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Newton store cited after 90 minors tried to buy alcohol

Posted October 14, 2009 01:54 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Globe Correspondent

A grocery store in Newton Corner faces citations that could jeopardize its liquor license after about 90 minors, including 50 with fake IDs, attempted to buy alcohol over the holiday weekend, state officials said following an investigation.

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission along with Newton police cracked down on the Newton Corner Mart on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening in response to complaints received by the commission and city police that the Centre Street store was selling alcohol to minors, officials said.

Investigators said the 90 minors were between 17 to 20 years old, most were from Belmont and most were college students home for the three-day weekend.

They were found in possession of, transporting, or attempting to purchase alcohol. Officials confiscated 45 cases of beer, 41 bottles of other types of alcoholic beverages and five beer balls, or mini kegs. Based on the national "binge drinking" standard, the amount of alcohol confiscated prevented delivery to approximately 600 minors, according to the commission.

Frederick Mahony, the commission's chief investigator, said the Newton Corner Mart does not have a record of selling to minors in the past, and investigators were surprised at the number of underage people attempting to buy alcohol.

"Normally, you might see 10 to 15 [minors attempting to buy alcohol] per night," in such investigations, he said. "But in this case it was double that."

Mahony attributed the high number of underage customers to a trend he has seen where tech-savvy teens quickly alert each other by text message and on social networking sites like Facebook that a particular liquor store is not checking, or lenient in checking, identification.

The store faces eight civil charges for selling alcohol to a minor. The administrative charges against the store will soon be submitted for a hearing before the commission, and, if found guilty, the store's liquor license is subject to suspension, modification or revocation.

The store's owner, who does not face criminal charges, was not immediately available for comment. Newton police referred questions to the commission.

When the investigation began on Thursday, enforcement officials stopped between six to eight groups of minors in the parking lot after they had just bought alcohol at the store, said Mahony.

Officials then informed store owner, David Kong, of the investigation, that the store would face administrative charges, and put an undercover agent behind the checkout counter to check for fake IDs and minors attempting to buy alcohol, said Mahony.

Investigators found some "very, very good fake IDs," among the 50 that were confiscated, he said. Other ID's were more obvious fakes, including a 17-year-

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old who handed the undercover clerk the license of a 34-year-old woman.

Two other 17-year-olds approached undercover officials in the parking lot, and the teens asked the officials if they could buy them alcohol, said Mahony.

"We never know what we're going to see on a given night," he added.

None of the underage shoppers were charged; but their information was taken down, and their parents were contacted directly from the liquor store parking lot as part of the state's parent notification program.

Officials said such an investigation is an effective way to immediately prevent minors from obtaining alcohol, as well as a long-term deterrence to liquor store owners serving those who are under 21.

"There is no doubt that these operations save lives and prevent tragedies before they happen," Treasurer Timothy P. Cahill, who oversees the commission, said in a press release.

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73 COMMENTS SO FAR...

1. If you're old enough to die for our country, work, pay taxes, and are legally considered an adult, you're old enough to buy a beer.

Lower the age to 18.

Posted by Bill October 14, 09 02:36 PM

2. umm... WHY is this guy still in business?
Am I missing something here?

If I broke a law 90 times in a weekend I would not be here to talk about it i would be locked up in prison and looking at hard time!

Yet this idiot not only stays open but is not facing criminal charges AND can keep his license? Im sure whatever money he made from these illegal sales will more than cover his legal cost so why even bother stopping?

Posted by maddawg2020 October 14, 09 02:39 PM

3. How is a grocery store selling booze?

Posted by ME October 14, 09 02:47 PM

4. The article states "Officials confiscated 45 cases of beer, 41 bottles of other types of alcoholic beverages and five beer balls, or mini kegs. Based on the national "binge drinking" standard, the amount of alcohol confiscated prevented delivery to approximately 600 minors, according to the commission."

What is the National "binge drinking" standard? The only "binge drinking" standard I am aware of is that used by scientists conducting studies designed to prove alcohol is thoroughly evil. That standard is that 4 drinks is a "binge." This is downright idiotic (4 glasses of wine in a night might be a bit much if it's your average daily consumption, but it's nothing like a "binge"), and so I would not be surprised if it - or some lesser amount - was the "national binge drinking standard."

Of course, these police did not prevent any tragedies, as Fool Cahill suggests. Rather, these kids will drink that much harder when they return to school to make up for the lost opportunity at home. Asinine. They'll find booze if they want it. Ever heard of the admittedly complex and arcane economic principle called DEMAND?

Posted by D October 14, 09 02:53 PM

5. It's one thing if the store had sold liquor to every one of the minors, or if they had a track record of doing so. That many people with fake IDs is outrageous and the store shouldn't be faulted for underage drunks taking advantage of a situation. Shouldn't some stores check IDs? Yes. Is it realistic to expect...

situation. Should we expect stores to check IDs? Yes. Is it realistic to assume it is done 100% of the time? No. Let the store owner off.

Posted by Ridiculous October 14, 09 02:55 PM

6. At 18 you may be able to die for your country but you are still a knuckle head.

Why would anyone want to arm a knuckle head with booze?

Posted by fingers23 October 14, 09 03:14 PM

7. this is a lot more prevalent than some people may think.
drop the age to 18; you can't fight some elements of human nature with laws.

Posted by mark m October 14, 09 03:15 PM

8. Ummm Maddawg,
The article clearly states that between 6 to 8 groups of minors were caught after buying. It then goes on to state that about 90 minors attempted to buy. IMO, 8 kids getting through with fake ID's on a Thursday night at a busy liquor store is pretty reasonable. Not as good as it could be, but considering how many costumers they probably had in that period, it's a good ratio.

Posted by Anonymous October 14, 09 03:16 PM

9. It doesn't say the store sold alcohol to 90 minors; it says 90 tried.

It's not a very well written article. If I'm reading correctly, they caught "six to eight groups of minors" that had bought with fake ID's, then set up a sting to catch the rest trying to buy.

Posted by Medford Mickey October 14, 09 03:21 PM

10. Proof that we have way too many cops with nothing important to do. This should be an example of why we should fire a few Newton cops. Its embarrassing for the city that they even have these resources. What a tremendous waste of time and money.
How many of these 20 year olds were on leave from serving in the Middle East? If I were one of those useless cops, I wouldn't be able to look myself in the mirror after taking his 6 pack on a Friday night and getting paid to do so.

Posted by Janice October 14, 09 03:21 PM

11. "Am I missing something here?"

Yes.

"If I broke a law 90 times in a weekend I would not be here to talk about it."

Read more carefully. There were 90 ATTEMPTS to buy. The store is charged with only 8 civil counts. The store is not breaking a law when a minor ATTEMPTS to buy.

Posted by David October 14, 09 03:22 PM

12. "How is a grocery store selling booze?"

Despite widespread misinformation and misunderstanding, grocery stores, convenience stores, and supermarkets in Massachusetts are frequently licensed to sell beer and wine, and (rarely) even hard liquor. It's perfectly normal.

Posted by David October 14, 09 03:25 PM

13. As for the comment to lowering the age to 18.....

I agree and disagree. To me the problem isnt necessarily an 18 yr old drinking. Its that a 21 yr old will give alcohol to someone a few years younger than them. Therefore its safe to assume that an 18 yr old will give alcohol to people younger than them, like highschool freshmen at parties. 14 and 15 yr olds.

Posted by Chemjes October 14, 09 03:26 PM

14. Lower the age to 18? That would be almost as bad as if they decriminalized possession of small amounts of marijuana!!!

Posted by yuppiescum October 14, 09 03:32 PM

15. Why wouldn't they show a badge and issue a citation after the second kid? So they sit in a car all weekend to count 90 kids? I also don't see why a citizen walking out of a store needs to produce id when there is no clear evidence of

wrongdoing.

Posted by Hoss October 14, 09 03:33 PM

16. "None of the underage shoppers were charged; but their information was taken down, and their parents were contacted directly from the liquor store parking lot as part of the state's parent notification program."

So the state wants to shut the guy down, but let the kids, who were knowingly using fake ids to get away with a crime?

This does not make sense at all. If two people are breaking the law, arrest them both. Otherwise, liquor stores will go out of business and kids will keep on breaking the law.

Posted by John October 14, 09 03:37 PM

17. This is not news. Maybe it's just the shock of the scale. You can't legislate or educate away the burning desire of young adults to consume alcohol. There is no fixing this "problem." Almost every single adult has consumed alcohol prior to the legal age in their state.

Posted by Mike October 14, 09 03:38 PM

18. Did they attempt to buy or they bought the alcohol? If they attempted to buy then why is the store at fault? Stupid title for the news item.

Posted by Ksam October 14, 09 03:40 PM

19. Every one of us reading this article played the cat and mouse game of trying to procure alcohol before we were legal. It should be expected that teenagers over the age of 18, especially those who go away to college are going to consume alcohol, it will not be stopped. Safe usage should be emphasized, expecting anything more is completely unrealistic. I don't see much of a difference between an 18 year old college student and a 21 year old college student as far as their level of responsibility is concerned.

Posted by Steve October 14, 09 03:43 PM

20. our tax dollars are hard at work enforcing archaic laws. thanks puritans.

Posted by tonyg October 14, 09 03:45 PM

21. Lower the drinking age to 18 and be done with it

Posted by southietransplant October 14, 09 03:57 PM

22. Hey JANICE, you moron...newton cops had nothing to do with this you idiot. Let me guess? You were just pulled over by a newton cop for running a red light, while talking on your phone, and you got a ticket too. So now your bitter...sucks to be you haha...

Posted by Tim October 14, 09 04:03 PM

23. So all of the minors who knowingly broke the law, including but not limited to possessing a fake ID, minor in possession, and attempts to procure alcohol, not one gets arrested or a summons to court. Seems a bit ironic, but I guess we shouldn't expect our kids from the wealthiest of the commonwealth's towns to face any recourse for their actions.

Posted by Anonymous October 14, 09 04:03 PM

24. If you simply drop the drinking age to 18, then you'll only be causing 15 and 16 year olds to try to buy booze. The drinking age is not the problem.

Posted by bills64 October 14, 09 04:05 PM

25. Chemjes,

By that logic then we should up the age to 25 to ensure that only 21 year olds get it! Why, all laws should be written to defend against circumvention! Hooray for arbitrary circle logic! What magically happens between the day before you turn 21 and the day you turn 21 is beyond me, and issuing arbitrary age limits is beyond me as well

Posted by joe 30 pack October 14, 09 04:06 PM

26. Left mass this year for Illinois. Beer/liquor in supermarkets is an incredible thing. Mass needs to get out of the stone age.

Posted by mass expat October 14, 09 04:18 PM

27. Left mass this year for Illinois. Beer/liquor in supermarkets is an incredible thing. Mass needs to get out of the stone age.

Posted by mass expat October 14, 09 04:18 PM

28. The kids attempting to buy should be arrested and charged. The burden is not all on the store

Posted by AD October 14, 09 04:27 PM

29. Yuppiescum, you hit it right on the head. They SHOULD decriminalize possession of ALL amounts of a plant!

Posted by Bones October 14, 09 04:28 PM

30. We did lower the age to 18. That is what caused the under age problem. When the age was 21, 18 year old kids were drinking. When we lowered it to 18, 15 year old kids were drinking.

Posted by JohnT October 14, 09 04:32 PM

31. is #3 comment for real?!

"How is a grocery store selling booze? "

Have you been in a grocery store lately? Whole foods? Shaws? If you have a liquor license you can sell alcohol!

Posted by tmon October 14, 09 04:37 PM

32. The only way to reduce this crime is charge those who use false ID for the purchase of alcohol. So long as there are no consequences for using false ID, underage people will continue to do so and to make it worse they learn from where they went wrong and modify their tactics. It is not fair that the proprietor is the only person held accountable. BTW using false ID is against the law so why is that forgiven while the proprietor loses his income. This is not fair on so many levels.

Posted by paul October 14, 09 04:39 PM

33. Just think if the drinking age is lowered to 18 how many smoking hot 18-20 year old chicks will be at bars and clubs!!!

Posted by larry the leech October 14, 09 04:45 PM

34. The human brain does not fully mature in young people, mainly males, until around 21 or so. Young adults and teens don't necessarily have the maturity to drink responsibly or deal with the consequences of intoxication. Sure, most kids experiment, but just making it legal at a younger age doesn't change the kids maturity level or the consequences. Maybe keeping the age higher just adds another road block to easy access and may save some life. Who knows. Making it legal younger doesn't make for better people, imo. And just because kids seem so much more mature at earlier ages doesn't change the fact of human brain development. And even though they can fight at 18, doesn't mean they are mature enough to do so or that one relates to the other.

Posted by formerteen October 14, 09 04:50 PM

35. Close this store. Make sure everyone knows that Belmont kids are criminals. Newton and Belmont are to blame fo this,

Posted by FriendOfBoston October 14, 09 04:51 PM

36. Let college kids drink. They will do it anyway. Do not turn them into criminals for perfectly normal behavior.
If I was one of these parents getting the phone call I would definitely yell at my kid however for being a jackass. Smart kids do not go up to random people in the parking lot and ask them to buy them alcohol. When we were in college we befriended seniors that were 21 or during times of complete desperation paid the homeless to buy us a pack of beer.

Posted by n.h. October 14, 09 04:51 PM

37. The legal drinking age was once 18 years old in mASSachusetts. The 18 year olds bought for the 15 year olds and carnage ran amock on the roadways. Teenagers were getting killed and killing others in accidents. After public outcry, the legislature reversed the age back to 21 years old. Eighteen year olds who serve in the military can drink on Military Bases. Any arguments to lower the legal drinking age to 18 again will fail because a lot of people remember how irresponsible that decision was and the impact the abuse of alcohol by "youngsters" caused so many to die or become maimed for the rest of their lives.

Posted by Noname49 October 14, 09 04:59 PM

38. Sounds like a lot of hype about nothing. If I lived in Newton i would have to drink... heavily...

Seriously, I hear the bloodlust in everyone's tone and have to ask myself if you all really mean to say that a business should get shut down because there were 90 ATTEMPTS to purchase liquor by people under 21, most with fake ID, and only 8 succeeded. Get a grip. That's like saying the police department should be closed down everytime a single employee violates any law.

Posted by Shawna October 14, 09 05:09 PM

39. Pump the breaks Tim...a little aggressive don't you think? I think it's pretty fair to say that--even in Newton--there are more efficient ways for police officers to be spending time staking out liquor stores for college kids in a college town. I'm not sure what good deed was done in getting a few kids in trouble, confiscating some beer and shutting down a store where a new store will just pop up in a few months anyways? (I used to buy beer in high school at the store that was there right before NCM).

"If you simply drop the drinking age to 18, then you'll only be causing 15 and 16 year olds to try to buy booze. The drinking age is not the problem."

Also, I'm not sure where this iron-clad law is that whatever the drinking age is, people 3 years younger than it will automatically be trying to buy alcohol..

Posted by Samuel Golenbock October 14, 09 05:11 PM

40. The drinking age IS the problem. Simply put, stop this handholding of American kids. The only reason our kids don't grow up in this country is that we enforce laws that won't let them.

Worried about this upcoming generations of helpless adults who can't even seem to dress themselves? Well maybe if we'd given them a bit of dignity at age 16 or 18 instead of constantly telling them YOU AREN'T OLD ENOUGH TO CONTROL YOURSELF - then our country wouldn't be plummeting down the tubes.

Every kid that dies of underage drinking is a goddamn hero.

Posted by GESUALDI October 14, 09 05:19 PM

41. To a few of these bloggers: Please do not blame the Newton cops for doing their jobs. Something I find interesting about this news piece is that the town of Belmont recently had some very serious alcohol poisoning incidents among underage drinkers, and the article mentioned that "most" of the teens caught were from Belmont. Assuming for the moment that the police had knowledge that Belmont teens may be obtaining liquor for their parties from this store, wouldn't you want this issue to be investigated?

Posted by JJ Uconn October 14, 09 05:29 PM

42. Why should the liquor store that has no intent to sell to minors be punished and the minor who has every intention of breaking the law and even using a false id in the commission of this crime be let go! There is something fundamentally wrong with this police and ABC practice. If they want to make it fair make all people wishing to buy alcohol have to show an ID. Take the guessing game out of the liquor store employees hands.

Posted by john flaherty October 14, 09 05:44 PM

43. the law is the law...but if you can go to war, I agree, but right now, the law is the law is the law.

Posted by car October 14, 09 05:47 PM

44. I don't understand why the people with phony IDs are not being charged. The word must have been circulated among the kids that this store was an easy pushover. Maybe a \$500, fine for those with the ids would send them a message. Maybe not !

Posted by waterfront October 14, 09 06:27 PM

45. When will we realize that it's not about the drinking age being 18, 21, or even 51? It's about our American repression of and respect and education for alcohol.

Currently our laws say alcohol is EVIL for the first 20 years and 364 days of your life. The second you turn 21 it's open season to drink like you're on

your me. The second you turn 21 it's open season to drink like you're on spring break in Cancun being filmed by MTV or girls gone wild.

The sad reality is most kids learn about drinking from their peers when they're in college because we've created this taboo about drinking.

We should completely abolish the drinking age all together and allow parents to responsibly teach their own children about alcohol consumption. This neo-prohibition junk just isn't working.

When daughter turns 21, I'm going to make sure it's me who teaches her about alcohol, not some beer pong, jager shot shooting, frat boy.

Posted by Erik Z October 14, 09 06:32 PM

46. ~~////////////////////////////////////~~

Posted by sleepy October 14, 09 07:05 PM

47. Identification cards are easy to copy using today's technology. If you were behind the counter, would you be able to identify a fake 100% of the time? I doubt it.

In my opinion, the store did nothing wrong. The clerks probably check all but the cards are just "very, very good fake IDs". Underage drinkers are just to resourcefull with contacts and technology. It is easy to make or obtain a false identification card.

The investigators caught the suspects because they had a machine that assists in the identification. A device that costs thousands to install in a store. This is why you do not see them in every store.

Posted by crabby October 14, 09 07:17 PM

48. Ummmm, crabby, not they didn't. Your last paragraph is completely wrong and we'll leave it at that.

Posted by William October 14, 09 07:43 PM

49. Do you guys really think that 15 year olds (high school sophomores) don't drink? Come on, how naive can you be.

Posted by Kevin October 14, 09 08:12 PM

50. yup, when we lowered the drinking age it turned out to be a disaster. our law enforcement needs to have this law in place to curb violence and dui cases. hopefully a life was saved when those teenagers realized how close they were to facing legal consequences. maybe some of them should.

Posted by will October 14, 09 08:21 PM

51. In living in Italy, I noted that while teens and young adults can buy alcohol...it is considered VERY bad form and socially unacceptable to get drunk and behave badly under the influence of alcohol...and at least Italians do NOT do that--it's a brutta figura.

BUT unfortunately in the US--drinking and behaving badly while drunk is a "sport" and until young people actually observe the laws, respect authority and don't act like knuckleheads..lowering the age isn't going to happen--because of the drinking/driving issues etc.

In MANY states--including MA-- teens and young adults might consider that sex with someone under the influence of alcohol and drugs can be considered sex without the ability to consent....so if one is under the influence--they may file charges afterward.

Posted by fog October 14, 09 08:35 PM

52. My 18 yr old son and his friends bought fake id's on Newbury Street. They are obviously fake, but accepted at many bars and convenience stores. Money, as always, rules. Wish I knew the name of the store.

Posted by getovrit October 14, 09 08:38 PM

53. This store was obviously known to underage persons that it was an easy mark to get alcohol. If they caught 90 attempts in one night how many 90 successful nights were there prior to the sting? I bet plenty. This owner is a piece of crap who obviously doesn't care about child safety (or adult safety either if they are on the receiving end of a 'head on' by a drunken minor). He only cares about making as much money as possible. This store owners license should be revoked for at least 90 days. Believe me, once you take away the license the money train stops and the owner finally gets it and the hille*** stone

... steps.

In fairness, the kids with the phony ID's should not have been let go, they should have been charged and tried. This makes them think twice the next time and not only could but will save someone from being in an accident resulting in a life of pain or worse.

I was 20 in 1973 when Governor Dukakis lowered the age to 18. It was great for me for a few months until I turned 21 but I remember there was a huge spike in underage auto accidents resulting in many injuries and deaths. They raised the age back to 21 in stages. 19 for several months, then 20, then finally back to 21. Do not advocate for lowering the age to 18. I was there and it was not pretty.

If you are underage and drinking, please do not drive. There is more truth to the saying 'Friends do not let friends drive drunk.'

Posted by kevinjsalem October 14, 09 08:38 PM

54. Son give me that beer.....now take this gun and go kill some foreigners with the USA's permission.....pick an age 18, 19, 20 or 21 but make that the age of majority the same for for everything

Posted by concerned citizen October 14, 09 08:39 PM

55. It's not Belmont High, it's Belmont residents that came back from college on the three day weekend. Trust me, I know.

Posted by Anonymous October 14, 09 08:48 PM

56. As a college student, I see all the stupid behavior that occurs for people my age. And, I take part in it at least 3 times a week. I binge drink everytime I drink, just like everyone else my age. And, its because of how we were raised. Alcohol was never allowed, until my family eventually stopped trying to stop me when I was about 16 or 17. But, no matter what, people are going to drink in high school and college. The drinking age has nothing to do with it and it can't stop anyone. It should be abolished so that people grow up drinking alcohol as casually as milk and juice. Granted, this won't stop binge drinking completely, but maybe people will start to think about it differently because it's not a rebellious activity.

Posted by CollegeStudent October 14, 09 08:57 PM

57. Here we go again. When are those Belmont parents going to start being parents to their little darlings? A 17 year old using a 34 y-o id? Mommy dearest, where were you when sweetie pie was out trying to buy booze? If you've been following the Belmont news lately, this is only the latest in a long string of Belmont drinking games. Hey kids, last call before someone does something more stupid than what you did last weekend in Newton!

Posted by Belmont Strikes Again October 14, 09 09:15 PM

58. Not sure where you people live, but I can tell you in the north shore (medford, stonehame, wakefield, billerica, burlington...) you can't get booze in a grocery store.

Isn't that what that whole law was about?

Posted by ME October 14, 09 09:49 PM

59. Correction, formerteen: The human brain does not finish developing until age 23 or 24.

Sorry Steve, I never tried to buy alcohol until I reached the legal age. What I did do was to get a flat tire from all the beer bottles that teens driving by in cars used to smash on the street when the state was talking about raising the age back to 21.

Drunken people can be a problem, but drunken teens and drunken college students are a bane to our city. Underage drinking is not a victimless crime.

Posted by Michael October 14, 09 10:08 PM

60. If there wasn't such an absurd threat of punishment for underage drinking, those Belmont-ers wouldn't have had to drink without responsible supervision-- they could've had adults around to supervise ,and adults, or better yet 911, to call for help without fear of punishment. The amount of drunk-driving I saw in high school because kids were too afraid of their parents finding out about them drinking to call for a ride is staggering...I can't imagine that's a better scenario than when the drinking age was 18.

61. I am a 20 year old student. Honestly, ironically, I just purchased alcohol before coming home and reading this article. I think that the enormity of this situation upsets those of you who are upset.

I grew up near Newton (not Newton or Belmont, phew) and I find it obvious that the culprits already knew this store is, or has been recently, very lenient. Sorry fans of the market.

This means that even if college students were home this weekend, high schoolers have been hitting the place up at least for the past few weeks. Why would they choose this place over, say Blanchard's or another large place? - They got complaints. The article says, "most were college students." Some WERE high schoolers. I cannot explain the physiological process of this rapid maturation, but coming home from Freshman year in college, or even staying at home and working for a year, everyone I know became responsible enough to control themselves, momentarily more than in high school, under the influence of alcohol --just as responsible as someone who is 21, 31, 41, the only difference being years of drunk experience--

As for binge drinking and losing control; those students who do it choose to do it, just as the 45 yos who do it choose to do it, the only difference there is that nearly no students drive, and those 45 yo binge drinkers end up driving home from the bar. (sometimes killing these high schoolers and college students)

I do not know what this observation means for the drinking age, but I agree that it has to do with education from parents and school systems at a young age. Every country has thousands of citizens with alcohol problems, but when it comes to knowing limits and control, those of my my international friends who have been drinking in small amounts with their families since their preteens drink most appropriately.

Posted by bostonstudent October 14, 09 10:16 PM

62. I am currently a sophomore at a nearby college. Yes, I am underage with a very good fake ID. I regularly buy alcohol from the Newton Corner Mart with very little trouble, however, they do always ID me. If they ever stopped me, I know I can just go to the next store down the road and get away with it there. The point is your not going to stop underage drinking especially in a college town or on a college campus. If somehow they managed to stop me I live on a college campus where the abundance of alcohol is overwhelming. 5 dollars at a party and I can have all the beer I want from the unlimited supply of kegs. Anyone who has gone away to college knows that when Friday night roles around almost everyone is looking to get drunk with their friends and have a good time. Even if they bring back prohibition, I am confident they will not stop drinking on college campuses. I don't feel like I am breaking a law when I go out on the weekends and don't want to be treated like it either.

Posted by UnderageDrinker October 14, 09 10:21 PM

63. Really people, o no highschool kids are drinking beer. everyone needs to settle down. what your going to give 90 kids criminal records for acting like a normal teenager. If you say you didnt drink in highschool your either lying or a complete loser so grow up

Posted by highschooler October 14, 09 10:31 PM

64. Is this really a good use of police time. Underage people will get booze anyway
Its a joke and a waste of taxpayer money. Law enforcers need to a grip and the ACBC needs to get a life.
Its like the war on drugs. WASTE of time and I am a conservative republican.

Posted by Cash October 14, 09 10:37 PM

65. Well, a. not true that 'nearly no students drive.' Actually, judging by the surrounding areas, those students most likely are driving-- that's BC students who have a campus and access to cars, and students from neighbouring towns (i.e. Wellesley and Weston, which I'm pretty sure are both dry towns).
and b. let's not exaggerate this "physiological process;" you're going to drink more at college, and yes that'll probably lead to a higher alcohol tolerance, but I'd be careful to attribute that to a physical maturation...I'm not actually sure what you're saying there. that responsibility comes from drunk

sure that you're saying there, that responsibility comes from adult experience AND parental/school supervised education? You seem to be saying two things.

c. I agree with the last part-- I have friends in other countries, particularly from studying abroad where the drinking age was lower, and they seem to have significantly less problems, legally and health-wise. They are also a lot more open with their parents about the amount of alcohol they consume...

Posted by south hall October 14, 09 11:03 PM

66. 18 year olds shouldn't drink, as they don't have the judgement. But when they join the military, lo and behold, they suddenly have the judgement to kill or be killed without alcohol.

What logic.

Posted by Eric October 14, 09 11:10 PM

67. i grew up in belmont. i'm at college now. my dad recently moved out of belmont so thankfully i don't have to go back there when I'm on break. I say thankfully because a lot of my good friends have turned into alcoholics and drug addicts over the past couple of years. this probably has a lot to do with the early age at which we started experimenting with drugs and alcohol (middle school).
this isn't just a few kids or my core group of friends i'm talking about here. looking back, i can count at least 50 people who were regular binge drinkers. Starting freshman year, i heard stories from upperclassmen about drinking in between final exams and in between classes (belmont high has a lot of free periods) and saw my peers emulating them by spring semester freshman year.
basically, my point is that belmont is a bad place to be growing up especially if you're prone to addiction due to all the drinking going on and the availability of drugs. i blame a lot of this on the police force of belmont, who for the most part, do little to prevent drinking.

Posted by masta g October 14, 09 11:38 PM

68. OK, ME, let's settle this once and for all. Very few grocery stores in this state are allowed to sell alcohol. There are a small number of exceptions. The exceptions are on a store-by-store basis, not for a whole chain. These stores are only allowed to sell beer and wine.

Also, I have seen at least one grocery store that had a separate liquor store with a separate entrance and checkout within it. Technically, these were separate stores.

Finally, I use to buy beer at a liquor store that was right next to and had an entrance from a convenient store, but they were separate stores with separate ownership.

I don't know if there is a law against beer and wine from an office supply store.

Posted by Michael October 15, 09 12:02 AM

69. This whole "underage" drinking problem was caused by the loons who thought "laws" will make everything ok. Demystify drinking by putting the legal age back to 18, allowing "kids" to be exposed to booze in their homes so it is no big deal when they are outside of their homes and parental control. somehow the population was able to sustain itself and even grow when the drinking age was at a reasonable age. It was only the change in the time that kids could drive that made the loons overreact

Posted by cantstandya October 15, 09 01:28 AM

70. OK, Michael and ME, let me settle this once and for all. Each city and town can license whatever kind(s) of store(s) they like, to sell alcohol. There are no "exceptions .. on a store-by-store basis" Exceptions to what???

There is a state law that says no individual, partnership, or corporation can have more than one retail liquor license in any town, more than two in any city, or more than three in the state. There are many grocery stores, convenience stores, supermarkets, and even drugstores that sell alcohol. But none of the mega-supermarket chains can have more than three licenses in the state.

Any city and town can choose to license, or not licence, any specific establishment. I've purchased beer in supermarkets in Honkinton.

Framingham, Hudson, Acton, and Sudbury. Yes, even Billerica (which is not on the North Shore, by the way). And in convenience stores in Acton, Hudson, Stow, Maynard, Southborough, etc. I've even purchased hard liquor in a Massachusetts supermarket. Alcohol sales in supermarkets are not rare at all in my part of the state, west and northwest of Boston. It's just uncommon in the big chain supermarkets, because of the three-store limit per owner. If the only licenses in your town are in dedicated liquor stores, that's the town's decision, not a state law. There are even a few towns that don't issue any licenses at all.

There is no state law restricting "what kind" of store can sell alcohol, so there can't be any so-called "exceptions" to a non-existent law. It's not true that "Very few grocery stores in this state are allowed to sell alcohol" or that "There are a small number of exceptions" or that grocery stores can't sell hard liquor. It's just not so. Go to the state government website and read the law yourself, Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 138, Section 15. I don't know where these misconceptions come from, but it's not from state law.

Posted by David October 15, 09 11:10 AM

71. 45 cases 41 bottles and a few beer balls is not nearly enough alcohol for 600 kids...the national "bing drinking standard" should not be idiotic and realize this is Mass we are talking about. At a standard Mass high school party that much booze is good for honestly about 200 kids maximum; unless we're talking about like 60 pound girls.

Posted by Chris October 15, 09 11:46 AM

72. Pass legislation to make the attempted purchase of age-restricted products by minors to be unlawful, allow clerks & servers to retain drivers licenses of minors for evidence in prosecution, and pay a portion (\$50) of a \$250 fine to the clerk or server who prevented the sale & initiated prosecution of the minor. A \$50 incentive to the employees will make them a lot harder to be fooled by underage patrons, & ID's will be checked.

Posted by Doug October 15, 09 10:51 PM

73. Just did some (very) rough math...(cause I don't want to study for this exam)

Assuming 30 beers a case, that's $30 \times 45 = 1350$ drinks
Then let's say a bottle is apx. 22 drinks? $22 \times 41 = 902$ drinks
5 beer balls x 55 beers each = 275

Altogether—> $1350 + 902 + 275 = 2527 / 600$ kids = 4.212 drinks / person.
Could be upped a bit if a bottle is more than 22 drinks, but difference would be marginal...looks like that is national "binge-drinking" standards...

Posted by Sam October 15, 09 11:47 PM

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