

How Around Map Around

State Could Change The Legal Drinking Age

There is a proposal (sponsored by Mel Zimmer, Democrat, Syracuse) before the New York State Legislature to change the legal drinking age from 18 back to 21. Through this proposal, the state joins 10 other states, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont and Wisconsin, which have legislation pending to push the drinking age back up.

Thus far, nine of the 27 states that had lowered the drinking age from 21 to 18, or 19 have approved laws raising the legal drinking age. Why? For one thing, police sentiment against teenage drinking has grown and for another, legislative and public opinion has swung to a more conservative viewpoint of the matter.

One reason for these

changing attitudes on teen drinking is the reported increase in alcohol-related accidents.

In a 1979 Religious News Service report it was noted that a U.S. General Accounting Office study showed that social acceptance of drinking and driving is primarily responsible for an estimated 25,000 traffic fatalities each year. And more recently a study by the Michigan state police reported that after the drinking age was lowered in that state, alcohol-related traffic fatalities involving 18-20 year-olds has increased by 132 per cent.

There are pros and cons as to the effectiveness of raising the drinking age and of course young adults have their own opinions such as — changing the laws won't end young peoples drinking habits. They insist the availability of

alcohol is always there no matter what laws are changed, and that if they are considered of legal age at 18 for voting, working, and a possible draft situation, why not for drinking.

This year, with the New York State executive budget proposing a cut back in funds for alcohol education in the schools, the responsibility may be put right back into parent hands. Alcohol experts have emphasized that parental direction is an important way to solve the teenage drinking problem. That it is necessary to show them through example that a responsible drinker sets limits on his or her drinking; a responsible drinker never drinks to get drunk; drinking large amounts of alcohol is not a sign of maturity and a person does not use alcohol as an escape from reality or as a problem solver.



Photo by Joan M. Smith

Mercy Activity

"Winnie the Pooh" will be presented by Mercy's Childrens Theater. School group performances will be March 26, 27, 28 at 9:30 a.m. General public presentation will be Saturday, March 29, 2 p.m. Tickets sold at door: students, \$1; adults, \$2. Playing the lead roles are: (sitting) Renee Wierszewski; (standing from left) Andi Koller, Angela Avallone, Maureen Dooher, and Suzanne Roman; and (kneeling) Terry Bonn. In bottom photo are the committee members who are spearheading the school's Mission Day, March 21-22, 7-11 p.m. Sitting from left are: Maureen Scanlan, Ellen Deisenroth, Barbara Lockemyer, Sue Scheg, Kathy Powderly. Standing are Mary Beth Zancke, Molly Meath, Maureen Gawlik, Juli Schmidt, Sister Nancy Whitley, and Tammy Proeto.



Equal Time

Do you think New York State should raise the legal drinking age to 21.

OUR LADY OF MERCY

ALYNN MAGGIULLI
Senior
National Honor Society

"No, because if we are legal adults at 18, and we can vote, fight wars and go to work, we're old enough to drink. Concerning the increased statistics regarding youth and driving while intoxicated, I've known older people who have been picked-up for that. It's easy to point the finger especially at young adults."

MARGO HEINDL
Junior
CSMC

"I don't think they should raise the age — people who aren't 18 now can still get liquor and so will people who aren't 21. Whether they raise the age or not there will still be the same problem with DWIs — it might even become a greater problem."

CHERYL CICCONO
Junior

"No, because if they raise the drinking age, and if the young people want to drink, they will be able to get it — they'll find ways of getting it. If the state does raise it, it will make the teenagers want to go out and drink. They'll rebel if it's raised and only want to drink more. I think they should leave it at 18."

SUSAN D'AGOSTINO
Junior
cheerleading

"I don't think the age should be raised — even if they do, the same number of kids will drink. I know 16 year olds that are able to obtain liquor — so regardless of whether they change the law they will be able to obtain liquor. Teenagers drink because it's a new challenge, and it gives them a sense of being grown-up and important; also they like to be noticed."

TERRY BURKE
Senior
track

"No, I've waited too long to be 18 and would hate to wait until I'm 21 years old. I think an 18 year old is as capable of handling alcohol as well as a 21 year old."

LAURIE CIMINO
Senior

"No, I don't because I don't feel that at 21 you have any greater tolerance for liquor than when 18. It all depends on the person. If young adults are going to drink they will obtain the liquor somehow. If they can work and do other things they can drink. The availability of alcohol doesn't determine alcoholism."

KATHLEEN O'HEANEY
Sophomore
drama

"If the drunk driving rate has gone up because of 18 year olds drinking than I feel they should push the drinking age back up to 21. But even if they do, teenagers will be able to obtain the liquor without any problem. I think the law will be pushing them into drinking rather than stopping it."

JUDY SMITH
Sophomore
SGA

"I think they should if it means less potential danger. I think a 21 year old can control drinking better. As far as the argument — if we're old enough to be drafted — I think 18 is too young to be drafted! I still think they'll be able to get alcohol but they will be more careful about drinking. I think drinking is a problem among young people because it's just something to do."

On The Go

AQUINAS
Wednesday, March 19 — Penance service, 1 p.m.
Saturday, March 22 — Student Council dance.
Sunday, March 23 — Freshman registration, 2-5 p.m.
Tuesday, March 25 — Parents Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.

BISHOP KEARNEY
Wednesday, March 19 — Mass, boys oratory, 2:30 p.m.; senior banquet, Burgundy Basin Inn, 6:30 p.m.

CARDINAL MOONEY
Wednesday, March 19 — Senior girls retreat.
Thursday, March 20 — Seventh grade visits, 12:30-2 p.m.
Friday, March 21 — Spring Concert, 8 p.m.
Saturday, March 22 — Junior class marathon dance, gym, 10:30 a.m.-11 p.m.; Sisters residence faculty and staff gourmet dinner.
Sunday, March 23 —

Freshmen class Liturgy and liturgy breakfast, 8 a.m.-12: noon.
Tuesday, March 25 — Primary election day, 12-9 p.m.

DESALES
Wednesday, March 19 — Feast of St. Joseph, school liturgy.

MCQUAID
Wednesday, March 19 — Faculty meetings, dismissal, 1:28 p.m.; College information night for junior year parents, 8 p.m.
Saturday, March 22 — Registration for eighth and ninth grades, 8:45-11:45 p.m.
Monday, March 24 — NTID assembly, 9:35 and 10:34 a.m.

NAZARETH
Thursday, March 20 — Junior class meeting, auditorium, 8:30 a.m.; recruitment, English, Art, Religious Studies department meetings.
Friday, March 21 — Recruitment, 9-1 a.m.; 1:40

p.m.
Saturday, March 22 — Father-daughter dinner dance, in school, 6-11 p.m.
March 23-29 — National Foreign Language Week.
Monday, March 24 — Freshmen rep meeting, 2:40-3:15 p.m.; softball tryouts, 2:50 p.m.; talent show tryouts, 2:40-3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 25 — Junior class Mass; Soph Tones, 2:40-3:30 p.m.; Student Council rep meeting, 2:40-3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 26 — Senior Mass.

OUR LADY OF MERCY
March 21-22 — Mission Bazaar.
March 22-28 — Re-registration.

ST. AGNES
Thursday, March 20 — Daffodil Day for Cancer Association.
Friday, March 21 — Closing assembly for candy drive.
Saturday, March 22 — SAT test, 8:30 a.m.
March 24-28 — Music in the Schools Week.