

Poison Free

By Matthew Russo ↗ April 25, 2013



Recently, the University switched from a smoke-free to a tobacco-free campus. This begs the question, were there really that many people chewing dip? I'll let this mystery go unsolved, but I will applaud the University's effort as I am tobacco-free, alcohol-free, and drug-free.

"I'm calling bullshit," you say. "The kid with the long hair and the band shirts doesn't smoke weed? You drive a van for Christ's sake!"

I spit nothing but truth in this column. But you're not the first person to make this assumption. As departed comedian Mitch Hedberg once said, "I wish long hair was associated with something other than drug use, like an extreme longing for cake."

"Okay, let's say we believe you. Didn't you say in a different column that you don't have a girlfriend either [Ha, like anyone actually read that]. What are you, a monk or something? Next you're gonna tell us you sleep on the floor and eat only shaved tree bark."

First of all, stop interrupting me, ya jerk. Second of all, no, I didn't take a religious vow of any kind. I don't smoke, drink, or do drugs because they are bad for you. Now, before you interrupt me again with a huge "Duh," let me just say that the abundance of people doing these things proves that it isn't so obvious a statement.

Kurt Vonnegut once referred to smoking as the "classy way to commit suicide." While its classiness is debatable, smoking is harmful (you know, lung cancer and whatnot). Everyone knows this, so let's move on. Besides, with all the laws against smoking, soon the government will place snipers on rooftops to take out anyone caught smoking outside their homes.

That leaves drugs and alcohol. The difference between these two and cigarettes is that you can smoke cigarettes and drive. The reason for that is that drugs and alcohol impair your mind. They are about escape. Now, don't get me wrong. Some people have had hard lives, making their attempts to drink or shoot or snort their misery away more understandable (upper-middle-class college kids are not "some people"). Yet some young people with no problems whatsoever drink themselves into a stupor every weekend. We all know *someone* incapable of having fun without booze.

In *American Manhood*, E. Anthony Rotundo writes about liquor: "More than any other common vice, it ate away at personal judgment and physical health." Although he was writing about men in the nineteenth century, the quotation captures exactly why I don't drink. I don't think it's unreasonable to want to be in control of my actions at all times and to want to extend my life for as long as possible.

Let's face it, people do some pretty stupid stuff when they're drunk. I have witnessed it firsthand, but I

don't want to embarrass anyone I know. Strangers, on the other hand, are fair game. One time, when I was sitting on a friend's porch (in grade school, mind you), a lush hobbled down the street, looked at us as he passed, then a few houses down, as if he was on delay, he asked, "You guys want some beer?"

Have you ever driven through downtown St. Louis during Mardi Gras? I did just a few months ago. Allow me to save you the trip: hordes of drunks stumbling around in front of moving cars and all over taxis. It filled me with so much pride.

Now, I'm not an idiot. I know no one's going to stop drinking or doing drugs because of anything I write. Hell, who knows if anyone will actually read this (Yes! Twice in one article!). I don't even want people to stop drinking. Their antics amuse me.

All I want is for you to be responsible about it. The addiction, the overdoses, the drunk drivers who have killed someone (or themselves), the binge drinkers who have choked on their vomit, don't let these things happen to you. The number of professional wrestlers alone who have died of drug-and-alcohol-related causes is scary. Seriously, look it up.

No one should drink until they pass out. What's the point? If you're going to drink, just consume enough to maintain your drunkenness, because I can't watch you make asses of yourselves if you black out. And please, stay away from your cars when you are drunk or high. There are no exceptions to this rule. If you think there are, please go to the DMV and give them back your license because you are too stupid to drive.

"So, you think you're better than me?" Oh, you're back. Do vegetarians think they're better than meat-eaters? Do virgins (by choice) think they're better than fornicators? Do engineers think they're better than English majors (those smug sons of bitches)? Of course! We all have our vices, me included, and there's always going to be someone out there who thinks they're better than you because they don't partake in your specific vice.

Is anyone really better than anyone else for these petty reasons? Probably not, but let's just maintain the illusion.

Welcome to Where?:Spring Dance Theme Causes Confusion

By Corie Krisch  April 28, 2013

This year's Spirit Week came to an end with the spring dance themed, "Welcome to the Hamptons." I decided after days of persuasion from my friends to attend. What was holding me back was how crushed I'd feel watching other students having fun with their partners while mine is about a thousand miles away in Colorado. It turns out that other students were unsure if they wanted to go to or what to wear because of the "Welcome to the Hamptons" theme. Senior Darryn Releford said, "It sucks. It is too prim and proper. We are associating ourselves with celebrities like Kim Kardashian or Paris Hilton." Waiting in front of Ryan Hal, we were soon to find out what was ahead of us.

The school bus let us off in front of the Contemporary Art Museum. The spacious room was fill with decorations that screamed, "I'm on a boat!" Floating candle centerpieces adorned tables covered in blue tablecloth and white nets. The snack tables were set up in a similar way, offering little things to nibble on like cheese and crackers, and various fruits. Outside on the patio was a photo op for students and their friends. Students had props like a captain's wheel and a life preserver from the "USS Fonty." Back inside, the DJs were set up on a long table with big stereo systems on each end. In the corner there was a projector and screen, displaying music videos to go along with the music, like a few songs by Lil Wayne. In the beginning no one was dancing, but when more people showed up, more groups made their way to the dance floor.

Students had different opinions about the theme. Ashleigh Hatcher, sophomore, attended the dance but said she was a little confused on the theme. "When I originally read the theme, I was kind of unsure if it meant dress or just decorations." The Fontbonne Activities Board thought it was a great idea, but some students would disagree. Releford said, "It did not seem like fun. It seemed too classy and sophisticated. It felt like I would not be able to cut loose and have fun. A rave is more my style." Releford was not the only one discouraged from going. Alexis Clay, senior, stated, "My opinion about the theme is that it seemed pretty cool but it really did not have a wow factor. I just was not interested on attending." Maybe "Welcome to The Hamptons" was not the best themed dance the Univeristy has had in recent years. Another student, sophomore Elizabeth Kim Tran, stated, "The theme does not really trigger anything special. It just expresses where the dance may be. I was not bothered by the theme. So it did not turn me away because the theme was open." Tran wishes she would have gone to the dance, but she had to work and could not take time off. The theme choice isn't where the confusion stopped.

Multiple students were unsure of how to dress for this occasion. If the dress attire was more fun, students' opinions may have been different. Releford thought that the dress code was too gaudy. He stated, "It is insulting because we are emulating the rich and famous." On the other hand, Tran said, "I was a little confused on what to wear, but when they say casual but nice, it makes the occasion better." If the theme is not exciting to people, no one is going to go out of their way to dress in the proper attire. On the less extreme part of the spectrum, Clay stated, "I do not feel like there was any confusion on what to wear. If I had attended, I would have worn something that spoke spring or summer." A lot of students wore whatever they wanted, regardless of what would say "Welcome to the Hamptons." More people seemed to choose formalwear in opposition to theme-appropriate attire, like polos and boat shoes. The students that did attend knew what they wanted to wear. Hatcher said, "I personally chose to wear a spring dress and heels. I do not get dressed up that often because I am quite busy running around

between work and school.” Despite what people wore, the students that did go to the dance had a good time, and it was not as bad as expected.

The students who went had a great time and did not let the theme define their attendance. Erica Weinstein, sophomore, said, “I really liked the theme. I thought it was creative and easy to dress for.” Some students had no issues with the concept of the dance, like those who just went to have some last fun before graduating. Weinstein said, “This dance sounded really fun, and I think they are generally a great way to meet new people, dance, and have a great time. Also I had a few friends who are seniors, so I wanted to go and spend their last dance with them.” Similarly, Hatcher said, “I personally as a Fontbonne student who is quite involved did not even think too much on the theme— it’s more like a night to have fun with friends.”

There are different reasons why people still go to dances even in college; it all depends on the situation. Hatcher stated, “I noticed that some of my residents did not attend and after asking I got replies such as ‘I did not have the money’, ‘I hated high school dances’, or ‘I thought the theme was lame’.” More common reasons why students wanted to go is because their friends were going or it was their last dance. The one downfall of the dance stated by Hatcher was, “We are in college, and we stay out until one or three in the morning most of the time. I guess I wish it could have gone until eleven or midnight since it is an activity that does not come around all that often.”

Overall the dance was a success. The students who went had fun, and that is all that matters to them. For seniors it was their last dance, and it will be memorable to them. As for the rest of the students, we will have more dances to compare. It will be a surprise what FAB will think of next for the fall.