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## Fall Semester – Time For Discussions About College Drinking

*Colleges required to disclose campus security policies and crime statistics*

As college students arrive on campus this fall, parents envision for their children a time of new experiences, new friendships, and making memories that will last a lifetime. Manhasset CASA and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism remind parents that for many, it is a scene of high risk drinking that can turn tragic, where they will deal with its aftermath—vandalism, violence, sexual aggression, and even death.

Addressing the issue head on this spring, Manhasset High School Seniors were educated in the Red Watch Band Curriculum to help students understand the importance of recognizing alcohol overdose as a medical emergency and provide the knowledge, skill and confidence to help prevent a tragedy. The district administration, faculty, CASA, and the SCA, coordinated and implemented the program with the help of the Robbie Levine Foundation through its “Teens for Life” initiative that provided the CPR/AED certification component for every participant. But prevention doesn’t stop there. Parents also play a critical role in their child’s healthy transition to college.

### Early Weeks Are Critical

As the fall semester begins, parents can use this important time to help prepare their college-age sons and daughters by talking with them about the consequences of excessive drinking. Some first-year students who live on campus may be at partic-

ular risk for alcohol misuse. During their high school years, those who go on to college tend to drink less than their non-college-bound classmates. However, during subsequent years, the heavy drinking rates of college students surpass those of their non-college peers. This rapid increase in heavy drinking over a relatively short period of time can contribute to serious difficulties with the transition to college.

Research shows that the first six weeks of the first semester are critical to a first-year student’s academic success. Because many students initiate heavy drinking during these early days of college, the potential exists for excessive alcohol consumption to interfere with successful adaptation to campus life. The transition to college is often difficult and about one-third of first-year students fail to enroll for their second year.

### Parents Stay Involved

During these crucial early weeks, parents can do a variety of things to stay involved. Manhasset CASA suggests parents:

- Pay special attention to your son’s or daughter’s experiences and activities during the crucial first six weeks on campus. Many students initiate heavy drinking during these early days of college. Excessive alcohol consumption interferes with successful transition to campus life;

*continued on page 8*

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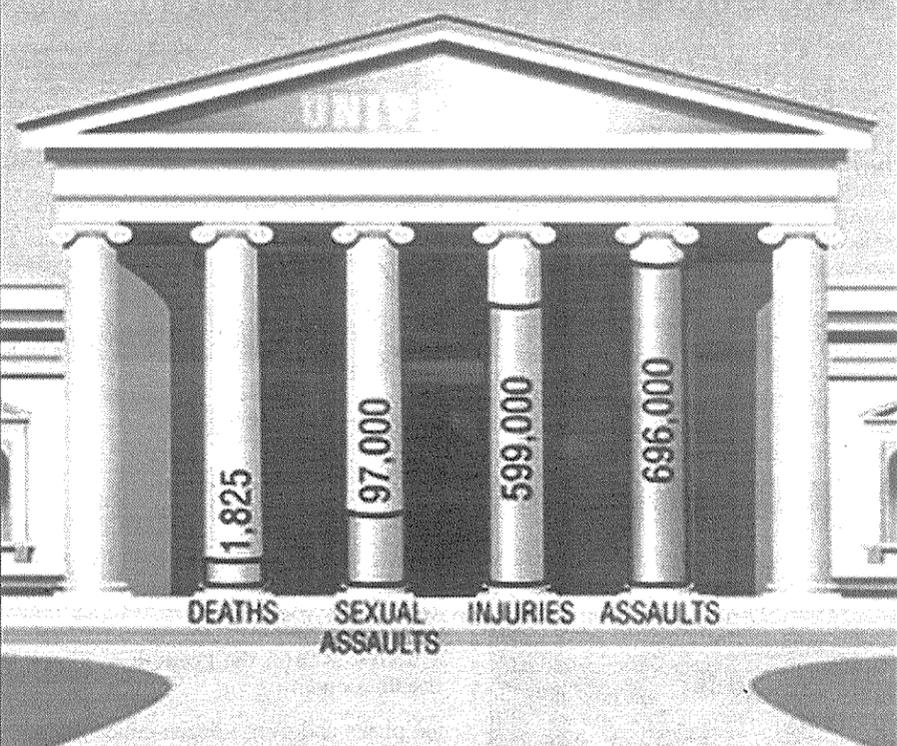


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## Consequences of High-risk College Drinking



Source: Hingson, R., Zha, W., & Weitzman, E. (2009). Magnitude of and trends in alcohol-related mortality and morbidity among U.S. college students ages 18-24, 1998-2005. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, Issue 16: 12-20.

The consequences of excessive drinking by college students are more significant, more destructive, and more costly than many parents realize. And these consequences affect students whether or not they drink. Drinking by college students aged 18 to 24 contributes to an estimated 1,825 student deaths, 599,000 injuries, and 97,000 cases of sexual assault or date rape each year.

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Photo by Dick Lopez

## A Photographer's View of Brooklyn Exhibited at Shelter Rock Public Library

"Changes In Williamsburg, Brooklyn" a photo display, will be exhibited in the Shelter Rock Public Library's gallery from July 28-August 28 located at 165 Seatingtown Road, Albertson. This show will feature work by Dick Lopez, founding director of the Long Island Center of Photography. He is a fine arts photographer who received his MFA from the School of Visual Arts.

Installation and removal dates are subject to change. All exhibits are free and open to the public during regular library hours. Gallery viewing times may vary during regular library hours. For hours and directions phone: 248-7363 or online at webpage: [www.nassaulibrary.org/shelter](http://www.nassaulibrary.org/shelter)

Born in Brooklyn in 1941, Dick Lopez frequented Williamsburg for most of his youth, along the way developing the roots that would ultimately define who he is.

It is for this reason that he calls himself

a true Brooklynite. Despite the vast paths that Dick has taken throughout life, he still finds that his heart is drawn to the Williamsburg community. Only through the lens of a Nikon, capturing the progress of a city that has been changing since childhood.

In shooting his work, Dick hopes to depict the past, present, and future of the historic borough. His focus is clear: to photograph how the not-so-subtle transformations of this community are effected by not only real estate developers and investors, but old-time resident immigrants, artists, merchants and the abundance of diverse ethnic and religious cultures. Dick has no doubt that the imminent evolution of Williamsburg allow him to discover yet another dimension of more than just the city itself. He has a deeper understanding of self.

## Discussions About College Drinking

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- Attend, with your freshman, orientation programs that educate students about campus policies related to alcohol use; be familiar with who is responsible for campus counseling programs;
- Inquire about the college's "parental notification" policy;
- Stay actively involved in the life of your son or daughter. Even away at college, your child continues to be an extension of your family and its values;

- Inquire about their roommates' behavior, and how disputes are settled or disruptive behavior dealt with;
- Make sure your student understands the penalties for underage drinking, public drunkenness, using fake ID, drinking under the influence, assault, and other alcohol-related offenses. Indicate that you have asked the college to keep you informed of infractions;
- Make certain that they understand how alcohol use can lead to date rape, violence, and academic failure.

### Help Is Available

For parents who want to talk to their teenage sons and daughters about the sequences of college drinking, a variety of helpful resources are available from N at [www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov](http://www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov)

In addition, parents should be aware that the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Statistics Act requires colleges and universities to disclose annual information about campus crime and security policies and requires colleges to publish an annual report disclosing campus security policies and three years' worth of selected statistics, including liquor-law violations resulting in arrest or disciplinary action. To access a college's latest report visit <http://ope.ed.gov/security/>.

For more information on the Red Band, please visit [www.manhassetca](http://www.manhassetca)

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