The idea of cost recovery in a time of fiscal constraints to local communities is an important factor in allowing towns the financial ability to respond to nuisances that are detrimental to local neighborhoods without further burdening the local budget," the letter reads.

Continued...

POLL

This month, UMass Chaplain Kent Higgins was reprimanded by the University for offering credits to students for their participation in the Obama campaign. Should a state university offer credits to students for partisan campaigning?

- Yes -- it encourages educated citizenship.
- No -- it compromises the University's ethic.
- It's all the same to me.

Submit Vote
View Results

24 Hour News

Article Tools

Share: Facebook Blogger del.icio.us digg newsvine
Subscribe: My Yahoo! Google

The Massachusetts Daily Collegian has an 'open door' policy with regards to reader comments. In the interest of facilitating an open discourse, comments are not screened or edited for spelling, mechanics or content. Comments on our website cannot be verified by The Collegian and in no way represent the opinions of The Massachusetts Daily Collegian or its staff.

Be the first to comment on this story

Name: (required)

Email: (required)

NOTE: Email address will not be published

Website:

Notify me of followup comments via e-mail

Type your comment below (html not allowed)

I am not posting spam. I understand posting spam or other comments that are unrelated to this article will cause my comment to be flagged for deletion and possibly cause my IP address to be permanently banned from this server.

Post

News

Pagan pride '08
Drum Corps leader honored
Library evacuation forces study break
NPHC hosts 'Meet the Greeks' Event
Real Talk: Black in America

Arts & Living

Voices of Guantanamo Bay to haunt Amherst
Students' guide to English pubs
Pinback ready to dominate
Sci-fi "Eagle Eye" full of action and explosions

Editorial / Opinion

In Mass., it's a 'green' ballot
Invisible campaigning
SGA, student apathy
Unresponsible hospitals

Sports

COMMENTARY: Minutemen can't find net
UM struggles to capitalize
Minutemen return to McGuirk after bye
Salvaggione nets game winners
Beam leads 49er's

National College Advertising and Marketing | Privacy Policy (8/15/07) | Terms of Use (4/28/08)
Content Submission Agreement (8/23/07) | Copyright Compliance Policy (8/25/07) | RSS Terms of Use

© **The Daily Collegian**

Powered by **College Publisher**

College Publisher powered by ...U and NETWORKS