



THE CALIFORNIA AGGIE

October 06, 2005

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Safe Party Initiative

'Solution' increases high tensions

Posted 10/04/2005

To address the issues of alcohol misuse and increasingly "rowdy" parties, the city of Davis adopted the Safe Party Initiative on Sept. 27. As a result, the city has upped its police patrol on certain dates — particularly nights that students would likely party — for the next two months. While alcohol-related incidents and inconsiderate parties have been ongoing problems in Davis, the initiative makes an unfair compromise of student life.

Police say they will be focusing their patrols to address drunk driving, alcohol poisoning and sexual assault. But there is no persuasive evidence that the initiative is necessary to replace old methods. Sobriety checkpoints serve as a reasonable safeguard to prevent students from drinking irresponsibly, and the number of sex offenses in Davis has been declining in the past three years, according to the UC Davis Clery Act statistics.

Regarding loud parties, residents have the ability to pick up a phone and report such incidents, or knock on their neighbors' door. By patrolling outside bars and cruising through "high-risk" areas, police are not serving to improve community relations so much as they are exacerbating existing problems with students.

The initiative also involves hosting a website to raise awareness about the dangers of irresponsible drinking, as well as leading community activities to improve relationships between students and non-students. These methods sound promising, but it is worth questioning whether students would care to visit an alcohol awareness website, or how exactly officials will encourage participation in such activities with tensions already high.

After the increased patrols, students deserve a report on the results of the Safe Party Initiative. As it stands, it strives to remedy a perpetual problem inherent in any college town — but instead of using conventional methods, it goes looking for problems.

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