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What Adult Status Means Legally

By KATHY MARTIN
Special Writer

Early in 1971, Gov. Milliken's Special Commission on the Age of Majority proposed an 18-year-old age of majority, and it was in January 1972 when this proposal became law.

Patrick Duggan, a Livonia attorney and partner in the

local law firm of Brashear, Brashear, and Duggan, spoke on the significance of the new adult role of the 18-year-old citizen at Madonna College last week.

"Where law applied before to the 21-year-old, it now applies to the 18-year-old," remarked Duggan.

IN CRIMINAL proceedings,

those 17 and older are considered adults and are treated accordingly in court cases. This is unchanged, in cases concerning personal injury, the 18-year-old now finds himself having the ability to sue in his own name, as well as holding the responsibility of his own actions.

Another area of legal

change includes contracts. Contracts are now binding for the 18-year-old who once found his minor age a "way out" of legal ties. Their contracts are no longer voidable.

Duggan cited an example of two 18-year-olds who recently decided to "exchange car engines." The fathers of the two disagreed with the actions of their sons and took the case to court, where it was solved by the age of majority ruling which considered the 18-year-olds as responsible adults.

ONE DISADVANTAGE of the ability of 18-year-olds to sign contracts, according to Duggan, was that young, inexperienced adults can no longer evade problems rising out of land and housing contracts by declaring themselves "under age."

The 18-year-old's execution of a will is now recognized under law, as is the inheritance of attaining assets at age 18 should his parents or guardians die without having written a will.

Parental consent is no longer required for the 18-year-old to receive medical treatment or surgery.

2 Days Off For Cville

There's nothing better to a school child -- and worse for his mother -- than a school day off. But if you live in Clarenceville there are two coming.

The Clarenceville Board of Education has authorized two "in-service days" for its teachers -- meaning holidays for the school youngsters.

On March 15 school children, kindergarten through 12th grade, will remain home while their teachers attend drug curriculum training. On April 27 all elementary and kindergarten students get a holiday while their teachers attend sessions on reading improvement.

Perhaps the most stressed and controversial aspect of the age of majority ruling concerns alcohol. The 18-year-old now can be served liquor in public bars, although managements still reserve the right to post age limit restrictions for their private establishments.

AN INCREASE of 400,000 to 450,000 voters is expected as a result of the voting ability of these young adults. Duggan saw the age of majority change as creating an "impact on legislative powers" by the voting ability of the 18-year-old population.

Generally speaking, if an 18- to 20-year-old negligently injures someone, his parents are not liable unless they themselves were directly involved in the act.

Duggan concluded that sociologically, the age of majority change may cause some complications, but constitutionally it will not.

Duggan has been a member of the Board of Trustees at Madonna since 1969 and graduated cum laude from the University of Detroit Law School in 1958. In January 1969 he was selected "Livonia's outstanding young man" by the Jaycees.



LOVABLE SNOOPY will be portrayed by Stacy Gurian in Clarenceville high school's production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." The play will begin at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, in the L.E. Schmidt Auditorium in Livonia. Tickets are priced at \$1.50. (Observer photo)

2-Day Nature Workshop Set At Kensington

A workshop entitled "Introduction to Winter" will be held at the Nature Center in Kensington Metropolitan Park near Milford on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 26 - 27.

This new program is scheduled by the University Center for Adult Education in cooperation with the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority.

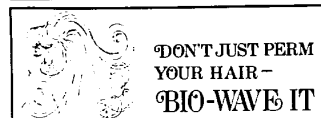
This workshop is offered by registration only, with a \$15 fee and a \$2 registration fee, with reduced rates for families.

Workshop hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Much of the time will be spent outdoors, with park naturalists guiding the group's observation of birds, mammals, trees and insects in

the various field, woodland and water habitats in Kensington Park's nature study area. Indoor sessions will feature discussions of plant and animal adaptations to the winter season.

Registration details are available by contacting the University Center for Adult Education, 69 Farnsworth, Detroit.



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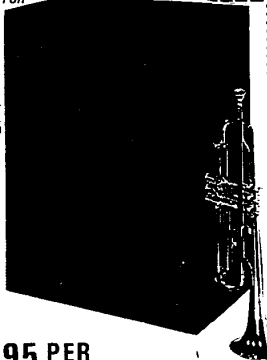
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