



“Alabama’s Moral Compass”

Alabama Citizens Action Program  
American Character Builders

2376 Lakeside Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35244

Phone: 205.985.9062 (ALCAP); 205.985.9529 (ACB)

Fax: 205.985.9015

E-mail: jgodfrey@alcap.com or

jgodfrey@AmericanCharacterBuilders.org



“Building Character One Good Choice at a Time”

Matthew 5:13-16KJV

13Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16Let your light so shine before men, that

they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

We're on the web!  
[www.alcap.com](http://www.alcap.com) &  
[www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org](http://www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org)

## Merry Christmas!

ALCAP and American Character Builders hope you and your family have a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year! As you consider your year-end church and charitable gifts, please remember us! Churches can give to ALCAP and individuals, who want tax deductions, should give to American Character Builders.

Both organizations are dependent on the faith community for support. With your support, we are able to continue standing up for YOU in Montgomery and helping communities as they fight “Big Alcohol!” We are also able to continue reaching students with an alcohol- and other drug-free message.

ALCAP and American Character

Builders are on the “front end,” trying to help children and young people to say, “NO!” to addictive behaviors before these behaviors destroy their lives and families.

Our ultimate goal is to show people (students, school officials, parents and government officials) that living life in relationship to Jesus Christ is the only way to really live! Showing the world what Jesus is like is what we’re all about!

Your generosity helps us to be the “salt and light” Jesus has called us to be. Your prayers are essential, too. Please consider placing ALCAP and American Character Builders on your



church’s prayer list throughout the year. Pray, too, for your students, their parents and families, school officials and government leaders.

As God’s Word teaches in 2 Chronicles 7:14...

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

ALABAMA CITIZENS  
ACTION PROGRAM

STAFF:

Joe Godfrey, Executive Director

Bill Day, Education Director for American Character Builders

Administrative Assistants: Cheryl Corley and Sharon Cook

PURPOSE:

The Alabama Citizens Action Program (ALCAP), originally founded in 1937 as the Alabama Temperance Alliance, serves as Alabama’s “moral compass.” This ministry provides an outlet for churches throughout Alabama to fulfill Christ’s command to His followers to be “salt and light” (Matthew 5:13-16).

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## Alabama House and Senate under new leadership—What will it all mean?

MONTGOMERY—As a result of the November 2, 2010 elections and the switching of four House Democrats to the Republican Party on November 22, Republicans now control both the Alabama House and the Senate for the first time in 136 years. In fact, the Republicans now have a “supermajority” in both houses, with 22 Senators and 66 House Members. (A “supermajority,” one that is able to push through any legislation they desire without support from a single Democrat, is 21 in the Senate and 63 in the House.)

What does this mean for the issues that concern ALCAP and the faith community in Alabama? Only time will tell, but if Republican leaders will stand on the principles that have characterized their party in the past, we can expect them to support pro-life bills, stop any bills that might



expand gambling in Alabama and make major changes in the ethics laws that govern Alabama politics. (NOTE: Governor Riley has called a Special Session to begin on December 8, 2010, in order to tackle the ethics reform issue.)

It is hoped that Republican leaders in both houses will stop any bills that might liberalize the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages. Two alcohol-related laws that ALCAP would like to see passed would include a ban on “alcopops” (fruit-flavored

alcohol drinks that have an appeal to under-aged drinkers) and whipped cream laced with alcohol, and alcoholic energy drinks, such as Four Loco (a highly caffeinated drink with ethyl alcohol added). These alcoholic en-

ergy drinks result in “wide awake drunks” and can be lethal. They are often the “drink of choice” for college students and under-aged drinkers who seek to “binge drink.” [See featured story on page 3.]

ALCAP will keep everyone who has subscribed to our e-mail alerts informed when the Alabama Legislature convenes in March 2011. If you would like to receive our alerts, go to [www.alcap.com](http://www.alcap.com) to subscribe.



Alabama Legislative Session, small towns with a population of 1,000 or more which are located in dry counties, have been facing wet-dry referenda. To date, 30

## “Municipal Options” result in some wins and some losses

As a result of HB175 being passed in the 2009

Alabama Legislative Session,

municipal options (as they are called) have been held. Nineteen (19) have voted to go wet, 11 have voted to remain dry, but one of those 11 is currently facing a challenge to the vote (Rogersville voted to stay dry by one vote and that vote is now being contested).

Two of the larger cities to vote wet were Cullman and Cen-

tre, while Hartselle voted to stay dry. A full listing of the municipal options can be found at [www.alcap.com](http://www.alcap.com) on the “Wet-Dry Issues” page.





American Character Builders is a 501c3 organization committed to teaching students character and the value of living a healthy lifestyle

IMAGINE IMPACTING STUDENTS IN A WAY THAT WILL FOREVER CHANGE THE COURSE OF THEIR LIVES!—

**YOU CAN!**

By placing American Character Builders kits in your area schools or by leading your local church to provide these kits, you can make a positive impact on the lives of students in your community!

## American Character Builders News—Thanks to grants from private foundations, production of ACB kits to begin soon

BIRMINGHAM—American Character Builders recently received grants from two private foundations, totaling \$12,500.00! Three additional grant proposals have been submitted, two of which should decide whether or not to make a contribution to American Character Builders by mid-December and the third sometime in January. A total of \$25,000 is needed in order to begin production.

The grants will be used to produce the four most popular American Character Builders programs as kits that will include a teacher's guide, a CD with a PowerPoint program and other resource material, and 30 student booklets. The titles of the four kits will be as follows:

- *Alcohol Awareness*
- *Tobacco Awareness*
- *Say NO to Meth, Marijuana and Cocaine*
- *The Bully Issue*

Each kit is valued at \$165, but will be provided at a cost of only \$99.95. One grantor has

asked that all four of the American Character Builders kits be placed in 25 schools in the "black belt" region of Alabama, which includes Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Choctaw, Crenshaw, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Montgomery, Perry, Pickens, Pike, Russell, Sumter and Wilcox Counties.

As other donations are received, more kits will be distributed. If anyone knows of companies or private foundations that would like to participate, please have them contact the American Character Builders office at 205.985.9529.

The American Character Builders kits are also ideal as outreach tools for churches. Student Ministers are being increasingly limited in their ac-

cess to students in public schools. By having their local church order American Character Builders kits and offering to teach the material in the public schools, student ministers, volunteers and/or pastors can build relationships with students, school officials and parents, and provide follow-up Bible studies and programs at their churches.

For more information and to order kits, visit us at [www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org](http://www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org).



## Redesigned brochures will soon be available for a small donation to American Character Builders

The popular brochures that contain information about many of our school programs will soon be available to churches and other organizations for a small donation to

American Character Builders. These full-color brochures will be a welcomed resource that students

can pick up and read at their own leisure. The brochures contain information on subjects that deal with addictive behaviors and their underlying causes, and students will be able to find answers, within a private setting, to the questions and issues they are confronting in this indulgent culture.

Parents, school administrators, faculty and church leaders will also find these brochures helpful as they seek to understand the culture in which their students are immersed. For information on ordering packets of these brochures, visit [www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org](http://www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org).



## Doctors: Alcohol-Caffeine Drinks Pose Health Risk to College-Age Fans

*Doctor Says Teen Suffered Heart Attack After Drinking High Octane Beverage*

By CLAYTON SANDELL and LYNNE GUEY October 20, 2010

Concern over a controversial beverage concoction of caffeine and booze, that some experts say may not even be legal, could be posing a new health threat for the drinks' biggest fans: college-age people. Two weeks ago, an athletic, otherwise perfectly healthy 19 year-old man arrived at the emergency room at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia. "He had chest pains, he was sweaty, short of breath," said Dr. Robert McNamara, who heads the department of emergency medicine. The patient was suffering a heart attack. Tests, however, showed the man had none of the usual signs of an unhealthy heart or arteries. The symptoms were extremely unusual for such a young person, said McNamara, who added they're typically seen in people who overdose on cocaine or speed. After further questioning, the patient admitted he'd been drinking a

new type of beverage, which is growing in popularity, which combines high alcohol content with a large dose of caffeine.

The drinks also come with a jolt. The fruit punch-flavored Four Loko has 156 milligrams of caffeine. An eight ounce cup of coffee, by comparison, has about 100 milligrams of caffeine. One official said "mixing a depressant like alcohol with a caffeine stimulant is akin to stepping on the gas and brake of a car at the same time."

"They can't tell that they're drunk," said Dr. Mary Claire O'Brien, an associate professor of emergency medicine and public health at Wake Forest University. "What this behavior gets is a wide awake drunk."

[NOTE: On Wednesday, November 17, 2010, officials from the Federal Drug Administration, the Federal Trade Commission and the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau took unprecedented action by notifying four producers of

alcoholic energy drinks that their products were adulterated and constituted a "public health concern". They were deemed unsafe because of the addition of caffeine as a stimulant. The companies were given 15 days to respond or face product seizure.

We are happy to report that the four producers, Phusion Projects, United Brands, Charge Beverages and New Century Brewing have stopped shipping the seven different products that according to the director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy were "designed, branded and promoted to encourage binge drinking."



Cans of Four Loko are seen on display at a liquor store in Palo Alto, Calif., Oct. 18, 2010. (Paul Sakuma/AP Photo)

## Study: Alcohol more lethal than heroin, cocaine

By MARIA CHENG  
The Associated Press  
Sunday, October 31, 2010; 8:08 PM

LONDON -- Alcohol is more dangerous than illegal drugs like heroin and crack cocaine, according to a new study. British experts evaluated substances including alcohol, cocaine, heroin, ecstasy and marijuana, ranking them based on how destructive they are to the individual who takes them and to society as a whole. Research-

ers analyzed how addictive a drug is and how it harms the human body, in addition to other criteria like environmental damage caused by the drug, its role in breaking up families and its economic costs, such as health care, social services, and prison. Heroin, crack cocaine and methamphetamine, or crystal meth, were the most lethal to individuals. When considering their wider social effects, alcohol, heroin and crack cocaine were the deadliest. But overall, alcohol outranked all other substances, followed by heroin and crack cocaine. Marijuana, ecstasy and

LSD scored far lower. The study was paid for by Britain's Centre for Crime and Justice Studies and was published online Monday in the medical journal, *Lancet*. Experts said alcohol scored so high because it is so widely used and has devastating consequences not only for drinkers but for those around them.

## Milton McGregor, Alabama legislators indicted in bingo probe; lobbyists among 11 charged in federal vote-buying

Published: Tuesday, October 05, 2010, 5:30 AM Updated: Tuesday, October 05, 2010, 12:48 PM  
Charles J. Dean -- *The Birmingham News*

In one of the biggest investigations of corruption in the history of the Alabama State House, federal agents Monday arrested four state senators, several powerful lobbyists and Milton McGregor, who has

dominated the world of Alabama gambling for a quarter century.

In all, 11 people were indicted in a broad vote-buying scheme in which federal prosecutors allege millions of dollars in campaign contributions, a \$1 million-a-year job and election-year assistance were offered in exchange for critical yes votes on a gambling bill that went before legislators last spring.

Prosecutors said the casino owners, legislators and lobbyists formed a corrupt network to buy and sell votes in the Legislature. But some of the defendants called the indictment an overtly political move designed to influence the outcome of the Nov. 2 elections.



Remember: Whether they are found innocent or guilty, "Casinos Corrupt!"