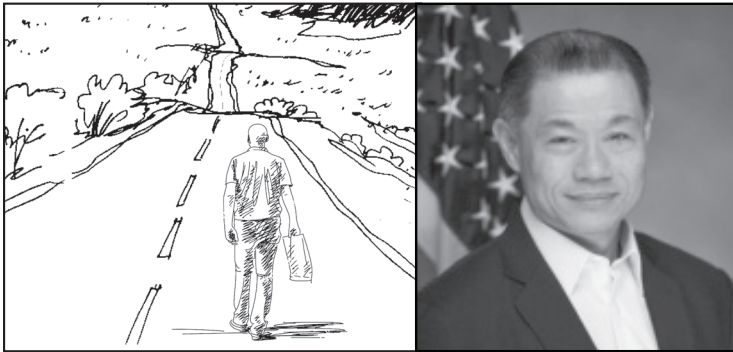




LOOKING DOWN THE ROAD: NY SENATOR JOHN LIU

By William Aiken Jr.



Senator John Liu represents the area of Flushing, Queens. He is the Senate sponsor of the .05 bill and is spearheading the movement to lower the BAC in New York State. Here, he addresses the new founded momentum of the movement, the myths associated with lowering the BAC and the challenges of passing this life saving bill.

1.) Thank you Senator Liu for taking the time to do this interview. My late mother, Doris Aiken started the movement against drunken driving in 1978. Lowering the BAC was a passion of hers, which she began working on in 1984. She would be pleased that you have taken up the mantle as Senate Sponsor of the .05 bill. Can you talk about your life experience has informed your views on drunken driving?

In my years as an elected official, I've seen drunk driving destroy more lives than I can count. When Mothers Against Drunk Driving approached me with their heartbreaking stories of loss, and armed with overwhelming evidence showing how lowering the DWI threshold to .05 can save lives, I didn't hesitate.

2.) On February 7th , of this year, you held a successful press conference touting .05 at the Capital. I've worked on press conferences regarding the lowering of the legal BAC. This one felt different. The speakers conveyed a sense of urgency.

The media accurately reported that sentiment. How was your message received?

We had legislators attend and voice their support who have not previously signed on to the bill, and we've had local and national media coverage from outlets like the Wall Street Journal cover this topic in depth. Change takes time, but we are rapidly gaining momentum. At this point, it's not a matter of if we can lower the legal blood alcohol limit to .05, it's when.

3.) Doris Aiken effectively worked with Transportation Secretaries, Elizabeth Dole and Ray La Hood on anti-DWI legislation. The past two administrations have never put lowering the BAC on their radar. What role could the Federal Government play? Or is .05 an issue that's better handled at the state level?

Federal legislation to set a nationwide standard would be ideal, but unfortunately we just haven't seen the commitment yet on the federal level. There's no need to wait. As more and more states pass local laws, it will pressure the federal government to take this effort seriously and implement a nationwide standard.

Interview continued on Page 3

NOTICE:

To cut our costs, RID's going to an online format starting with the Fall 2022 issue. Those who don't have access to a computer call (518) 729-8187 and we will send the newsletter via snail mail. If you want to support the work RID does, please send a donations by visiting RID's Paypal account at www.rid-usa.org.

Or write to: RID-USA, PO Box 520 Schenectady, NY 12301

TIKTOK'S BOOZE TREND "BORG" IS A CAUSE FOR CONCERN

By William Aiken Jr.



TikTok, the influential social media app has drawn attention as a potential security threat and a negative influence on the development of America's children. But TikTok is also causing plenty of angst with its drinking video with many students winding up in the ER.

The New York Post's Isabel Keane reported that dozens of students at the University of Massachusetts were hospitalized over the weekend after participating in a dangerous binge-drinking trend involving blackout rage gallons dubbed "Borg".

Twenty-eight ambulances had to be called — so many that neighboring towns had to send their emergency vehicles too — as the students participated in what's known as an annual St. Patrick's Day celebration called "Blarney Blowout" at the Amherst school.

Hordes of students gathered in the snow during the festivities with Borgs — plastic gallon jugs filled with a mixture of alcohol, electrolytes, flavoring and water.

The destructive trend has become popular on TikTok among college-age users, who claim the Borg mixture keeps you hydrated as you binge-drink. Borgs attract young people, lacking judgment. They don't understand or realize that mixing alcohol with electrolytes creates a dangerous concoction. That 28 ambulances had to be dispatched to rescue kids from giving themselves alcohol poisoning is stunning! Yet, it wasn't a national story.



Doris Aiken's second act in the drunken driving movement was binge drinking. After several parents contacted her, she got Maury Povich to agree to do a show on the subject. When the producers told Doris the show would have to be postponed, she realized that if she didn't object, then and there, the show would have been over before it began.

So she threatened to mobilize dozens of RID supporters to stage a protest outside of Povich's studio. The producers caved to the threat of pressure and scheduled a new date for the taping. The response RID received after the show's broadcast was overwhelming. Over 500 calls flooded our victim's hotline. We heard from many parents who were blindsided having lost a child or had a close call with alcohol poisoning.

This 'Borg' trend on TikTok is a reminder to us all that binge drinking needs be taken seriously. Where is the Surgeon General on this? Unfortunately, our culture is one that reacts. The concept of prevention doesn't exist when it comes to alcohol poisoning.

It seems that every five years, tragedies emerge, parents bury their children. Then everything is all forgotten until the next deadly trend surfaces. When we never learn from history, we are prone to repeat it.

Taking human nature into account, education is our best weapon of choice. Funding media campaigns led by survivors, who lost family members, can be quite effective. The problem is there's so much competition vying for the public square. The silver lining of TikTok's Borg videos is its visual evidence of the fact that alcohol can be lethal. Unfortunately, for many parents it's a lesson learned too late.

William Aiken

Your donation helps RID save lives.

Looking Down The Road...

Continued From Page 1

4.) Bar owners have deemed .05 to be a draconian policy. They emphasize this point by entertaining the charade that a single drink can get a person to a .05 BAC. Should setting the record straight be a strategy to debunk such propaganda?

There are too many myths taken as fact when it comes to lowering the BAC. This is what happens when rumor and conjecture are allowed to circulate unchecked, and it's why advocates and legislators need to capitalize on the momentum we've gained and not allow false myths to be circulated as truths. We need to continue educating the public with the data, science and the facts.

5.) A lower limit bill has never had a committee hearing. What is the biggest impediment to moving forward and how can it be addressed this session?

As with any movement, legislation needs support, not just from legislators, but from the community. Lowering the legal BAC is a not a new idea, but it's never received this much serious attention before, and people are finally starting to consider what our world will look like with this new standard, and how it will save lives. It all comes down to the combined support from legislators and the public. A recent poll showed the public supports lowering the legal BAC, so with that positive news we should see more legislators get onboard.

6.) For years, the alcohol industry, defense attorneys thwarted RID's efforts to curb DWI. Where is the opposition coming from today and how can we address it?

No one can deny the dangers of drinking and driving, and there are too many myths about how this would affect the hospitality industry, tourism and the overall economy. Studies have shown that lowering legal BAC limits does not lead to an increase in arrests or a burden on the criminal justice system, nor does it cause undue damage to the hospitality industry. In fact, a Utah study showed state revenues from taxes continue to rise, and tourism increased.

7.) Finally, the public is fed up with the carnage and heartache caused by drunk driving. Those who yearn to see New York become the second state with a .05 BAC, how can they assist your quest to bring .05 across the finish line?

Call and write your legislators. The bill is S776 (Liu) and A1627 (Simon). If your legislators are not signed on the bill, call or write them to ask for their support. Countries around the world have already taken this step and seen real, measurable improvements to the number of fatalities by drinking and driving. New York should lead the way on this issue, not follow.

3 Ways RID Saves Lives:

- 1.) LEGISLATION: RID educates Lawmakers from both sides of the isle on life saving bills.**
- 2.) PUBLIC AWARENESS: RID uses it platforms (newsletter, website (rid-usa.org & media interviews) to inform the public on the importance of driving sober.**
- 3.) RESEARCH: RID utilizes the latest DWI data and studies to highlight the necessity to take a proactive approach to drunken driving that is saving lives.**

Your donation helps RID save lives.

HEMP THC IS EVERYWHERE: HELP STOP IT!

By Renee Barchitta



The 2018 Farm Bill legalized industrial hemp, with a loophole making a synthetic THC (cannabis main intoxicant) in countless products including Delta 8 ,9,10 THC, THC-O Acetate, HHC-0 and THC-P and CBD . The FDA and CDC warn of reported adverse health effects; sold online and in states, cities, and municipalities that did not legalize cannabis or opted out of having marijuana/cannabis dispensaries.

- ☞ Most of these products have not been tested and are unsafe.
- ☞ Most of these products have no limits to the amount of THC in them.
- ☞ Many of these products often look like candy, are not labeled accurately using different terms for products and potency. This is especially dangerous for children.

RID members and advocates should be concerned about people driving impaired, often without even knowing they consumed a dangerous drug.

The US Agriculture Committee and the US Senate will soon be deciding on whether the 2018 Farm Bill sunsets. Let them know you are opposed to Hemp turned into THC. Call Congressman Glenn Thompson, Chairman of Agriculture committee (202) 225-5121

For more information all have information and victims including impaired cannabis driving:

These are some of the people trying to STOP this and the devastation from Hemp THC and cannabis/THC/marijuana.

Every Brain Matters <https://everybrainmatters.org/> free printable pamphlets

IASIC <https://iasic1.org/> International Academy on the science and Impact of cannabis

Doctors Educating About Marijuana:

Parents Opposed To Pot <https://poppot.org/>

Mom's Strong <https://momsstrong.org/>

Americans against Legalizing Marijuana <https://aalm.info/>

Impaired Driving:

<https://jennifersmessengers.org/>

<http://www.duidvictimvoices.org/>

Renee' Barchitta, MPA- Former Delaware County NY STOP-DWI Coordinator, NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee Highway Safety Rep(retired), and RID member since 1981.

Your donation helps RID save lives.

AGAINST ALL ODDS

By Betty Martin



*NYC DOT Commissioner
Ydanis Rodriguez*

In May of 1983, with the support of Remove Intoxicated Drivers; balloons were released from the steps of the Capital. They simultaneously were released in Buffalo, in Syracuse, and in New York City in a call to legislators to pass legislation to ensure Victims Rights and to pass measures to reduce the catastrophic loss of life and injuries resulting from impaired drivers.

Today, we stand with Queens State Senator John Liu and NYC Commissioner of Transportation Manager Ydanis Rodriguez who are aggressively promoting the passage of a bill to lower the BAC from .08 to .05. In every state it is illegal to drive drunk, but as of 2020 someone is killed by DWI every 45 minutes in the United States.

Against all odds - there is hope. Hope that our legislators will join Senator Liu and Traffic Commissioner Rodriguez in placing lives before profits. Hope that our legislators come to recognize that the 11,000+ lives lost by impaired drivers is unacceptable. Hope that legislators will recognize the billions of dollars in medical costs and lost productivity far outweighs the cost to the alcohol industry. Utah is the first state to lower the BAC TO .05. In the first year fatal crashes dropped by 20%. In New York, the NSTB estimates that the reduction would 11% in DWI fatalities by lowering the BAC to .05. That translates to 30 saved lives in just one year.

RID continues its determination to eliminate impaired, driving through the support of public awareness campaigns and legislation to ensure safe driving practices. Once again, we are called upon to write letters to our legislators, to make our voices heard in letters to the editor, in newsletters and public hearings, and wherever we can speak out. Hope with action will succeed.

Let us join the 100+ other countries that have lowered their BAC threshold. We have fought vigorously against the threat of Covid these past three years. Hopefully, with the passage of .05 we can eliminate the scourge caused by the impaired driver.

In 1982, Betty Martin lost her daughter, Michele to a drunken driver. In the aftermath, Betty has since become a strong advocate for victims' rights in the fight against drunken driving.

Your donation helps RID save lives.



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Albany, NY
Permit #298

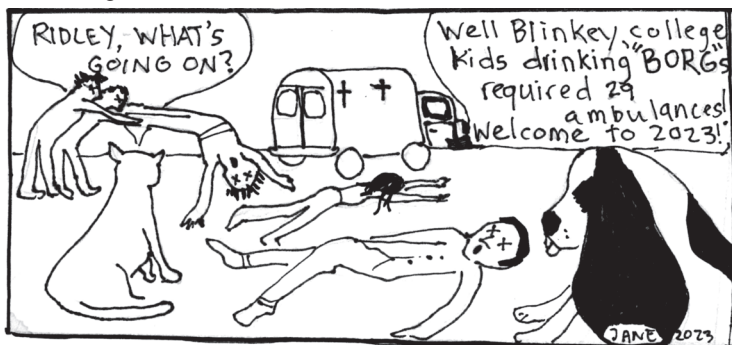
A CITIZEN'S PROJECT TO REMOVE INTOXICATED DRIVERS

P.O. Box 520, Schenectady, New York 12301

Inside this issue:

Looking Down the Road	1 & 3
President's Letter	2
HEMP THC Is Everywhere	4
Against All Odds	5
RIDley to the Rescue	Back

RIDley to the Rescue



RID

Victim's Hotline
TOLL FREE
888-283-5144
ridusa@verizon.net



Join or Renew

...and Help RIDley curb DUI/DWI.

\$35.00 Join as a National Member and enjoy a book, My Life As A Pitbull or Without Warning. (Fill out coupon or write information).

\$25.00 Newsletter only.

\$25.00 Doris Aiken Tribute DVD

\$75.00 "Without Warning" Video on Binge Drinking.

\$ _____ Tax-deductible donation.

\$ _____ Memorial for: _____

Total \$ _____ check enclosed.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: () _____ - _____ E-mail: _____