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LICENSE STATE NEWS

CA: California senator pushes for 4 a.m. bar closing time -- again

KTVU FOX 2

By Sara Zendeenam, KTVU

December 18, 2018

SAN FRANCISCO (KTVU) - Another effort to allow bars in some California cities to sell alcohol until 4 a.m. is expected to be reintroduced on Tuesday.

This bill would only be in effect in nine cities if passed and it would just give bars and restaurants the option to serve until 4 a.m.

Those cities include San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento and six cities in Southern California, according to the San Francisco Chronicle.

The "Let Our Communities Adjust Late Night" is being reintroduced by state Sen. Scott Wiener who says cities could come up with their own rules like where alcohol can be sold until 4 a.m. and how often.

A version of the bill was passed by the state legislature earlier this year but Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed it saying the bill would increase drunk driving. Wiener argues there isn't data that proves that.

Gov.-elect Gavin Newsom taking office in January could change the fate of this bill.

Some opponents include groups like Alcohol Justice and California Alcohol Policy Alliance.

In a statement from the fall, the groups said the only benefit of the bill would be profit for bars – restaurants and club owners and that the public and government would be tasked with cleaning up the mess that follows.

Kevin Moss of San Francisco didn't like the idea. "It requires people to be responsible," he said. "I worry about traffic. People hurting themselves."

Wiener told the Chronicle, however, that the bill would boost small businesses and add cultural vibrancy.

Lus Perez of San Francisco agreed. "It would be good for business," Perez said.

If passed, the bill would begin a five-year pilot program in those nine cities starting Jan. 1, 2022.

After that, the legislature will choose whether or not to make the changes permanent.

ND: 'Place of Last Drink' proposal looks to decrease drunk drivers

Valley News Live

By Bailey Hurley

December 18, 2018

FARGO, N.D. (KVLY) The Liquor Control Board is scheduled to hear a proposal tomorrow night on a new way to keep bars in the Valley responsible.

The program is called POLD, standing for Place of Last Drink.

It's an effort to keep track of locations where people last consumed alcohol when they are involved in incidents like DUI's and assaults.

The woman behind the local push for POLD didn't get back to us today, but similar initiatives are already present near the Twin Cities.

In Hennepin County, officers track all incidents that involve alcohol. They look at the crimes committed, what bar that offender was last at and what the average blood alcohol content is. And through that data, officers are able to find patterns and zero in on specific places that need to be talked to.

If law enforcement talking with a bar or club doesn't lower the amount of times a person is over-served, that information can be used against them when reviewing liquor licenses.

Officials in Hennepin County say that bartenders usually don't know if someone's gotten kicked out at another bar down the road, or what happens to that customer when they leave their establishment. Officials add that the Place of Last Drink tracks those patterns and aims to stop over-serving.

The Place of Last Drink program is also in place in Excelsior, Minn., where officials say it has lowered the average blood alcohol content at all of the major bars in town. Officials also say they think the initiative has made bartenders pay more attention to the people they're serving.

Stick with Valley News Live, as we will let you know what comes out of tomorrow's meeting.

MD: New Ad Touts Public Health Success of Tobacco, Alcohol Taxes

Maryland Matters

By Josh Kurtz

December 18, 2018

With the growing use of e-cigarettes by teenagers – and the associated health risks – prominent in the news, the Maryland Healthcare for All Coalition is launching a video Wednesday demonstrating the success of alcohol and tobacco taxes to address public health issues in the state.

The video is a companion to a comprehensive study released earlier this year by the Abell Foundation showing steep reductions in alcohol consumption and tobacco use, especially among young people, after tax increases were enacted.

The ad, produced by the Maryland Health Care for All Coalition, is not associated with any current campaign to pass legislation in Annapolis but is simply meant to highlight the success Maryland has had driving down alcohol consumption and smoking rates.

“The video released today will raise awareness among policymakers and the public about this evidence-based policy solution to reduce alcohol and tobacco use and reduce healthcare spending,” said Vincent DeMarco, president of the coalition. “Developing an evidence based policy solution is the first step in transforming public will into public policy.”

The Abell Foundation study, “Public Health Policy in Maryland: Lessons from Recent Alcohol and Cigarette Tax Policies,” was conducted by experts at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. The study concluded that taxing some consumer products is a policy strategy that has the potential to improve the public’s health.

The authors found that following the 3 percent state alcohol sales tax increase in 2011, binge drinking by Maryland adults decreased by 17 percent in Maryland between 2011 and 2016 and was greater than the 6 percent reduction nationally. There was also a decrease in alcohol-positive drivers and in sexually transmitted infections in Maryland.

Following the \$1 per pack cigarette tax increase in 2008 smoking by Maryland adults decreased by 26 percent among current smokers between 2011 and 2016.

Among high school students the study found that there was a 47 percent reduction in students who reported smoking a cigarette in the preceding 30 days between 2007 and 2015. In 2007, 17 percent of Maryland high school students reported smoking at least once in the previous 30 days, dropping to just 9 percent in 2015. The report notes that young people who do not smoke in high school are less likely to start smoking as adults and are less likely to use other illegal substances than their smoking peers.

[Click here](#) to see a 15-second version of the ad. [Click here](#) to see a 90-second version of the ad.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Canada: Health Canada takes steps to restrict amount of alcohol allowed in sugary premixed beverages
Agency says these drinks are becoming a growing risk to public health, especially for young people

CBC News

December 18, 2018

Health Canada is taking steps to reduce the amount of alcohol allowed in the potent, sugary, premixed drinks that the agency says are becoming a growing risk to public health, especially for young people.

"These drinks can contain up to four times the standard amount of alcohol per container, yet do not taste like alcohol, because the alcohol base is purified, flavoured, and often very sweet," the government agency said in a news release.

The proposed amendments to the country's Food and Drug Regulations would help protect youth from over-consumption that could lead to alcohol poisoning and death, Health Canada said.

The changes would mean that the number of servings of alcohol permitted in one container would be reduced. Any container under a litre could not contain more than 1.5 servings of alcohol under the new amendments. That means they must contain 25.6 millilitres or less of alcohol.

Right now, a can of 568 millilitres of flavoured, purified alcohol could contain up to 11.9 per cent alcohol, the equivalent of four alcoholic drinks.

Under the new regulation, a drink of the same size could not contain more than 4.5 per cent alcohol by volume, Health Canada said.

But the amendments would not apply to alcohol sold in glass bottles of 750 millilitres or more, since those drinks are considered to contain several portions.

The reason for this is that glass bottles that are this size are a common format for traditional alcoholic beverages, such as wine and spirits, Health Canada said.

"As a result, consumers are likely to identify these formats as containing multiple servings of alcohol," the agency said.

In March, Quebec moved to ban the sale of premixed malt-based beverages containing more than seven per cent alcohol from anywhere other than the provincial liquor stores.

That decision came two weeks after Montreal-area teenager Athena Gervais died after she reportedly consumed an 11.9 per cent alcohol malt-liquor drink called FCKED UP on her school lunch break.

The company that produces FCKD UP has since halted production, but other similar beverages are still on the market in the province.

Athena's father, Alain Gervais, said he and his family are happy with how quickly the federal government moved on the issue, and how the proposed amendments address the amount of alcohol and the format in which it is sold.

"The main goal is to protect our young people from these products which are, frankly, dangerous. I can't say more than we are really happy," Gervais said.

Sugary, high-alcohol beverages also played a role in the death of 30-year-old Drummondville, Que., resident Pierre Parent last Christmas Day.

He died after combining two Four Loko drinks, which had an alcohol content of 11.9 per cent, with caffeine and cold medicine, according to a coroner's report released in August.

Proposal significant, but not perfect: substance abuse specialist

For the Quebec Association for Public Health (ASPQ), the proposed amendments are a step forward, but don't address the problem completely.

Instead of 1.5 standard drink portions, ASPQ substance abuse specialist Émilie Dansereau-Trahan says it should only be one portion.

"When someone will open a container of alcohol, they will think they are taking only one portion," Dansereau-Trahan said. "And when they take the second one, it will actually be the third one."

Still, the proposal is "really significant," she said.

Dansereau-Trahan also suggested ensuring that drinks with more than one portion of alcohol should have a container that is re-sealable, as well as including a logo that tells the drinker exactly how many portions are in the beverage.

Health Canada expects the new regulations to come into effect by spring of 2019, after a consultation period.

United Kingdom: Would you get behind the wheel if you had been drinking? Shock results reveal how many would.

Daily Echo

By Sally Churchward, Senior Feature Writer

December 18, 2018

SHOCKING research has revealed that almost a fifth of people think it's OK to drive after drinking, as long as they feel unaffected.

Despite million-pound drink driving awareness campaigns, a CarTakeBack.com and YouGov survey revealed the worrying findings. With 40 million driving licenses in Great Britain, this is nearly 7 million drivers.

Drivers appeared to define their own 'safe' limit for drink-driving. Nearly one in ten think they could drink more than the UK legal limit before their driving ability would be affected.

The survey revealed a number of other findings. Men think they can drink the most and still be fine to drive, with six times more men than women believing they can consume 6-10 units of alcohol before their driving ability is affected. This is equivalent to 6-10 single shots of spirits or 3-5 pints of lower strength beer/cider/lager!

When asked their opinions on driving after drinking, 7 percent more of the respondents who were aged 55+ felt it was sometimes fine if you feel unaffected, compared to those responding aged 18-24.

Worryingly, many studies show that despite how you feel, any amount of alcohol in a driver's bloodstream can impair driving.

The government commissioned Sir Peter North to review drink and drug driving laws. In his report, he stated the DETR found drivers with a Blood Alcohol Concentration between 50mg and 80mg are 2-2.5 times more likely to be involved in a crash than drivers with zero alcohol, plus up to 6 times more likely to be involved in a fatal collision.

Similarly, a study at The University of California found there is no safe combination of drinking and driving and any alcohol in the bloodstream whilst driving poses an increased driving risk.

In the UK, the current legal blood alcohol limit is 0.08 percent, it's suggested that lowering this to 0.05 percent (in line with European countries) would save more lives.

The festive season is upon us and it seems the drink driving problem skyrockets during the party season. Data from Police.uk shows December is the month with the highest number of positive or refused breath tests on the roads. In the latest data, there were 5,869 in December compared to 4,446 in February.

Neil Greig, IAM RoadSmart Policy and Research Director, said: "Christmas can be a perfect storm for drink-driving. Temptations all around, the normal rules relaxed, and as this survey suggests, a high level of ignorance and misunderstanding around limits and safe levels. Ultimately there is no safe level of alcohol in the blood if you intend to drive. The simplest message is none for the road. Plan your night out so that you can enjoy yourself and not have any stress about the journey home."

Canada: Craft brewers, distillers get a boost from the Yukon Liquor Corporation

Beer and spirits made by small producers to be charged by volume, regardless of bottle price

Yukon News

By Julien Gignac

December 18, 2018

Changes to the way the Yukon Liquor Corporation (YLC) does business will benefit local craft makers “significantly,” said Bob Baxter, co-owner of Yukon Brewing.

On Jan. 1, 2019, a wholesale pricing model will come into effect, expected to save licensees roughly \$250,000 in total, said YLC president Matt King. This figure is predicated on booze sales of previous years.

As part of the changes, small producers will now be charged at a fixed per litre rate rather than a percentage of the cost of their products.

This means that Yukon Brewing would save nearly double, even with the same shelf price, Baxter said.

Under the former system, the more expensive the product, the higher a percentage owed to the YLC, he said. This had a trickle-down effect in that consumers could pay more.

“We typically see higher supplier prices for craft beer,” King said. “If you have a percentage-based markup on top of that, that means the markup is that much higher as well, so this per litre basis helps to keep the small producer product prices more competitive with large companies in the beverage industry.”

The markup schedule for small producers was introduced on Dec. 1, with the full implementation occurring a month later to the day.

Whether Yukon Brewing’s beer will dip in price for the consumer is to be determined because prices can fluctuate, Baxter said.

“It’s an item by item investigation we have to do,” he said. “I wouldn’t be surprised to see some go down, I also wouldn’t be surprised to see a couple go up.”

Consumers could save on domestic and imported beer and wine, though.

A 12 pack of Molson Canadian, for example, is predicted to decrease by \$1.65; a bottle of Apothic Red could cost \$0.65 less, according to an YLC cost comparison sheet.

These potential savings would be offset by a higher price for spirits, King said.

The shelf price for a bottle of Wisers Special Blend, for instance, could increase by \$3.25.

Like craft beer makers, small distilleries will be charged per litre to give them a competitive edge in the market

This, King said, will make it more viable to get local spirits in liquor stores.

Two Brewers, the same company as Yukon Brewing, is doing exactly that, stocking its whisky in government outlets throughout the territory. In addition to that is a berry liqueur, called Concept.

Bars and restaurants will be able to gain access to these spirits Baxter said. He added that prices to the customer won’t change.

Marko Marjanovic, co-owner of Winterlong Brewing, said he’s going to “wait and watch” what other small producers are charging in the New Year before making any decisions.

But the change, overall, is definitely a positive, he said, because it creates a more even playing field.

“I don’t think that higher priced products should be penalized because of their rarity or craft nature,” Marjanovic said. “If I decide to charge more because I’m smaller, I shouldn’t be hurt over somebody who can produce hundreds more and they actual have less markup.”

On Dec. 11, consumers saved \$0.60 on Winterlong’s seasonal Guilt Trip Barleywine bought through YLC, he said.

“Our higher priced products are even cheaper now,” Marjanovic said.

There's another perk.

If beer is to be sold at the brick and mortar shop located on Mount Sima Road, YLC now waives a cost of service charge, he said.

The \$0.30 per litre fee goes towards distribution and warehouse costs taken on by YLC.

"There's now more of an incentive for us to bring people to our store, to sell less to the liquor corporation. The change has done that for us," Marjanovic said.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Scotch Whisky Action Fund helps 13 new charities

The Spirits Business

By Melita Kiely

December 19, 2018

Thirteen organisations that work to tackle alcohol misuse in Scotland have benefited from £175,000 (US\$221,000) worth of grants awarded from the fifth round of the Scotch Whisky Action Fund.

Established by the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) in 2013, the Scotch Whisky Action Fund is managed by independent charity Foundation Scotland.

The recipients of this year's grants were selected by an independent awards panel, chaired by dame Joan Stringer.

Some of the charities chosen this year include: Alcohol Education Trust: Talk About Alcohol Education Programme; Crossreach: The Sunflower Garden Project; Fast Forward: Wasted; Health Opportunities Team: Substance Use; Visual Statement: Pink to Black; Addictions Counselling Inverness: Family Member Counselling; and West Dumbartonshire Council for Voluntary Service: Men's Befriending Group.

Karen Betts, SWA chief executive, said: "The Scotch whisky industry is committed to tackling alcohol misuse across Scotland.

"Since the Scotch Whisky Action Fund was established in 2013, the industry has supported a diverse range of community-led programmes across the country to prevent and reduce alcohol misuse.

"This year the awards reflect a greater emphasis on educating young people and other at risk groups about the risks of alcohol misuse."

'Super cult' wineries and virtual reality will disrupt fine wine industry in 2019, expert predicts

CNBC

By Chloe Taylor

December 19, 2018

"Super cult" wineries, digitalisation and a new generation of fine wine consumers will reshape the wine industry in 2019, a leading analyst told CNBC on Wednesday.

Mathieu Jullien, general manager for Europe at Wine Source, said these trends would continue to disrupt the industry next year. A growing awareness of the world's finest wines would also create a "significant number of 'super cult' wineries," presenting opportunities for investors.

Next generation

While wine producers had an increasingly global outlook, the sector was also experiencing a trend similar to the rise of microbreweries in beer production – particularly in the Champagne region.

"More and more of the new generation (of vineyard owners) have this idea to withdraw the grapes from big wine houses and focus on small production, raising their own profiles and putting specific villages on the map," Jullien told CNBC's "Squawk Box Europe."

This was contributing to a rise in "grower champagne" – a category of wines where the wine is produced by the same vineyard that grew the grapes. According to Jullien, the growth of this category presented "huge potential" for investors.

"We (also) anticipate the rise of a new generation of consumers," he said, noting that fine wines were becoming more popular with young female consumers, tech entrepreneurs and in Asian markets.

"They demand more service and advice around their wine collection," Jullien added. "The industry is moving from product consumption towards experience, education and service."

According to Jullien, the rising awareness and demand for luxury wines would drive up their value.

Digital wine tours

Wine Source also predicts an overhaul in how fine wines are distributed to consumers, thanks to emerging technologies such as virtual reality.

"It's easy to imagine a not-so-distant future when everyone will be able to 'visit' any winery from their living room, over the internet, perhaps joining a masterclass about pruning or blending, or taking part in a tutored tasting," Jullien said.

Wine Source is a global supplier of ultra-premium wines, where demand for specific wines typically outweighs supply.

Craft Brewer Definition Changes To Be More 'Inclusive'

VinePair

Produced by Cat Wolinski

December 18, 2018

The Brewers Association today announced that the craft brewer definition has changed, effective immediately.

Changes include removing one of the definition's previous three pillars, "traditional," which stated that a craft brewer is one "that has a majority of its total beverage alcohol volume in beers whose flavor derives from traditional or innovative brewing ingredients and their fermentation. Flavored malt beverages (FMBs) are not considered beers."

The two other pillars, "small" and "independent," remain in effect. This is the fourth time the BA has changed the craft brewer definition since its origination in 2006.

"Since 2006, the craft brewing industry has more than tripled in size and market share. As the industry evolves, so should the definition," Paul Gatza, BA director, wrote in a statement. Gatza continued, "The 'traditional' pillar became outdated because craft brewers ... have created new products that do not fit the traditional definition of beer."

Products he refers to include mead, sake, wine, kombucha, and flavored malt beverages (FMBs).

The new pillar replacing "traditional" is simply "brewer," which includes any company that has a TTB Brewer's Notice and makes beer. This means companies that primarily produce other beverages, as long as they make beer and have a license, can be considered craft brewers.

More information on the craft brewer definition update is available [here](#).

DAILY NEWS

Health Communications, Inc. Launches Online Alcohol Training Program for College Campuses

News Release

By Health Communications, Inc.

December 18, 2018

ARLINGTON, Va., Dec. 18, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- Health Communications, Inc. (HCI) is pleased to announce the release of eTIPS University, an online training and certification program specifically for college and university students. The consequences of excessive and underage drinking affect virtually all college campuses and communities, whether individual students choose to drink or not. The best way to ensure that students make safe, smart decisions is to equip, educate, and empower them to recognize and prevent alcohol-related problems. eTIPS University does just that.

At a time when stepping in and early intervention are vital, eTIPS University recognizes that students are in the best position to address their own drinking behaviors and drinking behaviors among their peers. They are close to the situation and understand the culture on their campuses. eTIPS University develops students' social skills and provides specific techniques for detecting when friends have had too much to drink. More importantly, students learn strategies and skills for intervening in alcohol-related situations that may develop on or off campus. Unique in its approach, eTIPS University incorporates evidence-based prevention methods to provide students with the tools they need to prevent the misuse of alcohol.

TIPS for the University classroom training has already been implemented on more than 1,000 campuses across the United States and has received high marks for both quality and effectiveness from the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP), a project of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Using many of the proven concepts from the TIPS classroom training program, eTIPS University is a 2.5-hour program designed to be administered to an entire population of students, such as fraternities and sororities, athletes, residence life, incoming freshmen, and student affairs. "Campuses have been asking us to create an eLearning alternative to our classroom program. While there are a couple programs out there that do a decent job surveying students on their drinking behaviors, eTIPS University is more substantive in that students will be certified in a program that provides them with the confidence to step in to prevent a student from hurting themselves or someone else. Also, eTIPS University, coupled with our alcohol server and seller training programs, will make a real difference in college communities," commented Trevor Estelle, Vice President at HCI.

To learn more, visit www.tipsuniversity.org.

About Health Communications, Inc.

Health Communications, Inc. (HCI) was founded in 1982 by Dr. Morris Chafetz, founding director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. HCI is a nationally recognized expert in the field of alcohol server training. Its flagship program, TIPS, was the first of its kind and continues to set industry standards for responsible alcohol service training. TIPS has certified over 5 million participants in all 50 states and in more than 50 different countries. Numerous public officials and government agencies have recognized and endorsed TIPS training as lifesaving and critical to the progress made in reducing alcohol-related injuries and deaths. To learn more, visit www.gettips.com.

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SOURCE Health Communications, Inc.

NIH/FAES Continuing Education Course—“Alcohol Across the Lifespan” (Available Spring 2019)

FAES/NIH

December 18, 2018

An estimated 15 million people in the United States have alcohol use disorder (AUD). And each year, an estimated 88,000 people die from alcohol-related causes—a figure 40 percent higher than people who die from opioid overdose. Alcohol misuse also contributes to more than 200 diseases and injury-related health conditions, and is involved in nearly half of all liver disease deaths in the United States.

To learn what you can do to help prevent and treat AUD, enroll in the continuing education course, “Alcohol Across the Lifespan,” offered by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) during spring 2019. This course is designed for addiction professionals, health professionals, students, social workers, counselors, psychologists, scientists, and the general public. Delve into topics such as risky drinking, neurobiology of addiction, epidemiology, genetics, prevention, and treatment of AUD.

The class will last 15 weeks, from February 6 to May 15, 2019, and will take place on Wednesday evenings from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland. The course offers two FAES credits and the cost is \$336. NAADAC (the Association for Addiction Professionals) continuing education hours are also available.

To enroll, please visit <https://my.faes.org/Common/CourseSchedule.aspx> and register for the course PBHL510 (“Alcohol Across the Lifespan”).

For more information, contact Ms. Joan Romaine at alcoholfaescourse@gmail.com.

The Great West Point Eggnog Riot

On Christmas Eve, 1826, some of the cadets, including Jefferson Davis, broke the military school's no drinking policy and indulged in a boozy Eggnog.

The Daily Beast

By Eric Felten

December 19, 2018

Long before Eggnog was just a boxy carton at the supermarket, one that turned up in the dairy case around Thanksgiving, people cared enough about the drink that they were willing to riot over it. And not just anybody, but the disciplined cadets of West Point.

It was Christmas Eve, 1826, and at the U.S. Military Academy it was anything but a silent night. Scores of cadets were in open, mutinous defiance of an order, of all things, that their holiday beverage be alcohol-free. The cadets nearly pulled the place down, and all because the officers denied them a proper drink of Christmas Eggnog.

The superintendent of the academy was a humorless martinet named Sylvanus Thayer. Tired of his charges flouting the rules against ardent spirits, Thayer had revoked the privilege that had allowed for cadets to indulge in a celebratory tot on Christmas Eve and George Washington's birthday.

The southern boys attending school up in the heart of Yankee territory had a rebellious streak. They decided a party was in order, one that was contrary to Thayer's order. But first they had to acquire some hard liquor in bulk. And for that, there was only one real choice.

The nearest booze to be had was at a tavern owned by publican Benny Havens. Originally near the academy, Havens had been pressured to move his establishment a mile or two down the road to “a small cottage at the base of the high cliff at Highland Falls.” The distance proved to be less an impediment than a lure. The hike didn't discourage thirsty cadets from slipping off post, but it did make it more of a chore for officers to show up and police the prohibition on drinking.

Havens was dear to the cadets, both then and now. Edgar Allan Poe spent a few grim months as a cadet at the military academy, and found his only solace at the tavern. Poe would later declare Benny to be “the sole congenial soul in the entire God-forsaken place.”

Benny Havens is remembered still by the Long Gray Line, who sing a song called “Benny Havens, Oh!” to the tune of “The Wearing of the Green.” By 1859 there were already some 18 verses of the song. Now there are dozens more. One of the first written out went, in part:

Old Benny was happy to oblige with gallon jugs of whiskey, which the cadets snuck back into their rooms. While the Eggnog was getting mixed up, the cadet who would in a few decades’ time be president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, helped organize the rumbustion, inviting his classmates to come get a pop or three. Davis, it should be noted, escaped being implicated in the worst of the rioting. This was not because he behaved with the standoffish sobriety of fellow cadet Robert E. Lee. No, Davis was fortunate to have been too drunk to do much damage: Having had a head-start with the Eggnog, by the time his classmates were in full revolt Davis had stumbled back to his quarters and fallen asleep.

The Eggnog was a stiff mix and there was plenty of it. Which explains what happened next: “A large number of the cadets got on a spree, and became excessively riotous, setting all officers at defiance and even, with a drawn sword, chasing one to his room,” recounted longtime Academy mathematics professor Albert E. Church. When troops were organized to quell the rambunctious bunch, they turned into a mob, throwing firewood, breaking windows and smashing the railings of the stairs. One miscreant, Cadet Richard B. Screven “was particularly wild, shouting, breaking tables and brandishing a musket.”

Of the 70 cadets arrested early that Christmas morning, some 20 later faced court-martial.

President John Quincy Adams had the unpleasant chore of going through the trial transcripts and determining which cadets should face the full punishment prescribed (expulsion, for most) and which might be allowed to resign instead, or even have their sentences remitted.

Adams was set upon by a succession of congressmen and senators and military men whose sons were in the dock. They were all looking for the president to do them a favor.

Typical was Colonel Bomford, who came to get instructions from Adams on the building of “the road between the Arsenal and the Penitentiary,” as the president noted in his diary. Soon, Bomford worked the conversation around to his son, George, who had been one of the Eggnog rioters.

“He spoke with a sore feeling of the difficulty which has arisen concerning the appointment by Colonel Thayer of a Court of Enquiry,” Adams recounts of old Bomford. “He complained also that there was no proper graduation of punishments at that institution.” Bomford asked the president if he had decided what to do about the trials. “I told him I should decide upon them all in a few days.”

“There is much delicacy in this affair,” President Adams lamented to his diary. Savvy to political propriety, Adams noted that “interferences of fathers and members of Congress with Courts-martial” are “in no wise favorable to the support of discipline.” And beyond what it would mean for West Point, there was the question what Adams’ actions would mean for his own reputation: Whatever “decision I make will be sharply censured.”

One of the cadets who survived without being expelled was John Archibald Campbell, later a Supreme Court Justice in the decade before the Civil War. Who would have thought it possible that someone so deep in his cups at school would rise to the high court?

A few of those who were expelled would later be found in uniforms of cadet grey—Confederate uniforms, that is. There was Benjamin Humphreys, rebel general and post-war governor of Mississippi. Hugh Weedon Mercer’s expulsion was remitted, but he chose to be a general for the South rather than the Union when the time came.

Men once risked their careers, their futures, for properly constituted Eggnog. The least we can do is make a better (and tastier) effort than just buying the supermarket stuff. And so here’s a recipe that’s based on the kind that the cadets might well have mixed up. Enjoy it this Christmas, and don’t forget to raise a cheer to Benny Havens—Oh!

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