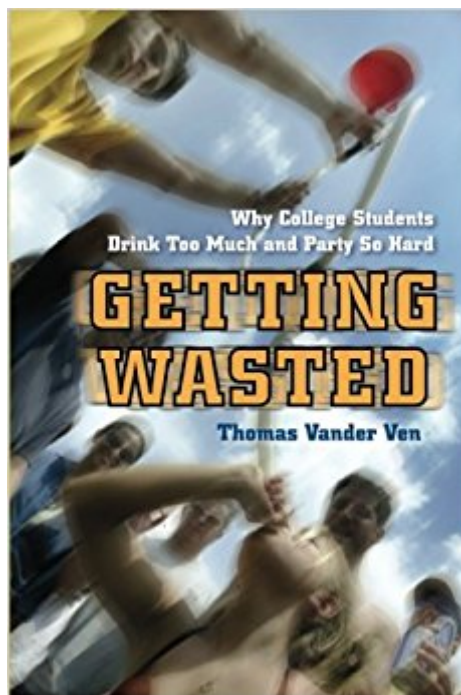




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Getting Wasted: Why College Students Drink Too Much And Party So Hard



Synopsis

Most American college campuses are home to a vibrant drinking scene where students frequently get wasted, train-wrecked, obliterated, hammered, destroyed, and decimated. The terms that university students most commonly use to describe severe alcohol intoxication share a common theme: destruction, and even after repeated embarrassing, physically unpleasant, and even violent drinking episodes, students continue to go out drinking together. In *Getting Wasted*, Thomas Vander Ven provides a unique answer to the perennial question of why college students drink. Vander Ven argues that college students rely on “drunk support” contrary to most accounts of alcohol abuse as being a solitary problem of one person drinking to excess, the college drinking scene is very much a social one where students support one another through nights of drinking games, rituals and rites of passage. Drawing on over 400 student accounts, 25 intensive interviews, and one hundred hours of field research, Vander Ven sheds light on the extremely social nature of college drinking. Giving voice to college drinkers as they speak in graphic and revealing terms about the complexity of the drinking scene, Vander Ven argues that college students continue to drink heavily, even after experiencing repeated bad experiences, because of the social support that they give to one another and due to the creative ways in which they reframe and recast violent, embarrassing, and regretful drunken behaviors. Provocatively, *Getting Wasted* shows that college itself, closed and seemingly secure, encourages these drinking patterns and is one more example of the dark side of campus life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The book is worth a read to get students' perspectives on the binge-drinking culture, and provoke thought on how to address the problems that stem from it."-Teresa Malcolm,National Catholic Reporter"[Thomas Vander Ven's] book is an important contribution to understanding this social problem."-Society"The book offers a realistic portrayal of socially bonding drinking behaviors and attitudes. Vander Ven suggests stellar ways campuses can reduce the harm of excessive drinking."-Library Journal

"A book of enduring significance, persuasive enough to reframe how a social problem is fundamentally understood. Vander Ven's analysis deepens our understanding of college drinking, how it works and its appeal."

Amy Best,author of Fast Cars, Cool Rides: The Accelerating World of Youth and Their Cars

"Getting Wasted weaves many detailed stories of college drunkenness into a compelling account of its communal nature. Students don't drink alone or get drunk alone. They do it together and the togetherness helps explain their otherwise baffling, self-destructive activities. This book is must reading for anyone interested in college students, drinking, and the combination of the two."

Howard Becker,author of Outsiders: Studies In The Sociology Of Deviance"Vander Ven...leads the reader through a well-researched and comprehensive overview of college drinking...I would urge anyone preparing for college, or preparing another for college, to read this book."-John S. Wodarski,Contemporary Psychology

"Vander Ven analyzes the college drinking culture in an entirely new way --- through the eyes of college drinkers themselves. In doing so, he brings a unique voice to the college drinking debate, which will shape the discussion for decades to come. This is a must read for anyone who wants to understand college drinking and its consequences."

Kathleen A. Bogle,author of Hooking Up: Sex, Dating, and Relationships on Campus

Thomas Vander Ven is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Ohio University and author of Working Mothers and Juvenile Delinquency.

The book recognizes and clearly articulates the complexity of values and behaviors in the college binge-drinking world. Authentic voices of students narrating their experiences. "Take care of each other" both recognizes the serious dangers in getting drunk and advocates a caring and protective response to friends and potential victims in the drinking culture that can indirectly mitigate the extreme harms that occur, from rape to death by alcohol poisoning. Campuses will benefit by informing their students of the ideas and narratives in this book, and by designing educational

programs of intervention by students for students.

Public perceptions of college student alcohol consumption are often distorted by sensationalistic stories in the popular media: we hear on the news that an honor student dies of alcohol poisoning or a coed falls from a dormitory window after a campus party and believe that such events are common and are left unable to make sense of them. They are blurred as well by social scientific studies that abstract individuals from their social contexts and offer analyses that are not really "social" at all and therefore do not help us to understand what is essentially a group process: we read research findings that announce nearly half of all college students are "binge drinkers" and are astounded and worried, despite not knowing what "binge drinking" means; and so we share the widespread belief that binge drinking is an altogether new, altogether dangerous, college-based phenomenon, and we're quick to support campus and community efforts to crack down on the college drinkers, if only for their own good. Declare the campus dry (even if such a thing is an impossibility), train the resident advisors to ferret out the scofflaws (even while knowing that the cooperation of their dorm mates rests upon leniency on this matter), send the police or college representatives into nearby student housing (regardless of shared values concerning the sanctity of one's home), ask representatives of social clubs, like the Kiwanis, to sit in their parked cars outside beer stores to deter underage college students from getting the alcohol in the first place (despite the impracticality -or silliness - of such an effort). What are we to do about the real problems associated with excessive college student drinking when we are inundated with attention-grabbing media reports and inexplicable survey findings designed to generate ratings in the first instance or a shot at tenure in the second? My advice is to begin by reading Thomas Vander Ven's *Getting Wasted*.

This book gave me a better understanding of students entering college and leaving home for the first time. In the book a person gets a better understanding of the challenges these young adults face and have to deal with being away from their families for the first time.

Purchased for required reading for a college substance abuse class. Really enjoyed reading the book and learned a lot on the subject.

It is a good book just tells a lot of information that we already know. It does validate what we commonly know and introduced some interesting ideas.

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