

Safe Roads Act Redefines Drunk Driving

By Maureen Ingalls

Since January, North Carolina legislators have been lobbying for passage of a bill to combat the effects of drinking and driving. Previously, there was a wide spectrum of criminal offenses which made prosecution of such cases rather ambiguous. Ratified in early June, a new measure, the Safe Roads Act, totally redefines the regulation of drunk driving.

Most importantly, the law to take effect October 1, 1983 will focus on one crime-impaired driving (from alcohol content to controlled substances to both) which will, as one analysis said, "eliminate officials' discretion on charging." Five levels of severity in punishment will ensure fairness and some measure of standardness in sentencing. For repeated offenders, mandatory jail terms will be instituted. Lesser offenses will result in one of three punishments-- jail, license revocation, and community service work. Referral to alcohol treatment facilities will be part of the new concept in confronting drunk driving.

During a recent meeting held at Duke University and hosted by the North Carolina Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the "Safe Driving Act" was discussed with particular reference to effects upon col-



lege campuses. Legislator Lancaster of Goldsboro, one of the initiators of the policy, described the new provisions of the statute. A staunch supporter of its concept, Lancaster said that the measure was a more "comprehensive standpoint on approaching the problem" of drunk driving. He cited driving while impaired as the most "conclusive factor" in assuring prosecution.

Provisions of the new measure focus upon the five levels of punishment mentioned before based upon severity of conviction. Restitution for criminal activity was instituted to reduce arbitrariness and prosecution Administrative revocation of licenses will be another

thrust of the Safe Roads Act which should, as Lancaster said, provide a "slap in the face" to those whose driving indicates probable cause of impairment.

As of October 1 the status of limited driving privileges will be radically different. In the past, judges have had no strict code for designating specific driving privileges thus punishment was inconsequential. Only hardship cases i.e. transportation to school or place of employment, will be given any special consideration.

The "roadblock testing" provision in the Act provides a statutory framework for enforcement of the drinking and driving prohibition. Winston-Salem has coord-

inated such a campaign, said Lancaster, which has been successful in random selection of vehicle operators. Law enforcement officials conducting a roadblock may ask the driver to submit to an alcohol detection test.

The raising of the legal drinking age to nineteen is perhaps, for college students the most controversial measure that will be effective October 1. The primary impetus for the legislators to lobby so strongly for the change was to "get drinking out of the high school," said Lancaster. The long range plan in Raleigh is to attempt to raise the age next year to 20 and the following year to 21 if statistics indicate that the new law has not had a significant impact upon society.

One aspect of the age issue is verification. As part of the Act, a provision was included that designated only four accepted forms of identification. These are Motor Vehicle registration card, passport, military ID, and operator's driver's license. ABC permittees have been instructed not to sell alcohol to anyone not possessing one of these four types.

Owners of such establishments also will reserve the right to verify their validity. A crackdown on fraudulent or altered ID's has led to the loss of license, jail sentencing, or fines as punishment for these criminal offenses.

As a new and stronger provision, any situation in which probable cause is formed with a 16-18 year old under the influence of controlled substances or alcohol, automatic revocation of license will result for 45 days or age 18 whichever is longer.

The "dram shop" section of the Safe Roads Act is perhaps the most untested of the provisions. Briefly, this provision places responsibility for alcohol-related injury or death upon the giver or seller of alcohol if the receiver was underage or already intoxicated. Strict penalties for the giver or seller have been instituted but as of yet there has been little litigation in this area.

In order to deal with this in the St. Andrews community, a joint effort has been made through the Student Life Committee/Student Life Staff and the Student Association. The initial objective of this task force is to inform all members (residential and non-residential) of the new measures to be effective October 1 of this year. In order to assure the success of this education program, community wide effort is encouraged so that questions may be addressed and answered. Within the next several weeks, students should be aware of any resulting changes in St. Andrews policy in order to become more congruent with changes in state law.

Forum Dark Ages

In the beginning, God created heaven and earth, and He saw that this was good. Then God said "Let there be light," but there was no light. It was then that He knew He was at St. Andrews. In many ways, it would seem as if St. Andrews has entered the Dark Ages. Our telephone services have been cut off after 5 p.m.; and after dark, our school is not properly lit.

People are forced to walk in pairs or not go out at all. Parents and friends are forced to wait until the next day to get in touch with their sons

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THE
COWIE
APPEARING
Nightly

Defying Gravity



David Propst

A much missed face is back at St. Andrews after a years absence. Dr. Leon Applegate, associate professor of biology, returned in July from Taiwan, where he had been teaching at Tunghai University.

During his stay Leon had the opportunity to dive and study the marine life around the coral reefs off the southern end of Taiwan. After discovering that there had been very few studies of the tidal zone echinoderms (starfish) of southern Taiwan, Leon applied to the National Science Council of Taiwan for a grant to study organisms. A month later he received the grant. The money was used to buy supplies, scuba equipment, and to transport students to research sites.

The result of Leon's work was the finding of 17 newly described species of echinoderms for Taiwan, plus a possible discovery of a previously unknown species of serpent star. Specimens of the starfish have been sent to the British Museum for confirmation. In January an article by Leon describing his work will be published in "Academica Sinica"; the publication of the Taiwanese National Science Council.

During February Leon and Caroline, his wife traveled to the island of Negros in the Philippines. There he was welcomed at Sillman University in Dumaguette, where he was given an office and lab space for his work. In addition to his discovery of six newly reported species of echinoderms in the area, Leon also checked out the super-

natural elements of the Philippines.

He did this while visiting the island of Suqor, 7 miles from Negros. After arriving at the island's hotel and finding it full he had the experience of sleeping on a couch in the hotel lobby with two great danes. He later visited the town of Maria on the island. Maria is the center of witchcraft in the Philippines. Leon "hung around and listened to stories" through the day. He discovered the witches there, male and female, "do what witches usually do-- curse people, take off curses, spiritual healing, even bloodless surgery".

Later in the year Leon traveled to Orchid Island, about 40 miles off Taiwan's coast. There he met an Hungarian anthropologist from the University of Pennsylvania who was studying the culture of a primitive tribe on the island, the Yami. Leon learned that the Yami were a very superstitious people, and he was to have a chance to better understand their superstitions.

Orchid Island is a "brooding island" formed of black lava. At the base of the black mountain the Yami call the "Devil's Mountain", sharp cliffs drop into the ocean. Here is where the Yami bury their dead in the recesses pounded into the cliffs by the sea. The Yami call it the "Place of Death".

Leon had the chance to dive at the "Place of Death" one evening with his anthropologist friend and two Yami men. He described the experience as "erie". Before the Yami men would dive they placed blades of a sharp grass in the straps of their masks and in their swimsuits, and had Leon and his friend to do the same. The reason for this was that the Yami believe that while ghosts cannot be harmed by knives, the sharp grass will cut them. Thus the grass would protect them from spirits in the water. The men then sang a chant to the gods and ghosts asking for permission to enter the sea safely. Leon said of the evening, "that night I could believe in ghosts myself".