



# Conversations

with the Chairman

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## ▷ ACADEMIC FOCUS YIELDING RESULTS

Adopted in January 2006, a comprehensive academic policy adopted by the TKE Board of Advisors is beginning to show tangible results. According to the academic report provided by Georgia Southern University for Spring Semester 2006, over 50% of the TKE collegiate membership performed at a level that *exceeded* the grade point average for non-Greek males enrolled at the University. The Board of Advisors also offers financial discounts and scholarships to members who meet the standards outlined in the academic policy. Seventeen collegiate members earned a 10% discount on dues this fall semester for exceeding the academic standards during last spring semester. Jason Eldridge, a collegiate member from Duluth, Georgia, received a \$600 scholarship for earning the highest chapter grade point average ... a perfect 4.0!

▶ **TKE ACADEMIC POLICY:** <http://www.lambda-upsilon.org/academicpolicy.pdf>

## ▷ ANOTHER ROUND (OR FIVE)

Researchers say that curbing negative consequences resulting from drinking — an already difficult task — has been complicated because much past research has often not differentiated the levels of college drinking behaviors. A new study, published in the June issue of *Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research*, offers some startling differentiations, which indicate that almost 30 percent of all freshmen regularly drink two times the amount of alcohol that defines traditional binge drinking. In most studies of college drinking, the term “binge drinking” is a dichotomous variable defined by meeting or exceeding a threshold — four or more drinks for females and five or more drinks for males. In 2004, a National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism panel narrowed the definition of a binge to having those numbers of drinks within a two-hour period, which would theoretically lead the average male or female to achieve a peak blood alcohol content level of roughly .08 percent.



▶ **INSIDE HIGHER ED:** <http://insidehighered.com/news/2006/05/30/drinking>

## ▷ WHAT NEW FRESHMEN DON'T KNOW

A rite of autumn is under way with the arrival of first-year students at thousands of colleges and universities for registration. Most 18-year-old students entering the class of 2010 this fall were born in 1988. They grew up with a mouse in one hand and a computer screen as part of their worldview. They learned to surf the Internet as they learned to read. While they were still in their cribs, the 20th century started to close as the Berlin Wall came down, the Soviet bloc disintegrated, and frequent traditional wars in Latin America gave way to the uncontrolled terrors of the Middle East. Each August, since 1998, Beloit College in Wisconsin has released the **Beloit College Mindset List**. A creation of Beloit's Tom McBride and Ron Nief, it looks at the cultural touchstones that have shaped the lives of today's first-year students. According to McBride, this year's entering students form “a generation that has always been ‘connected’ and is used to things happening in ‘real time,’ like live satellite coverage of revolutions and wars, instant messaging and movies on demand. They expect solutions for every problem, from baldness to diseased organs. To the chagrin of teachers and parents, they've developed their own generational means of communication.”

▶ **BELOIT COLLEGE MINDSET LIST:** <http://www.beloit.edu/~pubaff/mindset/index.html>

## ▷ CONTEMPLATING PLAN B

For some college students who wanted another level of protection against getting pregnant, the Food and Drug Administration's **decision last month** to allow women 18 and older to buy the emergency contraceptive drug Plan B without a prescription may come as welcome news. The risk of pregnancy can be lowered by up to 89 percent when a woman takes Plan B within 72 hours after unprotected sex. The drug has no effect if the woman is already pregnant. Many campus health officials approved of the change, but some are saying that the development calls for a renewed emphasis on encouraging healthy sex habits among the college-age population. Doreen Perez, past president of the American College Health Association and a health official at the University of North Florida believes that it is “paramount for us to help students understand” that **the drug does not prevent sexually transmitted diseases**. She also said that campus health officials should be “promoting healthy sexual behaviors.”

▶ **READ THE FDA STATEMENT:** <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2005/NEW01223.html>

### ▷ THE MANY FACES OF FACEBOOK.COM

Social networking, event announcements, roommate vetting, law enforcement, and recently a bit of job browsing ... [Facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) is a free service for high school, college, university, corporate, non-profit, military and geographic communities. The reach of the peer networking site — over 7 million users from over 2,600 colleges with upwards of 20,000 new accounts being created daily — is undeniable, and student affairs professionals are often left wondering whether they should keep Facebook out of sight and out of mind, or whether they should dive in face first. The answer given by Shawn McGuirk, director of judicial affairs, mediation and education at Fitchburg State College, in Massachusetts, was that, if institutions want to know what the kids are doing these days, they'll want to know what they're doing on Facebook — the good, and the bad. McGuirk says that colleges should use Facebook faux pas as teachable moments whenever possible, rather than embracing Facebook as policy or law enforcement tool.

▶ **READ MORE ABOUT FACEBOOK.COM:** <http://insidehighered.com/news/2006/06/15/facebook>

### ▷ HALTING THE SPREAD OF HEPATITIS A

Kent State University officials are working with public-health officials to administer hundreds of immunizations against hepatitis A after confirming that a student who works for the university's food service has the disease, the [Akron Beacon Journal](http://www.akronbeaconjournal.com) reported. The student, who officials said is recovering well, works in a kitchen that provides catering for various events but does not prepare food for university cafeterias. Officials have begun tracking down about 500 people who may have come in contact with food the student helped to prepare, as well as his co-workers and roommates. A second student may also have the disease, but blood tests have not yet confirmed that. Health officials have interviewed both students and found no link between them. Hepatitis A is a viral infection of the liver and is usually not life threatening. Symptoms include fever and nausea.

▶ **MORE ON HEPATITIS A:** <http://www.cdc.gov/NCIDOD/Diseases/Hepatitis/a/index.htm>

### ▷ NATE HIRSCH ENDS RUN AS "THE VOICE OF THE EAGLES"

It's the end of an era for GSU fans that have grown accustomed to a familiar voice. By virtue of the university's new radio contract with Staton Broadcasting, Inc., Nate Hirsch has ended his run of over three decades as the school's play-by-play radio announcer. Effective June 30, 2006, Radio Statesboro, which employs Hirsch, ended its reign as the host station for the Georgia Southern Radio Network. A new five-year deal makes WPMX 102.9 FM the flagship station for Eagle football. WHKN 94.9 FM will serve as the home for men's basketball, baseball and select women's basketball games. GSU Athletics Director Sam Baker talked with Hirsch — the voice of the Eagles since 1971 — about continuing his football play-by-play capacity, but Hirsch's employment agreement with Radio Statesboro includes a non-compete contract, which restricts him from working for competitive media. Non-compete contracts are common in the media industry. Hirsch clearly states he is not retiring and recognizes the business nature of the school's change in radio contracts. "I certainly wanted to continue my play-by-play responsibilities," said Hirsch, who has broadcast every GSU football game since the school reinstated the sport in 1981. "I understand the Georgia Southern decision. We've had a great relationship for more than 35 years."

▶ **READ MORE:** [http://www.statesboroherald.net/showstory.php?\\$recordID=5454](http://www.statesboroherald.net/showstory.php?$recordID=5454)

### ▷ MEET NAACP PRESIDENT AND CEO, FRATER BRUCE GORDON

Frater Bruce Gordon, an alumnus of the Psi Chapter (Gettysburg College), serves as NAACP President and CEO. Gordon, who retired from Verizon Communications in 2003, began his career in the telecommunications industry as a management trainee at Bell of Pennsylvania and retired 35 years later as the head of Verizon's retail division. Verizon's retail division has more than 34,000 employees and exceeds \$25 billion in sales. In 1998, Frater Gordon was named Executive of the Year by Black Enterprise magazine and one of the 50 Most Powerful Black Executives by Fortune magazine in 2002. When Frater Gordon was initiated in 1968, TKE was one of only two fraternities on the Gettysburg campus that would permit membership by African-American students.

▶ **MORE ABOUT BRUCE GORDON:** <http://www.naACP.org/about/leadership/executive/bgordon/>



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