

# the RED CUP Q&A



separating alcohol fact from fiction  
EVERY TUESDAY IN THE DAILY WILDCAT

## Q What substances increase intoxication?

**A.** From a Jazz perspective, the fusion and polytonality of additional improvisational substances brings risk to the mix, totally blowing your groove, and will make you play outside your intended riff.

Gaze upon the following list and keep the Be in your Bop, hep-cats and kittens:

**Antidepressants and antipsychotics** - Alcohol intensifies the sedative effect of antidepressants. Monoamine oxidase inhibitors are particularly dangerous since one standard drink can cause a dangerous rise in blood pressure.

**Antihistamines** - OTC drugs like Benadryl used to treat allergy symptoms may boost sedation when combined with alcohol.

**Anti-ulcer medications** - Tagamet and Zantac increase intoxication.

**Narcotic pain relievers** - The synergistic effect of combining a narcotic, such as Morphine, Codeine, Darvon, Oxycodone, and Demerol, with alcohol intensifies the CNS depressive qualities of both substances, increasing the risk of death from overdose.

**Nonnarcotic pain relievers** - Aspirin heightens the intoxicating effects of alcohol. Tylenol (acetaminophen) can cause liver damage, even when used in standard therapeutic amounts. The combination of Tylenol and alcohol is responsible for almost 40% of all acute liver failure in the US.

**Anti-anxiety meds, sedatives and hypnotics ("sleeping pills")** - The tranquilizing nature of Valium, Ativan, Xanax, and other benzodiazepines may be amplified when combined with alcohol, and may result in dizziness, poor muscle control, forgetfulness, diminished normal breathing, coma, and heart failure.

**Birth control pills** - BCPs and other medications containing estrogen also slow the rate at which women process alcohol, resulting in a higher BAC.

This is only a partial list, hipsters, and other substances, certain illnesses, emotional states, and the timing of the menstrual cycle will also increase alcohol's intoxicating effects. It is important to consult a doctor or pharmacist to assess your risk when combining alcohol with other meds or substances.

Outro: Don't color or diminish your groove with unnecessary syncopation. If you want to chart a more enjoyable alcohol experience, follow this quote from jazz genius, Miles Davis: "Less is more."

Can you dig it? Oh, yeah!



wildfact

UA Presents Jazz legends Chick Corea & Gary Burton: Jan. 19th, 2013 at the Fox Theater.



Got a question about alcohol?

Email it to [redcup@email.arizona.edu](mailto:redcup@email.arizona.edu)



[www.health.arizona.edu](http://www.health.arizona.edu)

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