

19-year-old drinking law effects seen after a year

by Kathleen Hart

Battalion Reporter
After one year, local schools, police, drinking establishments and students have all felt the effect of the 19-year-old minimum drinking age law.

But, despite some negative reactions, a few organizations would like to see the limit raised to 21.

Bryan High School Principal Perry Pope said there has been quite a reduction in alcohol problems at that school since the law took effect Sept. 1, 1981. Pope said he thinks the age increase was a good idea and pointed out that the PTA and the principal's association both supported the increase, since its main purpose was to get and keep alcohol out of the schools.

Sandra Parker, principal at A&M Consolidated High

School concurs, saying her school has also seen fewer alcohol-related problems. However, Parker said this could be related in part to bringing in dogs to sniff out alcohol and other illegal materials.

Local establishments serving liquor have noticed the decline in the number of 18-year-olds drinking, but are not as positive about it.

J. Brown Fletcher, manager of the Dixie Chicken, said business there has been "cut in half" since the law went into effect and that if the age were increased to 21, they would be out of business.

Paula Emola, owner of the Lakeview Club and part-owner of the Texas Hall of Fame, agreed.

She said business at those establishments has decreased and if the limit were raised to 21, more than half the area

drinking establishments would have to close their doors.

Bryan police also have seen a change.

From Sept. 1, 1980 to Sept. 1, 1981, there were 352 DWI arrests in Bryan, according to the records division of their police department. During a similar period from 1981 to 1982, the records indicate 338 DWI arrests were made, 14 fewer than the previous period. However, the population of Bryan increased by nearly 10,000 from 1980 to 1982, according to records kept by the Bryan Library.

College Station police have had one more DWI arrest during identical periods, according to their records division, which said that population in that city increased by nearly 4,000.

MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) wants the drinking age raised to 21 to

decrease DWI arrests and traffic fatalities, said MADD Texas Director Marinelle Timmons.

Timmons cited a nine-state University of Michigan survey that found when the drinking age was raised from 18 to 21, the states involved showed a 28 percent reduction in fatalities in the 18-to-21 age group.

"I think in a few years we'll see a big reduction of 17-to-19 year-olds who drink, because their friends won't drink," she said.

Jan Winniford, advisor for Boost Alcohol Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students (BACCHUS) disagrees.

Winniford said raising the limit to 21 would cause problems. She said the organization feels people should think about the responsible use of alcohol, not necessarily make its use illegal.

Sheepdog competition scheduled for weekend

by Brigitte Crossland

Battalion Reporter
The Texas A&M Range Club, in conjunction with the Texas Sheepdog Association, is holding its second annual sheepdog competition this weekend.

Admission to the competition will be \$2 for adults. The Range Club will provide concessions,

including barbecue. Preliminary competition begins Saturday at 10 a.m. and will continue until 6 p.m. Final competition will be Sunday from 10 a.m. until about noon depending on the number of dogs competing.

To get to the trials, go out FM 2818 to Easterwood Airport and follow the signs.

The Range Club expects about 15 trainers to be competing with three to four dogs each — mostly border collies — for a total of 40 to 60 dogs.

Sheepdog trials, as a sport, originated in England over a century ago and still follow the same rules.



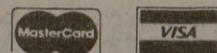
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Senate constitution drafted

by Hope E. Paasch

Battalion Staff
A faculty senate constitution is in the final drafting stages and an election to ratify it will be held in early November, the chairman of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee says.

Copies of the proposed constitution will be mailed in October to all faculty members so they can examine the constitution before they vote, committee chairman Claude D. Davis said.

"Ratification by the faculty is the first of several steps to adopting the constitution," he said.

If approved by the faculty, the constitution must also be ratified by the Texas A&M University president, the System chancellor and the Board of Regents.

Both President (Frank E.) Vandiver and Chancellor (Arthur G.) Hansen are faculty-oriented administrators and have been very supportive of our efforts to establish a faculty senate," Davis said.

Vandiver appointed the Faculty Senate Steering Committee in December 1981 to write a constitution. A faculty senate is an advisory body, similar to the Student Senate, which reports directly to the University president.

Texas A&M is one of few

leading universities that does not have a faculty senate, Davis said.

"If a faculty senate is established, no longer would faculty members have the luxury of criticizing certain decisions because the senate would have participated in making some of those decisions," he said. "The senate gives faculty the right to participate, but they also must share in the responsibilities."

The faculty senate would deal with University-wide policies, not departmental ones.

The proposed constitution is better than any other in the nation, Davis said, since his committee examined numerous existing constitutions before drafting theirs.

"Our constitution is technically much better — clearer, shorter, direct and not nearly so complicated," he said. The proposed constitution calls for a

unicameral body of senators elected from each college. One senator will represent about 25 faculty members, meaning the Faculty Senate would contain 65 to 75 members.

A unique feature of the constitution is its inclusive definition of faculty, Davis said. Administrators who retain their faculty status are eligible to run for senate positions.

The constitution defines a faculty member as anyone employed by Texas A&M on the College Station campus holding the rank of professor, associate professor or assistant professor. Lecturers and instructors who receive full-time teaching or library salaries and retired faculty who teach on the College Station campus are also faculty under the document.

If the constitution is ratified, Davis said the elections to the senate tentatively will be held in

the early part of the 1983 spring semester.

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United Press International
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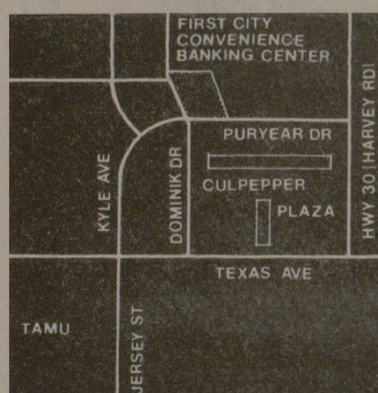
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