The East Carolinian

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Drinking

Dealing With The New Drinking Age

Sometime this week each student will receive a polite letter from Dr. Elmer Meyer, vice chancellor for student life. The content of the letter will explain the first and most effective step ECU will take in handling the change in the drinking age.

The letter says that even though the state legislature has set Sept. 1 as the official deadline by which the drinking age must be changed from 19 to 21, ECU has chosen to recognize the change on campus effective Aug. 1.

The initial response to this statement is usually something akin to, "it's bad enough the state is raising the drinking age, now the University has to beat them to the punch."

But when you think about it, there is nothing else they can do. The administration is just doing their best to avoid the inevitable difficulties that are inherent in such a law change. They're trying to cope as best they can while maintaining good student/University relations.

The question that remains, however, is how else will the law change effect students and what is the University doing to cope with the situation?

Last October, Dr. Meyer assigned the ECU Alcohol/Drug Education Committee to study the impact on this campus of the new drinking age law, and to make recommendations regarding how the University should respond.

The resulting report was a reflection of an open minded committee that chose to face the realities of the situation with a healthy attitude.

The committee, for example, took the approach that realisticly there would be very strong feelings concerning the new law and that those feelings should be considered while implementing new policies. In short, the committee didn't make a move without considering the students first.

Another plus was the way in which the committee chose to interpret the new law. Keeping in mind the new law allows for a maximum fine of only $25, the committee suggested a moderate approach to the issue, one of "sensitivity, wisdom, and reasonableness."

This is not to say the University will turn its back on on those who break the law; rather it will approach the situation with understanding. At least, this is the philosophy expressed by the committee, application of said philosophy is something we'll have to see for ourselves.

In any case, the University has taken the right approach. They understand that college students will drink what they want when they please, regardless of the legal drinking age; and that any change in drinking habits will come gradually if at all.

In fact, the committee's report quotes a survey conducted by Professor Jerry Lotterhos with students enrolled in alcohol abuse classes here at ECU that helps to support this point of view.

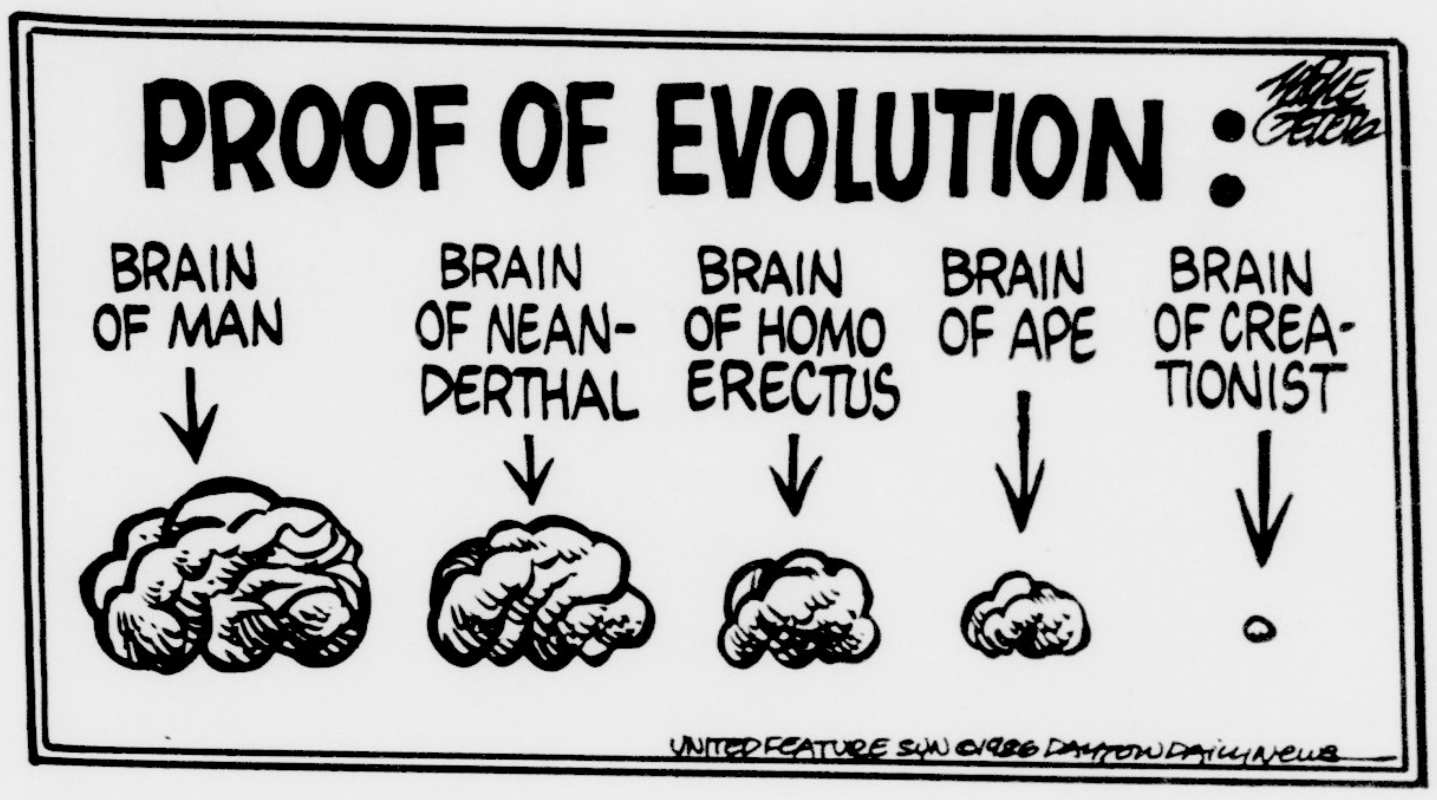
"Of 200 students surveyed, most of whom can presently drink legally, but who will lose that right under the new law, not a single student said they intended to stop drinking under the new law. Most felt they would simply drink in situations where they would not be likely to be apprehended."

Of course, this also means no public drinking, which, in turn, spells trouble for downtown merchants. Perhaps the biggest and most immediate effect the age change will have will be on local nightclubs. Most clubs will either close down or turn private, serving only persons 21 years of age.

To counter this effect the committee recommended that the University support the establishment of a non-alcoholic nightclub which will offer good food and quality entertainment; something few of the nightclubs presently offer.

Also, the University has foreseen increased participation in campus sponsored programs and athletics and they will monitor these programs in the near future to see if expansion is warrented.

Undoubtedly, the change in the drinking age will have a signifigant and lasting effect on the campus and the community. Fortunately for us the University has anticipated these effects and has adopted a healthy, reasonable attitude toward working with the students to deal with them.



Defending The Porn Commission

On The Right

By WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY

The attack on the report of the pornography commission continues. Its weapons are ridicule and simulated fear. The ridicule centers on the idea of a dozen investigators traveling industriously through pornland taking notes; the fear is expressed in terms of taking from the people what is theirs through the patrimony of the First Amendment.

It is worth, I think, a moment or two to reflect on the inherent position of those who find the whole anti-porn venture so preposterous. What emerges is a contempt for those who accepted the commission — to investigate the volume of the porn industry and the reaches of its perversity, and to inquire whether that industry induces anti-social behavior — and a protective feeling toward the porn merchants.

Here is a nice example. Robert Scheer of the ***Los Angeles Times*** and ***Playboy***, describing the investigative activities of the commission, came to an on-the-spot visit to "one of those establishments" in Houston that sells porn and otherwise caters to its customers in individual booths.

"As everyone watched, a bullet-headed vice cop yanked open the door (of a booth) and announced in a loud voice, 'And here we have two men engaged in an act of oral copulation!' The men looked up in astonishment at the eleven commissioners."

Scheer's comment: "What business was it of a U.S. Commission on Pornography to get down and dirty into the pathetic attempts of some of this world's most forlorn, desperate and lonely inhabitants to find a few moments of whatever brings them as close to joy as they will get? These were two human beings!"

It apparently does not occur to the critics that precisely it is a concern for human beings that animates those who worry about the volume of porn being manufactured. The scene within the booth was a pretty clear expression of the three-dimentional facilities being provided by those porn merchants whose services extend beyond merely graphic displays of carnal activity.

And the intellectual argument has to be rescued, that argument being that society has a stake in what appetites are being slaked and stimulated by the free market.

The apparent rubric by which they are being guided is as simple as this: There is manifestly an appetite for porn. There are people willing to cater to this appetite. Why should not the willing buyer and the willing seller enter into conventional arrangements?

Surely the reason for it is that lust is an appetite that needs to be regulated. We live in a free society that, just to begin with, regulates that appetite by authorizing only a single marriage at one time. The mere assertion of the authority to do so distinguishes the attitude of society toward sex as a civil relationship from other appetites.

If power is what you wish, you can work for it subject to the restraints of the maket, namely democratic acquiescence. And even then, you are subject to certain denials in the exercise of power specified by the Bill of Rights.

Gluttony would be an example of an appetite society adopts no legal position about. Cooking editors and food writers are free to cater to the obese in such a way as to tempt them to even greater obesity.

The only sanction against obesity in our society is social: People are generally put off by overweight, which is why diets and diet books are also an industry.

But a sophisticated society acknowledges that sex is often an unruly passion, and for that reason lust is stimulated with some sense of civil propriety. It is still illegal to wander naked down the streets, because modesty of a rudimentary kind is acknowledged to be a civil interest.

Sex leads to the creation of what Mr. Scheer, with an exclamation point, would call a human being! A human being carelessly eventuating from booth-type sexual encounters is a heavy responsibility, ostensibly of the parents, actually of the state — abandoned children are properly provided for by the state.

What astonishes is that the porn merchants should suddenly find themselves the objects of concern by so many critics. Robert Scheer introduces one member of the commissiion as follows: "Father Bruce Ritter (is) a Catholic priest committed to banishing porn from Times Square," going on to quote Father Ritter as opposed to porn for religious, not social science, reasons.

Scheer did not bother to say about Father Ritter that he has devoted himself to rescuing young girls and boys enticed to New York City to practice prostitution.

Why are we so concerned about the pornographers? Why don't they merit the contempt that, paradoxically, is harnessed now against those who profit from drugs? Isn't it more sensible to think of porn merchants as occupying territory nearer to the drug merchants that to those who use the First Amendment to give us entertainment and learning?

Campus Spectrum Rules

In addition to the "Campus Forum" section of the Editorial Page, The East Carolinian has re-established the "Campus Spectrum." This is an opinion column featuring guest writers from the student body and faculty. The columns printed in the "Campus Spectrum" will contain current topics of concern to the campus, community or nation.

The columns are restricted in content only with regard to rules of grammer and decency. Persons submitting columns must be willing to accept "by-line" credit for their efforts, as no entrys from ghost writers will be published.

Persons interested in participating or seeking further information may contact Daniel Maurer, managing editor of The East Carolinian at 757-6366, or stop by our offices on the second floor of the Publications Building.

Campus Forum

Story May Leave False Impression

Dear Editor:

I am concerned that The East Carolinian readers may form an erroneous impression based on your article "Profs Harass Women" in the July 16 issue. The piece reports on a ***Glamour*** magazine article in which administrators of colleges are said to prefer that students who are being sexually harassed cope with the problem privately rather than acknowledge it.

This may be the case for some administrators at other schools but it does not apply to us. ECU has a policy prohibiting sexual harassment and when such an offense is reported to us, we take steps to insure that the harassment stops. But if we don't know about the problem, we can't help. If sexual harassment occurs, students should report it immediately.

Dr. Mary Ann Rose
Assistant to the Chancellor
for Special Assignments

Campus Forum Rules

The East Carolinian welcomes letters expressing all points of view. Mail or drop them by our office in the Publications Building, across from the entrance of Joyner Library.

For purposes of verification, all letters must include the name, major and classification, address, phone number and signature of the author(s). Letters are limited to two typewritten pages, double-spaced or neatly printed. All letters are subject to editing for brevity, obscenity and libel, and no personal attacks will be permitted. Students, faculty and staff writing letters for this page are reminded that they are limited to one every five issues.

Editorial Columnist Wanted:

The East Carolinian is presently seeking regular student columnists to represent opposing points of view. Interested parties may stop by our offices in the publications building or call 757-6366.

Keeping Latin America Solvent

The New Republic

The money it's going to take to keep Latin America solvent can only come from three sources: (1) the United States, other Western governments, and the multilateral lending agencies Western taxpayers support; (2) the Latin countries themselves; or (3) the commerial banks that loaned the money in the first place.

So far, the first two have been stuck with the tab. Debtor countries have gotten new credits from the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank in exchange for adopting economic austerity measures. These measures enable them to keep up interest payments to the banks but punish their already impoverished citizens.

And neither taxpayers north of the border nor campesinos south of it have gotten much in return for their sacrifice. Austerity measures have dried up what were once markets for the goods American workers produce. Latin countries are no longer able to sustain economic growth.

Meanwhile, falling oil prices once again have brought Mexico near the brink of default. There is still an ominous possibility that a major debtor, or a group of them, may simply say "enough" and repudiate the debts.

Faced with the failure of the debt policy that the Reagan administration has followed up to now, Treasury Secretary James Baker introduced a new plan last October. Billed as a comprehensive solution to the debt crisis, the Baker plan called for $9 billion in new lending by the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to Latin countries over the next three years and $20 billion in new commercial bank lending.

The conditions for these new credits would emphasize free markets rather than austerity. Debtor countries would have to trim their bloated state sectors, stop protecting inefficient firms from import competition, and open up to foreign investment.

But the Baker plan has never really gotten off the ground. Even if the new credits it offered were sufficient — which they probably weren't — relieving the debt burden by piling on more debt is a dubious idea.

Nationalistic Latin governments bristled at making specfic economic reforms a condition of U.S. aid, especially given the harsh austerity they've already had imposed on them. In any case, commercial banks were reluctant to throw another $20 billion worth of good money after bad.

Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey has a better idea. His proposal for the debt problem also would have the World Bank and development banks boost lending by $9 billion over the next three years. But instead of counting on commercial banks to lend more money, Bradley would require them to slice three percentage points off both the interest and principal Latin debtors owe. (Government lenders would take the same hit.)

That's $57 billion worth of relief over the next three years, $42 billion of which would still have to make internal reforms to qualify, but the specific measures would be left up to them.

This has the advantage of actually reducing the debt burden the Latin countries carry, rather than just providing them with an opportunity to go deeper into hock. We're not sure that it's really possible for the sclerotic Latin economies to get growing again without taking some of the market-oriented steps the Baker plan would have required.

It may well be, however, that the countries are more likely to act if they feel the decisions are their own. And with the poor already squeezed dry, maybe Latin governments would take advantage of Bradley aid to go after the biggest untapped source of funds in their society: the billions in capital flight dollars their elites have socked away in U.S. and other foreign banks.

But best of all, the Bradley proposal would finally make the commercial banks pay their share of the cost of managing the debt crisis. Back in the 1970s, the banks were only too happy to lend Latin America all the money it wanted, but they have so far managed to stick others with the losses they deserve for their folly. It's way past time for the banks to pay their share, and the Bradley plan would make them do so. After all, a round of defaults is a bigger threat to them than to anyone else.

Frank Runyeon appears in 'Deathtrap'
for his role as Steve Andropoulous on C

Excava

ECU News Bureau

Despite written accounts, a detailed illustration and an amazingly accurate map, a coastal North Carolina Indian village visited by English explorers in 1585 has eluded searchers for 400 years. But an archaeological excavation being made by an ECU archaeologist may solve the mystery.

Scraping through layers of rich Hyde County topsoil, archaeologist Paul Green has uncovered artifacts and numerous post hole stains showing the outline of what may have been the famous and unique village site of Pomeiooc.

"...the features at the site fit John White's illustration."
—Paul Green

"So far, the features at the site fit John White's illustration (of the village)," Green said.

White was an English artist with the Roanoke Island expeditions commissioned by Sir Walter Raleigh to establish a colony in

Everyon's On The Sou

By RUSTY HARRINGTON
Staff Writer

Last winter, I asked Max Parker a question that most musicians ask each other — "You doin' any playing?" The conversation generally goes as if everyone is trying to get a band started — and if in fact they are, the result is a rundown of what's going on.

After asking him what the name of his band was, I had to ask another question: "What the hell kind of name is Soul Train?"

"Exactly... that's what we want everyone to think," said Max.

The band, which has been together since Christmas, is on its way to developing a strong following, who were out in full force Saturday night at the New Deli.

Opening the show for Soul Train with an entertaining set were Jac Cain and his brother Shannon, who played several duets of cover songs which they had previously performed locally as the Deco Brothers. Highlighting their set was the appearance of two members of Soul Train, who helped round out their group.

By the time Soul Train took the stage, the two remaining members of the band were ready to play. (Bassist Max Parker confirmed that he was ready, and vocalist Sandy Jarrell even dressed up for the occasion.)