

associate editorial

# Wet or Dry on Nov. 6

by rusty rogers

North Carolina's antiquated liquor laws are under fire again and the situation will come to a climax next month at polls throughout the state. On Nov. 6, tarheel voters will mark their X's for or against liquor-by-the-drink in a statewide referendum.

Sound familiar? It should, because it all happened at this same time last year, and the law was passed! Well then, some of you may ask, what happened to it? It seems that the "dry" forces didn't care what the majority wanted so they took the referendum to court where it was declared unconstitutional and so "John Barleycorn" was locked away in his little brown bag for another year. So why bring it up again this year? Well, this year's vote is different. If the bill passes next month it will only give each separate county the right to say yes or no to liquor-by-the-drink. The whole thing will be left up to the county commissioners to decide on. It would seem to some of us that a very big fuss is being made over nothing, but let's examine some aspects of both sides and then decide for ourselves.

Now some dry forces would have us believe that the whole thing is a moral question. They preach that liquor is "evil" and it will "rain destruction upon our state." It seems that some people just go around looking for things to preach about.

Other dries stress the fact that if the bill is passed, then liquor consumption will increase, thus increasing the number of drunk driving accidents in the state. They also state that with

liquor-by-the-drink the control of alcohol goes from the ABC board into the hands of the bartender where it could be misused. Another problem that will be created, the dries say, is that profits from liquor sales will go to restaurant and hotel owners and not to the state where they belong. All of these reasons will be used by the dry forces to get you to vote no on Nov. 6.

Now let's examine the reasons that the "wets" use to get us to vote yes.

The first thing they will tell you is that liquor is not new to North Carolina but has been a part of our society for many years. True, but not much basis for the passage of liquor-by-the-drink. Next they'll state factual surveys taken in other states, South Carolina and Virginia, that prove liquor consumption has not risen but has decreased since the initiation of mixed drinks. This decrease has also reduced the number of drunk driving accidents and related alcohol problems.

The wets will agree with the dries about increased profits for bar owners but they will also show you that the owners will still have to buy their liquor from the state and will have to pay the required tax on each bottle. Plus, liquor used for mixed drinks will be taxed an extra five dollars per gallon, so the state will not be losing any of that all important revenue. Owners of establishments that will sell mixed drinks will be subject to strict inspection and will have to pay a high price for their permits to sell. Strict controls will be enacted by the

state and the supervision of alcohol distribution should be strengthened.

Who is right? Are the dries too old fashioned? Are the wets too progressive? These questions can only be answered by the voters of North Carolina. Where will you put your X on November 6th?

Below are some comments from various students on their ideas about liquor-by-the-drink. If you agree, disagree, or just think it's all a waste of time anyway, please feel free to express your comments to the Journal.

Marty Redmond - "I think the dry forces are making a big stink about nothing. Liquor has been sold in North Carolina for a long time and liquor-by-the-drink is just another form of selling it."

Ron McCorduck - "I'm very much in favor of it. It's about time this state caught up with the rest of the country."

Teresa James - "I don't really like the idea of liquor-by-the-drink because it'll cost a lot more than brown bagging."

Tony Adams - "I really don't care, I'm not of legal drinking age anyway!"

## the good clean campaign

by pat miller

There is apparently something new in the political campaign at UNCC. There have always been saturation campaigns, clever-slogan campaigns, and drag-you-to-the-polls campaigns on this campus, not to mention expensive campaigns and visit-your-room campaigns (Porter Aldridge of last year, for instance). But now things are changing. Now, as I have recently discovered, someone is running for a student office on a platform buttressed with Christianity.

Why is so-and-so running for such-and-such an office? Of course, because he is concerned about students and willing to serve and aware and...also, because he is a Christian. This is no ruse. The posters I have seen say, why is he running? He is a Christian.

This certainly implies a cause-and-effect relationship. Is there something in being a Christian that impels someone to run for student office? Some desire for suffering, or martyrdom? Or is it simply a wish to bring spiritual enrichment to student government, to clean it up by such a change? Here? AT UNCC? Maybe it's the only thing left to be tried.

It is perhaps wiser to assume that the candidate under discussion feels there is a practical benefit in advertising his spiritual alignment. Here he may have a point, because Christianity continues to have a powerful revival all across this nation and the world, not to mention the UNCC campus. The pages of this very paper periodically carry Good News, a Christian-oriented column by George Berkin, and that (and George) are pretty strong manifestations of the movement by themselves. So perhaps the candidate envisions a massing at the polls by UNCC neo-Pentecostals who feel they have found their candidate.

The most discordant thing about this quasi-religious endeavour is that so much of the campaign relies on the candidate's Christianity. The posters imply that that factor is just as important as the candidate's willingness to serve. Usually, being a good Christian (or pretending to be) is only one facet of a good political campaign package. But this candidate obviously intends to invest everything in his hoped-for office with the spirit of his religiosity. What can that lead us to expect?

A praying Legislature? Bibles in the dresser drawers of the dorms? An SGA willing to turn its other cheek to the administrations deaf ear? Or even, more humility in the higher echelons of student government? A more fervent Richard Butterfield? Or, as suggested by another cynic, a flock of angels on the Belk Tower?

There are no more thoughts to be extrapolated here. The final note to be noted is in way of admiration for the candidate here discussed, because he obviously understands the purpose of education very well. He is exhibiting an understanding of the perpetual curiosity that true education cultivates. For like any other stimulating concept, his candidacy certainly, obviously, raises more questions than it could ever answer.

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### The Doctor cont.

I compared a couple hundred letters received four years ago with a couple hundred received this spring. While early on there was a lot of concern about masturbation in the letters, that seems to have decreased. Now I'm interested in seeing what's going to happen - if there's going to be an increase in concern in terms of interpersonal relations, or in general medical sorts of things.

Journal: From your column and professional experience, what kind of medical information do you think a student entering college should be provided by the health service?

The Dr.: I think a student entering college should have available to him or her a full range of medical services, which includes the area of contraceptives and counseling about sexual matters. There should be comprehensive services available, and these things should be private between the student and the health service, should not involve parents or others. Students entering college are at the point where they have to start assuming full responsibility for their own health. A university might help this being accomplished by making it part of their definition of a liberal arts education. Health services should be comprehensive, confidential, between the students and the physician.

When I say comprehensive services, I include such things as pregnancy counseling and abortion, ver clearly. I feel that a university health service has particular opportunities to help its young population manage certain things in their life which at that point will have a very beneficial effect on their future. Sometimes this can mean managing things that have not worked out well, such as becoming pregnant. To help them deal with that effectively, and learn from the experience, can have an extraordinarily positive effect on a person's life.

Journal: Is there any final word you'd like to give to your readers?

The Dr.: Yeah...I'd like to thank all my readers for reading me, and for sending in the questions. I say with all sincerity that my readers have given me very much of an education myself. They have caused me to learn a great deal about what it is that bothers people. I admire and appreciate the candor and frankness of the questions that I receive.

I am certainly very touched by people's willingness to share such intimate concerns with me. I deeply appreciate the trust that goes along with that. If anyone doubts it, it has had considerable impact on the way I see people and their problems. I understand what goes on with people and their worries much better than I did before I started to write this.

(With this issue of the Journal the Doctor's Bag Column will be resumed with new material. Thanks are directed to Jim Smallridge and especially, radio station WVFN, for their help in facilitating this interview.)

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