

THE CLARION

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New drinking law raises questions

by Bonnie Davis

If you're 19 or 20 years old, then you've definitely felt the impact of the new drinking age law. It should have hit hard because it's not often that you have a right one day and wake up that next to find it gone. Since 1776 when our country became a democracy and even before that, when we were under British rule, there has been a constant stream of conflict between the rights of the Private Individual vs. the Public Good. Is there a happy medium between the two? It hardly seems so.

States have steadily been raising their drinking laws to age 21. Failure to do so by 1987 would have resulted in federal highway funds being revoked. Just a little over two weeks ago we were considered "mature" enough to drink at age 19. Now we're not. These laws that the legislature passes, determining when we're old enough to do certain things in our society are inconsistent. At 16 we're old enough to drive cars and be responsible enough for our lives, and others as well. When we turn 18 we can vote in our country; we can go to war and die for our country. We're also considered to be legal adults and technically our parents don't have to support us any longer. Eighteen-year-olds can even be convicted and given the death sentence.

If 18 is such a magical number for so many other "adult" activities, then why not drinking?

I'm not against laws, most are made to benefit or protect us. But in this one instance regarding the drinking law it seems unjust and unfair especially to those already 19 or 20. Other states have "grandfather" clauses attached to their drinking laws — why don't we?

Maybe when we do turn 21 we'll wonder what the commotion was about, but right now 21 is a long way off. Maybe if alcohol wasn't considered such a "no-no" in this country, then it wouldn't be the widespread problem that it is — among adults as well as teens. We're tired of being told to "grow up," while still being treated like children.

If an 18-year-old was sentenced to the chair and his last wish was for a cold beer, would it be given to him? Or would they say, "Sorry, but you're not of age?"

Write us . . .

Editor's Note: All questions, comments, or letters should be directed to Bonnie Davis, Box 140. All letters must be signed and will be considered for publication. Please use this opportunity to voice your opinions, raise questions, but above all, to be active in your school.

Students have mixed feelings about new law

What do you think about the new drinking age law?

"Personally, I like the idea. It's a good move because the majority of the teenagers don't have enough mature judgments on these types of things."
Rob Arnold, Freshman
Winter Park, Fla.

"I have mixed feelings about it. I think there should be a grandfather clause — I don't think it's fair to take away a privilege from someone who already had it."
Angie Revercomb, freshman
Mechanicsville, Va.

"I don't think that new drinking law will change anybody's habits. At best, it will make it slightly more difficult to obtain alcohol."

Brian Cartland, sophomore
Ft. Myers, FL

"It makes me mad. We're considered to be an adult at 18 so why can't we be responsible for alcohol?"
Christine Freund, freshman
Chapel Hill, NC

"It should have a grandfather clause."
Tom Mundt, sophomore
Carmel, Ind.

"It's good, but people are still going to drink. This makes it more of a hassle for youngsters to drink and get away with it."

Jakob Christensen sophomore

"I didn't like it, but I don't have a choice. I'll be glad when I turn 21."
Katherine Massey, sophomore
Charlotte, N.C.

"They shouldn't have changed it because if we want alcohol, we can get it."

Renee Hundley, freshman,
Winston-Salem, NC

"I think it's good because I don't think people should drink at a young age. I think people can find other ways of excitement than using alcohol."
Albert Darren, freshman

Guitarist David Richter to appear here Sept. 25



Classic Guitarist
David Richter

INTERNATIONALLY-ACCLAIMED classical guitarist David Richter will perform Thursday, Sept. 25 at 8:15 p.m. in Dunham Auditorium in the first musical program of the 1986-'87 Life and Culture Series. A favorite performer on college and university campuses, Richter is the 1985 first prize gold medal winner of the 20th Concorso Internazionale of Milan, Italy. He received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in music performance from Florida State University and has studied with the maestro, Andres Segovia. Richter is a resident artist on the faculty of the Conservatory of Music at the University of the Pacific at Stockton, Calif.