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ALCOHOL

Dear customers,

What do you do in you spear time? Workout, play video games, watch television, some may even study. Drinking alcohol shouldn't be one of your choices. Drinking is the right of passage for most people. Alcohol is a social drink that enhances emotions, but too much of consumption could be a drug and could lead to bigger problems. Cocaine, crack, heroin and many other drugs are frond upon, why not alcohol? An overdose on any of these drugs, including alcohol, could result in the same problem such as jail time, mental damage, medical disorder, and/or harm to yourself or others.

I have worked at a liquor store part time for three year, and have seen you all lives digress daily due to alcohol. From old to young for different reason, either trying to fix a problem or trying to fit in. Drinking is acceptable for all and is depicted in the media as a glamorous activity in society. Drinking is glamorized in commercials ads and cinema. When you watch a commercial, you see the cool guy and the pretty girl having fun at the bar and life appears to be perfect. In movies, again you have the cool guy, pretty girl, nice car, fine clothing and life is wonderful.

The Merriam- Webster Dictionary defines alcohol as “1. [a] ethanol especially when considered as the intoxicating agent in fermented and distilled liquors.”

“Shot by shot, frame by frame, drink by drink, Hollywood has, for over half a century, present drinking as a normal part of what ordinary and sophisticated people do when they engaged in sociable behavior", (Hollywood shot by shot: Alcoholism I American Cinema, p. xiii). In recent times, movies and the media hold a great influence over society, giving us a model to follow. Love, college life, and exaggerated gender stereotypes contributes to glamorization of alcohol in movies. “Hollywood cinema can be magical, with scenes that seduce the viewer and tattoos memory to mind. These mystical moments generally glamorize alcohol. Drinkers are frequently depicted in films as more attractive, more aggressive, romantically/ sexually attractive, and as having a higher socioeconomic status the nondrinkers." (Glamorization of drinking- Google Search).

Drinking is portrayed as a celebratory action and necessary focal point of social gathering. Furthermore, alcohol serves as the bridge between sober separateness and intoxicating, (Glamorization of drinking- Google Search).” “While the media depicts alcohol as glamorous, media also depict alcohol as an addiction; In contrast, Hollywood alcoholics are regularly depicted as hopeless, broken deadbeats, chugging down whiskey while their lives crumble around them. Thus the movie industry portrays the polar extremes of alcohol use- glamorized celebration and desolate disease. There is no middle ground. The cinematic alcoholic drinker’s decline is charted until he or she gets sober, dies, or laughing off screen films concerning alcoholism speak to contemporary life, shaping the alcoholic as diseased, sick, and insane.

These films influence how people view alcoholism recovery as well as the family model of an alcoholic family, (Hollywood Sot by Shot: Alcoholism in American Cinema).” “In general, the addicts reported that while the films were still often exaggerated, showing worst- case scenario addictions, they felt that they could often relate to specific experience that the fictional characters faced during their struggle from rock bottom to recovery. Some of the films highlighting the importance of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous; gives the recovering addicts hope and encouraging them to remain clean. Thus, in the case of the portrayal of the disease of alcoholism in movies, cinema seems to have a positive influence on modern society, (Elizabeth C. Hirschman and Joyce A. Mc Griff).”

I don’t like when you go out drinking all night after work and you know you have to work the next day. Then you get into your car and drive home. My biggest fear is that you will kill yourself or someone else, while driving drunk. Your drinking can also lead to lose of employment. If you get a drinking and driving conviction; you can lose your income, family. You have too much to lose. At the very least, you could convicted of a drinking and driving conviction, and spend many years, if not life in prison. We would never see you again. The only way we would see you is if we come to visit you in prison.

“The Carolina Panthers waived wide receiver Dwayne Jarrett after an arrest for driving while intoxicated in North Carolina. It was the second Charlotte drunk driving offense for trouble player. Jarrett was stopped by Charlotte- Mecklenburg County police for speeding around 2:00 am Tuesday. The officer determined there was probable cause for North Carolina DWI arrest. Jarrett refused to submit to a breath test while being booked at the county jail, and he was taken to a medical facility for a blood draw to test blood alcohol content. The results from a state lab are pending. Jarrett was charged with DWI in charlotte in March 2008 after he crossed center line of a highway and ran a red light. He pleaded guilty to that offense and received a sentence the included community service, payment of $420 in court cost and loss of license. Because of the conviction, the NFL required Jarrett to undergo regular alcohol and drug testing. The Panthers general manager said he talked to Jarrett and told him the situation was just working out for either side. To fill the roster spot caused by Jarrett’s dismissal, the team picked up receiver Clooney off waiver from the New York Jets, (Drunk driving Articles: a source of DUI News Articles, Blogs and Laws).”

Drinking can also lead to jail or prison time; and injury to yourself or others “(Santa Ana, Calif. – A jury convicted a drunken driver of murder Monday in the deaths of promising rookie Los Angeles Angels pitcher Nick Adenhart and two of his friends. Andrew Gallo, 23, held whit rosary beads and occasionally looked up at the jurors as they returned convictions of three counts of murder and single, hit- and- run driving, and driving under the influence of alcohol and causing great bodily injury. Gallo, who had a previous DUI conviction, was led away in handcuffs and briefly looked over his shoulders at sobbing relatives of the victims who had gather in Orange County court room.

What this case has shown is that the accelerated, the gas pedal on an automobile in the wrong hands is as dangerous as the trigger on a gun. Gallo faces 50 years to life in state prison at his scheduled sentencing on Dec. 10. Prosecutors said they charged the case as a second- degree murder instead of the lesser charge of manslaughter because Gallo had a previous DUI conviction, had specific knowledge of the dangers of drinking and driving from his own experience, and had signed a court form from the earlier case saying he understood he could be charged with murder if he drove drunk again and kill someone. Adenhart, 22, died just hours after pitching six scoreless innings in his season debut. Pearson and Courtney Stewart, 20, also died in the April 9, 2009, collision in Fullerton. Passenger Jon White was severely injured, (New Jersey News).” Also; what if you kill your children, my precious niece and nephew; while driving drunk? “Heather Miller, 31, is now facing driving while intoxicated charges. According to the Missouri Highway Patrol, Tyler Freihault, 8, was not wearing his seat belt when the car Miller was driving turned over near Lonell, Missouri, in Franklin County.

Miller’s three other children were also in the car at the time. Those three children were wearing seat belts. Miller may face involuntary manslaughter and child endangerment. The other children’s father, Jack Miller, says that he does not know where his are or who is taking care of them. He also says that he did not learn of the crash until Tuesday, even though it happened Monday. Officials believe Heather Miller left with the children before noon on Monday with the children from the Lonedell Elementary School. The crash happens only a half- mile away from where Tyler attended third grade, (KMOV.COM).” “Tamara Sloan, a Town of Tonawanda mother, pleaded guilty today to felony drunk driving charges for being involved in an Amherst car crash last December with both her young children in the car.

Sloan, who has already completed an in- patient treatment program wears a court ordered ankle monitor, pleaded guilty to two counts of aggravated drunk driving under the so- called Leandra’s law that makes it a felony to drive drunk with young children. State Supreme Court Justice M. Williams boller told Sloan, 35, of University Avenue, that if she continues to make progress in the Amherst Drug Court program, where she is dealing with alcohol and pain- killer addiction issues, he will likely place her on probation July 29. He allowed her to remain free on bail, pending sentencing. Driving drunk with children is a felony offence carrying a possible state prison term of up to four years. Kelly A. Omel, Chief of the Erie County district attorney’s Vehicular Crimes Unit, told the judge Sloan’s 7- year old daughter and 2- year- old son were in her car when she crash at North Bailey Avenue and Sheridan Drive about 6 p.m. Dec. 31. Omel said Sloan was northbound on Bailey when she veered into the southbound land and crashed into an oncoming car. At the time, she had a blood- alcohol reading of 0.22 percent, nearly three times the legal limit, (Buffalonews.com).”

The next time you have a drink, please think about your family. Think about how u would feel if you hurt or kill someone. Think your job, home, and freedom. I’m not saying not to drink, I’m just saying, to slow down. You have too much to lose. I love you and the family loves you, it’s time to love yourself!

**Works cited**