

HAZED

"It's simply not worth it."

Philip Kniskern - Arizona State University

DEATH

code of silence

CONTROL

PEER PRESSURE

SODOMY

drugs
harassment
SECRETS



ABUSE

bullying

SUICIDE

intimidate

ALCOHOL

463

SEX

cover-up

ANDREW Coffey

HAZED AT A
PI KAPPA PHI
PARTY
AND DIED
NOVEMBER 3,
2017

20 YEARS OLD

"My son died
alone in a room
full of people
who just
didn't care."

Tom Coffey

Almost 3 years ago, Andrew died. We would've thought by now our hearts would feel a little less broken. The memories and stories that have been shared from family and friends have brought many smiles, lots of laughter and a small degree of temporary solace to our heavy hearts. We muscle through each day and try to be strong because Andrew would want that. We are not always successful.

Andrew has missed three Thanksgivings, three Christmas', his 21st, 22nd and 23rd birthdays. He didn't get to fulfill his dream of graduating from FSU and joining the U.S. Navy. He wasn't with us to celebrate two of his cousin's weddings or the birth of his first nephew. And he will be sadly missed at the wedding of his best friend and big sister, Ali.

Why is that? Andrew did everything he was supposed to. His future was calculated and spot on but his plans abruptly ended.

Our son Andrew died senselessly at the traditional Pi Kappa Phi off campus frat party called "Big Brother Night". An event where new pledges learn the identity of older members who will serve as their mentors. Each pledge is provided "the family bottle" and expected to consume a toxic amount of alcohol to demonstrate their allegiance. Andrew's family bottle was 750 ml's of 101 proof Wild Turkey, and just as was expected, Andrew drank it. He became so intoxicated he couldn't walk on his own. The best anyone would do for "their new brother" was move him from couch to couch providing him buckets to vomit in and propping him up so he wouldn't choke. Never once did anyone consider getting Andrew help. Instead, they played pool and continued partying while "Drew" slowly died alone on a couch in a room full of people.

Only after calling numerous fraternity brothers first was the 911 call made, somewhere around 10:20 a.m. Friday morning.

"We had a party last night and my friend passed out on his side and his lips are purple. His body is extremely stiff and I can't wake him up, and, honestly, I don't feel a pulse." Someone can be heard yelling in the background, "OH GOD, OH GOD!"

In the morning hours of November 3, 2017, Andrew left the house on Buena Vista Drive in a black hearse surrounded by police officers, caution tape and onlookers. There were no friends that morning and there were definitely no "brothers". His "real" brothers would have never let this happen.

This hazing ritual has been going on for years and Andrew was NOT the first person to die because of it. **It is with absolute certainty that I am able to say that if "Big Brother Night" did not exist, Andrew would be alive today.** It is a useless tradition that continues to fuel an environment for bad decisions and tragedy. Hazing provides nothing more than an opportunity for its members to beat their chests while asserting "brotherhood" and at the same time endangering the lives of others with no regard to the consequences. It needs to end.

It is a tradition where the only outcome for our family and families across the country has been heartache leaving us all with the same question... "WHY DOES IT CONTINUE TO HAPPEN?"

"Rest easy baby boy. You are always on our minds and forever in our hearts."

"HE WAS A BROTHER TO ME IN EVERY SENSE OF THE TERM." Philip Kniskern
Arizona State University

"Andrew had a pure heart and looked for the good in everyone."

Doria Raynor - University of North Florida

"HE WAS TAKEN FROM US TOO SOON BUT WE ALL KNOW HE'S IN OUR HEARTS EVERYDAY WATCHING OVER US AND PROTECTING US."

Matt McDermott - Florida Atlantic University

"The type of friend you always wanted, always there for you when you needed. This was the last person this should have happened to."

Sarah Wolf - Florida State University

"I still think about him all the time."

Jarren Jones
Florida Atlantic University

"There wasn't a day that went by that wasn't full of laughter and jokes."

Kelsey Lunde
Florida Atlantic University

"DEWY WAS THE BEST FRIEND EVERYONE WAS LUCKY TO HAVE. HE WAS SOMEONE YOU COULD TURN TO NO MATTER WHAT."

Tommy Pustizzi
Florida State University

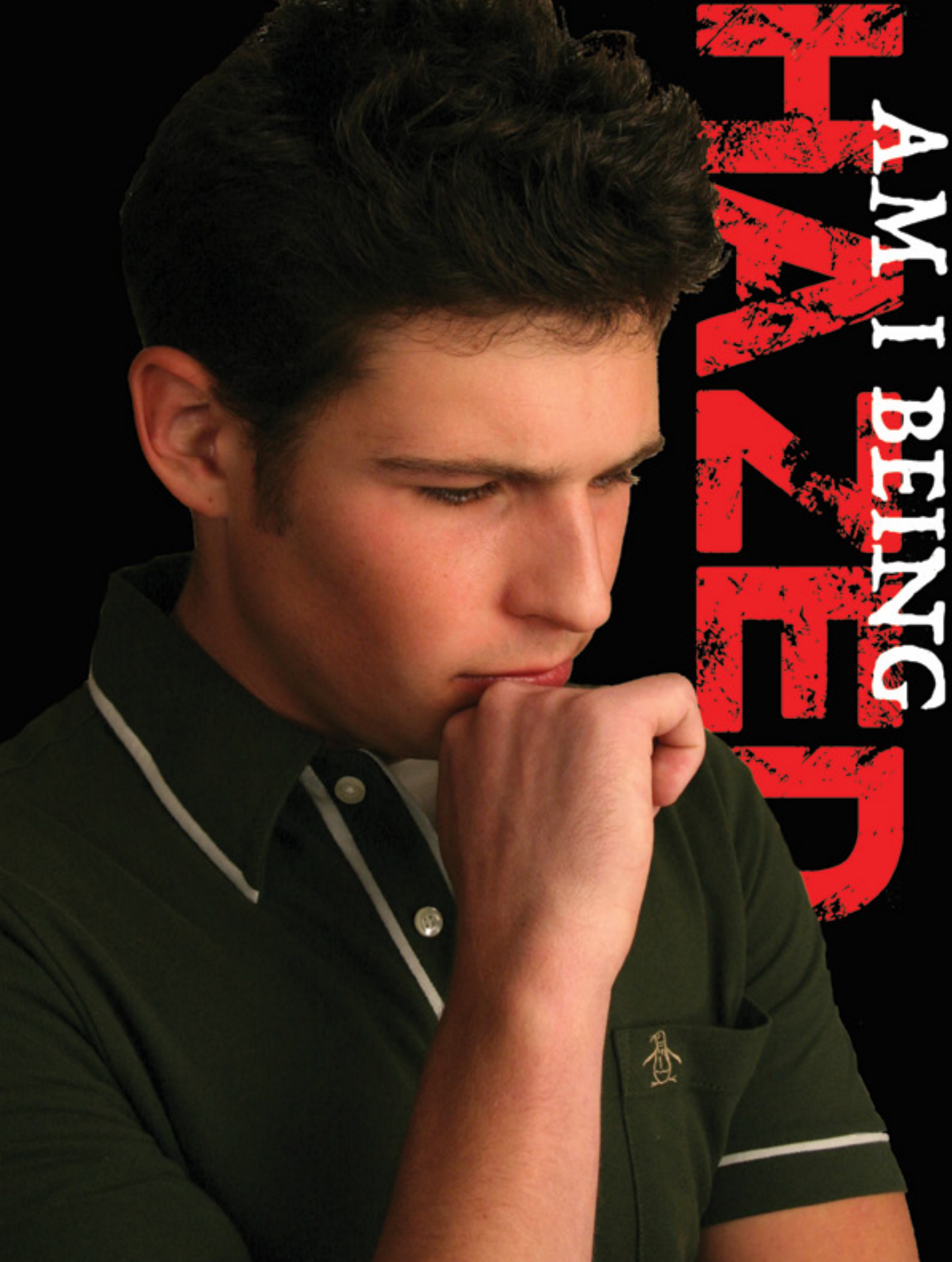
"There were no bad parts about Andrew. He was the most wholesome friend you could ever ask for."

Harley Brown
Petty officer second class
U.S. Navy.

"Losing Drew has put a dent in the hearts of everyone he knew. We will never be the same."

Lauren Montgomery
Florida State University





The expectation
will start small and get
bigger and bigger!



SUBTLE HAZING

This type of HAZING is often overlooked or accepted as “harmless” or meaningless. This should NOT be ignored. It is only the beginning.

- Wearing specific clothing
- Line-ups or drills
- Tests on meaningless information
- Name calling
- Being expected to have stupid items on you at all times, gum, sunflower seeds, lighters etc.

HARASSMENT

Harassment HAZING confuses, frustrates, and causes undue stress. Like all other forms of HAZING its purpose is to develop compliance, elicit obedience and maintain a hierarchy.

- Verbal abuse
- Threats or implied threats
- Sleep deprivation
- Degrading or humiliating acts
- Subservient expectations, running errands, cooking, cleaning

VIOLENT HAZING

At its darkest, HAZING rituals allow senior fraternity members, varsity players, or higher-ranked officers to compromise a person’s dignity, physical safety and inflict bodily harm.

- Binge drinking or drug consumption
- Beating
- Paddling
- Branding and burning
- Unreasonable physical challenges
- Performing disgusting acts
- Water intoxication

Trust your instincts.

“He was my only brother, my best friend, and I miss him every single day.”

Mike Piazza

“Tim was hilarious and brought so much joy to everyone around him. His time may have been cut short but his impact and legacy will live on forever. Our family will never be the same without him.”

Juliana Piazza

“He truly was the nicest most genuine person I ever met”

Jane Arcidiacono

“Even though it's been years, it still doesn't feel real. I think about and miss my friend everyday.”

Tre Mansdoerfer

“HE EMBODIED SELFLESSNESS AND WANTED NOTHING MORE THAN TO BETTER HIMSELF AND THOSE AROUND HIM. HIS SMILE WAS CONTAGIOUS; THE WORLD LOST SOME SPARKLE THAT DAY. HE WAS MY BEST FRIEND.”

Ryan McDyer

“Tim was a real friend and was always there for me. He is missed every day.”

Josh Zebula, Tim's roommate

HE WAS THE BIGGEST GOOFBALL WITH THE BIGGEST HEART. WHEN I SEE AN OPPORTUNITY TO STICK UP FOR SOMEONE I ALWAYS ASK MYSELF, “WHAT WOULD TIM DO IN THIS SITUATION?” AND THE ANSWER IS ALWAYS OBVIOUS. “HELP THEM.”

Joey Piazza

Do you have a brother or sister close in age to you? Close enough to be in college at the same time as you? When you read Tim's story, imagine your younger brother in Tim's place.

Tim decided at the beginning of second semester of sophomore year to rush a fraternity. He was studying to become a mechanical engineer so he could have a career developing prosthetics, especially for kids. We were not keen on the idea of rushing because we didn't want a fraternity to place demands on his time that would take away from his studies and grades. But he decided to rush and got a bid to his chosen fraternity – Beta Theta Pi. He later received a text message directing him to report to Bid Acceptance Night at the fraternity house, to wear a shirt, tie and jacket, and get ready to get f**kd up.

After the “ceremony” the hazing started, in the form of an event called “The Gauntlet”. Tim and thirteen other pledges were lined up in the basement, given a handle of vodka and told to drink it all. Next, they were led to an exterior door on the first floor. The door opened and one at a time, Tim and his fellow pledges ran to drinking stations: vodka chugging, wine bag chugging, shotgunning beer, and beer pong, followed by another beer to shotgun while lined up against a wall. Throughout the night, video recorded pledges being handed more alcohol. (The house had security cameras that recorded most of the events of the night.) Video shows Tim had the equivalent of approximately 18 drinks given to him in about 82 minutes! At some point, one of the brothers brought Tim upstairs to a couch but left him. Tim tried to leave the house but could not figure out how to open the front door. Tim went to the basement stairs and fell headfirst down the stairs. Minutes later, the video shows four brothers carrying his unconscious body and putting him on a couch.

The brothers tried to revive Tim by pouring beer on him and doing a sternum rub, to which he did not react indicating how unresponsive he was. Tim vomited, was backpacked, had shoes thrown at his head, was sat on after falling off the couch, and eventually was left alone on the couch. Video shows he suffered in pain throughout the night, cradling his head and side. He tried to leave and fell headfirst several times. Tim was found in the basement later that morning but the brothers waited 45 minutes before calling 911.

Tim's older brother found Tim at the hospital after Tim's roommates said he never came home. Tim was airlifted to a trauma hospital 1 ½ hours away. Tim's older brother and the ER doctor called to tell us Tim had a subdural hematoma (bleeding on his brain) and a ruptured spleen. Tim needed a blood transfusion because 80% of his body's blood was in his abdomen and was on life support. We rushed to the hospital, which was 2 ½ hours away. After an excruciating wait, a surgeon told us that Tim's brain injury was “non-recoverable.” He was brain-dead. We had to decide whether to resuscitate Tim when he went into cardiac, not medically intervene, or turn off the machines. He coded before we could tell the doctors to turn the machines off and I watched my 19-year old son be resuscitated. He coded again and we let him go. The only organ that could be donated was one kidney due to the damage he suffered.

Tim was one of the funniest, most loyal, sensitive, kindest people - the best son, brother and boyfriend. We lost a part of our hearts and souls because of hazing.

Please don't do this to anyone and always call for help when it's needed!

TIM Piazza

**HAZED AT THE
BETA THETA PI
BID ACCEPTANCE NIGHT
AND DIED
FEBRUARY 4, 2017**

19 YEARS OLD

“I watched my 19-year old son be resuscitated. He coded again and we let him go.”

Evelyn Piazza

LiveLikeTim



If you are ready to
take the chance and
participate in
ANY HAZING TRADITION
then you also need
to be ready to...

- Go to jail
- Get sued
- Devastate your family
- Get kicked out of school
- Not get a job
- **Have your name**
"negatively" pulled up on
EVERY INTERNET SEARCH for
the rest of your life. You will
not be a celebrity. You will be
someone that colleges and
employers avoid forever.

**PUTT ON YOUR
BIG BOY PANTS**

ANTONIO Tsialas

DIED AFTER AN
UNAUTHORIZED
PHI KAPPA PSI
RUSH EVENT
IN OCTOBER
2019

18 YEARS OLD

"What started
as a beautiful
weekend with
our son turned
into our worst
nightmare."

Flavia Tomasello Tsialas

My son Antonio had just turned 18 years old when he started college last August. It was such an exciting transition. I could look at my beautiful son and see both the tousled hair and eager grin of my little boy and the confidence and maturity of the man he was becoming.

He was eager to start his bright future at Cornell University. Antonio was an overachiever. In his first two months in college, he joined every organization he could. He became a campus tour guide after a very rigorous selection process. He was part of a competitive soccer club and joined the Latin American club.

Antonio was considering joining a fraternity in the Spring of 2020. On October 24, 2019 I went to Cornell for parents' weekend. My husband was joining me the next day. Antonio and I had a beautiful dinner together. He was so excited to tell me about college life. We made plans for him to take us on a campus tour the next day. But that night, Antonio attended a Phi Kappa Psi party on campus as part of a "dirty rush" event that involved hazing rituals and binge drinking. He never returned home from that party. Hazing cut his life tragically, senselessly short.

Antonio was one of five college students, who died that month in hazing related incidents across the country. Hazing is a disturbing and deadly college tradition that started over 100 years ago and leads to the death of college students every year.

But Antonio is not a statistic. He was a young man with the brightest future, full of love, ambition and joy. He loved my cooking and was an amazing big brother. He graduated cum laude from Ransom Everglades High School. A talented goalkeeper and the captain of his soccer team, Antonio enjoyed traveling to away soccer games with his father so they could discuss life's experiences during the trip. Antonio would tell his father how much he trusted his soccer teammates. He would always tell his teammates, "I got your back." He carried this trust with him to college. My husband John always says "Antonio always had everyone's back; it's too bad no one had his back that night."

As parents, we were naive about the dangers of hazing, binge drinking and the darker side of campus social life. Since Antonio's passing, John and I have dedicated ourselves to raising awareness and ending hazing once and for all. But we cannot do it alone. This is a community effort. Although the problems are significant, we are filled with hope.

- We hope that Antonio's passing will inspire new rules and practices, so hazing deaths do not occur in the future.
- We hope that this tragedy will force schools to create an environment for students to grow not only in knowledge, but also in love and compassion.
- We hope that students will head to college armed with the information they need to make good decisions, to balance adventure and new experience, with safe and compassionate choices.

We have an enormous opportunity to change our world that is longing for healing and peace. Each of us must take action. As we are sheltering at home, take a few moments to envision a better world. Consider how we can make colleges more loving and more compassionate.

Talk to your friends and family about the dangers of hazing, how to speak out, and best practices for personal safety on campus. We must work together to make the new normal better than before.

Be agents of change. I invite you today to be that change, so this senseless event does not happen again in the future.

Thank you very much for spreading LOVE and LIFE!

**"ANTONIO WAS AN
AMAZING PLAYER, BUT
AN EVEN BETTER MAN.
HE LIVED LIFE WITH
SUCH PASSION.
HIS MEMORY WILL
LIVE ON FOREVER."**

*Matthias Calle
Florida State
University*

**"His humility,
work ethic, dedication,
passion for the game
and drive for success
were unmatched
by anyone."**

*Daniel Mendoza
Ransom Everglades*

**"ANTONIO BROUGHT ENERGY,
ENTHUSIASM AND DRIVE TO ALL HE
UNDERTOOK, AND HE ELEVATED THE SPIRITS
OF THOSE AROUND HIM."**

*Penny Townsend
Ransom Everglades, Head of School*

**"It was just impossible not to be
touched by Antonio's contagious
and delicious energy.
Antonio had a huge impact on me."**

Florencia Maggi, RE Parent

**"Antonio keeps on inspiring
me everyday to live life
like he did. He will always
be my keeper."**

*Vincent Tenant
Florida International University*

**"Antonio was the most amazing,
loving and inspiring older
brother I could have ever
asked for. He touched every
soul he met. Love him
endlessly and forever."**

*Athena Tsialas
Ransom Everglades*

**"I WAKE UP EACH DAY
WITH ANTONIO'S SMILE IN
MY HEART."**

*Allie Hoyt
Tulane University*

**"Antonio was a leader and
a dear friend. He's left a
lasting impact on me.
I will miss him dearly!"**

*Nico Sabogal
George Washington University*

**"Antonio raised the bar
for many. He lead the
path for many, and during
his new journey, he will
light up the sky for many."**

Sophie Sepheri - Duke University

**"Antonio was one of the first people
to make me feel included at Ransom Everglades.
We will always carry his light, his legacy with
us, because he changed our lives."**

*Natalia Lopez
Ransom Everglades*

**"ANTONIO ALWAYS MANAGED
TO HAVE A SMILE ON HIS FACE.
HE'LL ALWAYS BE THE NICEST GUY
EVER IN MY HEART."**

Ludovico Francillon, MDC



SECRETS

When we are asked to keep secrets we have to ask ourselves “Why?” “Who or what are we protecting?”

Organizations will try and tell you that their secrets are part of belonging. Their secrets are what make them “EXCLUSIVE”. They will say their secrets preserve “the special bond” that you will get only from them. But when does the secrecy become dangerous?

Understandably, people will argue that secrecy and privacy are one and the same. Both terms involve withholding information. If you look up privacy in a thesaurus you will find secrecy as a synonym. While both are basically designed to “protect” someone or something the intentions are different.

Secrecy, more often than not, has the potential of negatively impacting someone else either emotionally or physically. It can carry the burden of fear or even shame. Being secretive means having a special motive to contain a particular piece of information and thus giving secrecy a mildly negative undertone.

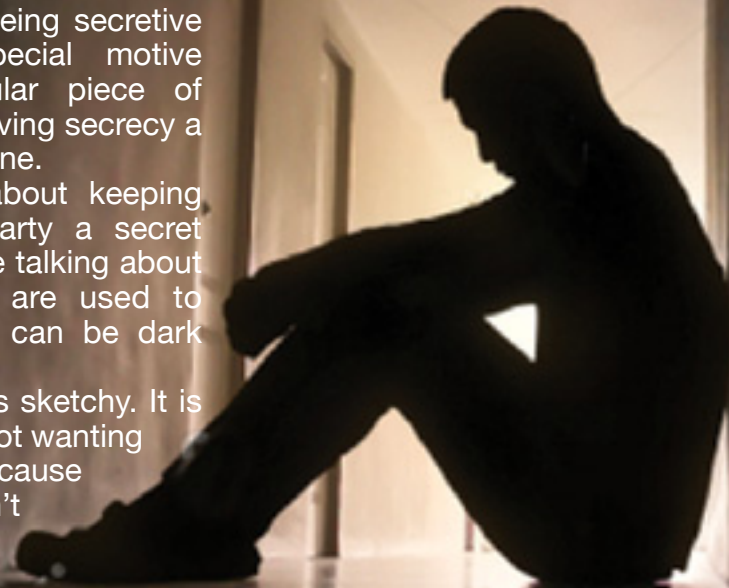
We aren’t talking about keeping a surprise birthday party a secret from your mom. We are talking about keeping secrets that are used to control someone and can be dark and disturbing.

Privacy is a little less sketchy. It is more about someone not wanting to share information because it’s personal. If you don’t want to tell someone your phone number or perhaps how much money you make, that’s private.

I guess the point here is to be able to decide when it’s important to make a “secret” not so secret. When the goal to protect an organization or group overrides the goal to protect yourself and those around you it becomes a huge problem to say the least. We’ve seen it over and over again and the outcomes have been horrific and sometimes fatal. Secrecy and silence exist because you are doing something that people will

question. There is no way to predict the outcome of speaking up but we do know the outcome of NOT speaking up.

It makes you wonder what would’ve happened if the HAZING rituals that many of these young people were expected to participate in were not so secret. Would the outcomes have been different? If these young people were not sworn to an oath of secrecy and were able to talk about their experiences openly, would they have gotten advice that may have changed their minds. If a parent, family member, friend or someone outside the organization would’ve known the expectations, would they have said THE ONE THING that would’ve given them the courage to walk away and perhaps save their lives. Secrets have no place here. Not only are they dangerous...they have proven to be deadly. ■



If you need secrecy and silence, it is usually because you are doing something wrong.

TURNING TRAGEDY INTO CHANGE

Andrew’s LAW

In 2019, both chambers of the Florida Legislature unanimously passed “Andrew’s Law”, a series of amendments to Florida’s existing anti-hazing statute written by Miami Attorney David Bianchi in 2005.

“Andrew’s Law” provides immunity for anyone who calls 911 or administers aid to the victims of hazing; and provides immunity as long as participants cooperate with the police.

The hope is to incentivize students to remain vigilant of hazing and call 911 as soon as they feel someone is in danger.

The law also provides for the prosecution of hazing event recruiters and organizers to hold them accountable for hazing injury, even if they’re not present.

Also, making it a crime to haze, not just a fraternity or sorority pledge and existing member of a fraternity or sorority but a former member as well.

“Andrew’s Law” was put into place because of the hard work and dedication from

Attorneys David Bianchi and Michael Levine of Stewart Tilghman Fox Bianchi & Cain, P.A. in Miami, Florida Senator Lauren Book, Representative Chip LaMarca, FSU President John Thrasher and Kathy Mears.

Max Gruver ACT

On May 31, 2018, Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards signed into law the “Max Gruver Act”.

A total of four new bills were signed into law meant to curb hazing or increase penalties.

HB78 - Hazing that does not lead to death would be subject to fines up to \$1000 and six months in jail. Hazing that leads to bodily harm or death or a victim’s

BAC being .30 or over is subject to five years in prison and fines up to \$10,000.

HB793 - Requires universities and colleges to expel or suspend students who haze.

It also requires groups to report suspected hazing and mandate anti-hazing education.

HB446 - Requires any person at the scene of an emergency where another person suffers bodily harm give reasonable assistance to the injured person including seeking help or reporting the need for help to appropriate authority. Failure to do so can result in a fine up to \$1000, imprisonment up to one year or both. If death results the offender will be fined \$2,500, imprisoned up to 5 years or both.

HB270 - Protects the identifying information of students who report violations of the student code of conduct.

Timothy J. Piazza ANTI-HAZING LAW

In October 2018, Gov. Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania signed “The Timothy J. Piazza Anti-hazing Law” (Senate Bill 1090) which is wide-ranging anti-hazing legislation that addresses prevention, enforcement and transparency.

This law provided for tiers of hazing offenses: “aggravated” hazing where there is serious bodily injury or death, hazing, institutional hazing and organizational hazing where the organization intentionally, knowingly or recklessly promotes hazing.

The court also could direct the organization to forfeit any property which was involved in the violation for which the defendant was convicted in addition to any other sentence permissible by law.

Schools must also issue a biannual report of hazing violations for the past 5 years on their publicly accessible Internet website.

It establishes safe-harbor criteria that will protect someone from prosecution for involvement in a hazing incident if they are seeking assistance for someone in need of help.

Tucker Hipps Transparency ACT

June 2016, in South Carolina, “The Tucker Hipps Transparency Act” was signed. This Act states that all public institutions of higher education, excluding technical colleges, must provide a public report of actual findings of violations of the institution’s Conduct of Student Organizations by fraternity and sorority organizations formally/currently affiliated with the institution.

In Florida, HAZING can be a:
FIRST DEGREE MISDEMEANOR

with up to

1 YEAR IN PRISON

and fines up to

\$1,000

or a

THIRD DEGREE FELONY

with up to

5 YEARS IN PRISON

and fines up to

\$5,000

In Pennsylvania, HAZING can be a:
THIRD DEGREE MISDEMEANOR

with up to

1 YEAR IN PRISON

and fines up to

\$2,500

AGGRAVATED HAZING can be a:

THIRD DEGREE FELONY

with up to

7 YEARS IN PRISON

and fines up to

\$15,000

Organization Hazing:
FORFEITURE OF PROPERTY

In Louisiana, HAZING can be a:
THIRD DEGREE MISDEMEANOR

with up to

6 MONTHS IN PRISON

and fines up to

\$1,000

or a

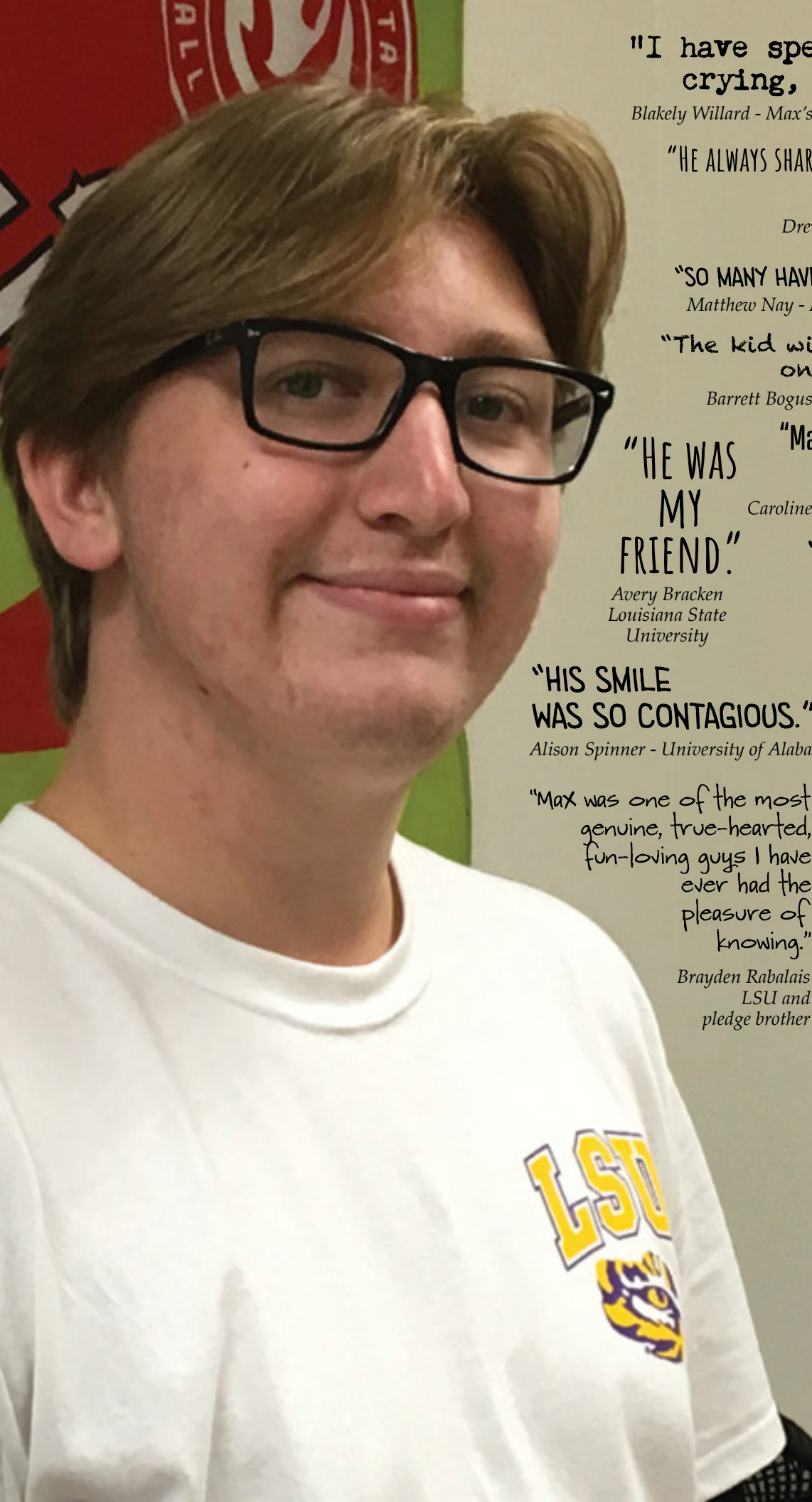
THIRD DEGREE FELONY

with up to

5 YEARS IN PRISON

and fines up to

\$10,000



"I have spent endless hours crying, asking God why?"

Blakely Willard - Max's girlfriend - Florida State University

"HE ALWAYS SHARED A SMILE, AND NEVER ASKED MUCH OF OTHERS."

Drew Nichols - University of Tennessee

"SO MANY HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY HIS LOSS."

Matthew Nay - Massachusetts Institute of Technology

"The kid with the biggest smile on the field."

Barrett Bogus, UNG and childhood friend

"HE WAS MY FRIEND."

*Avery Bracken
Louisiana State University*

"Max became the big brother I never had."

Caroline McCarthy - University of Tennessee

"He is remembered with kind smiles, and we miss him dearly."

Dominic Berthelot, LSU

"HIS SMILE WAS SO CONTAGIOUS."

Alison Spinner - University of Alabama

"I have tried to live each day so Max would be proud."

*Christian Taulli
Max's pledge brother
Louisiana State University*

"Max was one of the most genuine, true-hearted, fun-loving guys I have ever had the pleasure of knowing."

*Brayden Rabalais
LSU and
pledge brother*



It is odd when the month of July rolls around each year, I start a countdown in my head. It is not that other times of the year aren't different now, it's just I can't help but remember our last summer with Max.

From celebrating the 4th of July on the lake with friends, to the cruise we planned as our big family trip before our oldest went to college, to visiting LSU twice for Max to get oriented and acclimated to his new world and him being so excited that he could not wait for the last few weeks of summer to be over so he could get back to what I could tell was his new home away from home.

We dropped Max off on August 15, 2017...it was the easiest drop off I think in college history. We unpacked him, met his roommate, ate our last lunch together at his favorite restaurant in Baton Rouge... he was happy...Max was so happy. This was going to be his time! It was his time to spread his wings and fly. I could see him ready to take on the next chapter of his life.

Unfortunately, Max's next chapter was very short lived. He was killed by the hands of men who said they wanted him to be their brother.

On the night of Sept. 13, Max and the other pledges were summoned to the Phi Delta Theta fraternity house for "Bible Study". When they arrived their phones were taken from them. They were placed in a single file line and marched up the stairs as they were doused in hot sauce and mustard. Placed in a dark hallway with a flashing strobe light and loud blaring music, they were forced to do wall sits while brothers ran or stood on their legs. But the big part of the night was "Bible Study". Here, pledges were asked questions about the fraternity history and the Greek alphabet. If they got any answer wrong they had to take a "pull" from bottles of 190 proof grain "diesel" alcohol until they were told to stop. Brothers screamed at them in their faces and counted up the seconds they had to drink. Sometimes having to drink from those bottles for at least 10 seconds. Max was forced to drink 18-20 "pulls" in less than an hour and a half.

By the end of the evening Max had a puke bag tied around his neck and was still forced to drink even more when he could not remember "Upsilon" while reciting the Greek alphabet as they went down the line. Max was left to "sleep it off" on a couch and even with obvious signs of distress no one called 911 to save him.

Max died at some point in the early morning hours of Sept. 14th. His cause of death was "acute alcohol intoxication with aspiration"... Max choked to death on his own vomit.

In the morning, brothers called pledges to the house and made four of Max's pledge brothers pick up his dead body, put it in a car and take him to the hospital instructing the pledges to lie to the hospital about how they found Max and what had happened to him. Max's BAC was an alarming .495....that is six times the legal limit at which a person is considered legally impaired.

So I ask you, "What kind of brotherhood is this?" What kind of brotherhood puts its members in humiliating, embarrassing, harmful, or life threatening situations to prove themselves to the organization. Max's death was no accident because hazing is no accident.

Our family now lives with the hole in our hearts of missing our oldest son, a big brother, a grandson, a cousin, a nephew, a friend, a boyfriend. Our lives will never be the same.

MAX Gruver

**HAZED AT A
PHI DELTA THETA
"Bible Study"
AND DIED
SEPTEMBER 14, 2017**

18 YEARS OLD

"Max's death wasn't an accident because hazing is not an accident."

Fly High Max

Brooke McCulley

"I miss his great hugs."

Grandma Tucker and Grandmother Hipps

"Tucker had a smile and a demeanor that would light up a room. I have no doubt he'd still be with our program, changing young men's lives in person. Instead, he's changing lives with his story".

Doug Brune, - Palmetto Boys State Staff

"TUCKER WAS TRULY ONE OF A KIND! HE HAD A HEART OF GOLD AND WAS THE BEST FRIEND ANYONE COULD ASK FOR. NOT A DAY GOES BY THAT HE DOESN'T CROSS MY MIND."

Alex Crowe - Wren High School and Clemson University

"Tucker was the embodiment of the spirit of Palmetto Boys State. He exemplified the values we teach and hold dear: Leadership, integrity, passion and patriotism. Boys State misses him and honors his memory by ceaselessly striving for excellence while making an impact in the lives of young men across the state of South Carolina."

Stephen Lewis - Director, Palmetto Boys State

"Tucker was a friend to the friendless, he gave hope to the hopeless, and he lived every day to the fullest. The senseless actions of a handful of BOYS robbed us of a special young MAN."

Trevor White - Family Friend

"TUCKER WAS A DRIVEN, LOVING, GENUINE YOUNG MAN WITH A HEART OF GOLD. HE WAS THE KIND OF FRIEND THAT KNEW HOW TO MAKE YOU SMILE EVEN WHEN YOU DIDN'T FEEL LIKE IT. HIS TRAGIC DEATH WAS SENSELESS AND PREVENTABLE. WE MISS OUR BEST FRIEND AND THINK OF HIM DAILY, BUT KNOW HE IS WATCHING OVER US UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN."

Carson McCoy Hood - Wren High School and Clemson University

"Tuck was a guy I could go to about anything and he was always there to pick me up when I was down".

Cam Gilreath - Wren High School and Clemson University

Tucker was pledging the Beta Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon known as Sig Ep at Clemson University when he died. Three brothers and 27 pledges including Tucker went on an early morning run across the Highway 93 Bridge at 5:30 am on September 22, 2014.

Tucker was discovered missing before 7 am when he did not report to the fraternity breakfast and his phone and keys were found where the brothers instructed the pledges to leave them before the run.

The pledges started looking for Tucker around 7 am but did not report him missing. A call was made to campus police by one of the brothers at approximately 1:45 pm asking for information concerning Tucker but did not want to file a missing person's report.

Tucker was found floating in Lake Hartwell just under the bridge at approximately 3:30 pm after one of the brothers led campus police to his whereabouts. It was noted earlier by the brothers to police that Tucker was wearing blue tennis shoes. Discovery of his body in the lake yielded blue tennis shoes showing out of the water with much of the remainder of his body submerged.

Witness testimony revealed Tucker, as the pledge class President, was instructed to bring 30 biscuits, 2 gallons of chocolate milk and 30 hash browns to the run which was delegated to another pledge.

The biscuits were not brought, and it is believed Tucker was forced to walk the railing of the bridge as a punishment and then fell to his death. The run was an event that would have been considered "hazing" under the policies of the national Sig Ep organization as well as under the rules of Clemson University.

No one has ever come forward to say what really happened to Tucker but eyewitness account puts a boy on the bridge railing while 4-6 others are running beside him yelling military type commands. No one has ever been arrested or charged in the death of Tucker Hipps.

The case remains open.

Tucker had a passion for helping others who were less fortunate and would give his own money to those in need. He was a senior counselor of Palmetto Boys State where a scholarship has been established in his name.

Tucker loved everyone, and everyone reported he, was their best friend. Tucker made funny faces captured by many who continue to share his photos.

He loved taking pictures with his girlfriend and his parents feel fortunate to have so many. He was athletic and played soccer, baseball, football, and basketball. Most importantly, Tucker was a Christian and shared his faith with many.

Tucker was born on a Monday and died on a Monday. He was an only child and a mama's boy one day and a daddy's boy another.

Tucker Hipps

**DIED WHILE
PLEDGING
SIGMA PHI
EPSILON
SEPTEMBER 22,
2014**

19 YEARS OLD

"Our son was found floating, dead in a lake with multiple injuries after a non-sanctioned fraternity run with 29 other boys.

And no one knows what happened?"

Cindy and Gary Hipps

How does anyone reach a deadly BAC?

BAC should be 0.00% naturally. A BAC of over 0.08% is considered legally impaired.

Know the signs!

Alcohol poisoning signs and symptoms include:

CONFUSION

PASSING OUT
(UNCONSCIOUSNESS)
AND CAN'T BE
AWAKENED

Slow or
irregular
breathing

Blue-tinged or
pale skin

Low body
temperature
(hypothermia)

Vomiting

SEIZURES

2 Beers (5% alcohol) consumed in 90 minutes will give someone who weighs 200 lbs. a BAC of .0225.

.0225 - YOU ARE IMPAIRED

An entire 750 ml. bottle of 101 proof alcohol (50% alcohol) consumed in 90 minutes will give someone who weighs 200 lbs. a BAC of .43.

YOU WILL DIE - .43



- 12 ozs. beer between 3-10% ABV
- 5 ozs. wine..... between 8-14% ABV
- 1.5 ozs. 80 proof alcohol 40% ABV
- 1.5 ozs. 101 proof alcohol..... 50 % ABV
- 1.5 ozs. 195 proof alcohol97.5 % ABV

The legal drinking age is 21.
If you are drinking or providing alcohol to anyone who is underage ...
YOU HAVE ALREADY BROKEN THE LAW!

ABV - Alcohol By Volume

Men and women are not the same when it comes to consuming alcohol.
For more information go to: <https://www.rethinkingdrinking.niaaa.nih.gov>

BAC - Blood Alcohol Concentration

Resource: Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research (MFMER).

**It takes one person with the
courage to dial**



BE THE ONE!