

CFDA campaigns to lower Michigan drinking age

Janice Wade, Staff Reporter

The Michigan legislature changed the drinking age to 18 in 1972. According to a Citizens for a Fair Drinking Age pamphlet, the Michigan Legislature was "bowing to pressure from various groups and following what has become a national trend" when it raised the drinking age to 19 effective December 3, 1978. In November 1978, Alpena County voters said yes to the question of having a statewide drinking age of 21. The new age for legally consuming alcohol was set at 21 on December 21, 1978. Time magazine reports "Massachusetts thus followed five other states--Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota and Montana--in deciding that lowering the legal drinking age to 18 had been a mistake."

According to the World Almanac 1980, there are 25 states including the District of Columbia, which have a legal drinking age of 21. Of the remaining 26 states, 12 have a drinking age of 18, nine have a drinking age of 19, and five have a drinking age of 20. Twelve of the states with a drinking age of 21 years permit 18 or 19 year old youth to legally consume various beers and/or wines.

The tasks CFDA set are to put a proposal to lower the legal drinking age to 19 on the November ballot and the campaign to pass the pro-

posal. The organization employs R. Douglas Hargett to direct the campaign to obtain 286,722 valid signatures before July 7. According to Beth Anderson, Vice-President of ACC's student Senate, Tom Jaworski, a senior at Michigan State University, coordinating the effort to contact and establish campaign committees on 40 Michigan college and university campuses. He contacted the Student Senate office at ACC on February 22. This committee may select a representative to the statewide steering committee. Anderson reports that CFDA considers its main opposition to be Allen Rice of the Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems.

The Citizens for a Fair Drinking Age state on the petitions that raising the drinking age to 21 hasn't worked. "It is not fair to punish the majority of 19 and 20 year olds because a few in their age group abuse alcohol. The raising of the drinking age has had little effect on whether or not young people are drinking--it has only changed the location of the drinking from the bars to the cars. Better that the drinking age be 19--and strictly enforced--than be 21 and mocked."

CFDA feel the petition effort will be successful for five reasons. 1) The effort is well organized with a full time director and fund director and fund raising campaign.

2) The presidential election year will cause a higher voter turnout among younger voters. 3) A new Michigan law allows schools to register 18 year olds to vote. 4) young people may actively participate in lowering the drinking age. 5) The initial reason for raising the drinking age was to keep alcohol out of the schools. Persons who would not support the 18 year old limit may support a 19 year old limit.

CFDA says it will seek funds from "high school and college students, other Michigan citizens, bar and restaurant owners, grocers, small store owners, distributorships, breweries, distillers, labor unions, political organizations, and from other sources." Additional material from CFDA states "Businessmen dealing with alcoholic beverages have lost a tremendous amount of potential revenue by the new law." However, the CFDA Fact Sheet states "Actually since the new age hasn't affected liquor consumption, the liquor industry isn't all that interested."

Any one interested in the petition drive to lower the legal drinking age to 19 in Michigan may obtain information from the Student Senate Office in Van Lare Hall by talking with President Tom Kane, or Vice-President Beth Anderson.



ACT's "The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon Marigolds," directed by Jerry Lanoo, will run from March 27, 28, 29, and April 3, 4, 5. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for students. For ACC students, admission is free on March 26, 27, and April 4.

Convention scheduled for Science Fiction fans

Science fiction and space studies will be featured at Michigan's first major "Michicon" convention this summer, highlighted by four nationally-known authors, including Alan Dean Foster, who wrote Alien, the Star Trek Logs, and Star Trek: The Motion Picture.

More than 20 well known experts in science fiction and fantasy, UFO studies, NASA program, astronomy and space artistry and poetry will lead a series of workshops, seminars and exhibits during the three-day convention Aug. 15, 16 and 17, 1980 at Flint's Cultural Center.

Several cultural activities also cont. page 2, column 4

MOT strives to popularize Opera

Diana Flakes, Staff Reporter

Michigan Opera Theatre is a musical, dramatic theatre with live singers and actors. Its scope encompasses traditional, contemporary, experimental, and full opera productions in English as well as in the original language. This professional company's purpose is to make opera more accessible and enjoyable to Detroit area and Michigan residents.

MOT began in 1961 as "Overture to Opera", the educational aim, of the Detroit Grand Opera Association, which sponsors the Met's annual visit to Detroit each spring. In 1971, "Overture to Opera" responded to the community's demand for full productions by establishing a regular opera season in Detroit, in addition to touring with major produc-

tions to other Michigan cities.

Each season, MOT, and independent, tax exempt, non-profit organization, produces its own complete opera productions at its performing home, the Music Hall. It recruits talent from the international world of music, and other professional national opera companies, such as the Met and New York City Opera. Auditions are held during the spring in Detroit and New York. Singers, musical and technical personnel are interviewed and signed by MOT's General Director, Dr. David Dichiera.

Highlighting the week's activities will be a fully-staged production in English of Donizetti's comic masterpiece, "Don Pasquale" at 8:00

p.m. Friday, March 21 at the Alpena High School auditorium. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for senior citizens and students.

Resident artists, Dan Boggess, Nora Bostaph, Denise Coffey, David Herendeen, Scott Redersen and Mark Flint will perform the lead roles. Some Alpena residents, who have been rehearsing for several weeks, will sing in the chorus.

Cheaters branded with an "X"

(CH)—Students caught cheating at the University of Pennsylvania are given a permanent grade of X for the course involved, and cannot have that grade removed from their transcripts. Students also face disciplinary probation or suspension.