

If you go to the bars, you are going to be carded

By LISA LORENTZ
News Editor

Although many bartenders in Chapel Hill feel that last year's raise of the drinking age is unfair, they are standing firm against the use of false identification. Would-be drinkers, if you're underage, beware!

Mark Burnett, manager of He's Not Here, said, "I feel bad about the whole thing. I think they (19- and 20-year-olds) are old enough to drink. I wish there was something we could do."

Since there isn't, Burnett said that people who present false identification are given it back and asked to leave the premises.

Bub O'Malley's, a popular new bar in Chapel Hill, does not tolerate the use of fake ID's, according to part owner Greg Burcowy. "It can destroy us," he said. "If we can detect a fake ID, we will turn it into the ALE (Alcohol Law Enforcement) officers and they will prosecute the person. We have a very strong policy about fake ID's."

Burcowy and Burnett both said that they card everyone who wants to come into their bars.

Frank Heath of Cat's Cradle, one of the few bars in Chapel Hill that does admit people under 21, said the person carding at the door will "stamp the underage people on both hands with a different stamp, and require that each individual wear an orange hospital band."

If these people are seen drinking, they are asked to leave, Heath said.

Cat's Cradle often has bands, which provide an alternative to



DTH file photo

A bartender at Henderson Street Bar serves a customer

drinking. Heath said the bands vary, but most of them are local rock bands. Reggae and blues are often featured as well, he said.

Theodore's, a comedy night club on Franklin Street, has a slightly different policy, owner John Treece said. The club allows people who are 19 years of age and older to enter.

"We look for two things when checking an ID," Treece said. "We look at the birthdate and see that it is valid, and then check the expiration date." If the ID is expired, he said, they let the person in, but do not allow him to drink.

Treece said that if the picture does not look like the person, or if the ID has obviously been

tampered with, then Theodore's won't let the person in. Twenty-one-year-olds are stamped on the hand before entering.

Those under 21 who enter Theodore's are not free to consume once inside, Treece said. "We have people walking the floor, who check people drinking for stamps." If the person does not have a stamp on his hand, he said, he must present an ID. If his ID does not say he is 21, he will be asked to put his drink down and leave.

Treece said he only calls the authorities when someone refuses to leave.

Other bars, like Henderson Street and Troll's, also check ID's

of everyone who wants to have a drink on their premises. Like the other bars, the liabilities to the establishments are too great to ignore the use of false identification.

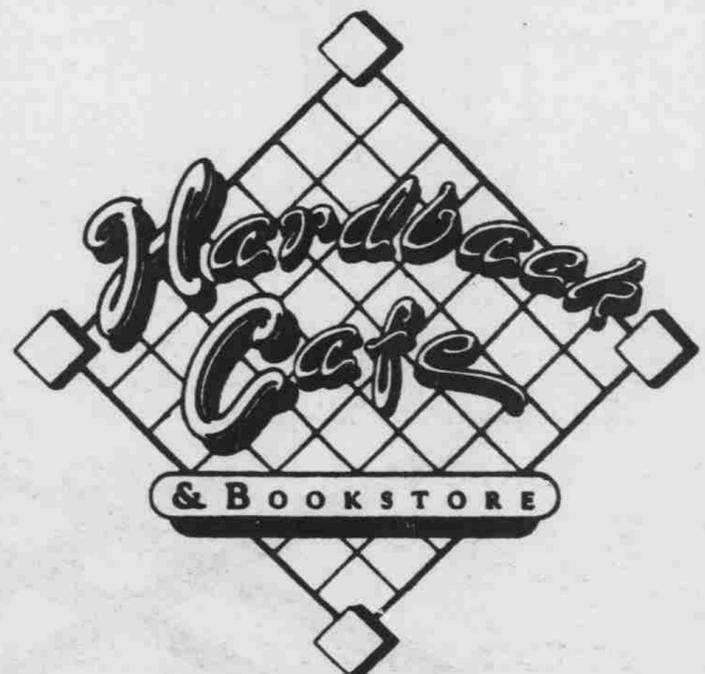
A "1987 I.D. Checking Guide" has been compiled and published by the Federal Drivers License

Guide Company for the use of restaurant owners and bartenders. If you feel that it is physically impossible for you to wait until you are 21 to drink, you should consult this guide to help you in your attempt to fool the local ownership of bars and restaurants.

But remember, they probably have the book as well.



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