

March 29, 2007

“Don’t Hang Around Bars”

Today’s editorial “Don’t Hang Around Bars” got it right, only in that it is a truism in that unsuspecting young adults, under the age permitted for the consumption of alcohol, (but are adults for every other aspect of life, including criminal law) may not understand that the law allows them to be drinking, or have alcohol in their possession. If Legislators allow such a nebulous law to remain on the books, then it won’t be too long before they allow police to arrest individuals who have alcohol in a motor vehicle (open or not). Couldn’t we rewrite our law to make operators of the car guilty of drinking while operating because alcohol was in their domain?

Rather than parroting the mantra of “new temperance advocates” by saying that 20 year old men and women should “Learn about the evil” of alcohol, shouldn’t the Courant be advocating for fairness and justice? Isn’t there really something wrong with a law that is written so broadly, it allows authorities to ensnare unsuspecting individuals doing no wrong? Should you not be advocating for governmental responsibility, as well as individual responsibility?

If it is so wrong for these young persons to be on these premises, then we will have to prohibit these same individuals from entering restaurants where alcohol is sold. By applying a law so broadly, as it is obviously allowed by our courts, we do nothing more than instill in those accused a lack of respect for Law and Law Enforcement.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Tulisano