Illnesses abounded, but world war was greater disruptor

**STAFF REPORTS**

In the spring of 1918, influenza epidemics re- emerged on the campus. The epidemic was caused by the spread of illness among students and spread rapidly due to crowded conditions and the movement of troops to the front. The epidemic was particularly severe in the academic buildings, and the Purdue Exponent reported that students were being sent home sick in large numbers. The university responded by closing down the school and ordering students to stay home. The epidemic lasted for several months, and the university closed on October 29, 1918.

**Purdue during the 1918 pandemic**

**Indiana's pandemic health officer had ties to Purdue**

**STAFF REPORTS**

When influenza slammed Indiana, a state that had been relatively insulated from the disease, the health officer had ties to Purdue. The health officer, Dr. John Hurt, was a graduate of Purdue and had returned to the university to work as a public health officer. He had previously worked for the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health and was known for his expertise in infectious disease control.

**Illnesses abounded, but war was greater disruptor**

**Expert concerned about alcohol use post-pandemic**

By Carson Bailey

During widespread stay-at-home orders, retail and online alcohol sales have spiked. Experts are concerned about the long-term effects of alcohol use during times of crisis.

The Associated Press reported that as of the weekend in March 21, when the highest number of home deliveries were introduced, retail alcohol sales rose by 35% and online orders jumped by 145%.

"If you look at epidemiological data over time, when a major disease occurs in history, the consumption of alcohol goes up," said Jill Chester, a Purdue psychology professor who researches the factors that lead to alcohol use and mental illness.

"If you're seeing a strong factor in the development of alcohol consumption disorders, it's when students are particularly susceptible.

"The younger you are, the more vulnerable you are to the effects of alcohol and the consequences of substance use disorder," she said.

"In a large proportion of cases, people who develop their alcohol-use disorders before the age of 21.

Potential consequences of alcohol abuse can include recovery progress and an inability to deal with ordinary stresses of life, Chester explained.

In the brains of 18- to 22-year-olds, especially, alcohol's toxic effects can harm their cognitive function.

Prolonged substance abuse can weaken the brain, she said, making it more difficult to manage ordinary stresses.

"If you get back to reality again and you're sober again, you're not able to work with the long-lasting effects of a prolonged onslaught of chronic daily stressors," Chester added.

Melissa Junk, a Purdue Recreational Wellness and Wellness graduate assistant, said that alcohol abuse can lead to a decrease in self-esteem and a decrease in overall wellness.

"We want you to get back to reality again and you're sober again, you're not as able to deal with the long-term effects of a prolonged onslaught of chronic daily stressors," Chester added.

Experts worry that the increased use of alcohol during the pandemic could lead to long-term effects on public health, including increased substance use disorders and other mental health issues.