

College forum debates drinking age

It was clearly a case of a hawk among the sparrows. Paul Bailey, director of Coalition 21, was asking a group of Oakland University students, primarily under 21 years old, to give up their right to drink in the Nov. 7 election.

Proposal D would amend the state constitution to raise the legal drinking age to 21. If approved, it will take effect 10 days after the election.

The state legislature has already raised the legal drinking age to 19 which will become law on Dec. 3.

A debate at OU Wednesday between Bailey and Eddy Shepard, representing the Michigan Licensed Beverage Association and secretary-treasurer of the Age of Responsibility committee, was sponsored by Repolitic, a campus political organization.

About 100 students attended the debate, which was primarily about accident statistics and legislating the rights of young adults.

Bailey based his argument on controversial Michigan State Police statistics that he says indicate a higher alcohol-related accident rate for drinking drivers in the 18-21 age group.

"THOUGH THERE are indications they are doing a better job of driving overall, there has been a 132 per cent increase in fatalities for that age group," Bailey said.

Bailey said changing the legal drinking age to 21 would also, "keep alcohol away from our 11-14 year olds who are getting it from the 18-21 year olds."

The Licensed Beverage Association has labeled this a rights issue and said, "You can't take away our rights, but the speed limit was lowered to 55 and we're living with that," Bailey said. "If there is an accompanying loss of business with the lower legal drinking age, it can't be measured alongside the loss of life."

Shepard disputed the validity of state police accident statistics.

"The rate of 18-21-year-olds involved in accidents has declined from 23 per 1,000 to only 17 per 1,000," he said.

"And the state police reports have a box to mark on their accident reports labeled 'had been drinking,' not whether the drinking has actually been a factor in the accident. A person could say, 'Yes, I had a beer before I

left the house,' and the box gets marked."

Bailey and Shepard each had their own set of supportive statistics, studies and reports. Each maintained his figures were correct.

Each argued over whether the drinking age vote could be called a prohibition issue, a label Bailey said he is uncomfortable with and is unjustified.

STEVE GIBBS, 19, said he would vote against Proposal D and was skeptical of Bailey's statistics.

"I think in years past there was more of a taboo against drinking and no one was as willing to admit they'd been drinking if they'd been in an accident," he said. "I also have strong feelings towards protecting my rights. Drinking is a right, not a privilege."

Jane Kerr, 22, was also strongly against the proposal and let Bailey know it after the debate. "My friends are all 19 years old," she said. "They'll still be able to get alcohol but they won't be allowed to drink under protected and supervised conditions in a bar. I really feel strongly about this. I've already convinced my dad and a few others to vote against it."

Colleen Burke, 21, supports the proposal. She admitted there was confusion over the statistics, but said, "I work with alcoholics and see too many reasons for raising it."

Jim Griffin, 18, said he would vote against raising the age. "It's one group trying to impose restrictions on another group," he said. "The percentage of accidents for 18-21-year-olds may be up, but what if that's due to a decline in other age groups? It's also unfair to impose restrictions on them because of what the 12-15 year olds are doing."

Kitty Buiteweg, 17, also sees it as a rights issue.

"It's one group taking rights away from others. It's against the constitution. The speed limit is different because it takes it away from everybody rather than focusing on one group."

DARRELL DICK, 20, said he would vote against the proposal. He also asked if Bailey's group (Coalition 21) worked for the decriminalization of intoxication while at the same time

"trying to take away our right to drink."

Bailey said Coalition 21 backed an earlier repeal this year of the law for being "drunk and disorderly" but said, "It was a victimless crime that took up police and court time," and he saw no conflict in the two actions.

Coalition 21 led the petition drive to place the drinking age question on the ballot. Dan Gustafson, 20, chairman of the OU Anti-Prohibition Committee, said the law would have a disastrous effect on student campus life.

"It's not so much for student life in general, which is 80 per cent commuters," he said, "but for those that live in the dorms."

Gustafson lives in a dorm and said,

Library time cut by C'ville schools

Clarencville School District elementary students will have fewer days to study in the school learning centers.

The Clarencville school board has agreed to abide by an arbitrator's ruling in favor of the teacher's union that paid aides not be used to staff the centers.

A grievance filed by the Clarencville Teachers Union asked that only full time librarians be used or the learning centers be closed for 21 days. The board had started the aide staffing a year ago.

The school district had reduced the librarians from full to half-time status and put in aides.

The school board decided last week not to appeal the decision.

Supt. David McDowell said he had discussed the possibility of taking the arbitrator's decision to circuit court, but that the attorneys advised the district would gain little or nothing by

"There are parties every Friday and Saturday night and dorm life revolves around these. I'll vote against it, but not because of my age. We'll still be able to get the alcohol, but I just see an increased amount of disrespect for the law."

Shepard said he sees hope in defeating the proposal though most polls predict it will succeed by a margin of almost four to one.

"More than anything," Shepard said, "I think those polls indicate a general hostility from the older generation to the younger one."

Responsibility for the Age of the Committee said neither the Michigan Secretary of State nor the State Board of Education is advocating Proposal D.

taking the case further "because the chances of overturning the arbitrator's decision were slim. The estimated cost to take the case to circuit court would be \$10,000," McDowell said.

While agreeing with McDowell, the board said the arbitrator "had exceeded his authority."

"We will accept the ruling but don't look it as precedent setting," the board said.

McDowell said there was no question of reducing the time the centers are open "because that right exists with the board."

"The union simply objected to use of aides rather than full-time librarians," he said.

"Two-thirds of the school districts in Oakland County use aides but the unions there haven't objected to it," he added.

COME TO OUR VERY GRAND

GRAND OPENING

OCTOBER 16 THROUGH 21

Come enjoy a unique shopping adventure. Our exciting shops are opening their doors with a big welcome and special bargains. There's a chance to win something extra with each purchase. Draw a money savings card that gives you extra savings on another purchase. It's our way of saying "Welcome to Applegate Square!" But win or lose, you'll have a wonderful time visiting Just Wonderful Shops.

- Baggit
- Winter Plum
- Diane's Place
- The Paper Place
- Morris Bednorsh Jewelry
- One Of A Kind
- Lens Opening
- Rear Ends
- The Barbary
- Heroes World
- Robt. Mann Furs
- Tessa's A La Cart Cafe
- Robert Henri Ltd. Floral Design
- Roslyn's Intimate Apparel
- The New Generation
- The Open Crate
- Myrna Berman
- Who's Cooking?
- Goldfinger
- Sondair
- De Solverdi
- Roland Optics
- Davis Floor Covering
- The Baker's Loft
- Computerland
- Roy G. Ida
- Miranda
- Snips



Open daily and Saturday 10am-5pm. Thursday 10am-9pm. Northwestern Hwy at Inkster Road.

GARAGE DOOR OPENERS
BY ALLIANCE
MODEL GS 450
\$168.88
INSTALLED
SOLID STATE CONTROLS
\$175.00
DIGITAL CONTROLS
1 YEAR WARRANTY
ALADDIN "GENIE" Sales & Service
Serving Tri-County Areas
WESTLAND PARTS & SERVICE 722-0610
PONTIAC 335-9079

FREE!
Buy 1 to 10 Medium at the regular price
Pizzas
Get same number of identical PIZZAS
FREE
Little Caesars Pizza
PICK-UP ONLY
Expires 10/25/78
One coupon per customer at participating stores. Valid in this week's Detroit News and Free Press. T.V. Books.

NOW OPEN
MacRae's Needlecraft, Inc.
Carrying Complete Line
• 100% Wool Rug Yarn
• Persian Yarn
• Latch Hook
• Needlepoint
• Crewel
• Bernat
• Yarns
• Large Selection
• Macrame
• Supplies
• Complete Line of Palenayan Yarn
Register for Fall Classes Now
MacRae's Needlecraft, Inc.
38431 Grand River • Farmington
between Haggerty & 10 Mile
9-6T.W.F.Sa. 10-9M & Th. 478-8030

Fall Value Days
THE HOMESTEADER
Wood-burning heater with automatic thermostat for even heat. Baked-enamel finish. 240
289.95

water pik
WALL MOUNT SHOWER MASSAGE
Set it for an invigorating massage, regular spray, or a soothing combination of both. SM2
Hand-Held Unit. SM3 24.95
15.88

REGUTEMP
REGUTEMP I CLOCK THERMOSTAT
Automatically dials down thermostat during working and sleeping hours. Easy to install yourself. 99028
Regutemp II. 99029 \$3.88
44.88

48-INCH FLUORESCENT WORKSHOP FIXTURE
Fully wired, ready to hang. Holds two, 40-watt white or gro-plant lamps (not included). 24-in. hanging chains. 240SP
10.99
LIVONIA True Value HARDWARE
5 Mile at Farmington
GA2-1155-9371611
OPEN DAILY 9a.m.-9p.m. SUNDAY 10a.m.-3p.m.
Don't Forget to see our Fireplace Screens & Accessories!