Your Handy Guide to an Alcohol Arrest

After that headline, we need a disclaimer. Obviously, those of us at the GRB don’t want you arrested. You can do without the record. Jail is not a happy place, and fines are not cheap. Moreover, neither the dean, your chapter officers, parents, judges, nor the police will be pleased. But, just in case you want to disappoint and anger those folks, here are some simple tips to help you spend a night (or more) in jail:

- **Drink Too Much.** It’s not just a health risk, it can be a crime too. Most cops are nice enough to take you by the ER on the way to jail – double the trouble.

- **Drink in Public.** This is a quick way to draw attention. Not only could you violate public intoxication laws, you can violate city ordinances against “open containers” at the same time.

- **Be a Jerk.** Alabama’s public intoxication laws include “boisterous and offensive conduct (that) annoys another person.” Being a jerk while drinking – especially to the police – can help speed a trip to jail.

- **Drink While Underage.** “Everybody does it” is not a defense in court. An illegal (fake) ID will make it even worse.

- **Drink and Drive.** Any activity that has national organizations to oppose it, is a sure fire path to trouble. Maybe it’s even a way to get yourself or someone else injured or killed.

- **Ignore These Resources for You.**
  - UA – Student Health Center
  - UAB – Student Engagement
  - UAHuntsville – Charger Choices

Alcohol abuse and criminal acts are no laughing matter. Even if you manage to avoid the attention of the police, irresponsible and illegal drinking can lead to: death or injury, violations of the student code of conduct, hangovers, problems in school, or make you a potential target of criminals. Be smart. Be safe.