



We take an in-depth look at an American drink: whiskey. See Page 7

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## New campus Alcohol Task Force

By William Bruce  
News Editor

A newly formed group on campus, the Alcohol Task Force, seeks to investigate the role alcohol plays on campus and to promote responsible and safe use of alcohol.

The task force recognizes the consumption of alcohol as a complicated issue that deserves discussion and examination.

"Let's recognize that we have a problem here and start talking about how to fix it," said John Blaisdell, director of campus security and a member of the task force. "I think that's part of what this task force is trying to do and I think that goes back to what Dr. Troutt had to say about the Amethyst initiative. Recognition that this is the problem."

Marianne Luther, Director of Student Housing, originally formed the task force.

"All told, no matter what point of the year, over half of our students are under 21," said Luther. "So in terms of looking at that, how do we properly address an issue that a lot of students are making decisions about when it's illegal behavior."

In the past semester, the task force has grown to incorporate faculty and staff from different departments, as well as several students. The intention has been to better organize the groups who deal with alcohol related issues.

"The Greeks do some alcohol education; there's sanctioning issues that come out of the dean of student's office, now we have the director of student conduct, and there is enforcement with campus safety and RA's. So it's always been kind of piecemeal," said Luther. "[The task force] is a way to bring folks together. It's a way to pull these people together and start looking at these issues holistically."

The task force is currently in the process of developing its mission statement.

"The main goal is to investigate alcohol and its role on campus, and to try to align that role it already plays with the role the campus wants it to play," said Aaron Fitzgerald (2010), a student member of the alcohol task force. "This could mean adhering to the state laws requiring you to be 21."

One event that prompted increased activity of the task force was the Amethyst initiative which President Troutt signed onto earlier in the year. The initiative was created to promote discussion about the current drinking age of 21.

"The alcohol task force organized a discussion with students, and we then sent the results to President Troutt," said Fitzgerald.

The group currently meets once a week to discuss its proceedings.

"There's a lot that can be done with this group," said Fitzgerald.

## RX drug use low on radar

By NeNe Bafford  
Staff Writer

The abuse of prescription drugs can create risks ranging from dependence to death. At Rhodes, prescription drug abuse is not as common as alcohol and marijuana use, but it does occur.

"Prescription drugs are the not most commonly used drug, but I think it does happen," said Rob Dove, Director of the Counseling Center.

"A much more common situation would be students that have ADD take Adderall and because their friends need to pull and all-nighter, they give them one of their pills," said Dove.

Although the use of prescriptions drugs does exist on campus, it is hard to track because students do not have to tell if they visit the Health Center on campus.

"I don't know how many people have prescriptions because they don't have to tell me and a lot of people don't want anyone to know," said Patty Sterba, Director of the Health Center.

"At one time, our doctors did prescribe medicines such as Adderall and Ritalin, but we found that students were receiving it from us and from home," said Sterba.

Rhodes has not had any problems with prescriptions drugs on campus, such as drugs coming up missing from students' rooms or any reports of prescription drug abuse.

"We have had zero reports of RX drugs being stolen from students dur-

ing this academic year. Additionally, we have had zero reports of illegal or improper use of RX drugs this academic year," said John Blaisdell, Director of Campus Safety.

The numbers of the 2007 CORE survey, which interviewed students about their drug and alcohol use on campus shows that prescription drugs are not popular on campus.

1.5% of students who participated in the survey said they used amphetamines and 1.1% said they used sedatives in a 30 day period. 51.8% said that they have tried amphetamines once; only 0.7% said they used amphetamines more than three times a week, and 0.2% said they used sedatives more than three times a week.

Students do not feel as though prescription drug abuse is a problem either.

"I've never heard anything about it being abused on campus, I've heard things in high school, but not since I have been here," said Freshman Erin Dressel.

Although these drugs are not frequently used on campus, they can create risks.

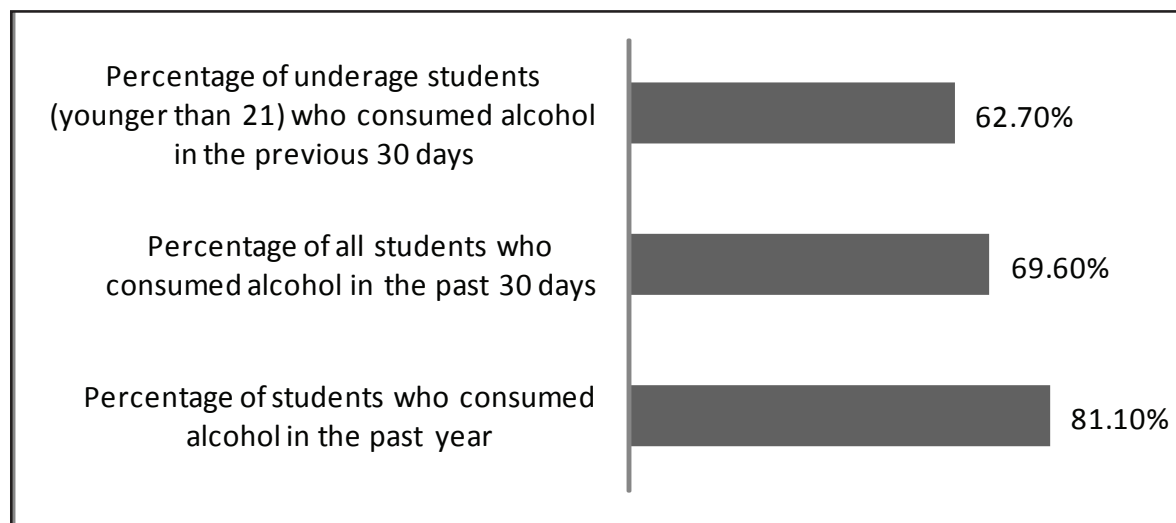
"One risks associated with the use of Adderall and Ritalin is it increases blood pressure," said Sterba.

"The particular danger with Xanax is that it is extremely addictive, one can't predict how it will interact with alcohol, and it's easy to overdose," said Dove.

## Findings from the 2007 Core Alcohol and Drug Survey

This information was gathered in 2007 through an online survey of Rhodes students. 554 students completed the survey, with 65.7% of them female and 34.3% male.

### Findings on alcohol use



See page 4 for more results from the CORE survey, and page 5 for a timeline of drug and alcohol policies on campus.

## Interview with "Q" a student who sells marijuana

Interview conducted by Daniel Jacobs  
Editor-in-Chief

DJ: Why did you start selling marijuana?

Q: People would always know I could find it. And freshman year I was like, well people call me all the time and I spend a lot of time going to get it, so I decided it was easier to always have some and sell it. It was a convenience thing. These kids at Rhodes are really in a bubble. They're not going to go out in the ghetto to get weed, they're going to ask someone they know. Once they know you can get weed they'll be hitting you up when they need weed. There are a lot of people who dabble with selling pot. It's what people do in college. And eventually you get bored of being hassled and then you're like, okay I'm done with it.

DJ: How many people do you sell to in a month?

Q: Approximately 50 people a month.

DJ: How many different people have you sold to?

Q: I've sold to about 300 or 400 different people. It's crazy, a lot of people at Rhodes smoke pot.

DJ: How much do you sell in a month?

Q: I sell at least an ounce a day, and probably about couple pounds a

# Why the War on Drugs has failed us

By Paul Yacoubian and Kevin Kifer  
Opinion Editor and Staff Writer

In the Drug War, addiction should be enemy number one. Yes, some drugs are addictive and can really mess you up, i.e. heroin, meth, cocaine, etc. However, the most popularly addictive drugs are food, prescription medications, alcohol, and these illegal substances to a lesser extent. Surprisingly, marijuana is not addictive and the jury is not still out on that one.

The only thing harmful about marijuana is the stigma associated with its persecution. While thirty million Americans enjoy the benefits of using marijuana per year, roughly 700,000 of these people do not enjoy being arrested for it annually. In a land of freedom and opportunity, regulating marijuana-use is like regulating taco eating. In fact, obesity is the second highest cause of death behind tobacco smoking. Let's keep in mind that tobacco smoking is addictive and harmful like alcohol and cocaine, but marijuana is not. In fact, last year in the United States, zero people overdosed on marijuana.

My contention is that without the continued opposition by those who profit from its illegality, i.e. police officers, prison guards, judges, lawyers, bail bondsmen, doctors, pharmaceutical companies, the CIA (who needs the smuggling revenues to support known terrorist organizations), etc, the cannabis plant would be legal and people could enjoy its usage without the fears of imposing government intervention.

Positive benefits of marijuana include the ability to treat chronic pain associated with deadly diseases, such as cancer, as well as de-

pression. Many depressed people are forced to resort to prescription drugs such as, Effexor, which become addictive as the people eventually only receive the benefits of not having withdrawal once they stop taking the drug. While the case to legalize marijuana usage is obviously valid and will ultimately prevail, many people still have reservations about legalizing harder drugs.

Without question, most Americans want to see chemical dependency rates fall, whether this includes tobacco use, binge-eating, alcoholism, prescription drug addiction, or illegal drug addiction. Solving this problem should be the focus and goal of any intervention efforts by our government. When Rush Limbaugh's prescription drug addiction was exposed, there was no outcry to send him to prison for his violating the law, instead people flocked to him in support and offered to send him to get the necessary rehabilitation. Rehabilitation should be the focus of governmental efforts, as well as drug education that exposes Americans to the real effects of drug use.

Schools should show *Requiem for a Dream* and invite a guest heroin junkie to talk about the benefits of heroin. They should then show a Q&A with George Bush at the White House and talk about cocaine and alcohol addiction. They should then turn the radio on to Rush Limbaugh, to show students how disagreeable they could become with a prescription drug addiction. They should then take a field trip to the Walmart in Poplar Bluff, Missouri to see the effects of methamphetamine on poor people.

Students would then understand that these people do not belong in prison, as they are vic-

tims of chemical dependency, but rather that they need help. An arresting officer, a criminal record, and expulsion from school is not the type of help I am talking about. I would argue that those events hinder a person's ability to achieve freedom from dependency through thorough drug rehabilitation and social meetings. The freedom to combat dependency should be the only goal of our efforts, and until it is, I will call the War on Drugs a failure.

## Quick Facts and Bonus Analysis

Proponents of the current drug policy may argue that total consumption of illegal drugs is down, but let's look at a few numbers to get some sense of the drug war's social efficacy.

For 2008, the amount of federal and state funds spent on the "War On Drugs" is \$46.5 billion and rising.

Total drug arrests for 2007 were 1,841,182 while the total violent crime arrests were only 597,447.

Arrests for cannabis offenses in 2007 numbered an astounding 872,720.

An American is now arrested for violating cannabis laws every 38 seconds according to drugwarfacts.org.

When these youths, some being fathers themselves, are eventually arrested or killed in drug-related violence, this process begins again as children of prisoners are more likely to be incarcerated themselves. This cyclical process indicates that the effects of imprisonment are comprehensive and actually create more victims. Perhaps Drug War money would be better spent policing the streets for drunk drivers and violent criminals who endanger the lives of others as well as themselves.

# Adios, Arbusto; you won't be missed.

By Michael J. LaRosa

Associate professor of History at Rhodes

When George W. Bush's Arbusto Oil Company, operating at about a 3 million dollar deficit in 1986, was bailed out by Harkem Oil and Gas, people in Texas learned something that the rest of us would learn later: Mr. Bush is hardly an innovative or intelligent businessman. So, when he took over as CEO of the USA in 2001, many of us were...concerned.

Now, after eight years of incompetent rule, we're saddled with a national debt of about 12 trillion dollars (Mr. Bush inherited a national surplus of about 5.5 trillion). We have suffered the consequences of a compulsive, irrational drive to deregulate markets, an illogical tax policy that rewards the rich and punishes the poor, and the appointment of unqualified hacks to critical positions (at FEMA, at Justice, at the Pentagon...), all of which have led, inexorably, to the economic chaos of the present.

With all of this in the foreground, Mr. John Ayers, on this page (November 19, 2008) suggests that there should be a national "appreciation/congratulations" for Mr. Bush's ending the war in Iraq? Let's get a few facts straight: President Bush is the most unpopular president in U.S. history because he took the country to war based on false information—information that was systematically organized, manipulated, and presented by his administration.

The president and a small cadre of dangerous neo-conservative con men started this madness, but they never offered a plan for ending the war: the Bush end-game plan could be summed up as "kick the can to the next administration." Of course, the hapless McCain-Palin team offered no plan of withdrawal, whereas President-elect Obama made it clear that all U.S. combat troops would be out of Iraq within the first sixteen months of his administration. That's the position supported by a growing consensus of the American people, if the results of the November election are any indication of the national mood.

It's important to remember that before this past summer and the economic melt-down we're experiencing in real time, the recently completed presidential campaign was a national referendum on the disastrous Bush war. his past spring, Senator Hillary Clinton was defeated by Mr.

Obama because she could never justify her irresponsible, politically motivated 2002 vote to authorize force against an Iraqi tyrant who posed no real danger to the U.S. Remember, the 2006 November election was also a referendum on Mr. Bush's war, and resulted in the Democrats taking control of the Congress for the first time in six years; The election also forced a criminally incompetent and delusional Defense Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, into retirement. According to the economist Joseph Stiglitz, the war could end up costing the U.S. taxpayers 3 trillion dollars; it has already cost us 4,200 American dead (including 15 Americans killed during November, 2008 as of this writing on Nov. 27), more than 30,000 Americans seriously wounded, and hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilian casualties. We've had no sustained political reconciliation in Iraq, no agreement on distribution of oil revenues, certainly no peace in the Middle East, and the only issue most Iraqis seem to agree on is that they want U.S. occupiers out of their country by 2011. Thankfully, and only thanks to the election results of November 4<sup>th</sup>, U.S. troops will leave well before 2011.

Should we congratulate the Bush administration for the Orwellian nightmare they created at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba? Twice, a conservative-leaning U.S. Supreme Court ruled against the administration's drive to create an extra-legal judicial process at Guantánamo. The administration essentially circumvented the Supreme Court by browbeating a frightened and feckless Republican controlled congress into passing the disgraceful 2006 "Military Commissions Act," which all but suspends *habeas corpus* and is completely anathema to democratic rule, and our country's history of decency.

The election results of November 2008 represent a repudiation of Bush policies and it seems to me that we have, in fact, congratulated Mr. Bush by holding Mr. Obama's national electoral victory over the Republican candidate to a mere 7 points. As a nation, we can show true appreciation—for the rule of law—by opening, as soon as possible, impeachment hearings as a final referendum on a catastrophic and criminal administration.

## THE SOU'WESTER

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All staff editorials published in *The Sou'wester* represent the majority opinion of the Editorial Board composed of section editors and executive editors. Opinions expressed in opinion columns and letters-to-the-editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *The Sou'wester* Editorial Board. Letters-to-the-editor are encouraged, but cannot exceed 350 words; all letters must be signed and will be edited for clarity.

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# The many faces of underage drinking

By Dean Galaro  
Staff Writer

Colleges seem to always find themselves in a tight spot, caught between the widespread participation and the looming illegality of underage drinking. It's no secret that many students drink, whether it be a solo activity to pass time or a social activity amidst a local party. A problem arises because the vast majority of students here are not 21 and yet this majority also drinks. While the decision to drink is a private one, the legal intricacies cannot be ignored by students.

Everyone knows the legal drinking age in the United States is 21. This de jure restriction has been around since 1984 when the National Minimum Drinking Act was passed, nationalizing the age at which citizens can purchase and publicly possess alcohol. Interestingly, the law does not demand this type of state-by-state legislation, but rather enforces it through fear of monetary penalty. If a state does not legislate against the underage purchase or public consumption of alcohol, that state will lose ten percent of its annual federal highway appointment, which, in the interest of public transportation and commerce, is very important.

Even with the national legislation and regulation, there are certain legal exceptions that some states make when it comes to underage drinking. While the two are closely linked, the *consumption* and the *possession* of alcohol are two different concepts, which normally come paired together. All states, under the National Minimum Drinking Act, have a ban on the underage possession of alcohol, which includes having the alcohol on one's person in public or going to a store and purchasing the alcohol (handing the drink from the store's possession to your own). Not all states outright ban the consumption of alcohol, and there are many states with very lax laws on who can consume it. Currently there are 25 states with familial exceptions to alcohol consumption, 23 states with location exceptions, and 20 states with neither

exception. States that do not recognize either exception include Utah, Arkansas, and Tennessee. Some of the states that recognize both exceptions include California, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

Family and location exceptions to the drinking age are very fluid concepts, and differ greatly from state to state, meaning that there is widespread difference in the way alcohol is handled across the country. For example, in California it is permissible for a minor to possess alcohol in a private setting (there are many locations that are legally 'private', being that they are not owned by the state), but it is illegal for someone to provide said minors with their alcohol. There are also varied religious and cultural exceptions that can be put in place depending on state legislation.

Tennessee has very strict laws about alcohol and only permits the distribution of alcohol to minors by priests, rabbis, or some other religious leader through a specific religious ceremony. The way in which Tennessee law controls the consumption of alcohol by minors is that it restricts the sale of alcohol to minors and the purchasing of alcohol for minors by those of age. Under §57-5-301 of the Tennessee constitution, "It is unlawful and punishable... for any minor to purchase or attempt to purchase any such beverage," and "Any person who purchases any such beverage for or on behalf of a person under twenty-one (21) years of age commits a Class A misdemeanor." The law does not specify against the consumption of alcohol by minors unless it spills out into the public sector (i.e. anywhere outside one's private property, or in view of others, or in a way that disturbs others, etc.) or it is aided by someone of age (whether a friend or liquor store employee).

This only gets more complicated with the addition of a private institution like Rhodes, which runs under its own rules as well as state law. Since Rhodes is a private college, it means that the school is not run through government funding, but rather private money, meaning that the school is able to set its own legal regulations inside of Tennessee law. There are certain policies

that one agrees to when entering into a private institution, as one agrees to policies and procedures as part of any legal transaction. As part of being a student at Rhodes, it is agreed upon that "Alcohol and alcohol containers may not be consumed or possessed anywhere on campus or at any College function by anyone who is under the legal drinking age," and that "The participation in drinking games and the possession or use of paraphernalia... is a violation of the alcohol and social event policy." While this could very well just be taken off campus, the school's policies allow for sanctioning action when activities off-campus turn dangerous or irresponsible to student health and well being.

While it is a complicated legal question as to whether people under the age of 21 should ever drink, Rhodes social policies make it clear that as a student, there is no question that drinking under the age of 21 is prohibited and is punishable. No matter how much one might dislike the policies in place, there is no way to argue around it since students join a private institution like Rhodes on their own free will, agreeing to certain terms upon entry.

Even with such a direct social policy, why are there still issues with alcohol? Because no matter the legal situation, the decision to drink a certain liquid is a personal choice, and whether one does it responsibly or to simply cause trouble, the choice is theirs. Still, the college should enforce the drinking regulations that are currently in place, and students should take their drinking elsewhere if it is not going to follow the prescribed regulations. If the current situation does not suit the way students want to live, then the students should petition to change the regulations. As for now, the administration has to decide how lenient they are willing to be with alcohol and stick to it, making clear what is going to be done.

## The race to the bottom not inevitable at college

By Rami Abdoch and Kyle Wukash  
Staff Writers

It's Friday night of orientation week and you're officially on the cusp of the college experience. After 18 years of parental non-sense, your moment of true "liberation" culminates in the glistening light of a red solo cup. As you stare at the crimson cup, you justify having one drink. After all, you just want to have fun. You down the cup's contents, and the next thing you know you're off to the races.

The next morning you wake up late for your language placement exam and your head is spinning madly. You forget about the exam and settle for intermediate French, knowing that your AP score could have placed you into a much higher class. But who cares, last night was fun and tonight is going to be even better. You can't help but anticipate the moment of revenge on your roommate in another game of captain dick head. School starts, and you decide to join a fraternity, which is a great way to access alcohol. Weekends are now a time to relieve some stress by drinking away the pressures of school, and Mondays are the days where you try to piece together the weekend, occasionally saying to yourself, "did I really do that?" But deep down, you can't help but find a sense of self-satisfaction as to the tremendous accomplishment you made while being drunk. College is going to be great.

Today, college campuses across the country are plagued with the pandemic of "binge drinking." The hysteria of drinking, which characterizes a large part of the so called "college life," is often disregarded and excused as typical adolescent behavior. But excuses, however, fail to account for the unwanted ramifications of binge drinking such as academic deficiency and sexual

exploitation. The problem with social drinking in college is the lack of responsibility and intermittent emphasis on moderation.

Nowadays, in order for students to have "good time," the social setting can no longer be devoid of alcohol. Together, "having fun" and binge drinking pose a strange dilemma. In part, this misconstrued understanding of fun dictates the social culture in a college setting. Instead of a place where students are socially nurtured and encouraged to exercise responsibility, college has become a place where responsibility is tolerably suspended.

Most people attempt to address alcohol use in terms of the association of alcohol with car accidents, rape, murder, child abuse, etc. on a city-wide, state-wide, or national level. While that may be useful to deter some people from engaging in drinking based solely on the increased chance of the presence of alcohol, it doesn't seem to faze others.

To be sure, alcohol use in itself does not usually end with such extreme ends as those presented, so a person might not be deterred based on such statistics, especially if said person deems him or herself responsible in drinking. However, the question of whether or not to drink lies fundamentally in a rational choice: do the pros of drinking outweigh the pros of not drinking? The model of rational choice theory will allow us to address drinking in this way.

Insofar as a person deems the pros of drinking to outweigh those of abstaining, then it is a rational choice. The question then considers whether the pros of drinking in fact outweigh those of abstaining? With respect to drinking, we would argue that most people overestimate the pros of social drinking while also underesti-

mating its cons.

On a macro-level it may appear that the benefits of drinking are superior to those of not drinking. Many who defend drinking talk of the medical benefits of moderate alcohol consumption, particularly with respect to the heart. Furthermore, they may talk of the economic benefit of alcohol sales for the country: for instance, tax revenue from alcohol was roughly \$5.5 billion dollars in 2006. These are just some of the many macro-level considerations. While relevant to the issue of drinking in general, I find that this aspect of the discussion has been played to near death. What people don't really analyze is the individual's decision to drink.

Primarily, people drink to relax and to reduce stress. Also, first-timers drink largely because of the social nature of drinking and peer pressure, for instance, "If you don't drink, you will be a social outcast." This type of message is implicit in the culture surrounding alcohol — its use is so commonplace, so taken for granted, that first time users usually don't think twice before taking their first drink. Though taking one or two drinks will most likely not cause you to be intoxicated, it will certainly have a psychological effect on you. Those who drink socially (1-3 beers) show decreased sensitivity in the brain regions involved in detecting threats and increased activity in the regions involved in reward. At one end of the spectrum, less anxiety might enable one to approach a new person at a party, but at the other end, one may fail to avoid an argument or a fight. In brief, your judgment is significantly impaired by drinking. As obvious as this is, most people do not account for this either during the action itself or in retrospect.

In effect, the drinker is shunning his or her faculty of reason. This is a great irony, especially considering the (supposed) high place of rational thought in the ivory tower and Western society at large. What I find is that this particular con of social drinking, that of impaired judgment, well outweighs the pro of being relaxed and easing the social situation in which one may be. To talk of the macro-level benefits of drinking is essentially irrelevant to the question at hand. Most people, certainly not college students, do not drink in order to improve their heart condition, and they definitely do not drink out of some sort of economic imperative to sustain our nation's treasury. They do so because they enjoy being relaxed and having what they deem a good time.

What we would entreat those who do in fact drink is to ask yourself honestly: why exactly are you drinking? If you are doing so to relax, de-stress, etc., the question then becomes is that a sufficient benefit to justify your choice? We would argue that, more often than not, it is insufficient. According to rational choice theory, acting in such a way that does more harm than good is fundamentally irrational. To engage in something, anything, while knowing that the cons outweigh the pros is irrational by definition. Some may argue that moderation somehow legitimizes drinking. "Moderation in all things," says the Roman dramatist Terence. Aristotle, however, disagrees: "The virtue...in moderation, as regulated by wisdom." This wisdom is the key to making the proper rational choice, with respect to drinking or otherwise.

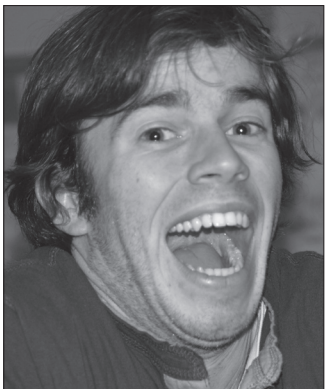
# Student Voice

What do you think about substance abuse on campus?



"I think it's obvious a lot of people drink. Some people smoke, others don't. It's not a big deal."  
-Alex Lippincott, 2012

"I think Rhodes is a typical college where there is alcohol and drug use. None of my friends do drugs, but I'm sure others do."  
-Dara Chesnutt, 2010



"I have no problem with alcohol, but it is its abuse that causes problems. I personally don't do drugs, but I don't have a problem with recreational use."  
-Colin Johnson, 2010

"I feel like they're common, but it's not that bad. Coming from a high school that is located the Louisiana State University campus, I've seen a lot worse."  
-Gina Pentas, 2011



"I think drugs and alcohol are used a lot more than people think. I know people get caught with weed every year, so I know that's around. Drinking is prevalent in every building, in every floor, except first floor Townsend."  
-Kyle Pipkin, 2011

Interview, continued from Page 1

month. No more than four pounds a month.

DJ: How much do you make from selling marijuana?

Q: Sometimes I'll make nothing off an ounce because it's really good weed and I want people to be able to smoke it. Another time a friend might come through with a really good deal and I'll make \$200 of an ounce.

DJ: Do you sell anything besides marijuana?

Q: Once every couple weeks someone will hit me up, and I'm like no, I don't sell anything else. Kids come to me looking for adderall, but I'm like no. Weed is the only kind of drug that has no long term side effects.

DJ: What is it like selling pot in Memphis?

Q: Memphis is a really bad city to find a reliable connections in because people get robbed and killed here all the time. I've had dealers flat out quit because they don't want to get robbed or killed.

DJ: Do you worry about getting caught?

Q: It's a constant worry. It's one of those things that's always in the back of your mind. Rhodes is a small campus so rumors, true

or not, will fly about your extracurricular activities.

DJ: What are prices for pot like at Rhodes?

Q: Prices at Rhodes are worse than in my neighborhood by far. And what's worse is sometimes you don't even get what you pay for. A eighth is five to ten dollars more than where I'm from.

DJ: What do you think the general attitude on campus is towards marijuana use?

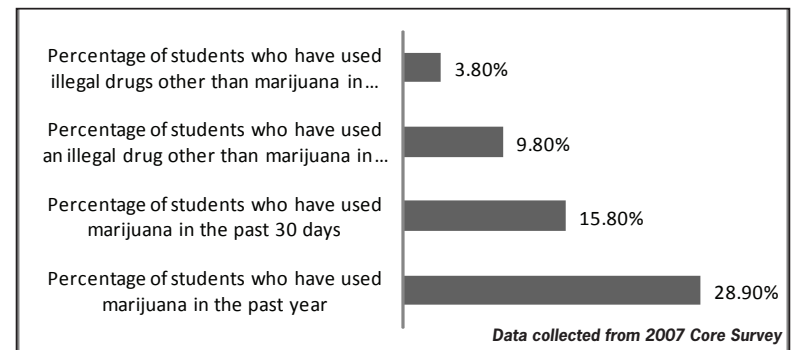
Q: I'd say by and large it is still pretty open but there are still people who, if they hear about it, will report you. There's more and more people coming in each year that smoke weed. But compared to other schools Rhodes is a lot more repressive about it. Other schools are more relaxed and lenient about

it. It might just be the type of people Rhodes attracts, which is a lot of southern, Bible-belt people. We have some very sheltered, private school people. People would prefer not to learn about weed, it's crazy. They still are just going to assume pot is bad because the government says so. People are selectively ignorant.

DJ: Where do you get your marijuana from?

Q: Some of the pot is grown on federal land. I've had stuff from Oregon, California, New York, medicinal weed from New England, Georgia, Tennessee; some of it is international. Some of the dealers are completely independent, but I've dealt with gangs, one cartel, and some family dealers.

## Findings on the use of drugs



# Nutcracker

The Orpheum DEC 5-7

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# Timeline of drug and alcohol policies on campus

May 1967: The state of Tennessee lowers the drinking age to 18. Southwestern Students vote on a non-binding resolution to change or do away with the alcohol ban on campus. Of the 441 students who voted, 341 voted in favor of "significantly changing" or "removing from the college catalog" the ban on alcohol. At this time the regulation regarding alcohol was "No intoxicants are to be served at any dance, party or other function by any college organization, nor are they to be brought into any building or kept anywhere (including automobiles) on the campus."



The Southwestern

Oct. 1977: A pub opens in the Lair, which at that time is in the Briggs Student Center. A 10 oz. Stroh's or Miller Lite goes for 40 cents.

Feb. 1976: The Student Regulation Council accepts jurisdiction in the area of public display of drinking.

1984: The Lair stops selling beer.  
 Circa 1984: A memorandum from C.V. Scarborough, the Dean of Students, states that students suspected trafficking in illegal drugs or substances will be warned by the Dean of Students to immediately stop or be subject to suspension.  
 Oct. 1984: The fraternities hold what is supposed to be an alcohol-free rush, but an article in a local newspaper reports that underage freshmen have no problem getting alcohol at rush parties.



The Southwestern, 1977 Edition

Circa 1987: Groups are required to register events with more than 20 people in advance with the Dean of Students office.



The Southwestern, Vol. XLVIII

1993: A survey of students conducted by Dr. Libby Robertson, the Director of Student Counseling Services, finds that 78% of respondents drink alcohol, 26% said they use marijuana and 17% said they have had unwanted sex after too much drinking.

Fall 2007: A new pub opens in the Lynx Lair and serves both domestic beer and micro-brews. 2007

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

Oct. 18, 1968: The Southwestern board of directors announces that alcohol will be allowed on campus, even though it is still banned at "dances, parties or other functions given by college organizations on or off campus."

1971: Southwestern releases the "Southwestern Statement of Policy Regarding Drug Abuse," which states that any student who is determined through due process to have sold drugs will be expelled. Students who are convicted for breaking other drug laws will be allowed to complete their term, but the Dean of the College can review their readmission to the college for the following term.

1985: The Southwestern alcohol policy states that individuals, groups, or organizations having an event where they serve alcohol are responsible for ensuring that the event complies with state laws and regulations. It is prohibited the use of alcohol as a trophy or award at any college affiliated event.

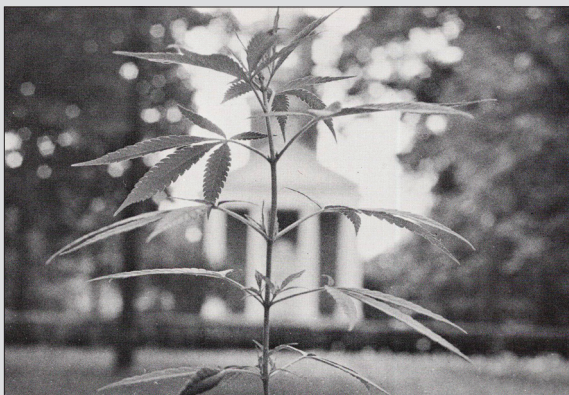
Apr. 23, 1987: The Student Government Association, SRC and Dean of Students Office redefine the policy towards kegs. They are allowed in residence halls as long as keg/open container form is filled out.

Apr. 16, 1997: Memphis City Council grants Rhodes permission to serve beer in the lair.

Feb. 24, 1999: An article in *The Sou'wester* reports that only 6 to 12 beers are purchased a week in the Lair.

Fall 2006: Changes to the alcohol policy end the practice of allowing students to register spontaneous gatherings. Other changes to the policy clarify how alcohol violations are handled and create a multi-tiered system of consequences for alcohol violations.

Feb. 13, 1969: Dean Jameson M. Jones sends out a letter stating that Southwestern "does not in any sense afford a refuge from enforcement of laws pertaining to drugs."



The Southwestern, 1975 Edition

1979: The drinking age in Tennessee is raised to 21, with a grandfather clause for people already over the age of 18.

Oct. 2, 1986: President James Daughdrill sends out a message stating: "The media describe the use of illegal drugs as a growing epidemic. We must not let the Rhodes community become a victim."



The Southwestern, 1980 Edition



The Southwestern, 1990 Edition

Fall 1992: A revision to the alcohol policy allows students who are 21 and over to consume alcohol in the Stewart and Trezevant quadrangle, fraternity houses, the residence hall rooms, and in the presence of underage students. Student Affairs distributed individualized, non-transferrable bracelets to students 21 and over for them to wear when consuming alcohol in the designated areas on campus.

All photos courtesy of the Rhodes College archives and taken from The Southwestern yearbook

## Scientology hot among oddball celebs

By Jerica Sandifer  
Executive Assistant

With a list of followers, including Kirstie Alley, John Travolta, Tom Cruise, Katie Holmes, and the recently departed Memphian, Isaac Hayes, the controversial religion of Scientology has become a fad of sorts over the last decade. Scientology, like any religion, has a complicated and in-depth doctrine. The overarching theme of this belief is that humans are immortal beings that have and will live several lifetimes. The goal of a scientologist is to survive as long as possible in each lifetime by catering to one's mind, body, and spirit.

Scientology was founded in 1952 by L. Ron Hubbard and had originally secular aims. In its first days, Scientology was supposed to be what Hubbard called "a study of knowledge." The United States now recognizes it as a tax-exempt religion; however this came with lengthy debate. The IRS did not grant the Church of Scientology tax-exempt status until 1993. Formerly, the government had concluded that the church was formed solely for the economic gain of L. Ron Hubbard. Additionally, several of Hubbard's friends quoted him saying the best way to get rich was to start a religion.

Further controversy has emerged as an effect of the Church's use of hypnosis. L. Ron Hubbard was, in fact, a skilled hypnotist; and hypnosis, Scientology claims, is what led Hubbard to discover the "dianetic engram," a mental image of a past moment of pain and unconsciousness. Yet, the controversy does not end there. Scientology has been accused of suppressing the free speech of its critics on the internet. Notable websites that criti-

cize the religion are sued or petitioned to be deleted on the basis that they are stealing copyrighted church materials.

Other controversy includes the belief that Scientology is a cult, its inflation of member statistics, its belief that psychiatry and psychology are abusive practices, and its alleged unfair treatment of parishioners.

The Church of Scientology looks as though it will survive, however, considering its huge contributions and positive press from its in-house celebs. It came as a surprise to some, therefore, that Isaac Hayes did not leave anything to the church in his will, but it is possible that this was not unforeseeable. After losing the rights to his music, Isaac Hayes began making money playing "Chef" on the television show, "South Park." In 2005, the show aired its "Trapped in the Closet" episode poking fun at scientology. Hayes did not want to resign because of the show, but was pressured to do so by the Church. Hayes was more interested in keeping his income than his loyalties to the Church, so perhaps the world should not be so surprised that he was more willing to keep his income in the family.

It is impossible to know if these celebrities have really found the light in Scientology or if they will decide to be Catholic, Methodist, or Agnostic tomorrow. Maybe if Katie Holmes gets pregnant again, we will see.

For now, though, maybe we should just snuggle up with popcorn and *Top Gun* and forget about it. I don't feel any differently about old episodes of Kirk Cameron's "Growing Pains" or a seeing Mel Gibson in *Braveheart*.



Daniel Jacobs/The Sou'wester

Ariva, the disolvable tobacco product, offers only smokefree nausea.

## Viva Ariva? No Gracias.

By Ralph MacDonald  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

There are times when, as a journalist, I am a no-good smut peddler. I have gone as far as to give a porn theatre free publicity and am striving in this issue to help a bunch of under-aged lightweights pick the best cheap whiskey to deposit into the nearest Glassell urinal or shower stall.

So I am the unlikely candidate to balk at endorsing a tobacco product on moral grounds. I believe we are all aware of the health risks tobacco products pose at this point, yet tobacco is stress relieving, creates a pleasant buzz, and can stimulate the mind during a late night of work. In short, it is a wonderful drug for your average college student.

Needless to say, I was excited to when Virginia's Finest tobacco company sent me their cutting-edge product, Ariva, for trial and, presumably, some hardcore pimping. So it here goes: Ariva stands out amongst all other tobacco products for two main reasons. First of all, it comes in capsule form—think of a cigarette in a breath mint. Secondly, it is not the least bit satisfying. It is a drug designed for the college kid who needs their fix in class, the professional stuck in a meeting, or any other person who just cannot wait fifty minutes for bad taste, throat discomfort, and mild nausea.

Ariva delivers no buzz, and is probably destined to be handed out by under-handed anti-drug fascists at middle school assemblies to prevent the kids from ever considering tobacco again.

**"THANKS BUT NO THANKS. I HAVE OTHER PLANS FOR TONIGHT!"**

**FACT:** 77.8% of Rhodes students have refused an offer of alcohol or other drugs

Core Alcohol and Drug Survey, Fall 2007 n=554

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Navy blazer??? Basic black dress???--pfffft. Everyone knows the one essential wardrobe item for every Rhodes student is a Brown Jug T-shirt. Back by popular demand in time for Christmas.

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# Whiskey: Is it in you? Our panel digs up the truth

By Ralph MacDonald  
A&E Editor

Whiskey is the drink of The South. The Caribbean has rum, Europe has ale, and Northerners, women, and janitors, who enjoy drinking their own floor sterilizers, have vodka. Crazy people have Jagermeister and Absinthe. But no drink is as inherent to Southern culture as the drink the Irish originally referred to as “water of life.”

Note that I use the word “Southern” and not “redneck,” lest we be forced to allow moonshine into the discussion. Whiskey is our cultural heritage. From the mint juleps at the Kentucky Derby to the numerous distilleries in Tennessee and Kentucky, there seems to be a certain affinity for the spirit below the Mason-Dixon Line.

Just as whiskey is an integral part of Southern culture, cheap booze is an essential part of college campuses not run by Baptist hard-liners. So when deciding which liquor to test, cheap whiskey was the natural answer.

With the help and sponsorship of Brown Jug Liquor, we selected six inexpensive whiskeys, Dickel (Tennessee), Highland Mist (Scotch), Early Times (Kentucky), Canada Mist (Canadian), Jim Beam Rye (Rye), and Old Charter (Bourbon), for a taste-test. The tasters included four Rhodes College males, a female student, and a Belgian exchange student. Each taster was given a half-shot of each brand to get their palates acquired to the full range of tastes they would be experiencing. After a short break, a second round of whiskey was administered, during which the tasters ranked the whiskeys on a scale of 1 to 10 and provided comments on each sample. The order of brands served was switched between the first and second round in order to ensure complete blindness in the testing. Here were the results:

## #1 Canadian Mist: 7.1 out of 10



The panel says:  
-Thin, lacked flavor  
-Good taste with classic whiskey flavor  
-Smooth finish, chest feels like I ate a dozen hot wings  
-Warm in the back of the throat  
-Went down smooth as silk  
A fifth at Brown Jug is: \$9.99.

## #2 Early Times: 6.2 out of 10



The panel says:  
-More pungent attitude  
-Smooth finish, honey-infused taste,  
-Sweeter smell  
-Smooth as a baby’s bottom.  
A fifth at Brown Jug is: \$11.99

## #3 Old Charter: 5.2 out of 10



The panel says:  
-Rough, long-lasting aftertaste  
-Decent flavor  
-Sits on tongue and smells fancy  
-Tastes like heaven—finishes like hell  
-Sweet smell, almost minty.  
A fifth at Brown Jug is: \$19.99

## #4 Highland Mist: 4.9 out of 10



The panel says:  
-Smells like poop  
-Flavor not too bad  
-Smells like tequila  
-Very light flavor.  
A fifth at Brown Jug is: \$11.99

## #5 George Dickel: 4.8 out of 10



The panel says:  
-Very prickly  
-Smell sent a shot down my spine,  
-Taste harsh but not overwhelming  
-I feel markedly dumber having “drunken” this whiskey  
A fifth at Brown Jug is: \$19.99

## #6 Jim Beam Rye: 4.5 out of 10



The panel says:  
-Rough going down  
-Nice smell, taste did not match the smell  
-Kind of thick, much stronger taste,  
-Smells woody like oak.  
A fifth at Brown Jug is: N/A

So what wisdom can we gather from comparisons to babies bottoms and reading about various whiskey’s fragrances? Probably, the most obvious lesson is that amateur taste-testers are not very effective at their task. But if any practical knowledge is to be gained, it is probably that all cheap whiskey tastes pretty similar, and you are probably best served just buying the cheap stuff and downing it with a grimace. When all is said, there is not much wisdom in whiskey, which is probably a lot of the appeal of whiskey in the first place.

# Rhodes Taijiquan instructor witnesses the deep connections of the martial art

By Onalee Carson  
Sports Editor

On a recent trip to Taiwan, Rhodes' instructor of Chinese and Thai martial arts, Milan Vigil, not only won a gold medal at his first Taijiquan (T'ai Chi Ch'uan) tournament, but he also had the opportunity to explore his Taijiquan roots under his instructor of 19 years, Dr. Jwing-Ming Yang and Dr. Yang's own Taijiquan instructor, Master Gao Tao.

"The tournament was sort of just icing on the cake," said Vigil, whose main reason for traveling to Taiwan was to participate in a series of seminars Dr. Yang was teaching. "Along with [Dr. Yang's seminars], any interested parties were invited to join him and then visit places significant to his development as a martial artist...I'd been to Taiwan before, but I'd never been with Dr. Yang and had never visited the places that had that significance for us."

Among the places visited with Dr. Yang, Vigil and colleges were taken to Dr. Yang's hometown, Xinzhu. Not only was the locale important because it was Dr. Yang's boyhood home, but it is also the origin of Yang's Taijiquan study. Accord-



Photo courtesy of Milan Vigil

**Master Gao Tao with Milan Vigil, who recently won a gold medal at a Taijiquan tournament in Taiwan.**

ing to Vigil, Dr. Yang was studying white crane martial arts when, after complaining about a stomach condition, his instructor advised him to start a study of Taijiquan in hopes of aiding his ailment. "Dr. Yang found a teacher, Master Gao Tao, who taught [English] in a neighboring high school...he taught Taijiquan at five of the neighboring high schools, each school 500 students. Dr. Yang was one of those stu-

dents at one of those high schools," said Vigil.

But things kept getting better and better for Vigil as he steeped himself in the reality of his teacher's Taijiquan history—Vigil was actually able to witness the reunion of Dr. Yang and his Taijiquan instructor, Master Gao, who had lost touch of each other for over forty years. One of Master Gao's former students who knew about Dr. Yang's seminars and the connecting tournament invited him to participate in a master's demonstration at the Taijiquan tournament. "Because he agreed to do that, they knew to put [Master Gao] and Dr. Yang in contact with each other," said Vigil, "and that's how their reunion came about"

"To be there at the time of their reunion, that was really special," said Vigil. "It was all these things coming together that made me have to go." While most of Vigil's colleagues left soon after the seminars and the tournament, Vigil stayed an extra ten days to spend time with Dr. Yang and Master Gao, realizing the deep connections to be made in the martial arts practice he values.

# Let the Knicks burn

By Ralph MacDonald  
A&E Editor

Stephon Marbury is not a hero. He is an egotistical superstar whose best days are as gone as the innocence of a virgin in a motel room. He is a categorically bad teammate, has been accused of sexual assault, and has an odd-shaped, shaven head that sports an ill-advised tattoo.

For the past few years, he has been the face of a Knicks franchise that has managed to surpass even their petulant superstar in on-court disappointment and off-court embarrassment. The Knicks front office made trades that appeared to have been the results of lonely, drunk-dialed phone calls, while stumbling out of a bar after striking out for the fourth night in a row. Unlike most professional franchises, being with the Knicks does not get you laid. The coaches gave up on their rosters or their rosters gave up on them, a chicken or egg question that successful NBA franchises avoid having to answer.

But when Stephon Marbury got a chance to kiss owner James Dolan's ring, he spat in his face—and for that he should be commended.

Marbury's current predicament begins with former coach Isaiah Thomas. Thomas and Marbury butted heads, as one might expect two egomaniacal sociopaths to do. This ultimately led to Marbury electing to undergo postpone able surgery and end his season early. As for Thomas, he was shown the door after a mere four years of remarkably poor work as an executive, coach, and co-worker and replaced by former Phoenix coach Mike D'Antoni.

Marbury was excited about playing in D'Antoni's system, and consequently put in hard preparation for the season and was by all accounts the "model citizen" that he had never before been in his career. Moved by Marbury's effort, D'Antoni de-activated Marbury and the Knicks' front office refused to trade him, buy out his contract, or grant him an outright release, leaving the star in limbo in what just so happens to be his contract year.

However, in the midst of attempting to trade away all the bad contracts they have collected over the Thomas years, the Knicks found themselves without enough players to provide adequate depth for games against the Milwaukee Bucks and Detroit Pistons. Pressed for able bodies, D'Antoni approached Marbury with an offer to play some minutes and to help out the team when they needed him. It was a chance for redemption, a way out of the doghouse, and a stage to show that he was a changed man who bore no grudges. Marbury declined. The franchise under the new coaching regime bullied him and disrespected him from day one. None of his teammates spoke up in his defense, leaving the talented player with zero recourse. He could not work harder, he could not work less, he could not join another team—all he could do was put on a suit and sit at the end of the bench. Regardless of Marbury's history, The Knicks' behavior is purposeful injustice and Marbury was right to shove it right back in the face of the pathetic franchise.

# No special treatment for student athletes

By Onalee Carson  
Sports Editor

How many times a day are we bombarded with news of yet another professional athlete in possession of illegal substances—how many of them use the juice? With all of the controversy about substance abuse within professional sports, one must question whether or not there is similar behavior at the college level. If there is a substance abuse problem among college athletes like there is among pro athletes, what is the Rhodes Athletic Department doing to prevent and deal with such an issue? The answer is simple: an athlete at Rhodes is a Rhodes student, first and foremost, and the same rules that apply to other students at

Rhodes apply to them—and then some.

"As a department, we use the same drug policies which apply to any student at Rhodes. The NCAA has various legal and banned substances which we review with student-athletes; there is no in-season random testing at the NCAA Division III level," says Director of Athletics, Coach Mike Clary. "We strive for a mainstream philosophy with student-athletes. The expectations for student-athletes academically and socially should be the same as for any student...we don't drug test the student body, so we don't drug test student-athletes."

However, student-athletes are subject to random drug tests if they qualify, individually or with a team, for post-season

NCAA competition. According to Clary, about 10 percent of post-season competitors get randomly tested.

The Athletic Department's drug policy does not only hold issue with performance-enhancing drugs, but recreational drug and alcohol abuse are also included. "Alcohol consumption by a student-athlete is dealt with in different ways by different head coaches...and alcohol issue usually doesn't result in termination from a team, but often results in probation or suspension from competition," says Clary. "[As for recreational drugs] we follow whatever policy or penalty the College imposes."

As head football coach from 1984-1996 Clary conducted annual alcohol and drug surveys with his team. He didn't observe any strange patterns in alcohol and drug use among student-athletes then and feels the same way about our current student-athletes. "My sense is that there has been very little change in general patterns by our student body or student-athletes," said Clary.

While drug and alcohol abuse is presented as rampant at the professional level, Clary easily brings it into perspective. "I think the issues are different in professional sports and they are different in the various college sports. The issues are different at Centre or Rhodes, as opposed to Tennessee or Notre Dame."

College sports differ from professional sports on many levels—amount of drug and alcohol abuse included. And Rhodes is no different.

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