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“DON'T WAIT. THE TIME WILL NEVER BE JUST RIGHT” - Napoleon Hill

DUI checkpoints and people's rights

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GUEST WRITER

On March 13 at 11:52pm, LSU Shreveport student, Blair Burlison, sat in traffic for ten minutes waiting to go through a DUI checkpoint in the Shreveport-Bossier area. An hour later, in a nearby parking lot, with a bright flashlight shining inches from her face, she was asked to count to one-thousand by a Louisiana State Highway patrolman. Blair is among the many individuals that are given field sobriety tests, while designated DUI checkpoints are conducted in the Shreveport-Bossier area.

Since January, there have been five DUI checkpoints in the Shreveport-Bossier area. When LSUS students were asked if they knew what was legally expected of them at a DUI checkpoint, and what their rights were as citizens, four out of five answered “no.”

“Sometimes all it takes for people to get arrested is one beer, everyone is different and whose to say that I could pass the breathalyzer, or not have a blood alcohol level above the legal limit,” said Blair Burlison, LSUS junior was one of the four students that answered “no.”

The legal limit in Louisiana is 0.8 percent blood alcohol content.

“BAC is the amount of alcohol controlled in a person's blood. It is measured by weight per unit of volume. Normally this measurement converts to a percentage, such as 0.10 percent, which indicates that one-tenth of a percent of a person's blood is alcohol. Since blood is directly linked



Photo by Katie LeJeune

to the brain, this is basically how alcohol can affect impairment,” said Samantha Thompson, intensive care nurse and resident of the Shreveport-Bossier area.

BJ Sanford, a law enforcement officer with more than 20 years of training, says that an experienced officer can normally detect if an individual is sober almost immediately

after talking to them. He explains that at checkpoints, police will look for indicators of intoxication, these gestures include, but are not limited to: red or glazed eyes, slurred speech, and scents of alcohol.

Among the LSUS students that participated in the study, sixty percent admitted that they were not aware they had the right to exercise any legal liberties. One student commented further by explaining that he had recently heard that checkpoints are violating the Fifth Amendment, but he claims he wasn't sure if there was truth behind that.

“If an officer poses the question to a driver, ‘Have you been drinking tonight?’, he is not violating the driver's Fifth Amendment right. If, however, that officer demands an answer, and threatens to detain the driver if the driver refuses to answer, then yes, that is arguably a Fifth Amendment violation. A driver's ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer to that statement can and will be used against that driver, and this answer is almost always provided before the driver is read his Miranda rights,” said Josh Clayton, Shreveport criminal defense attorney, after further investigation.

Burlison consented to participate in an undercover study, in which she agreed to drive through a checkpoint completely sober. After being prompted by an officer to pull forward, she was asked the following questions: “Where are you coming from?”, “Have you have anything to drink tonight mam?”, and “Do you mind stepping out of the car for a second?” Blair is one of the millions of college students across the U.S that suffers from anxiety. In this circumstance, Burlison admitted to being extremely nervous and uncomfortable. This resulted in a stuttered response when answering the officer's questions.

She was asked again if she had anything to drink, and again she answered “no.” She was then asked to follow the officer's finger she reported that he held a bright flashlight inches away from her face, which “made her dizzy and unable to clearly see anything at all.”

Burlison was released to drive home with no charges approximately 15 minutes after initially being asked to step out of her vehicle.

Clayton says that a driver has the right to refuse any Standard Field Sobriety Test (and will not be legally penalized for doing so). These include the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (“Pen Test”), the Walk-and-Turn, and the One-Legged Stand. These tests are most often performed in front of the police patrol unit, so the unit's dash camera can record the driver's performance – that video will be played at trial. Refusing the breathalyzer will result in a driver's license suspension.

A driver's performance on these tests can and will be used against the driver in the police report, and will come into evidence in court if the matter proceeds to trial. A



Photo by Katie LeJeune

Do you know what your rights are at a DUI checkpoint?

driver has the right to refuse questioning, refuse testing, and demand the presence of an attorney at any stage of the investigation.

Asserting one's right to counsel should terminate the questioning and/or testing.

With three checkpoints conducted in April alone, Officer Sanford advises students to avoid getting behind the wheel if there is the slightest bit of doubt after drinking. He encourages students to call a friend, or a taxi.

“It's too big of a deal to risk. A DUI for a student is an unfortunate event, I've seen kids that have job offers rescinded after a charge like that,” said Officer Sanford.

Thompson has seen many victims of alcohol-related wrecks while working in Intensive Care.

“Seeing the faces of a 21-year old girl's parents after they discover their daughter is dead, just because she got behind the wheel after taking too many shots convinced me to never second guess calling 222-TAXI,” Thompson said.

Hopefully, it influences students to think before they go out and drink, to plan ahead of time how to get home.

Triumphs in LSU Shreveport Sports:

The Almagest catches up with our sports teams courtesy of Mark Cantrell...

Upcoming Pilots games broadcast live

The baseball team (37-11, 22-6 RRAC) will travel to San Antonio to meet the RRAC newcomer, Our Lady of the Lake, who has done well in league play in just their first year on the diamond. The Saints are 22-23-1 overall and 14-9 in conference play. This series is huge for both schools: The Pilots still have a chance to win the regular season title if they win all four games against OLLU with one LSUA loss to Wiley would give the Pilots enough in the winning percentage column to win the title as the regular season cham-

pion is decided by winning percentage in the RRAC. The Pilots could lose one game or two this weekend but that would mean that LSUA would have to lose one more than the Pilots in order for LSUS winning percentage to be high enough to take the title.

OLLU is trying to at least maintain if not improve their spot in the standings as they are currently in 4th place. It is only fitting that all five seeds will be determined by the outcome of this weekend's games!

The weekend series between LSUS and OLLU is scheduled to begin on Friday at 4 p.m. and conclude on Saturday at 1 p.m. but weather could have an effect on the weekend schedule. Stay tuned to @LSUS_Athletics on twitter for any further updates on this weekend's games. All games will be broadcast live on www.lsusathletics.com.

The Pilots will host the RRAC Tournament at Pilots Field May 1-4! The top five teams of the regular season will advance to a five-team double elimination bracket.



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Triumphs in LSU Shreveport Sports:

Catching up with our sports teams courtesy of Mark Cantrell...

LSUS Baseball announces it's first hall of fame class

The LSU Shreveport baseball program opened a new chapter by announcing the First Ever Class of the LSUS Baseball Hall of Fame at East Ridge Country Club following a series sweeping win of the current club over Houston-Victoria. The inductees included four players and two honorary members. The players were represented by Gene Stevens, Andrew Brouillette, Rob Carroway, and Wesley Gray while the two honorary members were the first ever head coach Doug Robinson and the man who can fix/build anything, Isaac Laffitte.

"This is something that has been long overdue," said current LSUS baseball head coach Al Cantwell. "I want to congratulate this year's class and look forward to inducting more in the future." Not only did the banquet/dinner serve as the induction of the first class to the hall but also as a fundraiser for the team as many items were donated for a silent auction. Special Thanks to Ian Doiron and Phillips Energy for being the title sponsor as well as Belinda Sloan and Dr. Judith Covington for their support in making the evening special.

GENE STEVENS (2001-2004)

No doubt that this Cajun right hander is a first ballot Hall of Famer! Stevens toed the rubber for the Pilots in what can be called the turnaround days as the LSUS baseball program began its climb up the NAIA ladder. In 2003 the Pilots had been eliminated from the GCAC tournament but still received a bid to compete in the Region XII Tournament in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The Pilots began the tourney by taking down North Georgia 10-4 in game one and then defeating Mobile 8-6 before falling to the host school William Carey 10-2.

Now facing elimination the Pilots would have to win three straight games to advance to the super regional and that is exactly what happened. LSUS defeated Faulkner 9-2 and then winning a pair of exciting games against William Carey 2-1 and 10-9 to claim the title.

Then the Pilots went on to defeat Embry Riddle in the super two out of three to earn the school's first trip ever to the Avista-NAIA World Series in Lewiston, Idaho, where they finished in 3rd place! That year Stevens and three of his teammates (Aaron McRae, Cole Reynolds, and Tyson Arishenkoff) were named to the World Series All-Tournament Team! In 2003 and especially in the post season Stevens was called on to throw a CG and then close the next game before starting the next game on the following day. No doubt the team could not have accomplished what they did without his bulldog mentality. Throughout his career Stevens set and still holds single game records and most of the career pitching records. Maybe the Pilots should rename the pitching record book as "The Gene Stevens Pitching Record Book."

Today Stevens is an account manager for Bengal (Crane/Transportation/Logistics). Today Stevens at Pilots Field and is reminded of where it was when he arrived: the back stop was a chain-link fence and the batting cages were where

the Byrd field sits today. He is amazed at how far the field has come and the improvements that have been made.

"LSUS baseball is a huge part of who I am today. I had great teammates, great mentors, and a baseball family full of great friends who I would

still go to battle for today at the drop of a hat," said Stevens.

ANDREW BROUILLETTE (2008-2011)

Andrew Brouillette was one of the greatest players to ever dawn the Pilots uniform. He was a 4-time All-Conference selection and a three-time NAIA All-American. He was chosen as the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference's Player of the Year in 2009 as one of only four LSUS Players to receive a Player of the Year honor.

Brouillette was not only had great accolades for his efforts on the field but he was an exceptional student as well as one who exemplified what being a Champion of Character means. He was selected as the Hank Burbridge Champions of Character Player Award that he received at the 2011 Avista-NAIA World Series.

This award was created by the NAIA Baseball Coaches Association in the spring of 2004 to

annually recognize an NAIA baseball player and a team that display exemplary character and sportsmanship on the field of play, on their campuses and in their communities. In addition, winners of the Burbridge awards consistently model the NAIA Champions of Character initiative's five core values of respect, responsibility, integrity, servant leadership and sportsmanship.

Like Stevens, Brouillette owns most of the hitting records so maybe this part of the record book needs a new name as well! Brouillette's favorite memory as a Pilot was competing in the World Series in Lewiston as a senior in 2011. Now Brouillette is married to Jeannie Ruth McCartney who is an ER physician. Brou is just finishing up his first year of dental school at the program at LSU School of Dentistry in New Orleans.

Blood Drive and Marrow Registry



1555 E 70th St. · Shreveport, LA 71105

Friday, May 15th
9:30am - 1:30pm



Don Bryant (Shreveport), Helen Forgey (Haughton)

From the young, to the young at heart, blood donation touches everyone! Helen Forgey was only 9 years old when she was diagnosed by doctors at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center with Leukemia. Her treatment started immediately with blood and platelet transfusions. Helen is in remission, but still receives chemotherapy and blood transfusions to keep her healthy.

"Mr. Don" Bryant, at 80 years old is a regular blood donor and volunteer for LifeShare Blood Centers. Don holds the record for the most blood donations in the state of Louisiana; he is still donating platelets every two weeks and attends over 60 blood drives a year to encourage people to donate.

The two got to meet each other at a recent blood drive. A teary eyed Mr. Don says, "This is why I do this," after receiving a big hug and "thank you" from little Helen.

Donating blood is one of the greatest things you can do to support a cancer patient. A few minutes of your time could mean a lifetime to someone in need!

*Photo ID Required

Make sure you eat a good meal and increase fluids before you donate. Also, be sure you know the names of all medications you take. Anyone age 16 or older, in good health who meets height, weight and donation eligibility requirements may give blood.

16 year-olds must present signed permission from a parent or guardian at each blood donation

Donors MUST be between the ages of 18-44 to register with Be The Match® Registry



www.lifeshare.org



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