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College Presidents Seek to Lower Drinking Age to 18

Alexis Irias
Staff Writer

Last month, more than 100 college presidents signed a petition calling for the minimum legal drinking age to be lowered from 21 to 18. For such a controversial issue, many questions have been raised.

Each side has statistics to support its position. Many still argue that as long as 18-year-olds are allowed to bear arms and fight a war in Iraq, they should be allowed to drink.

A 2003 study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that, though fewer high-school-age students drink, compared with the late 1970s, the rates of binge drinking among all adults 18 and older has risen.

As controlled as students and minors can be at home, once they step out from under their parents' wings and go to college, things change.

Not only are they miles away from their parents' authority, but they are also amongst others with the same state of mind. This sense of liberty could cause binge drinking to become a weekend practice and thus, create a dangerous culture.

Culture may be a main culprit due to the fact that some European countries do not have the same problem. The same study from the Centers for Disease Control showed that in other countries, some with drinking ages starting at 15-years-old, teenagers were less likely to become intoxicated compared with teens in the U.S.

"In France the age restriction is 18 and people learn to drink responsibly at a young age, so there are not as many accidents due to drinking as there are here," said Nicole Velez, a junior, who grew up in France.

University officials felt as though drinking age Page 2

Chick-N-Grill Newest Addition to UC Food Court

Kristine Belizaire
Current Affairs Editor

On Aug. 22, the University Center Food Court added Chick-N-Grill to their wide array of food selections. Celebrating its first year since it opened its doors in the summer of 2007, Shark Dining offered Subway, Mama Leone's Pizza, Jow Jing!!, Coyote Jack's Grill, Culinary Table, and Starbucks Coffee. Chick-N-Grill took the place of Jow Jing!!, which offered Asian cuisine such as sushi and orange chicken. According to Terry Weech, Director of Auxiliary Services, Jow Jing!! was removed because students who attended the food service committee meetings voiced their displeasure with the pricing and food options. Students explained that they wanted more variety and home-style cooking. "The question was how we placed first in many world championships and contributing to charities.

Most recently, she was crowned the champion of the sixth season of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars." "Students should attend "Life 101" because by meeting these guest speakers, the NSU community can be educated and inspired by their life accomplishments and life lessons learned. Students will also get the chance to interact with Yamaguchi by asking her questions and meeting her for autographs in the post reception of the event," said Keever.

Tickets are available for "Life 101" with Kristi Yamaguchi at the University Center Information Desk. Potential attendees can receive up to two tickets with an NSU ID.

For more information about this event, please contact the Office of Student Engagement at (954) 262-7193 or visit http://www.nova.edu/life101/index.html.

Kristi Yamaguchi to Speak at "Life 101"

Kristine Belizaire
Current Affairs Editor

On Tuesday, Sept. 16, NSU will welcome Kristi Yamaguchi as the guest speaker for the "Life 101 Personally Speaking Series" in the Miniaci Performing Arts Center.

"Life 101" is a speaker series that brings leaders from business, entertainment, politics, and athletics to our campus. By meeting these guest speakers, the NSU community is educated and inspired by their life accomplishments and "life lessons" learned along the way. The interactive 60 minute interview program is hosted by a faculty member and allows the audience to ask questions at the end of the program.

According to Rob Keever, Graduate Assistant for Special Events, Yamaguchi was chosen to be a speaker because she is a spokesperson for many corporate campaigns, including the American Lung Association and Always Dream Foundation. Yamaguchi is also known for winning gold medals in figure skating at the Olympics "Games, placing first in many world championships..."
Drinking Age Page 1

having the legal age at 21 is not working. They think it is necessary to re-open this discussion and try to find a solution once and for all.

Although some health professionals and college officials agree it is time to discuss the proposal, some students are still convinced that 18 is too young.

Chick-N-Grill Page 1

make both of those work,” said Weech. Weech explained that the answer was to remove the longstanding faculty ban on Chick-N-Grill, which offers more variety.

The NSU signature dish at Chick-N-Grill is a half-chicken with two sides for $6.99, which provides protein especially for athletes. For about 6-7 students have the option to build their own shop bowls, wraps, or salads. “I like it,” said Melissa Jones, sophomore and business major, as she stood in line at the Chick-N-Grill. “It reminds me of Chicken Kitchen.”

Chick-N-Grill is not only the new addition to NSU dining. Dunkin’ Donuts brand coffee has replaced the Starbucks Coffee brand that had previously been served at kiosks located in the Parker Building, the Shepard Broad Law Center and the Health Professions Division.

Weech also added that they are looking into adding more vegetarian options on campus and encourages students to attend the monthly food service committee meetings so that their opinions can be heard. For more information on the committee meetings, contact Terry Weech at tweech@nova.edu.

"It’s a terrible idea," commented Hayden Polizzi a senior business administration major who works at the Flight Deck. "Half the kids I know who are 21 aren’t mature enough to drink, let alone 18-year-olds.”

Classifieds

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"Understanding Long-Term Health Care and Long-Term Life Insurance"

Members of the NSU community are invited to listen to Ralph di Santo and Lee Sacks as they help to clarify the components of long-term health care and life insurance. The lecture will begin at 10 a.m. in the Lifelong Learning Institute. For more information, contact Heike Dose at 954-262-8471.

"NSU Health and Wellness Fair"

Come out and see what NSU's recreational facility has to offer! From 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy massages and learn about healthy nutrition. Free health screenings for cholesterol, diabetes, and blood pressure will be available. To sign up for a health screening, visit www.rec.nova.edu/healthfair.html. For more information, contact the Office of Human Resources at ohr@nova.edu.

"Spiritual Life Fair at SUB Thursday"

Interested in learning about faith and religion? Then attend the "Spiritual Life Fair," hosted by the faith-based organizations at NSU. The fair will begin at 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact Mark De Mello at demello@nova.edu.

"Life Fair at SUB Thursday"

The II. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship will host its 4th annual undergraduate scholarships benefit. The event will take place at 6 p.m. at the Signature Grand, 6900 State Road 84, Davie, FL. For more information contact Lynn Schweitzer at lschweit@nova.edu.

"National Suicide Prevention Week"

This week, Sept. 7-13, is National Suicide Prevention Week. This week is dedicated to promoting awareness on suicide prevention.

A featured speaker at the convention will be our very own associate professor Scott Poland, Ed.D. He will present on school safety and self-injury. If you are interested in becoming involved in National Suicide Prevention Week, please contact Scott Poland, Ed.D., coordinator of the Suicide and Violence Prevention Office, at spoland@nova.edu or extension 25581. More information on the American Association of Suicidology is available at www.suicidology.org.

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"Lucky 13: Truth and Consequences"

NSU patrons are invited to attend a lecture designed to aid in the development of ethical codes of conduct by understanding the value of academic integrity. The lecture will take place at 12:00 p.m., in Room 3049 of the Carl DeSantis Building. For more information, contact Michael McFarland at mmcfarlir@nova.edu.

"Rock 'n' Roll Night"

The II. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship will host its 4th annual undergraduate scholarships benefit. The event will take place at 6 p.m. at the Signature Grand, 6900 State Road 84, Davie, FL. For more information contact Lynn Schweitzer at lschweit@nova.edu.

"Lucky 13" Sept. 10
"NSU Health and Wellness Fair"

"Spiritual Life Fair at SUB Thursday"

"National Suicide Prevention Week"
NSU Celebrates the Beginning of a New Academic Year

Kristine Belizaire
Current Affairs Editor

On Sept. 2, members of the NSU community gathered in the auditorium of the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Center for the Performing Arts for Convocation, an event that celebrates the beginning of a new academic year.

Dean Don Rosenblum, Ph.D., of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, welcomed faculty, staff and students to the event.

Rosenblum was followed by Ray Ferrero Jr., President of NSU who greeted everyone on behalf of NSU’s Board of Trustees.

Ferrero spoke about the core values of NSU, which include diversity and service. He went on to address the dedication of the faculty.

“...and we strive for that,” he stated during his speech.

Ferrero’s next message was directed to the new students.

“This is an exciting time at NSU because this is the next step on the journey in lifelong learning,” he said. “Make the most of these four years. Get involved anyway that you feel meets your needs.”

Every year at Convocation, a professor is presented with a Full-Time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award. This year’s award was given to Mark Jaffe, assistant professor in the Farquhar College of Math, Science and Technology. Jaffe has been a faculty member since 2004, and teaches biology. In addition to teaching, he guides his students in their research and career development.

In his acceptance speech, Jaffe said that he was honored to address the audience on behalf of the outstanding faculty. He also provided students with tips that he had gathered from faculty and staff to make their time at NSU more enjoyable and successful.

Some of these tips included creating goals, time management, striving for balance and becoming more involved on campus.

Keynote speaker Andre Dubus III, author of novels which include “Bluegrass” and “House of Sand and Fog,” spoke of the NSU 2008-2009 academic theme of “Life and Death,” relating it to a story about his father. Two days before his book “House of Sand and Fog” was published, he was tiling his sister’s bathroom.

While he was working, he received a phone call from his father who invited him to come watch a De La Hoya fight. He declined and continued with his tiling.

His father kept calling him, and he finally gave in, went to his father’s house and watched the game. After the game was over, the two of them talked until 3:30 a.m. when Dubus said that he had to leave.

That was the last day he saw his father alive. Two days later, while on a book tour in San Francisco, he received a phone call from his wife, who informed Dubus that his father died of a heart attack. Dubus went back home to his family and helped his brother build their father’s coffin.

His father slept on satin sheets, so he upholstered the coffin with the same sheets. He and his brother then dug the grave to bury their father.

While this was one of the darkest and most painful days of his life, it was also one of the most joyous ones. “When I was your age I was scared of death,” he confessed. He explained that as he grew older, he was less scared and more accepting of death.

The event came to a close with the special recognition of the 2008 orientation leaders and the jacketing ceremony of the newest students to be participants in the Clinical Exploration Program. This program allows students to shadow doctors, nurses and other professionals working in NSU clinics. Dean’s List Scholars were also given recognition. These scholars are sophomores who made the Dean’s List during both the fall and winter semesters of their first year at NSU.
This event, hosted by the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement, SLCE, was held on Sept. 4, in the University Center. Thanks to graduate assistant Jennifer Bowman-Wilson, various volunteer-based organizations were able to use the UC as their base-of-helping for an afternoon. For more information on future events hosted by this office, go to www.nova.edu/studentleadership.

Barbara Krantz sits by her organization which is “the only charity in Broward County providing comprehensive rehabilitation, counseling and educational services to blind and visually impaired children and adults,” according to the LightHouse of Broward pamphlet. For more information, go to www.LHOB.org.

Helen Leitch, children's prevention services director, holds “Thumbody” which is the mascot of the “Thumbody Too” program. This program teaches children the three R's of “respect for self, respect for others and responsibility for personal behavior.” Leitch said, “Your thumbody special,” to remind us that just like each of our thumb prints, we are all wonderfully unique. For more information e-mail Leitch at helen@mhabroward.org.

Lisa Zucker, program manager and volunteer and outreach coordinator for Gilda's Club, Kevin Newborg, a biology major and Mark Lentini, an accounting-finance major, get information on what it means to volunteer for Gilda's Club, an organization that offers a “network of emotional and social support” for men and women living with cancer. To volunteer for the cause, visit www.gildasclubsouthflorida.com.

Claudia Green, volunteer coordinator and Pamela Rubino, public relations coordinator, stand next to their “Angel Tree” where patrons of the area can pick up tags to purchase gifts for children during the holidays. Visit their Web site www.salvationarmybroward.org to volunteer on Oct. 11 for “The MOST Amazing Race!” a program that helps feed homeless and hungry families. You could possibly win $1,000, so check it out!

Danielle Jacobs, a volunteer for Spirituality For Kids. This organization “teaches kids tools for life to end the cycle of conflict for children at risk—emotionally, physically and spiritually,” according to their Web site. For more information on their programs and volunteer opportunities, go to www.stk.org.
Sharks Volleyball Hits the Road

Sharks volleyball (3-0-2) hit the road on Sept. 5 for a long 13 day road trip which will see NSU compete in two multi-match tournaments, first in Romeoville, Ill. then off to Searcy, Ark.

Unfortunately the road trip didn’t get off to the greatest of starts as NSU was defeated by two nationally ranked opponents on the opening day of the “Lewis Flyer Festival.”

University of Indianapolis, ranked 18th nationally, handed the Sharks their first loss of the day in a five game match three sets to two. This was followed by another loss to Lewis University, ranked 25th nationally, in three straight games.

Despite the losses, the Sharks showed incredible character as they pulled together to defeat the University of Wisconsin-Parkside on day two of the tournament.

NSU expects to encounter more luck with this talented squad as they continue on with the tournament as well as the remainder of the road trip.

“Fin-atics” can look forward to seeing NSU back in the “Shark Tank” on Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. as the Sharks face off against Palm Beach Atlantic.

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NSU’s The Current went “inside the locker room” to get a closer look at the newest addition to the women’s volleyball team, as the Sharks dive deeper into the 2008 competitive season.

“Fin-atics” may have seen her wearing No. 5 while playing in the “Shark Tank” coming all the way from Downers Grove, Ill. and standing tall at a commanding height of 6-foot-1.

NSU would like to welcome freshman middle hitter, Molly Sigerich (5).

As the middle hitter, head coach Steve Wilcox believes “she [Sigerich] adds incredible depth to the team.”

Even though the year has just begun, Sigerich states the team has already formed a close knit bond.

“Before every match our team does a cheer in the tunnel to pump ourselves up. I also do a good luck handshake with our other senior middle hitter,” said Sigerich speaking of Emily Carlisle (15).

Sigerich, a communications major, was an incredible player throughout her high school career and looks forward to adding even more awards to her list of accomplishments.

FUN FACTS

Here are a few interesting things Fin-atics may not know about Molly...

If I were stranded on an island...

“I would want my iPod, some chocolate milk and a radio to listen to the Chicago Cubs games.”

My favorite athlete is...

“Misty May simply because why not? She is amazing!”

If I were a superhero...

“I would definitely be someone invisible so I could walk around listening to people’s conversations, l’m really nosy!”

If I found $1,000 on the street...

“I would bring my teachers to give me As.”
A Week of Shark Soccer

Men’s Soccer

Tim Coenraad
Staff Writer

Sharks Go 3-0

NSU’s men’s soccer team (3-0) kicked off their 2008 season in a blistering fashion, totaling nine goals in their first three games while conceding one.

NSU vs. Clayton State University

The Shark’s season opener was against Clayton State University Lakers who are ranked 22nd in the nation. In the game, junior transfer David Wahlberg (11), made an immediate impact to his team scoring the first goal of the Sharks 2008 season in the 55th minute.

NSU vs. Georgia Southwestern

Energized from their previous win, the Sharks destroyed Georgia Southwestern, 5-0, on Aug. 30. Wahlberg showed his prowess once again, scoring three more Shark goals two of which were assisted by defending “Player of the Year” junior Romain Oustensiente (10). Rounding out the Sharks scoring column were sophomores Chris Pruitt (5) and Juan Gonzalez (16), both registering their first goals of the season.

NSU vs. Warner Southern

NSU faced Royals of Warner Southern on Sep. 5 for their home opener, a game which proved to be a dramatic one.

The Sharks struck first due to a goal from sophomore Aly Hassan (9), coming out on top of a scramble inside the 18-yard-box, slotting the ball passed the Warner Southern keeper for NSU’s first goal.

The Sharks had a number of opportunities as the game continued on, however the Royals defense held strong, giving their offense the chance to tie the match up late in the second half.

NSU increased intensity as they searched for a winning goal and it was just moments later that Pruitt produced magic as he struck the ball from 23 yards out, punching the back of the Royals net to give NSU the winning goal, 2-1.

Women’s Soccer

Tim Coenraad
Staff Writer

NSU’s women’s soccer team (1-0-1) opened the 2008 campaign while in Greenville, Tenn. with an astonishing 3-0 win over the 11th team in the nation, Tusculum College, on Aug. 29 followed by a tie game on Aug.31, 1-1, versus Mars Hill.

In game one for the Sharks senior, Shurell Burton No. 18, tallied together two assists which she fed to sophomore, Alexis Hernandez (13) for the first goal and the other to fellow senior, Heather Swift (14), who registered the second.

Senior, Natalie Bellini (21), struck in the 29th minute of the match to put the Sharks up by a 3-0 lead. A combination of great defending and quality goal keeping by junior keeper, Sarah Glass (1), would see NSU through with an opening win to start the season.

NSU dominated game two of the tournament while taking on Mars Hill’s Lions, outshooting the Lions 18-5, giving the Sharks the edge on corners with 7-2.

However, the Sharks would find themselves locked in a 1-1 draw to end the game.

Women’s Soccer Continued...

The Sharks will head to Eckerd College on Sept. 10 for a non-conference SSC clash with the Tritons, then return to NSU for their season home-opener on Sept. 12 at 6 p.m. where the Sharks will take on Palm Beach Atlantic’s Sailfish at the new NSU Soccer Complex, located in back of Leo Goodwin Residence Hall.
ACROSS

1. I am a member of the men’s soccer team. I was the SSC Male Soccer Player of the Year in 2007. You will see me on the field wearing the No. 10.
2. I am a member of the volleyball team. You can find me on the court wearing No. 22.
3. I am the team captain of both the men’s cross country and track teams. I was the Sunshine State Conference Runner of the Year in 2007. I was named SSC Runner of the Week four times in 2007.
4. I am the head coach of the volleyball team here at NSU. I was the Sunshine State Conference Coach of the Year in 2007. I guided my team to a 15-win improvement for the 2007 season, posting our best record in program history.

DOWN

1. I am a triathlete at NSU (women’s basketball, track & cross country). I won the 3-point shooting contest in 2007’s Midnight Madness Competition. You will see me on the court wearing the No. 22.
2. I am a member of the women’s soccer team. I can be found on the field in the goal keeper position wearing the No. 1. I am an athletic training major.

“NSU is You”...so let’s make the view you to!

Are you a student of the Health Profession Division, Law School, Business School, Mailman Segal Institute, University School or Student Educational Center and would like to see your name in lights? Then we want you!!!

The Current is looking to expand coverage to include the above locations. Therefore, we welcome any writing submissions or story suggestions regarding these sites.

If you are interested in submitting an article or requesting coverage from one of our writers, please e-mail nsunews@nova.edu.

Submissions should be no more than 250 words. Please include your name, phone number and address. The Current reserves the right to edit copy for content, clarity and length.
"Traitor" Raises 9/11 Tensions
Stefani Rubin
Opinions Editor

Moving past the threats posed by global warming, director Jeffrey Nachmanoff ("The Day After Tomorrow") tucks into post-9/11 fears and anxieties about extremism, terrorism and everything in between with his new thriller "Traitor." "Traitor" hinges on the story of Ray Clayton (Guy Pearce), a Bible-toting FBI agent who begins an investigation into an international conspiracy going on unknown to everyone else. Samir Horn (Don Cheadle), a half-American, half-Sudanese, devout Muslim, and former U.S. special operations officer, becomes the center of Clayton's investigation.

Clayton first suspects Horn because of his mysterious behavior, his constant absence and his cursory knowledge of FBI actions and investigations. Only when he delves deeper and deeper, he decides to bring experts on the subject, a CIA operative, Carter (Jeff Daniels), and another FBI agent, Max Archer (Neal McDonough), who linked Horn to a jailbreak in Yemen, a raid in London and a bombing in Nice. However, just when they think they are onto him, a new slew of evidence comes in which points elsewhere. The plot seems complicated, multi-layered and chaotic, which is exactly the director's point. Just as the characters in the story are asymmetrical, the story itself shows how difficult it is to put a specific definition or accusation on an extremely complex situation.

Nachmanoff uses every aspect of this film to illustrate how the government seems to oversimplify these types of intricate circumstances and how by ‘playing terrorist’ just does not work anymore. Cheadle ("Ocean's Thirteen," "Reign Over Me") plays Horn, perhaps the most multi-faceted of all the characters with incredible depth. Cheadle not only brings this profound character to life, he takes Horn to another level.

Horn has two faces, that of an honest, ex-military representative and that of an Islamic terrorist planning the next deadly attack. Cheadle plays both characters with the same intensity.

Although there are no defined "roles" in this film, Clayton appears to be the "good guy" which sometimes seems overacted and clichéd. Pecot ("The Proposition," "Factory Girl") transends clichés and demonstrates a new side of government agents. Not only is he a great admirer of "Ocean's Thirteen," "Reign Over Me," "Ocean's Thirteen," and he almost seems real or at least similar to the known version of "terrorists" we talk about everyday.

Although the film has an interesting plot and some unbelievable performances, it fails to deliver, as a thriller should. As its best, this film is more a drama than anything else and should be considered as such. Other than that, "Traitor" is a feature-length commentary on the international affairs we are witnessing today.

Not Feeling the Danger in "Bangkok Dangerous"
Racquel Fagon
Variety Editor

The chameleon-acting style of Nicholas Cage was at its shadiest in his latest feature "Bangkok Dangerous," a remake of the Pang brothers 1999 Thai hit. The movie, which was filmed on location, showcased the cultural and everyday happenings of Bangkok and how an assassin disguised as a tourist could easily infiltrate without being noticed. But in all fairness to the "corrupt, dirty" and "laziest" description given about the city and its thugs in the beginning of the film, what the film actually highlighted were the bourgeois habits of a spoiled gang leader, who preferred to kill the competition rather than share. There was certainly not enough "dirty" being dished out in the film, to make Cage's character seem more honorable and even heroic. Instead, he simply came off as a depressed hit man with antenna issues.

Nicholas Cage played Joe London, a jack of many trades that sounds just as shady, a hired hit man, who went from city to city earning a living killing the bad guys for anybody who paid. His mission statement was: don't ask questions, don't take an interest to people outside of the job, erase every trace of your presence, and get out when you can.

This had worked well for Cage, until he got to Thailand and finally discovered he had feelings. He took an on-employee protégé Kong (Shahkrit Yamnam) to follow his instructions explicitly of being a punctual enforcer.

The sensitivity that Yamnam brought to his character was the perfect reflector for Cage's gloomy, assassin role. It transformed Cage to the point that he abandoned his mission statement and eventually risked his life to save Kong.

Another feeling director for Cage was a dear friend (Charlie Young). She desensitized Cage's character by inviting him to fall in love with her, in an almost non-sexual way. But again, this does not live up to its full potential through the script, as each love scene with Joe and the pharmacist is shadowed or foreshadowed by a violent scene of blood, gore and lots of bullets.

So, the film did nothing to frame the picture of the supporting cast, even though they gave satisfactory performances. Cage's recent "face off" with movie roles has not showed his good side at all. He seems to be going to the "slow-em up" roles without the creditable - what the song explores to back it up. So his slipperiness slope from "Ghost Rider," to "Next," to this, is filling up his resume but not making it look any better.

"Learning to Bend" is Nearly Perfect
Stefani Rubin
Opinions Editor

As a respected and well-known cellist, Ben Sollee knows about soul, the blues, jazz and folk. Imparting each of these roots as a starting point, his debut album "Learning to Bend" brings a fresh new perspective to the idea of the singer-songwriter.

By simply incorporating a guitar into his compositions, Sollee uses a myriad of traditional southern instruments to demonstrate his skills as a songwriter and to show where he is coming from (Kentucky, to be exact).

With that simplicity in mind, Sollee takes what could have been overdone compositions and strips them down to nothing but the "pickin'" of his cello, his soulful and insightful vocals and another couple of instruments here and there.

Immediately, "Learning to Bend" blasts off into Sollee's talent with "A Few Honest Words," a song about the importance of honesty and sincerity in a world where there is rarely any. Sollee's voice guides us through the somber violin playing in the background along with the playful plucking of his cello.

The lyrics like "Love is a bitter fruit/ we've learned to eat/ but we still don't know where it grows," shows that at the age of 24, Sollee is wiser and more experienced than who'd think. Perhaps, the most entertaining song on the album, "Bury Me with My Car" takes a funny and more instrumentally diverse route than "A Few Honest Words." The song begins so fast and keeps the momentum going throughout, that it is easy to miss the underlying point of the song, which mocks both the idea of going to "that place in the finally displayed by the song's obsession with cars. The point is somewhat bleak, but Sollee wraps it in such a fanciful包装, it is difficult to stop listening to the song.

"It's Not Impressive" and "A Change in Gonna Come" are probably the best songs along with "A Few Honest Words" on the album. The lyrics to "It's Not Impressive" are quite sarcastic, as the song explores the idea that men should not cry, even, when faced with terrible heartbreak.

As you can assume from the title, "A Change in Gonna Come" features optimistic, intelligent and well thought out lyrics, while still showcasing Sollee as a master craftsman in the world of musical composition. In the song, he presents us with his most energetic use of instruments from the trumpet to the banjo. Although Sollee's sound is not entirely original, it is unique to a songwriter just starting out at such a young age. He plays it in a way that has been around for decades and adventurously composes his songs as if he has nothing to lose.

It is rare to come upon a debut album that is both well made and satisfying. This is something Sollee could work on. "Learning to Bend" is virtually flawless. "Learning to bend" has been around for decades and defeat admirers with his attention from the get go and certainly deserves it.
Working the cash register at Publix wasn’t my life’s dream but I realized that dreams were a dime a dozen—at least mine were. So after I smashed my piggy-bank, I took on the trial of living in the real world.

"That will be $1.15. Thank you, have a good weekend." Why do I even have to say this? I don’t care if this woman has a good weekend or not. I don’t care if she even lives to see the weekend.

"Stupid woman."

"Excuse me?"

"Huh? Oh, I’m sorry. I was just talking to myself. I do that sometimes," I mumbled quickly, without lifting my eyes to see who was in front of me.

"Well, you can’t do that when your job is about dealing with people. It’s very impolite," she said curtly, and I guess, decided she had more to say.

"And furthermore..."

I snapped my head up and kissed quietly, "Look... ma’am, I’m sorry I spoke to myself in front of you. Okay?" My eyes bored into hers, so she could see my true intent. Then I smiled sweetly and said, "Your total is $60.02."

As she rummaged in her bag for her purse, she quietly complained about the disgraceful condition of customer service in this country, the deplorable way young people treat those set above them and the exorbitant price of cat and dog food today.

"Thank you, you have a good day," I said, and she peered at me like a lunatic just asked her out on a date. The most honest reaction I’ve gotten all morning.

Now here I am, 25-years-old, a cashier at Publix Supermarket and a surrogate caregiver for two unexpected dependents. Maybe by some great design, a wayward date would see a movie with my friends. But generally, I kept to myself, and thought about what had become of my life.

Seven years earlier, when I graduated from Miramar High School, I was chock-full of aspirations and dreams for my life. I got a decent score on my SATs and got accepted into the University of Miami.

"Go Hurricanes!"

But that summer before college, my mother had an accident that broke both her legs. With a dozen surgeries and rehabilitation, I couldn’t leave her alone. So, I postponed going to college for a year, until my mom was able to competently take care of herself. That postponement turned into two years.

The year I decided to go back to school, my mom got pregnant and was unable to do anything while she found her way out of the bed. I asked and tucked her under her Dora comforter. Of course, she graced me with a perfunctory smile and then I was ready to go. My date wanted to pick me up but I left them spinning in the dust."

"Lie? Suzie asked quietly.

"No, I’m not lying. You know I’ll never lie to you. Come, gimme kisses and go to sleep," we shared a quick goodnight smooch and then I was ready to go. My date wanted to pick me up but I felt more in control of the situation when I drove myself. I told my mother goodbye, she graced me with a perfunctory smile and went back to her book.

I was excitedly nervous as I drove to the Chocolate Muse in downtown Hollywood. I wondered what he was like and how he looked and smelled.

"This is going to be a scary night," I thought to myself, thinking more about Suzie than my impending date.

To be continued...
The government tells us that at the age of 18, we can enlist in the military, be trained for combat, fight in a war and die in that war without ever seeing our 21st birthday. Let alone our 18th birthday, let alone our 21st. At age of 18, we can enlist in the military, but we can't drink a beer at the age of 18, we are allowed to drive a car, seek employment and hold a part-time job, move out of our parents' house and live on our own.

Before we turn 21, we are allowed to take on all these difficult responsibilities, but we are not allowed to have a beer at the age of 21, on the weekend. We are more likely to abuse alcohol than college students ages 18 to 22 which were more likely to abuse alcohol than high school olds with the most responsibilities, would think that the drinking age should be lowered to 18.

The first study shows some kind of progress that is going on within the potential psychologist, mad. Take a break at The Deck. At The Flight Deck, you will never want for a high-top table. Additionally, the noise level is at a minimum so you won't mistakenly say "No, I never wanted to become a man," when a cute stranger asks you "What do you like to do for fun?"

The statistics proving why we should lower the drinking age are supported by a 2005 study done by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, that the rate of alcohol use among 12 to 17 year-olds had declined from 17.6 percent in 2004 to 16.5 percent in 2005.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services also did a study among college students ages 18 to 22 who revealed that the people in this age group, who were enrolled full-time in college, were more likely to abuse alcohol than their peers who were not enrolled at all.

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The second study is somewhat astonishing. You would think that the freedom of getting out of high school or moving out of your parents' house would make any 18-year-old, in school or not, want to take advantage of that freedom. But it's quite the opposite, the 18-year-olds with the most responsibilities, like going to class, keeping up their grades and maybe even working, are the people abusing alcohol the most.

Should we make high school longer or start college earlier? Should we require all who want to enlist be over the age of 21? Should we make sure that nobody can hold a part-time job until they are 21 as well? The answer to all of these questions is obviously "no." So why is the question of the drinking age so hard to figure out?

This shouldn't be a question as to whether or not a person is responsible enough to make the decision at a younger age, it should be a question of why teens who are so interested in drinking the first place? When we're told not to do something, we do it, do it again (maybe) and then get over it.
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