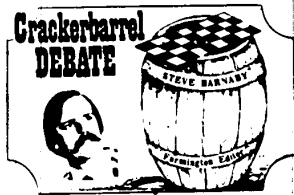


## editorial opinion

# Willoughby wonders why drinking age pondered



"Didn't you ever take a drink before you were of legal drinking age?" he queried.

"Yes, but that was different. I knew what I was doing. I was very adult for my age. These kids today don't know nothing," the protester shot back.

The crowd boomed.

"The thing I don't understand is why it's any better to allow a bunch of drunk adults to roam around on the highways than it is for kids," said Willoughby.

The patrons all stared into their beer mugs, unable to come up with a response.

"But teachers don't have any control over the kids in the classroom because of the drinking," said the protester.

Well, listen you old bag," bellowed Willoughby irreverently. "Maybe if parents set a better example, not so many kids would be hitting the bottle, anyway," shot back Willoughby.

"BUT WE CAN'T PROHIBIT drinking altogether. We tried that once and it didn't work," the protester argued feebly.

What makes you think it's going to work on the youth if you raise the legal drinking age?" queried Willoughby.

"I don't think there should be any set age at all. It's about time that parents took on a little responsibility and started communicating with their kids so drinking wouldn't be such a problem."

At that, Willoughby got up from his stool and weaved towards the door.

"Where are you going, Willoughby?"

"Eleven Mile and Orchard Lake Road. There's a meeting tonight," he said.

Walking through the parking lot, Willoughby thought, "Maybe they'll put a grandfather clause in the law for politicians under the legal age."

Now, wouldn't that be something?



"Around the edge"

by Jack O'Klein

## On the virtues of headstands

Devotees of Yoga, Transcendental Meditation, Transactional Analysis, Psychocometrics and Mind Control call their overlapping tension-breaker methods of self-help.

They sprout like tulips in spring, providing a warm umbrella for the disturbed, the weary, the confused, the undecided and the kindly. Most of what is taught can safely be labeled "common sense."

I believe in different strokes for different folks and in keeping an open mind though I've never learned to relax standing on my head in Yoga position. But one cause I fail to understand, try as I may, is Scientology.

We get letters, oh do we get letters, from L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of the mysterious organization called "Org." The last message was titled, "The Story of a Statue." It reads like this:

"ONCE UPON a time there was a thetan, and he was a happy little thetan and the world was a simple thing. It was all very, very simple. And then one day somebody told him he was simple. And ever since that time he has been trying to prove he is not."

And that is the history of the universe, the human race, the fifth invaders, the fourth invaders, the three-and-a-half invaders, the people on Mars, Saturn, Jupiter, Arcturus, the Markab Galaxy, the Markab System, the Psi Galaxy and Galaxy 82. I don't care where you look. That's the story.

"Only it's too simple a story, much too simple a story, because a thetan would have to admit he was simple if he understood it."

The message didn't come from a purple people eater or an psychiatric ward as one might suspect. It came from L. Ron Hubbard, who founded Scientology, and reassures me I'm not simple because I don't understand a word he says.

THE LOGICAL procedure, I decided, was to first find out what a thetan really is. A thetan is the living unit. It's taken from the Greek letter theta, the mathematic symbol used in Scientology to indicate the source of life and life itself. Any dingbat can understand that.

Now that I'm beginning to see the light, I'll check on those Markabs. They're simply various planets united into a very vast civilization which has come forward up through the last 200,000 years, formed out of fragments of earlier civilizations.

Before I have a complete nervous breakdown, maybe I'd better look up Scientology. It's an applied religious philosophy dealing with the study of knowledge which through the application of its technology, can bring about desirable changes in conditions of life. Changes of life I am familiar with.

HUBBARD IS also the founder of Dianetics. You know, everyone knows that's from the Greek "dia" through, and "nous," soul. If you're still with me I'll let you in on what an operating thetan is.

An operating thetan (OT) is a thetan exterior who can have, but doesn't have to have, a body in order to operate or control thought, life, matter, energy, time and space."

I might be classified as a "WOG" in Scientology mumbo jumbo. A WOG is a common, ordinary, run-of-the-mill, garden variety humanoid who isn't even trying.

Oh honorable Hubbard, how can a poor, humble WOG try when you say you've given a great deal of attention to HCOs over the world and are guiding the newly appointed CSI in making HCOs the elite division in ORGS. How can this poor humble humanoid become the elite when I never heard of an HCO or a C1 or an invader three-and-a-half, four or five?

Hubbard claims Scientology was denounced by the American Medical Association because it's a threat to doctors' bankbooks. Not having met any starving physicians lately, I can't quite agree.

Scientology's definition of aberration is a departure from rational thought or behavior, mental derangement or irrational condition. The philosophy is supposed to cure this, but my aberration is getting worse. Maybe standing on your head isn't all that bad after all.

## Sunshine law is dull

It took more than a year of debate, but both houses of the Michigan Legislature Sept. 13 finally passed a bill requiring open meetings of public bodies.

Sponsors of the bill, expected to be signed into law by Gov. Milliken, claim the legislation addresses itself to one of the most critical and controversial issues in government, the people's right to know. But they don't put it quite that way.

Politicians refer to the measure as "an important step in ensuring the people of Michigan they really have a right to know what government—from the capital to local commissions—is doing for them."

THE OBVIOUS interpretation is the reverse of the late President John Kennedy's immortal words, "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country." Government and country are synonymous to government officials.

A key supporter of the bill, Sen. David Plawewski (D-Dearborn Heights) contends the measure will

more fully guarantee the public's right to know and the media's right to report what government is doing. More fully is hardly the same as completely.

The bill is proposed to guarantee that all public bodies' decisions are reached in front of the public who elected them and to whom they are directly responsible.

PARADOXICALLY, closed-door meetings will be permitted if the intent is to protect the public's best interests or a person's individual rights. The list of purposes for which closed meetings may be held is longer than the one for open sessions.

The legislation assumes government officials are the final authorities, judges and juries, on what constitutes the public's best interests or people's individual rights.

The bill may be the most comprehensive to date, but the gray areas still overshadow the black and white and more loopholes than meetings will be open when the law takes effect in April.

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