

# CORAL GABLES GAZETTE

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Dry frat house a step in the right direction

I congratulate the Phi Delta Theta fraternity for "becoming the first 'dry' Greek house at UM." ("A dry frat house? No seriously!" Gazette, Oct. 7-13) What a step in the right direction!

As alcohol-related deaths have continued to rise among college-age students, learning about positive efforts to prevent such incidents is commendable especially at one of our local universities - The University of Miami.

Studies have shown that in spite of the wide educational efforts to reach out to students, binge drinking among the college population continues to

be a concern. According to recent findings released by researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health, despite positive changes thought to be conducive to lowering binge-drinking rates, binge drinking was worse than expected - 75 percent of students who live in a fraternity or sorority binge drink. A positive change: UM's Phi Delta Theta "dry" fraternity.

In the Harvard study, positive changes included a dramatic increase in the number of students living in substance-free housing and fewer members of fraternities and sororities. This study suggests that

prevention efforts must extend beyond familiar approaches (such as lectures and special college courses) to those that change the alcohol environment around students. More positive changes: UM's Phi Delta Theta "dry" fraternity.

At UM's first "dry" frat house, 45 "brothers" are directly making a positive impact not only on their own college campus, but also on the greater community. Positive efforts will produce positive statistics.

MARINO E. CARBONELL  
*Certified Addiction Specialist*  
South Miami

Write: Letters to the Editor, Coral Gables Gazette, P.O. Box 141857, Coral Gables FL 33114-1857. You may also fax your letters to (305) 460-9020. The Gazette's E-Mail address: letters@cggazette.com. Please sign your name and include your address and phone number. The Gazette will not publish unsigned letters. The Gazette reserves the right to edit and condense all letters.