

Bars, Politicians Like New Adults

KATHY MORAN
The real impact of the new age of majority is being felt in the beer mug.

Thousands of 18 to 20-year-olds were suddenly propelled into legal adulthood as of Jan. 1, but they are finding that the right to purchase liquor is the most tangible right at present. Since a constitutional amendment was approved last summer, numerous groups are attempting to register the young adults — and are successfully increasing the names on the voting rolls.

But for the young adult who wants to purchase a car or home or take out a loan in his own name, life on the adult side of the fence isn't all that different.

THE BUSINESS world hasn't changed any and the new adults aren't getting special treatment.

Though they have the right to take out a loan in their own name, the cold hard facts of the business world dictate that a stable employment record and good credit rating are essential.

And not many 18-year-olds have two years of steady employment under their belts when they start looking for a loan.

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The 18-year-olds can drink now, and get involved in politics, but the business world isn't changing fast for a person with no job seniority.

It is still attracting primarily the over-21 set, and bouncer Joe Adams speculated it was because of high prices and the older clientele. Though he said only a couple of the new adults try to get in at night, he has had several 16- and 17-year-olds trying to get past him.

THE COLONIAL Lounge in Livonia has found 30 to 40 percent of its audience from the new drinkers since the beginning of 1972, according to owner Nick Malamis.

"The first few weeks have been busy, but I expect it to settle down," he added.

That could be happening as she was waiting to get inside places that she used to be able to walk right into. She suggested that the young drinkers have their own bars.

That could be happening with the Lum's chain where several young adults have said they prefer to go.

Leo Kinor, general manager of the Livonia Lum's, said its business has increased noticeably.

"The first two weeks were a madhouse," Kinor said. "This week it dipped a little. If I had to estimate the increase from them (the new adults), I would say it is 15 to 20 percent."

BUSINESS from the new adults has dipped at Northville Downs, also, where some have been taking advantage of the new right to wager.

While as many as 55 young adults showed up on Fridays and Saturdays during the first two weeks of January, attendance has dropped to around 15 per night on weekends.

So far, only one person has voluntarily committed herself to Northville State Hospital, according to Supt. Richard Budd.

Dr. Budd said he expects to have more in the future since nearly 40 percent of the hospital's admissions are voluntary. The advantage to a voluntary admission is that the hospital has to release a voluntary patient within five days of his request to leave.

JAYCEES CHAPTERS in Livonia, Redford Township, Southfield, and Farmington are lowering their age requirements despite the fact that the national chapter refused to lower the age in its constitution at the national convention.

Some 18-year-olds have applied for pistol permits in Farmington Township and

Redford Township, said the reason and amount of the loan will be taken into consideration.

"A lot depends on the reason and the amount. If he wants \$500 for a motorcycle, he most likely won't get it, but if he wants \$400 for an engagement ring he might," he said.

Of seven loan companies surveyed at random, only four received requests for loans from the new adults. Eight requests had been made and six had been rejected at that point.

The law doesn't state whether an 18-year-old can own a gun.

A GROUP called The New Majority has formed in Redford Township to "stimulate interest in the community" regarding the new age of majority. They are planning workshops to educate the young adults of their rights.

Undoubtedly they will cover the problems the young adults can expect to encounter in the business world, as well as some classes being revised in local schools.

The young adults can expect to be quizzed on their employment, credit references, personal background and why they need the money when applying for a loan.

"There is not much we can do for them," Bob Schoeder of Liberty Loans in Livonia said, "until they take out a loan with a co-signer. Then after six or seven months on the books, we can see if they are going to be a good client. If they are, then we can do more for them."

"When you're 18-years-old, how much job experience have you had?" asked Jo Metsa of General Public Loan Corp. of Livonia.

Richard Zeschin, of Beneficial Finance Loans in

total political process. Democrats think it could best be done by a precinct delegate election where the new voters could seek the delegate post, and then participate in the state and local conventions as well as elect delegates to the national convention.

Republicans think the best way is to have the new voters exercise their privilege in a presidential primary in May where they would vote on presidential candidates.

Under that plan, the candidate would select his own delegates to the national convention, and the voter would select the delegate by voting on the candidate.

Top vote-getters in each congressional district would get the delegate votes for that district, and the top state winner would take at-large delegates.

NOT ALL 18-year-olds

have waited so long to get involved in the political process. One is serving on the board of directors of the Farmington Township Democratic Club and other local political organizations are recruiting the new voters into their ranks.

Some school districts have considered setting up smoking rooms for their young adults, but problems over how to supervise them are causing delays.

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