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## All It Took Was One Packed Bar

This story is by Tresa Baldes in the Detroit Free Press (June 27, 2020) - <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/wayne/2020/06/27/harpers-bar-east-lansing-coronavirus-grosse-pointe/3268551001/>

All it took was one packed bar. An infected patron. And a wild party afterward.

This is the toxic combination that has led to a new wave of COVID-19 cases in the Grosse Pointe community, where at least 30 new cases in recent days have been tied to an outbreak at a popular East Lansing bar almost 100 miles away.

Harper's Restaurant & Brew Pub saw shoulder-to-shoulder crowds after reopening earlier this month, including some college students from the affluent Grosse Pointes who unknowingly got infected and brought the virus back home. According to multiple families that are now in quarantine, one of those students who visited Harper's came into contact with a friend who held a huge house party in Grosse Pointe Woods, where dozens of friends partied without masks and social distancing, they said.

The party was held on a Friday night, parents said. The host was symptomatic during the party, got sicker over the weekend and was tested for COVID-19 on Monday, though didn't share the positive results with friends until Tuesday night, parents said.

By then, the virus had spread among college-age kids hanging out for the summer ...

As of late Friday, the number of COVID-19 cases linked to Harper's brew pub had increased to 76, according to Ingham County health officials.

Your blogger has been waiting for this to happen. YB is a University professor of forty-plus years of experience. In the past couple of months, he has been asked what he thinks about universities re-opening in the Fall. He has watched with interest the plans of Notre Dame University, the University of Michigan (his alma mater), Yale University (where he got his doctoral degree), his own University (Wayne State in Detroit) and just about anywhere else.

Notre Dame has announced that they will be starting the semester a couple of weeks early (in mid-August), and finishing up at Thanksgiving, in advance, they hope of the second wave of COVID-19. Notre Dame is about 100 miles from Chicago. When Notre Dame students visit Chicago over Labor Day, for a family celebration, for a family tragedy, or just a party with friends, how many will be infected, and how many will bring the infection back to South Bend. And then ... what will Notre Dame do? What will Michigan do? What will Yale do? What will Wayne State do?

YB's daughter was a Peace Corps volunteer in West Africa and she was teaching the children in the village about germs and hygiene. She put hot pepper powder on their hands and then told them to wash it off. They found that it didn't

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come off very well, tasted bad, and could make them uncomfortable if they touched their eyes or their noses with it without thoroughly washing with running water and soap. It could get on the clothes of others that they touched. It was infectious, although the effects ultimately were limited. Unlike hot pepper powder, germs cannot be seen or smelt with the naked eye.

With COVID-19, the impacts on other college students will lead to illness, and with the instructors, and other older adults, they could lead to death. The public has been anxious “to reopen”. We want restaurants, we want concerts, we want football. YB has asked about the external effects of filling up Michigan Stadium (the Big House) with 100,000 fans. The title of this article says it all.

All it took was one packed bar. Multiply that by 1,000.

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