



"I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it." - Voltaire

## Why a Legal Drinking Age?

By: Matthew Peak

Have you ever wondered why a person can fight for their country at eighteen, but cannot drink alcohol until they are twenty-one? Seems a little strange, but there is a real reason behind the American drinking age.

It began after Prohibition ended in 1966, with Mississippi being the last state to repeal their laws outlawing alcoholic. It was decided that even though alcohol was legal, it would only be freely available to adults and the arbitrary age of twenty-one was chosen as the minimum legal drinking age. Twenty-nine states went below the established drinking age and set ages as low as eighteen, but generally, alcohol was restricted to those under twenty-one. The lowering of the age was meant to coincide with the lowering of the age for other activities such as voting.

Scientific studies in the 70's began focusing on whether a lower drinking age had an effect on the number of traffic fatalities. These findings indicated that a lowered drinking age increased the driving fatalities among youths legally allowed to drink. Citizen advocacy groups began pressuring states to bring their drinking age back up to twenty-one. Between 1976 and 1983, sixteen states place their drinking age back at twenty-one. Several states resisted and the federal government was concerned that youth would cross state lines and gain alcohol at a younger age. The result was the Uniform Drinking Age Act, a 1984 bill that reduced transportation funds to states that kept their drinking age below twenty-one. So, it is now illegal to consume alcohol if a person is younger than twenty-one.

## St. Andrews – Landfill?

By: Kristina Goodspeed

I'm sure we've all seen it: candy bar wrappers on the bridge on our way to class, popsicle sticks outside the cafeteria, red plastic cups in the dorm yard of Orange; reminders of the not-so-dry party on Saturday night. Our campus is a public trash can. We should not allow this to be a problem on campus.

For starters, litter does not make the grounds prettier, despite the color it adds. The grass should be green. St. Andrews hosts several tours a day. To visitors, this presents our college as unclean. It also shows disrespect, towards us, as students. If we can't keep our environment tidy, what are our personal spaces like? Our routines?

Junk in open places poses a health risk as well. We may not think of it, but it does. I'm not only referring to fellow students but to the friendly fish and ducks who offer their company.

I offer a challenge to my fellow classmates – next time, think about picking up the debris instead of depositing it!



(Picture in courtesy of Kristina Goodspeed)



(Picture in Courtesy of Kristina Goodspeed)

## Questioning "Mr. Bush's War" and the Armed Forces.

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is another issue I, and this email, want to address. There are people who, sadly, don't quite understand why men and women in the military do what they do. Over two years ago, an exchange between Senator John Glenn and Senator Howard Metzenbaum took place that not only provided an example of what some citizens who have never served think of the armed forces, but also gave a moving explanation of why men and women choose the military as a career. The discussion, which is also in the email, commenced like this:

Senator Metzenbaum (speaking to Senator Glenn): "How can you run for Senate when you've never held a real job?"

Senator Glenn (D-Ohio): "I served 23 years in the United States Marine Corps. I served through two wars. I flew 149 missions. My plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire on 12 different occasions. I was in the Space Program. It wasn't my checkbook, Howard; it was my life on the line. It was not a nine-to-five job, where I took time off to take the daily cash receipts to the bank. "I ask you to go with me . . . as I went the other day . . . to a veteran's hospital and look those men . . . with their mangled bodies in the eye, and tell THEM they didn't hold a job!"

"You go with me to the Space Program at NASA and go, as I have gone, to the widows and orphans of Ed White, Gus Grissom and Roger Chaffee . . . and you look those kids in the eye and tell them that their DADS didn't hold a job. "You go with me on Memorial Day and you stand in Arlington National Cemetery, where I have more friends buried than I'd like to remember, and you watch those waving flags. "You stand there, and you think about this nation, and you tell ME that those people didn't have a job? "What about you?"

Here's something about Howard Metzenbaum that most of us don't know. Back during World War II, he was an attorney representing the Communist Party in the United States. Makes you wonder how he came to be a Senator, doesn't it?

Well, I think I've ranted long enough, but I want to make one suggestion before you turn the page. If you ever check your e-mail and find an e-mail titled "Senator Glenn's comments", don't delete it. Take a moment to read it, and then consider your thoughts about President George Bush and the armed forces. If your opinions change for the better, great! Even if your viewpoints on the war don't change, be sure to forward it to everyone you know, so that they might have the chance to benefit from it. Either way, just keep circulating it!