

# Drinking age leaves 18-year-olds dry

By SHERRI GOODSON  
Staff Writer

As Oct. 1 approaches, marking the beginning of North Carolina's new drunk driving law, tension is mounting on and around the UNC campus.

The new law passed this summer will raise the legal drinking and purchasing age for beer and wine to 19, will increase the severity of punishment for underage drinking and for loaning out an ID to someone underage and will create a new charge — driving while impaired — that will make it impossible to plea bargain by eliminating lesser charges such as reckless driving.

"You can't drink and drive anymore. Period," said Dorothy Bernholz, director of Student Legal Services. "But the most damage will be done — and a car doesn't even have to be involved — when a person buys a beer for someone under 19 or loans his ID to a person under 19 to buy beer. Both these people will automatically lose their licenses for one year."

The new DWI charge, which will replace the charge of driving under the influence, is an easier charge to be arrested for because of its definition. A person can be charged with a DWI if their blood alcohol content is at least 0.10 or if he is judged to be driving under the influence of a substance which has appreciably impaired his mental or physical faculties or his driving ability. If one drink is enough to impair you in any of these ways, then one drink is enough to get you arrested.

Chapel Hill Police Chief Herman Stone said that the department has no plans for a major crackdown. Stone said that he was depending on cooperation from bar owners and students, but that the situation may be later re-evaluated and more law enforcement added.

If students are pulled over by a police officer, they should not expect him to be powerless. The officer has the authority to tow a car, automatically take a license for 10 days, give any number of dexterity tests and jail someone until he is sober enough to drive.

The punishments for a DWI charge range from the severe to the slight. The maximum punishment is up to two years in jail, a fine up to \$2,000 and a loss of license for one year. The least punishment is 24 hours in jail, and/or 24 hours of community service and/or loss of license for 30 days and a fine of \$100.

Other factors determining the severity of punishment include whether the offender has a prior DWI conviction, a good driving record or was speeding more than 30 mph over the limit.

A DWI charge can also be expensive. If convicted, a person can expect to have his car insurance premiums increase by 450 percent over a three year period and legal fees can average \$1,000 as compared to an average \$250 fee for a DUI charge.

Since it will be easier to draw a DWI charge, people are being told to handle themselves differently with a police officer if they are pulled over. Since one drink may be considered enough to impair you, admitting to having "just one" can lead to big problems.

"Before, advice to students would be to cooperate completely. Now you should absolutely not say anything, while at the same time appearing like 'Mr. Nice Guy.' If you admit to drinking, you're in big trouble," Bernholz said.

Bernholz also emphasized the severity of the new law. "In this town, if you drink and drive, you will be arrested."

The Student Legal Services advises students to follow these guidelines to avoid trouble when the new law goes into effect Oct. 1:

- Do not buy alcohol illegally. Buying alcohol if you are under 19 years of age, using another person's ID to purchase alcohol and buying alcohol for an underage person is illegal.

- Do not drink and drive.

If you are questioned and arrested:

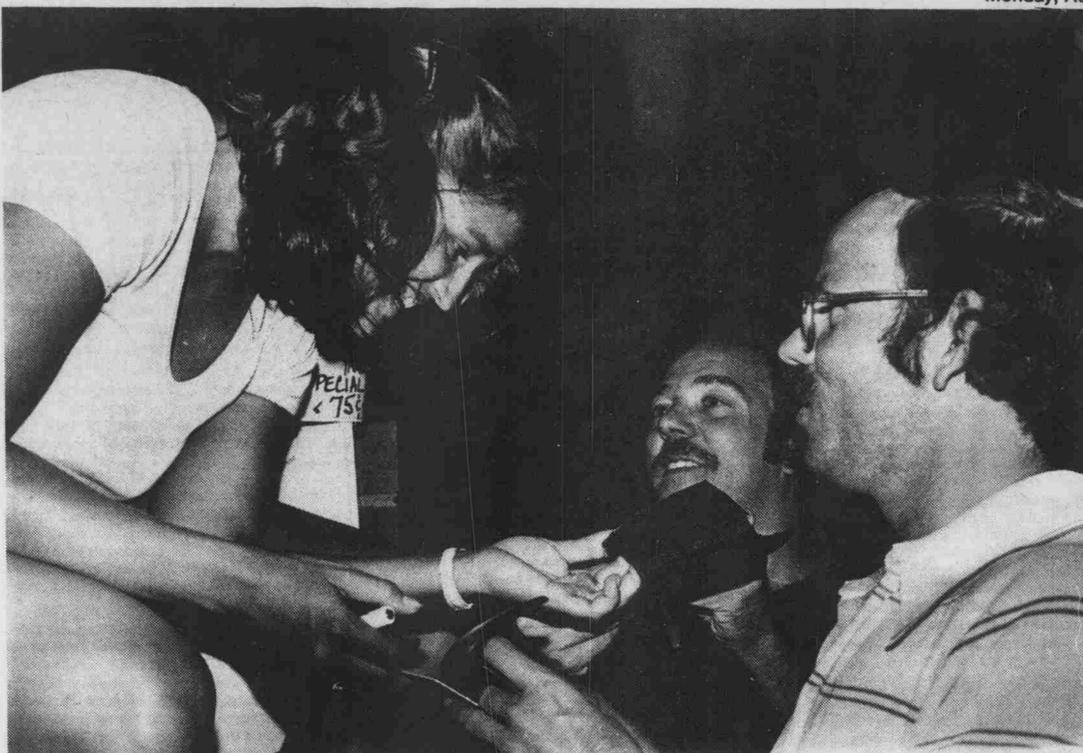
- Do not physically or verbally resist even if you feel you are innocent. Resistance can mean another charge against you.

- Remain silent and do not offer information or explanations. Explanations may incriminate you directly or indirectly. Talk to no one except an attorney about the situation.

- Be aware that you have the right to refuse if the police request consent to search your car or ask you to do it for them. If they search anyway, voice your objection but do not resist. Your person may be searched incident to a lawful arrest. You may request the opportunity to make a telephone call.

- Report an automobile accident to the police if you are involved in one. Make no admissions as to liability of anyone, and if you are insured, contact your insurance agent promptly.

- Remember that your refusal to take a breathalyzer test will result in suspension of your license for one year. You may also be required to perform dexterity tests.



Katy Lichota, a chemistry and biology major, cards Willie Bissette at the Upper Deck while his brother, Garth, a UNC alumnus, looks on. Stricter penalties had led N.C. bars and restaurants to check IDs more thoroughly.

DTH/L. Thomas

# Bars to observe drinking age act

By KATHERINE SCHULTZ  
Staff Writer

When the Safe Roads Act becomes effective on Oct. 1, local bar and restaurant managers expect a slowdown in business but not enough to force beer, wine and liquor prices up.

The North Carolina General Assembly passed the bill to combat drunken driving. Two important measures are the raising of the legal age for buying beer and wine from 18 to 19 and the dramshop law. The dramshop law makes bars, restaurants and stores liable for wrecks caused by under-aged customers.

The law goes into effect Oct. 1, and several bar and restaurant managers said they are prepared.

"Business will slow down because it's cutting out one-fourth of the undergraduates," Four Corners manager Rebecca Ikenberry said. "It won't be so extreme that we will have to raise prices."

Robin Miller, manager of Papagayo Mexican Restaurant, said she expects a decrease in business, but does not expect prices to change because of the new law.

"We plan to expand our lighter menu to include more wine recipes, such as sangria. When business is slowing, it makes sense to offer more variety."

At Spanky's, manager Robert Wease said he thinks business will slow only slightly because of the establishment's older clientele.

Tom Purdy, owner and manager of Purdy's, said fewer than 2 percent of Purdy's members are 18 — not enough to hamper sales.

"We will still allow 18-year-olds on the premises, but they will not be allowed to drink," Purdy said. "Since we'll still allow 18-year-olds on the premises, we'll change our stamp system to include (a stamp) for non-drinkers. We will prosecute those who attempt to break the law."

One problem merchants face is the use of fake identification among those under 19 who want to gain entry to a bar. Purdy's has arrested 25 to 30 offenders in the past six months for using improper identification. Under the old policy, fake ID cards were confiscated.

Other merchants also are making plans to enforce the new law. Four Corners will continue with its policy of prosecuting people attempting to use fake identification.

Papagayo's manager said the restaurant will have a doorman seven nights a week carding and stamping. She said there had been a problem with parents buying drinks for underaged children, which is not allowed.

Wease of Spanky's said management would check identification at the door and, on occasion, at tables. He said there are usually no problems from University students, but instead from high school students.

"Our doorman can usually spot a fake ID," Wease said. "When we get one, we prosecute the person."

## Chapel Hill forms "Z-Squad"

# Police crack down on drunk drivers

By SUE KUHN  
Staff Writer

The recent crackdown on drunken drivers will be stepped up in Chapel Hill when the new Safe Roads Act takes effect Oct. 1.

The law, passed by the North Carolina General Assembly July 13, stiffens penalties for people convicted of driving while impaired. Changes from the current law include mandatory jail sentences, higher fines and the possible forfeiture of the defendant's vehicle.

And the Chapel Hill Police Department is continuing its program of paying patrolmen to work overtime for catching potential DWI offenders.

Under the program, patrol officers have formed a "Z-Squad" of officers to look for offenders. The squad uses marked cars on a shift from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The police department receives \$66,000 per year from a federal grant to fund the program.

Since October 1982, the number of drunken drivers stopped by patrolmen has increased by 85 percent, mainly because of the increase in manpower on the streets.

Using computer data of past offenders charged with driving under the influence, patrol officers also are alerted to potential drunk drivers. Studies show the composite offender is 24½ years of age, white, a student and a resident of Chapel Hill. He will probably take the Breathalyzer test, and will be pulled off the street between 1 and 4 a.m., the data indicates.

*"If we observe any erratic driving ... and discover an odor of alcohol on the driver's breath, then we take action."*

— Carrboro Police Chief A. "Sid" Herjes

"Thirty percent of the people we arrest are students," said Master Officer Gregg Jarvis of the Chapel Hill Police Department. "But they may be high school students or students from N.C. State, Duke, or Virginia. We arrest a lot of out-of-state students after football games."

"The thing about UNC students is that most of them walk."

Target areas for picking up drunk drivers fall along Airport Road between the police station and

Franklin Street, and on West Franklin Street.

During the first year of the CHPD's program — October 1981 through September 1982 — emphasis was placed on traffic accident prevention. The department used its funds to buy and install a computer, enabling police to analyze where accidents most frequently occurred. The grant money also was used to purchase a new Breathalyzer machine, a radar unit and training and public education films.

Beginning last October and continuing through this year, money has been funneled to deal directly with DUI enforcement.

For police in Carrboro, no changes have been made in the town's attempts to minimize drunken driving. Carrboro officials have not received a grant for stricter enforcement.

"If we observe any erratic driving — crossing the center line, weaving in and out of traffic — and discover an odor of alcohol on the driver's breath, then we take action," said Police Chief A. "Sid" Herjes. "But we don't set up any roadblocks."

During the school year, the number of DUI arrests in Carrboro increases only slightly, Herjes said. "Students are not as big a problem as we think," he said.



## alcohol

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.10 percent or higher blood-alcohol rating immediately lose their licenses for 10 days.

The law also includes the following:

- Forfeiture of cars. People who drive with suspended driver's licenses must turn over their cars to law enforcement officials.

- Tougher penalties for minors. Underage drivers who buy beer, wine or liquor illegally will face more stringent penalties, including

lengthy license suspensions for those under 18.

- Roadblocks. Police may use roadblocks to catch drunken drivers.

- Community service. Those convicted of DWI may be required to perform community work in addition to jail terms and fines.

And one compromise measure in the law allows passengers, but not drivers, to drink beer and wine in cars.

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