



New Paltz's first ...

Arts & Entertainment Paper

The Secret Life of An Art Student

Catherine Ratto

Art Editor

As a Business Major, I never realized the amount of work that goes in to being an art student, apparently, most freshmen didn't either. Since I'm currently the Art editor of the Nugget I figured I would dig deep and discover the "secret life of an art student," not only to educate myself but to inform the students at SUNY New Paltz about the workload of the average art student.

After interviewing a few freshmen in Hasbrouck Dining Hall, I gathered enough insight to make every art student hate the entire freshman class.

"Being an art student is taking the easy way out," one student commented. "It's pathetic that you can early a degree for drawing naked people and playing with clay."

After hearing this comment from the student, who obviously wished to be named anonymous, I set out to Smiley Art Building to interview students while they worked on their projects.

Heather Scarselli, a senior and art education major, is cur-

rently taking four art classes: digital photography, art education, art history, and a painting class, as well as doing field-work. Scarselli had been working in the Smiley Art Building since the early morning and with her workload, I would have been too. For her painting class, Scarselli has seven paintings to do, adding up to two paintings a month.

This may seem like a lot of time, but according to Scarselli, "Each oil painting takes anywhere from two to three weeks to complete."

Like students who aren't majoring in art, Scarselli also has two papers due at the end of the semester. Her painting class isn't the only thing that requires a lot of work. She has to come in an hour early before each Digital photography class.

"I have to come in early to do my work because I have a paper and photos due every Thursday," she noted.

But being an art student doesn't just mean creating paintings and drawing all day.

"For my art education theory

class, I have four papers due this semester," said Scarselli.

"I also have reading due every week and a final paper due at the end of the semester for my art history class."

Kate Blessing, a sophomore and visual arts major, had to leave a Nugget meeting early to finish a painting

due the next morning for her *continued on pg 2...*



A painting by student Jimbo Stamboni, such a painting may take forty hours for a student to complete.

photo courtesy of Kara Hoblin

Secret Life Continued..

Basic Paintings class. Not only is Blessing working on her current project, but she is also preparing for her master painting due at the end of the semester.

“ It has to be the same dimensions, exactly the same as the original,” Blessing stated. “I’m supposed to work for 40 hours on it.”

On top of her not-so-“basic” painting class, Blessing is also taking a basic ceramics class and foundations classes, which take place at 7:30 A.M.

When asked about students working past 12 A.M. in the Smiley Art Building, Blessing nonchalantly replied, “I’ve seen people in there until 7 A.M.”

Working until 7 A.M. and having to go to start class half an hour later? Maybe it isn’t so great being an art student.

But having to lock yourself in the Smiley Art Building and give up your rights to sleep is not the only struggle art students face.

According to Blessing, “Being an art major is also very expensive.”

Although fine arts students do not need to buy as many textbooks as business or communications majors, they are responsible for purchasing their own art supplies.

Although the art store in town, Manny’s, offers decent prices for common art supplies and the internet provides art supply trading among students, art supplies are extremely expensive.

According to Kenyan College, “The average student spends over \$250 per year in any advanced painting class.” Advanced art students additionally have to purchase textbooks and tutorials for skilled classes.

On top of everything, a new lock system is being implemented in to Smiley Art Building to prevent drunk students from walking into the facility after the bar. This is leaving many art students worried about not being able to work late in the building on their projects. After asking a few students working in Smiley Art Building, they seemed not to mind the drunk students enough for it to jeopardize their demanding work schedules.

Drunk students aren’t the only friendly visits that art students have had in Smiley Art Building.

“We were working really late at night it must have been about 2 A.M. when a bat flew into the building,” said Blessing. “It was the weirdest thing!”

Being an art student isn’t just about painting and drawing. I learned from writing this article that art students put in

more work than most students and are not given enough credit for it. I suggest any student not majoring in art take a trip to the Smiley Art Building late at night and see how hard these students work, their skills and talents are incredible.

The New Paltz Nugget

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VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

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Exhibits at The Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art

Jillian Enid Borde
Staff Writer

The Samuel Dorsky Museum is always changing their exhibits. If contorted sculptures intrigue you, there is an analog catalog investigating the Permanent Collection at the SDMA. All of these chosen works are unique and represent the variety of art available at the museum. From an Indonesian sculpture of a female's torso to

to be people with shadows of other characters in the background, the best thing to do with this portrait is to imagine you and your family member at this party taking a forced photo by the stereotypical aunt who loves to take photos.

If you are a gymnast or love to study the body and shapes, the sculpture dubbed "Clouds" by Sofo Teshighara is

flawless, just like human bodies.

Although dots may not be in fashion, at the SDMA Lindsay Allyn Drucker's video "Introspection and Extrospection" represents anyone interested in video production or pictures. This photo is a still photo from a digital video installation. It depicts a group of men standing around what seems to be a counter. At first glance, it looks like the stock market. There are other video art works in the exhibit presented by Gregory Bray and his students. The works represent the collection and production.

These amazing portraits and sculptures will be on display till June 2009, so before you head home for the summer go to the museum and be amazed by the exhibits.



photo courtesy of The Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art

"The Birthday Party" By Ben Bishop

a structure named "This Land is Your Land and This Land Is My Land," this exhibit appeals to every age.

Bring all the kiddies. Whether it is your little brother or little sister, they will definitely enjoy seeing the painting entitled "The Birthday Party" by Ben Bishop. This is an inquisitive photo that makes the viewer ask, "Why did the artist paint this?"

With figures that seem

perfect. This sculpture is one at which many stare and ask, "What is this?"

I saw it as bodies grouped together; flexibility similar to that of contortionists in a circus. There was no space left in between these "bodies" to peek through, each curve was tightly tucked together. Smooth and



photo courtesy of The Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art

"Clouds" by Sofo Teshighara



"Video Introspection and Extrospection" by Lindsay Allyn Drucker
photo courtesy of The Samuel Dorsky Museum Of Art

Bands Battle for Big Break

Emily MacBrien
Copy Editor

On February 24th, nine bands competed for the chance to open for Reel Big Fish and Talib Kweli at their April 23rd show on campus. For most young bands out there that are struggling to get ahead in the music business, a chance to open for a band like Reel Big

The show opened at 6pm in the Multi Purpose Room of the SUB and went until 9pm. One of the real standout performances of the night came from The Misguided Fools. Taking the stage earlier on in the night, The Misguided Fools still managed to leave a lasting impres-



The Misguided Fools photo courtesy of facebook.com

Fish doesn't come around often. And when it does, any local musician would jump at the opportunity.

The lineup consisted of: All I Can Say, If At All, Direction of the Cannon Fire, Casanova Frankenstein and the Disco Boys, Evazan, The Misguided Fools, Alpha State Trio, Real MCKoy and Tripmonk. Not only were the bands extremely diverse musically, but they ranged from veterans of the local scene to fairly new bands. Regardless of the amount of time they spent together, however, each band proved to be a phenomenal group of musicians. The only question that remained was who would walk away knowing that they would
4 be opening for Reel Big Fish.

sion on the crowd. The kind of band who really looks like they love what they're doing, they brought a fun, funky energy to the Battle of the Bands and took home a respectable second place.

The winners were Casanova Frankenstein and the Disco Boys and most agreed that they deserved the victory. Although they've only been a band for about a year, they have a phenomenal and interesting sound. They'll be playing shows in and around New Paltz in the upcoming months, the culmination of which will be the show on April 23rd. For further information on this truly outstanding band, see Casanova Frankenstein and the Disco Boys in this issue of the New Paltz Nugget.

Casanova Frankenstein and the Disco Boys

Stephen Nagel
Staff Writer

This past week's annual Battle of the Bands competition brought forth one of New Paltz's edgiest bands to the forefront of the Hudson River Valley scene. Emerging victorious, it wasn't only each band member's extraordinary talent that won the spotlight, but also their unique choice of genre--a somewhat dated and often forgotten fusion of Rock, Jazz, and Soul, affectionately remembered as

many of who seem unaware that their style of music actually comes with a name (albeit modernized by a 21st century-style rock influence, present in such original arrangements as "Improper Rain" and "Maxclamation"). Nevertheless, Funk has remained their primary focus, and when considering the reminiscent style of their vocalist's versatile and accentually emotive voice, Casanova



Casanova Frankenstein and the Disco Boys at practice. Photo courtesy of myspace.com

"Funk." While this genre may have passed its heyday, "Casanova Frankenstein and the Disco Boys" seem committed to preserving all the catchy riffs and intricate rhythms that made Funk such a memorable soundtrack to the grooviest decade.

Already having played at several local bars and clubs, Casanova's stage experience is almost immediately evident. From beginning to end, the band's set-list is strategically designed to give their audience a full range of their talents. Usually opening with an irresistibly danceable rhythm, they tend to have a mesmerizing effect on unsuspecting listeners,

appears to have settled upon a fitting niche.

Complete with extensive set-lists, Casanova usually has enough time to steer a room-full of listeners into a dancing frenzy, and then lull them into a tranquil calm (stimulated by the lighter side of funk, incorporating familiar covers such as "Ain't No Sunshine" into their widely-original repertoire). In the meantime, the band is currently working on an album, which they hope to market in the coming months. But, for now, the local scene can continue to enjoy this creative team, and thank them for taking New Paltz out of the 60s, and into the 70s.

Paramore's *Final Riot!* Shows Their True Talent

Ryan Lynch

Music Editor

Few contemporary chart toppers release live albums, and even fewer release live albums that are comparable to their studio counterparts. Paramore's *The Final Riot!*, released before Christmas, showcases the band's live set following the release of their platinum album, *Riot!* This DVD is a great representation of the band as people and performers, showing not only the songs from the CD, but also a behind the scenes look at how the band prepares for the tour and how they act once the tour begins.

The show opens with the band members coming in one at a time, as the stage lights cue their arrival. Once every member comes in, the singer, Hayley

Williams, runs on stage as the band kicks into "Born For This."

They rip through their latest single, "That's What You Get" before playing a song from their first album, *All We Know Is Falling*, showing

that they don't forget about their older fans with an energetic performance of "Here We Go Again." Most of their set is

from *Riot!*, but they play quite a few from *All We Know*, as well as an unreleased song, "Decoy."



Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia.org

Their set is a pretty standard mix of their two albums, but one thing that makes this album unique is the slower sections of the set. The band plays through mellow renditions of "When It Rains" (featuring Hayley on piano) and an acoustic "My Heart"

midway through the set. Towards the end of the set, Hayley once again plays piano on "We Are Broken" before the band plays "Hallelujah," featuring a beautiful intro of Leonard Cohen's song of the same title. Just when the crowd thinks the show is over, the band returns for a powerful encore of "Misery Business" and the set comes to a close.

The CD alone is worth the purchase for any Paramore fan, but the DVD features an incredible look into the band. Featuring interviews from Josh Farro, Zach Farro, Jeremy Davis, Taylor York, and Hayley Williams, this provides a side of the band that very few artists let their fans see.

Bon Iver Releases New EP

Tyler Collison

Copy Editor

How does a band follow an album that was widely considered not only one of the best albums of 2008, but one of the top debuts? That is a question Justin Vernon, otherwise known by his moniker, Bon Iver, attempted to answer with the recent release of the "Blood Bank" EP.

Bon Iver was heavily noted as one of the best new bands of 2008 after the release of his debut album, *For Emma, Forever Ago*. The debut was a hauntingly personal album that Vernon wrote while isolated in the woods of Wisconsin after a very emotional break-up. The album featured, for the most part, sparse recordings of the band's two most prominent instruments: Vernon's guitar and Vernon's voice.

So to follow such a renowned album, does a band expand their

sound or keep it the same? After listening to this EP, it seems very difficult to determine the direction in which Vernon plans to go. The title track is reminiscent of many of the tracks from *For Emma*. Though the lyrics and content are strange and frightening on the surface, it becomes clear that Vernon chose his instrumental arrangement to steer the listener away from such thoughts.

In the next track, "Beach Baby," which lasts just over two minutes, Vernon ventures away from his typical, woody

scenario to play something that seems as though it could be played while sitting around a beach campfire. This is especially true when the mellow solo comes in to conclude the song.

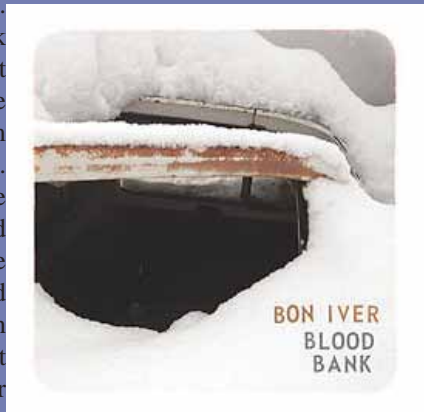


Photo Courtesy of PasteMagazine.com

"Babys," the next track, is indeed an expansion for Bon Iver. This song sounds like something that could be played by Animal Collective, aside from Vernon's soothing falsetto. Though the instrumentation in this song will lead many to see this as the most "indie" song on the album, Vernon's

voice has a tendency to drag the listener to a more soulful place as he sings, with lines like "My woman and I... / My woman and I know what we're for."

Since EPs are less talked about releases from most artists, it makes sense to experiment a little. Vernon likely had this idea in his head when he recorded the record's final track, "Woods." Here, he tinkers with the recent vocoder craze, mixing and matching his voice into layer upon layer, until he almost has an entire choir of himself. While this track may have the power to make Bon Iver fans shake their heads, listening to it in the right atmosphere (note: alone, in the dark, with headphones) will likely leave you with permanent goose bumps. A great way to close out an EP that is sure to be a tremendous segue into whatever is coming next.

A Day at Windham

With The New Paltz Outing Club

Dan O'Regan

Staff Writer

On Saturday Feb. 28th, the members of the New Paltz outing club lead a ski trip to Windham Mountain. Departing from campus a little after 2 p.m., the trip ran smoothly and soundly throughout the day. The trip planners did an excellent job getting more than 50 students to and from the mountain.

Conditions on the mountain were less than perfect, with large ice patches appearing across the majority of the trails. The weather on the mountain was great, with little clouds and a temperature just above freezing. The ice made the trails very hard to traverse, causing many a skier/snowboarder to take a

exactly what it sounds like, skiing at night. Something made possible by the huge lights



photo courtesy Phil Mavrikis

stationed on the lower trails of the mountain. The lights enable skiers and snowboarders to ride well past sun down for an extended day at the mountain. One of the advantages to skiing at night is that most people that ski or snowboard prefer to do so during the day, therefore night skiing is much less crowded. The down side, however, is that because lights are required,



photo courtesy Phil Mavrikis

fall or two. Although majority of the trails were iced over, there were some trails that remained fresh even until later in the day. These trails were the less traveled ones, due to their higher difficulty rating.

The trip lasted until after dark -- this is when Windham Mountain converts itself into a night skiing mountain. Night skiing is

there were only two ski lifts on the lower half of the mountain running.

The trip went very well, and at the end of the day, exhausted and content faces were visible boarding the bus back to campus. Everyone who attended the trip seemed to have had his or her fill of skiing or snowboarding.

Were You Aware of the Shop?

Kate Blessing

NN Copy Editor

Since the crash of the stock market, the economy and, consequently, Americans as a whole, have been struggling. The market for housing is down, banks and car companies are going bankrupt, and the unemployment rate is soaring. There is, however, one person and one shop who are seemingly unaffected by the failing economy.

Ashley Grant, 22, is a believer in The Awareness Shop. A student at New Paltz and an Albany area native, Grant is no stranger to the shop. "I was confused with everything going on in my life, so I went," she said. "The woman knew something was wrong when I arrived and I felt incredibly relieved when I left."

The Awareness Shop is on Main Street in downtown New Paltz, New York. It is a metaphysical shop that is home to fifteen employees, nine of which hold specialty titles such as Psychic and Reiki Master. Though all readings are \$40 for one half hour, business has not faltered. Employee Laurie Mintz, 51, says she feels "guilty because a lot of people can't afford it." She goes on to say that when she was exploring her spirituality, she couldn't afford it either but made sure she found a way. Laura (Laurie) Mintz is a Psychic and specializes in channeling -- contacting the dead -- and also specializes in past lives. She has worked weekends at the shop for 11 years doing readings for all sorts of people. "God and Goddess willing," she says of when she retires from her day job, "the shop isn't going anywhere so I can pick up a couple more days." Laurie has been written about in the Times Herald News,

done a film documentary for a Dutchess County College student, and has given three speeches to child psychology majors at SUNY New Paltz on psychic children.

Five days a week Laurie works for a state penitentiary, in a secretarial position, handling time cards for working officers.

"It's funny ... because it's a good balance," Laurie said about the opposite environments, when working at the prison and the shop. Though Laurie has worked for the state for over 27 years and seems to fear change, she has many plans for when she retires.

Both very lovable and a definite character, Laurie stands five-foot small and has a kind, squeaky voice. Though seemingly simple, this woman can tell you all about what happens when we die and can connect you with loved ones passed. She is committed to what she does and is planning to write three books on her life thus far when she retires.

The first book she wants to write is about reincarnation. She said, "one day, out of the blue, I looked at this guy and I could tell what he was in a past life and just like that, it came on and now I'm able to do past life readings. She is told that when "we're over there, people have jobs to do, but you can decide to reincarnate if you want. Some of the ones," she says, "the ones who feel that their souls have more work to do, or want to reach that higher level, can come back again." She went on to say that, "A lot of older souls can choose to come

continued on pg 7...

back into difficult situations, like being a Downs Syndrome child." Apparently, choosing to reincarnate into this situation builds Karma for both the couple that have the child, and for the soul who chooses to be the child. Laurie said of her own lives and Karma, "I've uncovered over 25 past lives, and I want to write a book about it."

Another book she hopes to write is something skeptics are quick to dismiss. "This is going to be weird," she said, "but I had an experience with beings from another planet." These beings from the constellation Pliates, call themselves Pliateans and want her to write a book on them. They want her to channel them to write their story.

The third book she is interested in writing is on psychic children. "I was psychic as a child," she says. She told me that she used to be with her grandmother all of the time, who died before she was born. "I would go into the woods by myself," she says, "but my grandmother was always with me." She would tell her mother about the adventures her and her grandmother would go on and

her mother would get upset and say, "No you can't, it's impossible." "It used to upset me," she said, "so I shut it off." She compared her childhood to that of Cole Sear (Haley Joel Osment) in the 1999 movie, *The Sixth Sense*. "I got a little bit older, and my grandmother went away, but I used to have complete strangers walking into my bedroom, spirits from the other

bay, until one night.

"I was just drifting off to sleep, and all of a sudden, I found myself lying down on a dirt floor. I was lying there and there were two Native American women there, holding me down, one on each shoulder. There was a Native American man who had a hold of my foot and I could see a little needle and he was going into my foot with the needle.

I could feel the needle going into my foot." This, she said, she knew was a clear vision of a past life and decided she wanted to find out more. Thus began her spiritual quest. She took classes at Dutchess Community College on Parapsychology and later on

a class that included past life. The woman who taught these classes owned a short-lived shop, Alternative Concept Center in New Paltz, a similar establishment to The Awareness Shop. After a year, the shop closed and Laurie saw an add for The Awareness Shop in the paper and decided to check it out. The rest, as they say, is history. Doing upwards of ten readings per weekend, business continues as usual. "I have about 100 regulars, probably. Some come once a year, some every week," said Laurie.



photo courtesy secure.awarenessshop.com

side," she said. "It's like they were coming to me and they said, 'Well, I need your help, can you help me?' And I'm 8 years old, how can I help you?"

Raised Catholic, Laurie was very quick to say the Lord's prayer and pray for these spirits to leave her alone. Though one of four siblings, Laurie is the only one who takes what she does seriously. She was somewhat ostracized for her beliefs through her teenage years and did her best to quiet the voices in her head and keep the visiting spirits at

Missed Signal?

Aramis Grant
Naked Nugget Editor

Hammer, screw, nail ...

No, that's not a reference to what you can find at The Home Depot, it's the topic of a sexual assault awareness program called "Sex Signals."

The program was created by Catharsis Productions' founders Gail Stern and Christian Murphy back in fall of 2000. Stern and Murphy came up with the idea to put on two-person improvisational shows about the issue of dating and acquaintance rape on college campuses, by forming a staff to tour and perform at colleges across the nation.

On Feb. 12th, actors Ben Murrie and Amber Kelly, who have been performing the "Sex Signals" skit for about seven years, arrived at McKenna Theater on the SUNY New Paltz campus and warmed up to perform the 75-minute play by jumping up and down, running across stage, and joking on one another and their selves.

It was 8 p.m., an hour before show time, and two ambitious students were first on the scene to ask questions.

Murrie stood patiently, gripping his white, paper coffee cup in one hand, while the other fiddled in his jacket pocket. He was waiting for the student videographer's cue to get started on recording his responses, while Kelly stood with her arms crossed and a smile on her face, bouncing on her feet, anxiously waiting to have her turn in front the student's bulky college-owned equipment.

"It's important to let people know about sexual assault," said Murrie, "I hope ["Sex Signals"] achieves defining what sexual assault is."

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Soon after, the actors were introduced to the stage, and with nearly 100 students in the audience, the show began.

Murrie and Kelly kicked things off by telling the students that the show couldn't go on without audience participation – it was their way of getting people to think logically about how mixed messages, gender role stereotypes, and unrealistic fantasies contribute to misunderstandings between the sexes.

Taped under each seat in the audience was a white paper that read "STOP!" in bold black letters. The signs were to be used during an experiment about controlling sexual assault behavior.

At one point, students got so involved that not only were people vigorously waving their signs in the air, some audience members began shouting at Murrie, who was at the time "getting to close for comfort" to Kelly, as grad student Deja Thomas yelled out.

"Sex Signals" has been performed over 1,000 times on over 400 campuses, and the production company recently added Air Forces bases to the list.

Kelly said there are about five teams (ten actors) that present the play. And although the teams don't present every day, "Sex Signals" is performed up to three times a day – about 20 shows a month.

Kelly said she hopes students will see the play and help create a stronger effect on how sex and sexual consent is viewed.

According to the New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault, at least 80 percent of all sexual assaults on college campuses are committed

by an acquaintance of the victim.

SIMARA SAYS

Advice On Safe Partying:

When asked about partying, many, if not all, the college students I questioned mentioned alcohol as a way to have a good time. Alcoholic beverages are known for their effects on the brain -- experiencing physical changes such as loss of sensation, decrease in the sharpness of vision, hearing, and other senses -- but it's the ultimate feeling of being a "new" or "different" (aka drunk!) person that makes it "fun." But sometimes it gets down right silly, dangerous, or just plain stupid.

Some reflected on their drinking experiences, many of them saying that drinking made them open to more things.

"I stop caring about how people think about how I'm acting," said one student.

Another student who said he doesn't drink at all but has been around plenty of people who have been drinking, had a couple of things to say about them.

"You can tell they hold back less. They're a lot more fun," he said, but on the other hand, "they can get annoying." He said once they get emotional and "over the top" the night can quickly go sour.

Now lets take that whole "open" idea and relate them to the three effects listed above.

SILLY: One student decided that he would play rock band, taking on all the tasks of singing and playing instruments, he even included some dancing. That doesn't seem too silly, right? Well,

he did all of the drumming **WITH HIS HEAD!** It probably sounded good to him that night, but I'm sure he could've done without the pounding in his head the next morning.

DANGEROUS: Another student told me about the time she went to an off-cam-



photo courtesy Aramis Grant

pus party that wasn't exactly in walking distance. It was the end of the night, and she and a friend were eager to get a ride back after a long night of dancing in heels. They had the option of getting on the shuttle bus back to campus but they figured it would be too crowded and that they would either end up standing on they're sore feet or not even getting on the bus. They chose to take a ride back with someone who had been taking shots in the front seat before they were even in the car, and then more once they did get in. One of the girls had enough sense to ask the driver if he would be "good to drive," but now reflecting back she said she should've been smart enough to decline the ride. She said he sped around corners, doing about 60 mph on turns; he swerved in and out of traffic, sometimes ignoring yield signs.

"He was such a reckless driver," she said, "I could've lost my life."

JUST PLAIN STUPID: One guy said he had been drinking a lot at a house party and after a long night of loud music, ridiculous amounts of "guy behavior," and a handful of complaints by neighbors, it

was an out of control argument with a female that lead him to the "dumbest decision of my life," he said. He couldn't remember what the argument was about but he does remember the knock at the door by the police. He ran into a room in the back of the house and jumped out the window! (That's just-plain-stupid move #1).

When I asked why he did that he said he was afraid that he would be arrested because of the numerous complaints about noise, the argument with the female, and because of the fact that he was **UNDERAGE!** (that's just-plain-stupid move #2). He ended up in a leg cast for about 2 months.

The point of this article is to get you to party safely!

- Try not to engage in underage drinking!!!
- If you do drink, drink responsibly -- pace yourself, drink among trustworthy friends who have enough sense to tell you, you are going too far or too fast and that you need to slow down.
- Make sure you walk to and from places with people you know.
- And do your best to avoid situations that don't directly involve you, like bar fights.

Well now that, that is said and done ... **GO HAVE FUN!**