

Drinking age proposal uncorks spirited debate ...

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

To drink or not to drink? That is the issue.

Proposal D, a constitutional amendment to raise the legal drinking age to 21, has become the rallying cry for 19- and 20-year-olds across the state. Tomorrow is their day of reckoning. They turned out in full force last week at Schoolcraft College where proponents and opponents were debating the merits of the changes. Even a few parents came down to listen to the debate.

Speaking in favor of raising the drinking age was Richard Douglass, assistant research scientist for the

University of Michigan's Highway Safety Research Institute. Arguing against adoption of the constitutional amendment was Eddy Shepherd of the Michigan Licensed Beverage Association.

DOUGLASS OPENED the debate with a flurry of statistics, which, he said, showed that traffic deaths among 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds increased dramatically after the drinking age was lowered in 1971.

From 1971 to 1975, he said, alcohol-related accidents in the 18-to-20 age group increased more than 16 per cent. More importantly, he said, were statistics that showed fatalities in

alcohol-related accidents in that same age group increased nearly 27 per cent.

"We made a terrible mistake," Douglass said. "We made the most costly mistake in the history of Michigan."

SHEPHERD TURNED to his own set of statistics that showed that the rate of involvement for 18- and 19-year-olds in all accidents and fatal accidents had not increased dramatically.

"The rate per thousand of involvement in all accidents has decreased from a high of 23 per thousand accidents in 1965 to a low of 17 per thousand in 1975," he said.

"The rate of involvement in fatal accidents," he continued, "has decreased from 1.4 drivers per thousand accidents to .8 of a driver per thousand in 1975." That rate increased to one per thousand in 1977.

He also pointed out that in 1974 a new system of reporting accidents was introduced. The form, he said, allowed officers only to say if the persons involved had been drinking before the accident. It, he said, did not allow for how much a person had been drinking. That, he said, provided for a lot of "junk statistics" which could be "twisted."

IT WAS THEN that the debate took on a new air.

Douglass, standing dapper in a three-piece grey suit, chided the teens in the audience. "It's about time you think for yourself," he said. "I don't care what (Secretary of State Richard)

and Austin says. I don't care what (Governor William) Milliken says or what (gubernatorial candidate) William Fitzgerald thinks," he said. "You have to think for yourself."

Earlier in the debate, Shepherd referred to a number of officials and candidates who are opposing the amendment.

IT WAS ALSO when Douglass began using scare tactics.

Labeling Shepherd's statistics lies and simplistic, he said, "There's nothing simple about drunks in school. There's nothing simple about kids who drop out because they can't keep up with the work. There's nothing simple about nursing homes filled with quad-

raped teenagers

"I've seen enough accidents on scene. I've been to enough emergency rooms and seen enough parents who have experienced the loss of a child."

"I've had my fill of it," he said. Douglass told the predominantly young audience they could vote to reduce a leading cause of death.

... Trooper defends bid for union rights

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

Should Michigan State Police troopers be allowed to bargain collectively?

That will be one of 11 proposed constitutional amendments to be voted on tomorrow.

Last week, at a debate sponsored by Schoolcraft College, each side presented their stories.

Mark Edens, speaking for the Michigan State Police Troopers Association, told of how the troopers had consistently fallen behind—not only inflation but the state's other police units.

"Our pay dropped from among the top 10 to 73rd among police units around the state," Edens said. "Every body gives us pats on the back and calls us the best police unit in the state."

"It's not fair for me to do the work I do and get nothing but pats on the back. You can't buy a house with pats," he said.

NEAL VANDERVEEN, a Michigan State Police employee relations officer, said the state was not afraid of collective bargaining, but opposed the proposed constitutional amendment because of the way it was worded.

"It's not as though the troopers would be going from the dark ages of the sweatshop to the enlightened age of collective bargaining," he said.

He said the troopers are currently represented before the pay-setting Michigan Civil Service Commission by the troopers association.

Getting into the body of the relatively short amendment, Vanderveen wondered just who the legal employer would be, who would conduct the initial elections to determine what union would represent the troopers in bargaining and who would hear arguments regarding unfair labor practices.

The ballot proposal, he said, did not answer any of his questions.

Edens said, however, that if the amendment was approved, the troopers would go to court to gain answers to those questions. "We believe those matters should be decided in the courts," he said.

VANDERVEEN ALSO balked at the provision that would mandate binding arbitration. According to other published reports, binding arbitration has resulted in sometimes unreasonably high cash awards to police and firefighters.

In Wayne County, an arbitration award to the sheriff's deputies nearly caused the layoff of more than 900 county employees. Layoff notices were not sent because the courts ruled that the county did not have to pay the sheriff's increased wages and back pay until all legal appeals were resolved.

He said the state would be more amenable to advisory arbitration than compulsory arbitration. Advisory arbitration, he said, was a case of "thou should" whereas binding arbitration is case of "thou shall."

IN A TIME when government-employed workers such as police, firemen and teachers have increasingly resorted to the blue flag and strikes to gain pay and benefit improvements, Edens was quick to say the amendment would not give the troopers the right to strike.

Other public employees do not have the right to strike, but do. "You'll just have to trust the troopers," Edens said. "We've been kicked around and mistreated for 60 years and we haven't gone on strike. I don't think they'll call in sick now that they're finally being treated fairly."



Music as Beautiful as Michigan



WCZY 95

make yourself cozy stereo

©1978 Mobil Oil Corporation

First 500 mile race (almost)

On Sept. 9, 1901, the Automobile Club of America sponsored the first long distance race in America. Announced as a 500 mile race from New York City to Buffalo, the winner, D. W. Bishop, in a French Panhard auto, actually covered 464.2 miles. An endurance rather than speed race, it took Bishop five days to cover the ground.

GARAGE DOOR OPERATORS

Genie 450D
CRYPTAR II DIGITAL CONTROLS
\$175.00 installed
1 Year Warranty—Any Suburb
ALLIANCE AUTOMATIC DOOR CO.
358-3833 SOUTHFIELD

SINGLE?

PEOPLE, PLACES & THINGS IS FOR YOU.

You'd like to meet new friends, have places to go and be with people who like the same things you do.

People, Places & Things is an exciting concept for singles. We are your personal reservationist for events, activities and travel with people of similar interest.

Meet others while participating in many interesting, exciting and enjoyable opportunities available monthly for your choosing.

For further information call 559-5820 or mail this coupon.

PEOPLE PLACES & THINGS

29540 Southfield Rd.
Suite 100A
Southfield, Michigan
48076 (313) 559-5820

I want to know more about People, Places & Things. Please send brochure.

Signature _____ Date _____
Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

ARE YOU RETIRING IN Florida?

LIVE ON THE WATERFRONT FROM ONLY \$22,900

At \$22,900 our double wide, 2 bedroom mobile home seems to be an outstanding value. But add a waterfront setting, a marina with direct access to the Gulf of Mexico, 4 recreational complexes, 4 heated swimming pools, over 50 clubs and activities, a lifetime rental protection program, and the most prestigious well maintained and well managed adult community in Florida and you have Colony Cove.

For more information - plus details on our visitation program, fill out and mail this ad to:

Colony Cove
P.O. Box 340, Dept. 3770
St. Johns, FL 33532

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
I plan to move to Florida in _____
or 1979 or 1980. When? _____
Colony Cove
Waterfront Mobile Home Community
Developed by Colony Mobile Home
Corporation, Inc.
and Colony Cove North, Inc.

KNOCKS PINGS

Two horribly annoying reasons to introduce Mobil Super Unleaded Gasoline.

A car should be seen and not heard.

That's why we're introducing new Mobil Super Unleaded Gasoline with a higher octane level.

Not only does it help knock the knocks and pings out of your engine, it could also give your car more power than most other gasolines. (In fact, millions of cars on the road today are being cheated of peak engine performance.)

And what's more, if your car is properly tuned, and still shakes, sputters and backfires after

you turn the key off, using Mobil Super Unleaded may help eliminate all that. And that's whether your car is new or old.

And even if you've been using leaded premium gasoline you'll be glad to know that Mobil Super Unleaded's high octane level is high enough to meet anti-knock requirements of most cars today.

Mobil Super Unleaded. Because when you're driving, one of the nicest sounds in the world is the sound of absolutely nothing.

Mobil
Super Unleaded