

Story: Whiskey-A-No-Go
Words: Doug Latino
Art: Gideon Kendall
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Story Synopsis: Many people who abuse drugs and alcohol do stupid shit. Some end up addicted, and fewer still make a decision to stop. This is a story of one reason why I stopped.

Panel 1 Story title & credits

Panel 2

IMAGE: 1974 Datsun B210 car, parked, seen from the front, one headlight hanging by a wire. Two right wheels are off the driveway, other broken things around, fence, etc. depicting a car parked by drunk person.

CAP: The now well-known dangers of drinking and driving is actually a pretty recent awareness.

Panel 3

IMAGE: Just the sticks and placards is shown, above the heads of street protesters. (M.A.D.D.-type protesters)

"Don't Drink and Drive" "Alcohol Kills" "Tougher D.W.I. Laws"

CAP: Impaired driving wasn't taken seriously for the first 8 decades of the automobile. It took years of raising awareness about the hazards of drunk driving before laws got tougher. This story is from before drunk driving laws stiffened up.

Panel 4

IMAGE: Doug, arms raised as if in victory. Arrow with label pointing to Doug, "16th birthday"

CAP: Like most teenagers at the time, I couldn't wait to get my drivers license. I could now drive to PARTIES!

Doug: Woohoo!

Panel 5

IMAGE: Doug using beer bong at party.

CAP: I had my license for about four years before drunk driving laws stiffened up. I can vouch that there was a lot of drinking and driving during that time.

Panel 6

IMAGE: Doug smoking a roach, smoke curling up...

CAP: I soon learned I didn't handle alcohol very well. I'd be the guy passed out by 9 PM who got called the ultimate dis, lightweight. So I'd sometimes try just smoking pot. Emphasis on sometimes.

Panel 7

IMAGE: POV of the driver. Dashboard speedometer is at 25 MPH. 45 MPH speed limit sign on the side of the road, visible thru front windshield.

CAP: Among stoners anyway, driving high rather than drunk was thought to be safer. There might be something to that, but it's a topic for another comic.

COMIC PAGE BREAK

Panel 8

IMAGE: Doug driving, eyes squinty

Doug 4 Separate Thought Bubbles: I am fuuucked up!

Wait, I didn't drink all night.

I better stop and get a Bud.

Can't go home and not smell like beer.

Panel 9

Label at top of panel: "Two weeks later"

IMAGE: Doug, passed out, in a reclined drivers seat of the Datsun B210, 40 oz. near by.

CAP: Teenage boys, driving, alcohol, and drugs is a bad combination. I was one of those idiots.

SFX: ZZZzzzzzzzz

Panel 10

IMAGE: Close up of keys in the ignition

Panel 11

IMAGE: Sheriff taping his big maglite flashlight on the drivers side window to wake me up.

Doug: ZZZzzzzzzzz

SFX: Tap, tap, tap, tap

Panel 12

IMAGE: Doug, leaning out of the open car door throwing up on the sheriff's shoes

SFX: Groan...ahhh...aaaarrrrrgggghhhhhh.

Doug: Aaa...sorry.

Panel 13

IMAGE: Sheriff looking at his shoes but still talking to Doug who is still bent out of the car.

Sheriff: I think it's best you head straight home son.

Doug: Yesssir...

Panel 14

IMAGE: Doug's B210 speeding way from sheriff, air whiffs depicting speeding car.

SFX: "vrrrooommm..."

COMIC PAGE BREAK

Panel 15

Label at top of panel "The Next Weekend"

IMAGE: Doug and Mike talking

Mike: Hey, I got the the J Geils tickets!

Doug: Fuckin' A! man! Awesome!

Mike: Your dad gonna let you drive to Tampa?

Doug: I'm not gonna tell him we're going to Tampa.

Panel 16

Label at top of panel "Night of the concert"

IMAGE: POV looking into the car from the front. Doug driving, 4 boys in the car. 2 front/2 back.

Doug: I been wantin' to try this. Pour the water out, let's put Jack in the bong.

Mike: Oh, I dunno...

Doug: Come on, we'll get so DESTROYED!

SFX: "Must of got Lost" J Geils, lyrics blaring in car, "Never thought about tomorrow, seemed like a long time to come..."

Panel 17

IMAGE: Doug still driving, taking hit of bong. Eyes twirling, swirling

SFX: lyrics continue..."Must of got lost, I was lost, most of got lost somewhere down the line..."

Panel 18

IMAGE: Doug, seen from brake peddle below, up through steering wheel, one hand holding the bong, the other on the wheel, throwing up toward the viewer.

SFX: Bbbbbblllluuuuggghhhh....

SFX: lyrics continue..."If you abuse it, yer gonna lose it..."

Panel 19

IMAGE: Doug still driving, sitting up...facing straight ahead, eyes shifting right to front passenger. Other passengers rocking out to the car stereo or looking out the window as if nothing happened. The idea here is that the other three people didn't notice Doug throwing up.

SFX: lyrics continue, "Must of got lost, I was lost, somewhere down the line..."

Panel 20

IMAGE: At the concert. Peter Wolf, J Geils, and the band seen on stage at an angle. Doug seen from the side, still looking sick from the nasty bong hit...clearly not enjoying himself.

SFX: lyrics, "Yer so slick, know every trick..."

Panel 21

Label at top of panel: Later that night.

IMAGE: The four boys back in the car the reeks of vomit. Doug disheveled, embarrassed, the boys overwhelmed by the odor, looking angry & disgusted. Doug, again facing straight ahead with eyes shifted to right looking at his friends, too embarrassed to face them.

Panel 22

IMAGE: Doug, hosing out the interior of the car.

CAP: Driving home with my puke in the car was pretty awful and embarrassing. Looking back I didn't even realize how lucky I was that I didn't kill us all that night.

Panel 22

IMAGE: Doug, now, talking to the reader.

Doug: It was one of the more seriously stupid things I ever did and a reminder today how out of control I was. I know I made the right choice to get sober and to keep working to stay sober.

END