

# WANT TO GET YOUR

# AD IN THE SENIOR ISSUE?

Interested in putting your ad in the **senior issue**? Not sure what the senior issue is? Not aware that it's the **last** and **biggest** issue of the year? Or that it's, on average, one of the **most read** issues? Sick of rhetorical questions? Here's what it's all about.

**40+ PAGES**

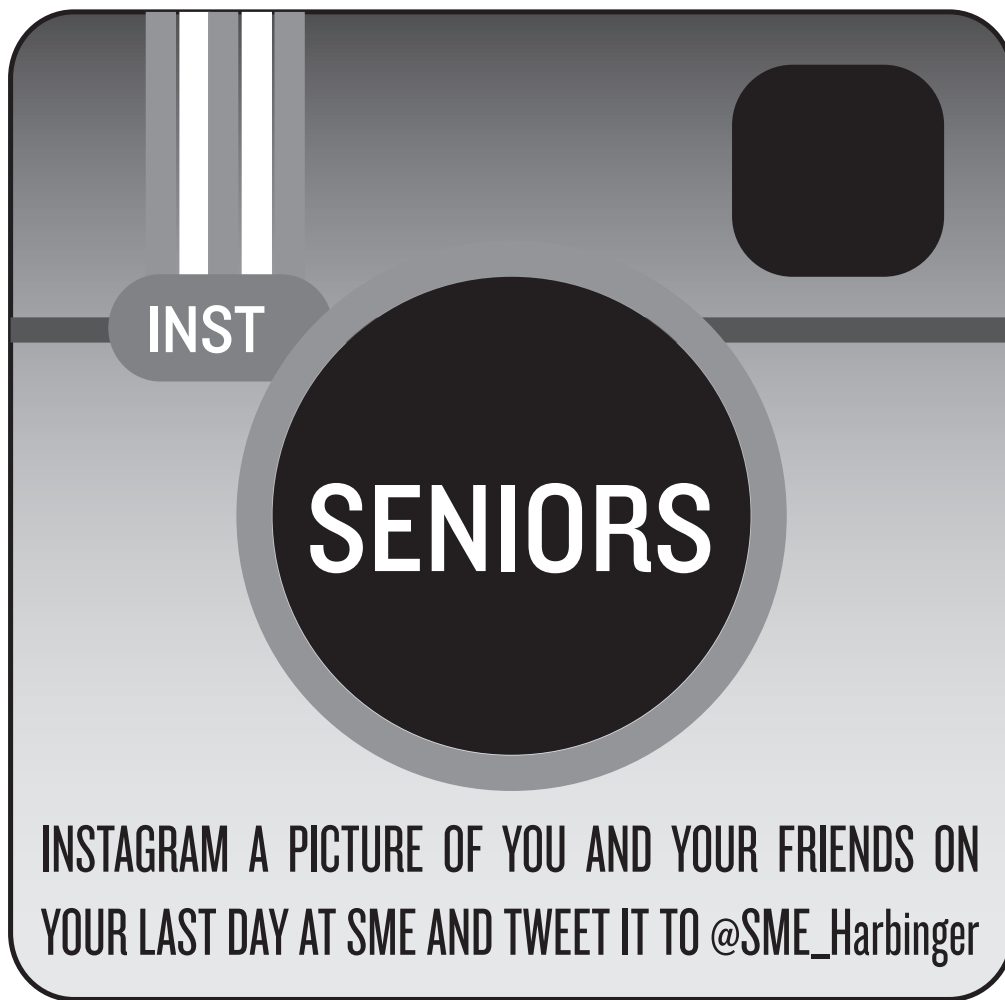
**College LIST**

**Senior COLUMNS**

**Senior PROFILES**

**Class BREAKDOWN**

**A look back AT THE YEAR**



## STORY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Dr. Krawitz remains skeptical about the program's potential for long-term success. Not only is the program still relatively young, Dr. Krawitz worries that it may slowly lose its effectiveness.

"A program over time will lose its novelty," Dr. Krawitz said. "[They might be] good programs, but when kids are constantly exposed to the same program over and over, the opposite effect starts to take place."

On top of that, the program comes with a heavy price tag — a one-year agreement costs almost \$5,000, while a 4-year agreement is close to \$16,000. Like Shawnee Mission South, Dr. Krawitz is considering applying for a grant through the RCP, which pools the taxes from the county's liquor sales to provide grants to local preventative agencies such as the United Way, AAA and Alateen.

"If I can't get the money through grant organizations, then I feel at least it is important to initiate [the program] ourselves and then pursue as many opportunities for grant money possible," Dr. Krawitz said. "I really think it's needed. This is a tough topic."

Dr. Krawitz is determined to see this program through after witnessing the shift over time in how teens approach alcohol. His own experiences with drinking as a teenager are a stark contrast to the type of drinking that happens he sees among youth today. Growing up in New Jersey, Dr. Krawitz would go to parties to have fun with friends, not get drunk.

"On Saturday nights, we would be on the beach, and there'd be people who would bring beer, and people would drink, but I don't remember people getting 'stoned,' or

drunk out of their mind," Dr. Krawitz said. "Binge drinking wasn't even a term I was familiar with."

Today, binge drinking — 5 or more drinks for a male for 4 or more drinks for a female in a two hour setting — is becoming a national epidemic. According to the 2005 Monitoring the Future (MTF) study, 75 percent of 12th graders, 66 percent of 10th graders and about 40 percent of 8th graders had consumed alcohol. On top of that, 11 percent of 8th graders, 22 percent of 10th graders and 29 percent of 12th graders had binge-drunk in the past two weeks.

With East having, according to Dr. Krawitz, a "pretty active drug and alcohol student body," he sees AlcoholEdu as the best available option to increase students' alcohol awareness and cut down on underage drinking.