

SPEAK EASY



Anthony Flanagan

Orientation week at UNC has always been an event associated with drinking. What do you think of the possibility of the state legislature raising the drinking age to 21?

Anthony Flanagan, 18, sophomore history major, Raleigh: "Knowing the state legislature, I'd say it's (the chances that the age would be raised to 21) pretty good. They don't always do what the students want them to do."

Charles Joyner, 46, professor of history at the University of South Carolina: "That would be a real shame (raising the age). I think it's appropriate to have certain festivities associated with it (drinking). It's a ritualistic event."

Anne Montgomery, administrative manager in management programs at the UNC School of Business Administration, Chapel Hill: "I think it's a wonderful idea. I really do believe it would help cut down on the problems we have with drinking."

Joel Eisenberg, 27, graduate student in genetics, Chapel Hill: "If we're going to start drafting people and imposing the responsibilities of being drafted on them, we should allow them to do other adult things including drinking."

Cheryl Wade, 17, freshman accounting major, Siler City: "I really don't think they should (raise the drinking age) because if they (students) really want alcohol they can get it anyway. It's easily accessible."

Dorothy Wilson, 20, junior English major, San Antonio, Texas: "It's not fair to rope off half the college population and say the other half can have fun and they can't."

Jeff Moss, 20, junior education major, Henderson: "I feel that age is not that important because you can always get someone to buy the liquor or beer anyway. If we can go fight for our country, why can't we buy liquor and beer and stuff?"

Cindy Yielding, 22, graduate student in geology, Dallas, Texas: "I don't think it would do that much good. I think people would get liquor anyway. It'd (raising the drinking age) probably be a good idea."

Interviews conducted by staff writer Alison Davis.

Editor's note: SpeakEasy, an opinion survey conducted by The Daily Tar Heel is a new weekly feature gauging campus opinion on current issues. We welcome ideas for questions.



Cheryl Wade



Dorothy Wilson



Jeff Moss



Cindy Yielding

ERA backers see new support given bill after rise from ashes

By KELLY SIMMONS
Staff Writer

Despite the June defeat of the Equal Rights Amendment, women's rights supporters said they expected the recent reintroduction of the bill to gain stronger support than before from Congress. But they said they do not expect any fight about the measure any time soon.

A spokesman for Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., chairperson of the women's caucus, said the amendment has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee, where it is now. He said, however, that supporters did not plan to push to get the measure through Congress this session. "The people need a break," he said.

He said the new ERA had received 211 endorsements from the House of Representatives and 51 from the Senate since its reintroduction in June and July, respectively. More than 80 percent of the population supports the ERA according to polls which have been taken, he said. "It has support; it's an equitable bill," the spokesman said. "But we still have people in the Congress who don't want it to get through."

Brent Hackney, press secretary to Governor Jim Hunt, said Hunt, a strong ERA advocate, supported reintroduction of the amendment. "He's more determined than ever," Hackney said.

Betty McCain, past president of the state Democratic Party and the governor's former liaison for ERA, said one goal of the amendment's supporters was to elect legislators who would vote for the bill should it reach Congress or state houses. "Whether the amendment passes or not depends on who's in the General Assembly," she said.

McCain said the longer the wait before the bill comes up for vote, the better the chance for its passage because more people would understand its provisions.

Alice Gatsis, president of the North Carolinians United Against ERA in Rocky Mount, said the amendment had been defeated by the lack of support among average people. She said an illusion of popular support was created by

activists to make people think the bill had a chance for passage. "Popular support was not there," she said. "People don't want it and they're not going to let it pass."

Gatsis said the amendment was not for protection of women from discrimination. "There are already laws to protect women," she said.

Democratic Sen. Julian Allsbrook of the 6th legislative district, a long-time ERA opponent said he disagreed with the second part of the bill which states that there would be no discrimination against women. "The Constitution says there is to be no discrimination," he said. Allsbrook said he was not against equal opportunity, only total unisex laws.

However, Schroeder's spokesman said rumors of "unisex public restrooms" were something created by committees against the ERA. He said nothing concerning unisex laws had been a part of the amendment.

Grassroots efforts to familiarize the American people with the bill also have been organized around the country in an effort to combat negative publicity. Schroeder's spokesman said the reason people were against the amendment was because they did not really know what it was saying. McCain agreed, but added that some people were "anti-anything that's government" and would fight anything having to do with human rights.



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