

# Subject of senior citizen alcohol filmed



*Joseph D. Peters wrote, produced, and directed a documentary called “Seniors and Alcohol Abuse”.*

A university alumnus working as an independent filmmaker has produced a documentary called “Seniors and Alcohol Abuse”. It will be shown on campus on Tuesday, February 17th at noon in the Leonard Davis Auditorium in the Gerontology Center.

Joseph D. Peters, a graduate in Communications, began working on the 23-minute film last June after returning from the American Film and Video Festival in New York. Peters said he found that the main focus was on youth and drug abuse and decided that there was a need to inform the public on the problem of senior citizen alcohol abuse, a disease which affects 5 percent of the senior citizen population. He said that the subject had been in the back of his mind since he was a student at the time, worked in the gerontology department on campus for a year.

“It depicts a personal view of two recovering senior alcoholics, and their stories and lives are interwoven with their comments, sights and advice from three noted experts in the field,” he said.

These experts include Gerald Larue, a professor in the School of Gerontology, Eugene Seymour, director of Aging and Training in Los Angeles, and William Rader of the Rader Institute. Many seniors take medication for various reasons, Peters said, and to mix alcohol with these drugs can be very serious.

“When a person reaches retirement, his normal routine stops and he falls into the habit of drinking to relax and sleep,” he said.

He has come into contact with people who had this problem. He said that sometimes an older person will stumble and fall, and others do not realize that it may be from the influence of alcohol, possibly mixed with medication.

Peters made the film for just under \$15,000 and feels very fortunate to have found a distributor in Santa Barbara, California. “Seniors and Alcohol Abuse” is being distributed to rehabilitation centers, gerontology centers, and other alcohol abuse organizations throughout the nation. The film will also be distributed to every English-speaking country around the world. A portion of the purchase price will be donated to the Sunset Program, an outreach program in Pasadena, California. Ten percent of the net profits of the film will benefit the program, which is an education and referral service for senior citizens.