Partiers join 'less filling' fad

ETTER HAVE on hand this holiday season some of the new, lighter-alcohol liquors, wines and beers.

Your trendler guests will be asking

Your trender guests will be asking for them.

Stiffer drunk driving penalties, changing attitudes about drinking and driving, and the health movement have led consumers to want — and distillers, wineries and brewers to produce — between the p

bol in them.
"You can still have two beers (over an hour) with the boys, and drive safe-ty bome," said Lacey Logan, repre-senting Detroit's Stroh Brewery Co, maker of the new Shaefer Low-Alco-hol beer. Shaefer has 1.8 percent alco-hol, compared to regular beer's 3.6 to 33 percent.

THE INTRODUCTION of new lower-proofed alcoholic beverages follows the trend toward lower-caloried
beers and wines, which have slightly
less alcohol, and s steady 10-year decline in hard liquor consumption.

"Probably the drunk driving question... the (increasing) feeling that
getting drunk is not the thing to do
... is what got the whole thing started," said Daniel Sparks, director of
executive services for the Milchigan
Liquor Control Commission. The
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A MICHIGAN State University study shows attitudes about drinking and driving have dramatically changed, according to Bob Cullen, manager of safety and traffic engleneering for AAA. "Eighty-two percent (of the study's participamis) don't condon it," Culien said. "The same percentage said they feel they wouldn't be criticized if they were drinking and chose not to drive.

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Now anyone convicted of operating a vehicle under the influence of liquor on his/her first offense automatically has his driver's licenae suspended six months to two years. He also may be fined \$100 to \$500, jailed up to \$0 days and have six points added to his driving record.

However, the new lower-proofed drinks are no safeguard against getting drunk.

"You can still get crocked on 80-proof, too, let's face it, said Ray Lalli, president of the West Bloomfield distributing firm which introduced \$0-proof Korsikoff Vooks to Michigan. Regular vodka is 88-proof.

Agreed AAA's Cullen, "You can get bombed on light (beer) if you drink enough of it. Our approach is to en-



courage people to be reasonable in their use of alcohol. Everyone says 'Don't drink and drive.' But it is legal to drink and drive to a certain point."

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IN MICHIGAN, that point is until the percentage alcohol in the blood reaches 0.10.

Dr. Herbert Wetherell, toxicologist for the Michigan State Police, has no formulas on how many more ounces of the lower-proofed liquor, or glasses of the lower-proofed liquor, or glasses of the lighter-alcohol wine and beer, other lighter-alcohol wine and beer, when the beautiful control of the lighter-alcohol wine and bereat to be control to become the lighter and light

ALONG WITH stiffer drunk driv-ing laws, the health movement con-tributed to the 10-year decline in hard

liquor consumption, according to Ro-zame Glass, public information chief for the Ohio Department of Liquor read the Ohio Department of Liquor The Holio Bergett of the Constitution of the "The health movement in the Tot is a very important consideration," the said. People are much more health-conscious than they ever were. In five years, from 1978-83, the na-tional consumption of ilquor dropped from 2.04 to 1.84 gallons per capita, while the consumption of wine and beer, which have considerably less at-tool, rose from 1.20 to 2.22 and 23.40 to 24.24 gallons per capita, respec-tively, according to the Distilled Spir-its Council of United States.

THE HEALTH movement, as it gained momentum, also led to the introduction of the lesser-caloried beers and wines, and now is partly responsible for the new lower-proofed bever-

Korakoff, advertised as "the only vocks tailored to the times," has both less sugar and less alcoho!

"With the entire country fitness-conscious, its (Korakoff's) lower alcohol and caloric content has great appeal for a growing segment of the population," reads a press release from Universal Liquor Co., the West Bloomileld firm distributing it.

An Impending federal tux like, effective in Cotober 1985, also is encouraging the production of lower-proofed liquors. The tax hike desan't affect beer and wine.

"Eventually, all of the companies are going to have to come out (with lower-proofed liquors)," said Laili of Universal.

THE TAX HIKE will increase what tax distilleries have to pay on a 100-proof bottle of liquor from \$10.50 to \$12.50, said Dennis Hybarger, vice president of the Michigan Beer and

Whee Wholesalers Association. And the distilleries will have to pass that tax increase onto consumers by increasing the price of their product. By diluting the Korsikot! Voolka with distilled water, lowering the al-cobolic content from 40 to 30 persons. Its manufacturer can sell fire 72 55 percent less than regular voolka, Lalli said.

IT'S UNKNOWN how long it will take for the new lower-alcohol beverages to become the general public's preference — if they ever will.

Lailt said sales are "lust going wild on the (Korsikoff) words," adding that his firm has just introduced a second lower-proofed liquor to Michigan, and plans to offer a full line of liquors.

According to Frank Gregory, operations director for the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, Korsikoff sells at a rate of about 150 cases a

month, compared to Popov, a popular regular-proof vodka, which sells about 25,000 cases a month.

Jim Cronin Jr., manager of Cronin's Party Store in Southfield, estimates 10 percent of his customers want lower-calorie and lighter-alcohol beverages — including liquor, wine and beer — but predicts the percentage will grow. "Popule still are just catching onto it," he said. "People don't realize it's out there yet." Cronin carries the new Korsikoff Vodka. But Ernily Freedman, head of the tobacco and liquor department at Perry'a in Birmingham, said her store doesn't carry any of the new lower-proofed injuous because their customers haven't bette high for them. "Likewisa, Teri Meredith, bartender for Bennigan's in Bloomfield Township, reports that Bennigan's customers still prefer the traditional beers

Darren Murray's handicap, a missing hand, has proven to be little problem in his quest to become an outstanding lacrosse player.

Drive, spirit are handicap remedy

By Jean Ademozak staff writer

Darren Murray likes to attack.
As an attacker on Our Lady of Sorrows' lacrosse team last year, Darren scored 56 goals in 14 games, while helping his team become champions of the Michigan Scholastic Lacrosse Association Tournament for middle schools. Darren's athletic ability overcomes his handicap of being born without a right band.
"My teammates don't even recognize my handicap. I don't either," he says. A freshman at Detroit Catholic Central High School in Redford, the 14-year old attacks life with the same energy and enthusiam he uses on the

year old attacks life with the same en-ergy and entusiasm be uses on the playing field.
"Darron desm't feel he's any differ-ent from anyone else and that's what makes him so loveable," says his mother, Carol.
"And once he learns something, watch out, because there's no stopping him," she laughs.

him," she laughs.

STARTING high school at Catholic Central was a big challenge for Darren.

"There's 1,100 students here," he says incredulously. "It lakes a lot of studying to get by here."

There will also be many more players trying out for the lacrosse team in the spring, but that deem's seem to bother Darren.

"I think chances are pretty good I'll get on the team," he says confidently, He also welcomes the competition from fellow teammates.

"I think playing against better people in order to improve my skills," Darren says smilling.

in order to improve my skills," Darren says smilling. Good ball handling skills are essen-tial to the game, he explains, which is played with a lacrosse stick - a long-handled racquet. "Lacrosse is just a general sport that everyone can play," he says, "You don't have to be real fast, or tall like you do for basketball."

sue. Their father started the lacrosse program at Our Lady of Sorrows and continues to help Darren train at home. "He's really helped me a lot because he can coach me at home," Darren says, adding that his brother encourages him to play as much and as best as he can.

Although lacrosse games are played in the spring, Darren says he trains for the sport year round.

LIFTING WEIGHTS and playing la-crosse indoors is part of his winter schedule, says Darren. Summer con-sists of more lacrosse, this time out-doors, in addition to soccer, golf and tennis.

"He's an excellent tennis player," says Darren's mother, "He puts me to shame every time we get on the court." Although he had an electric hand when he was younger, Darren found it cumbersome and elected not to use it.

"He does everything so well without the hand, we just overlook his handi-cap," his mother says.

"I'm sure there are things be has problems with, but he never complains. At least not to me," she adds. Darren's maturity and his "good common sense" enable him to cope so well with his handicap, his says. "He uses his bead all the time, he's always thinking. He knows his limits and doesn't attempt to do things he feels he can't do."

toesn't attempt to do things he teels ac can't do."

The only thing that really gets Darren down, he says, is being injured playing lacrosse. It is a series of the complomating again, with a sprained shoulder, he says. "That depressed me for awhile, but once I went to practice I felt better and was still able to play in the game."

Darren's enthusiasm on the field carries over into his home life.

"He is the biggest help to me in the family, I can always count on him," his mother says proudly, "whether it's cleaning the house, yard work or washing the car."

