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MI: Michigan Republicans Could Vote to Legalize Recreational Marijuana Next Week

CBS Detroit
June 4, 2018

MACKINAC ISLAND (AP) — Worried that Michigan voters might legalize recreational marijuana this fall, some Republican lawmakers think they have a way to apply the brakes: pass it themselves first to make it easier to change later.

To be clear, passage in the Legislature is a longshot. Republican House Speaker Tom Leonard said it would take a “marijuana miracle” for the House to vote on it by a Tuesday deadline. Republicans, who control both chambers, are divided on the issue and Democratic leaders want voters to decide.

“Right now, there is simply not support to do that and I do not see it happening by Tuesday’s deadline,” Leonard said Thursday at the Detroit Regional Chamber’s Mackinac Policy Conference.

The resistance frustrates Republican Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof, who said he has enough Republican votes in the state Senate to pass the ballot initiative and later amend it so it would mirror Michigan’s existing regulations for medical marijuana. He accused Leonard, who is running for state attorney general, of standing in the way and doing a “poor job” of educating House Republicans on their “responsibilities or abilities under the constitution.”

At stake is how recreational marijuana would be regulated. If it were passed by voters in November, future changes would require the support of three-fourths of both chambers of the Legislature. If the Legislature were to pass the measure, which would not require the governor’s signature to become law because it is a ballot initiative, legislators could later amend the law through simple majority votes.

Meekhof said he is concerned that the ballot proposal lacks enforcement provisions and that House leaders seem prepared to allow the “unregulated” recreational use of marijuana if voters pass the measure. He said talk of how adopting the initiative now might keep Democratic-leaning voters from turning out at the polls in November is “secondary” to his worries about how it is written.

Leonard said he is no “dictator” and that while he personally opposes the legalization of recreational marijuana, he would not prevent a vote if his caucus wants one.

The proposal would let people age 21 or older possess up to 2.5 ounces (71 grams) of marijuana outside their home and grow up to 12 plants at home. A 10 percent excise tax on marijuana would be assessed at the retail level on top of the 6 percent state sales tax. Businesses would need a state license to grow, sell, transport, process or test marijuana. Local governments could ban marijuana businesses or impose additional regulations.

A group opposing the ballot initiative, the Committee to Keep Pot Out of Neighborhoods and Schools, has urged lawmakers to adopt and amend the initiative, saying it fears the version heading to the ballot would “dismantle the bipartisan regulatory structure carefully designed for the medical marijuana industry.”

Michigan, which has allowed medical marijuana use for nearly a decade, would become the 10th state to legalize the drug for recreational use. According to national polls, a solid majority of Americans support legalization. Gallup’s latest survey gauged support at 64 percent.

Michigan Democrats say voters should decide the issue.

“The Republicans’ discussion around this is not about trying to enact a policy that is in front of us. It’s to actually enact a policy to change it,” said House Minority Leader Sam Singh of East Lansing. “There’s one group of Republicans who want to gut it. There’s another group of Republicans who basically want to get a couple of their donors to run the whole thing and enrich some of their friends.”
Singh said the ballot measure is built around medical marijuana regulations and the only thing that is different is that a “dysfunctional” board responsible for issuing licenses to medical pot businesses would not be involved in licensing the recreational marijuana industry.

The ballot committee that organized the initiative, the Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol, said it is a “complete fabrication” to suggest that regulating recreational pot would differ much from regulating its medical use. Spokesman Josh Hovey welcomed the Legislature passing the measure but only if it were approved in its current form.

**VA: ABC gets OK to move on HQ deal**

*Richmond Biz Sense*

*By J. Elias O’Neal*

*June 5, 2018*

A state agency with some of the most sought-after property in the city has received permission for a deal with an out-of-state developer to move its headquarters to the suburbs, potentially freeing up land for a new baseball stadium.

The Virginia General Assembly has given the departments of Alcoholic Beverage Control and General Services the green light to negotiate a deal with Tennessee-based H&M Co. to construct a new ABC headquarters on property owned by Bill Goodwin’s Riverstone Properties near the intersection of Pole Green Road and Interstate 295 in Hanover County.

Authorization to pursue the deal was included in the state’s $115 billion budget approved last week, listed among several capital improvement projects to be funded with proceeds from the sale of nearly $217 million in bonds.

The budget does not specify a funding amount for the future ABC complex, and no contract has been signed between H&M Co. and the state, said ABC spokeswoman Taylor Thornberg.

H&M Co. could not be reached for comment Monday afternoon. The firm focuses on design, construction and financing of distribution and manufacturing facilities nationwide.

ABC and General Services, which have been working together on the relocation, would not provide a cost estimate for the project. Representatives stated that doing so would undermine the agencies’ negotiating position.

General Services spokeswoman Dena Potter said in an email that the agencies expect H&M Co. to close on the property this summer. It’s unclear whether the property is under contract to the developer.

After issuing a request for proposals last year, the agencies announced in March they had selected H&M Co.’s proposal to construct a 315,000-square-foot warehouse and 95,000-square-foot office building to replace the existing ABC complex at 2901 Hermitage Road. The departments began talks with H&M Co. in December.

As part of the discussion, the agencies announced their preferred site for the facility is the Riverstone Properties land in Mechanicsville.

Some of the largest pieces of the 50-acre site are along a service road next to AMF Bowling Co.’s headquarters at 8100 AMF Drive.

ABC is targeting a move-in date for spring or summer 2021.

Once operational in Hanover County, the facility could allow ABC to eventually free up the Hermitage Road site, which has been discussed as a potential spot for a replacement of The Diamond that could be shared by the Flying Squirrels and VCU.

Gov. Ralph Northam’s office received the final budget May 30. He has through June 8 to sign it into law. The budget would take effect July 1.
MI: New laws establish Michigan Craft Beverage Council

The Daily News
June 4, 2018

LANSING — Gov. Rick Snyder has signed House Bill 4667 and Senate Bill 440, which will change the name of the Michigan Grape and Wine Industry Council to the Michigan Craft Beverage Council.

The bills also will expand the council to include Michigan wine, beer, hard cider and spirits. The bills are now Public Acts 154 and 155 of 2018.

The Craft Beverage Council will award grants for research into winemaking, hops, barley, beer and spirits; conduct market surveys and analysis; and offer other programs that encourage the agricultural elements related to Michigan’s craft beverage industries. The Council’s activities are funded exclusively by non-retail, non-wholesale liquor license fees.

“This is a really smart move for Michigan,” said Gordon Wenk, director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. “When the Michigan Grape and Wine Industry Council was established 30 years ago, Michigan had 14 wineries. We now have 145. And that industry alone contributes $5.4 billion in economic impact to our state, including $253 million in tourism spending. Now we’re watching Michigan become one of the nation’s most prolific and innovative producers of craft beers, hard ciders, and spirits. As a state, we must evolve with the industry-support them, promote them, and ensure they are represented in the decision-making process.”

The director of MDARD will serve as chair of the 10-member council and is the only non-voting member. Other members to be appointed by Snyder: two winemakers; a winemaker that primarily manufactures cider; one restaurant and one retail representative; a small distiller; a distiller that manufactures more than 60,000 gallons of spirits per year; a large brewer; and either a microbrewer or a brewpub license holder.

The Michigan Craft Beverage Council will be housed in the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, effective Oct. 1.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

United Kingdom: EU health chief not satisfied with industry’s alcohol labelling proposal

EURACTIV.com
By Sarantis Michalopoulos
June 5, 2018

EU Health Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis is not pleased with the “inconsistent” proposal recently submitted by the alcohol industry on labelling and insisted that European consumers should be presented the full information of the products they purchase.

“Our path is clear and we are doing the legal assessment [of the proposal]. At first sight, I am not satisfied with the proposal because it is not consistent and does not address some issues related to information for consumers: consumers should be fully informed.

But we need to see what our lawyers will say first,” Andriukaitis told EURACTIV.com in an exclusive statement.

Last March, the alcohol industry presented its much-awaited self-regulatory proposal on labelling. The main feature of the proposal was the flexibility among the different alcohol sectors.

According to the proposal, alcohol makers will be free to decide whether to place information on the label, online or both.

There is a common part accompanied by four sectorial annexes that explain in more detail what each sector will do (beer, wine, spirits, cider).
The general principle is that individual producers will be able to decide what information they provide on the label and online. Others, including the high number of SMEs and micro-enterprises that produce alcoholic beverages, are likely to use online means only.

Andriukaitis said the proposal was not exactly the same from one sector to another. “We will be assessing how to move forward and what our next steps are. Our interest is to make sure that consumers are informed.”

Referring to the regulation on the provision of food information to consumers, Andriukaitis said it required that full information be presented to consumers, explaining that “requirements that consumers should be informed are in place”.

Asked what the Commission is planning to do next, the EU health chief said that the wine industry asked the EU executive to come up with legislation.

“It’s in their proposal. We can assess it. Ultimately, it is not only my decision how to move forward,” the Lithuanian official concluded.

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United Kingdom: SWA appoints new Director of Industry

Drinks Retailing News
By Sonya Hook
June 5, 2018

The Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) has appointed Dagmar Droogsma as Director of Industry.

Droogsma most recently held the role of head of Defra’s unit responsible for EU strategy and negotiations. She has also held senior roles in the Civil Service, including at the Department for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, and at the Department for Energy and Climate Change.

In her new role she will oversee the SWA’s work on operational issues, alcohol policy, taxation and the Industrial Strategy. She will be based at the SWA London office.

SWA chief executive, Karen Betts, said: “I am delighted that Dagmar is joining the SWA team. She will bring a wealth of experience from her previous roles, both inside and outside government. She will strengthen the Association’s expertise at a busy time, as the industry works to ensure that Scotland’s national drink continues to thrive.”

Droogsma added: “I am excited about using my experience and skills to drive the sustainable growth of the whisky sector through and beyond Brexit.”

The Scotch Whisky industry is the UK’s largest food and drink export, with exports valued at £4.37 billion in 2017.

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PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Rural people most affected by negative health care trends

Chicago Tribune
By Wendell Potter
June 4, 2018

Recent studies about health care in America show troubling trends, especially in states with large rural and relatively low-income populations.

While the United States continues to spend far more than any other developed country on health care on a per capita basis and as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), many states, especially in the south and Midwest, are losing ground in key areas that pertain to life expectancy. The Commonwealth Fund’s just-released 2018 Scorecard on State Health System Performance confirmed what other recent studies have shown: Life
expectancy in the United States is going down while it continues to go up in other developed countries. And rural areas seem to be disproportionately affected.

Some researchers have used one word to explain the sudden reversal in life expectancy trends in the United States: despair. That’s because of the rapidly rising number of suicides and deaths associated with alcohol and drug use in this country. The Commonwealth Fund reported that deaths from suicide, alcohol and drug use have increased 50 percent since 2005.

The Scorecard, which assessed every state and the District of Columbia on 43 measures in five broad categories — access to health care, quality of care, efficiency in care delivery, health outcomes, and income-based health care disparities — wasn’t all bad news by any means. In fact, most states made improvements between 2013 and 2016 in some or all of the categories. But several others, Nebraska in particular, saw a worsening in all five.

The states scoring the highest overall were Hawaii (No. 1), Massachusetts, Minnesota, Vermont, and Utah, while those scoring the lowest were Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Mississippi (No. 51).

But three of those bottom-ranking states — Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma — were among the five states making the most improvements. At the other end of the spectrum, the five making the fewest improvements were New Hampshire, Utah, Maine, Wyoming, and Nebraska (No. 51).

The Commonwealth Fund’s researchers noted that progress in all categories is certainly possible in coming years but added that unless significant steps are taken, improvements in many states are not likely anytime soon.

“If every state achieved the performance of the top-ranked state on each Scorecard indicator, the gains in health care access, quality, efficiency, and outcomes would be dramatic,” the researchers wrote. “At the current rates of improvement, however, it may take many years or decades for states and the nation to see such progress.”

That may portend a continuing decline in life expectancy in the United States.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in December that life expectancy in the United States declined for the second year in a row in 2016. U.S. life expectancy peaked at 78.9 years in 2014. It fell to 78.7 in 2015 and to 78.6 in 2016. As the British Medical Journal pointed out earlier this year, this decline is the culmination of a decades-long trend. In 1960, the United States had the highest life expectancy of any country in the 35-member Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which comprises the world’s richest countries. Back then, Americans on average lived 2.4 years longer than residents of the other OECD countries. We started losing ground, though, in the 1980s. Our life expectancy first fell below the OECD average in 1998. Now it is 1.5 years lower than the average of the 35 countries.

Steven H. Woolf, the author of the British Medical Journal article, attributed the decline to “life conditions” that seem to be more challenging to Americans, rural Americans in particular, than they are to residents of other developed countries. He cited the rising number of deaths from opioid overdoses in particular as a symptom of those greater life challenges.

But, he added, “the opioid epidemic is the tip of an iceberg, part of an even larger public health crisis in the U.S.: Death rates from alcohol abuse and suicides have also been rising ... These ‘deaths of despair,’ as some have called them, are disproportionately affecting white Americans, especially adults aged 25-59 years, those with limited education, and women. The sharpest increases are occurring in rural counties, often in regions with longstanding social and economic challenges.”

Meanwhile, the United States spends far more on health care than any other country: $10,348 per capita annually, which is more than twice as much as the $5,169 average spent by OECD countries. We spend 31 percent more per capita than the next highest country, Switzerland.

And as noted above, we also spend more on health care — 17.3 percent of GDP, more than twice the 7.9 percent average of comparably developed countries. And the difference is widening every year.

That percentage is expected to keep going up because of constantly rising health care costs and health insurance premiums, although the rate of increase of both has slowed somewhat in recent years. But as the Kaiser Family
Foundation reported last September, the average annual premium for employer-sponsored family coverage reached $18,764 in 2017. That’s a 55 percent increase over 10 years.

So although we are spending more on health care every year and far more than any other developed country, we are getting an increasingly smaller return on that money as measured by most health care outcomes, most notably life expectancy. And residents of many rural communities are especially disadvantaged.

**INDUSTRY NEWS**

**Are Big Alcohol Partnerships a Threat to Small-Cap Cannabis Stocks in Canada?**

*Big Alcohol: Boon or Curse for Small Marijuana Stocks?*

Profit Confidential

By Gaurav S. Iyer, IFC

June 5, 2018

Recently, a top marijuana CEO sat down with me to talk about the future of the business. In our little chat, he said something very interesting, namely, that cannabis “is not a commodity business; it’s a CPG business.” (CPG stands for consumer packaged goods.)

It took a minute for that idea to settle in my head.

Once it clicked, everything became clear. I suddenly understood why big alcohol companies like Constellation Brands, Inc. (NYSE:STZ.B) and Great North Distributors (a subsidiary of Southern Glazer’s Wine and Spirits, LLC) are making marijuana industry acquisitions.

It’s because they realize that cannabis is more—a lot more—than just a plant.

If you’re a confused, look at mega-brands like “Colgate” or “Brawny” or “Dove.” Why do people continue to buy them instead of generic alternatives? Is it superior quality? Or is it something else entirely?

“**Branding** is the answer.

When Dove launched in the U.S. in 2002, it came armed with a $110.0-million advertising campaign. The next year it added another $50.0 million to the budget. Source: “Dove: advertising & marketing profile,” AdBrands.net, last accessed May 30, 2018.)

Colgate is no different. It spent roughly $369.0 million on advertising in the fourth quarter of 2017. And while that may seem like a lot, remember that branding single-handedly turned Colgate-Palmolive Company (NYSE:CL) into a $54.7-billion behemoth.

![Stock Chart](Chart courtesy of Stockcharts.com)
Marijuana companies are in the same boat, because growing marijuana plants requires little to no talent, which means that, in order to capture a significant market share, companies will need to treat their product like toothpaste or toilet paper.

**Is This a Good Thing?**

Let’s say you accept my premise. What’s next?

The obvious answer is to find out who wins from this trend, and why. If marijuana stocks are being snatched up at earlier phases in their growth cycles, it seems like retail investors could miss out on enormous growth opportunities.

On the other hand, this could present an opportunity for investing in big alcohol companies, given that they’re gaining exposure to the fast-growing cannabis market. It all depends, as they say, on the details.

Two examples come to mind: 1) Constellation Brands investing in Canopy Growth Corp (NYSE:CGC, TSE:WEED); and 2) Aphria Inc’s (OTCMKTS:APHQF, TSE:APH) partnership with Great North Distributors.

**Canopy-Constellation Brands**

Anyone unfamiliar with Constellation Brands should take a peek inside the nearest pub. Chances are you’ll see “Corona,” “Modelo,” or “Svedka,” three brands that transformed Constellation into a $42.6-billion company through the subtle arts of CPG branding.

You’ve seen the Corona ads. A beautiful woman is sitting alone on a beach when a football lands nearby. Running along to pick it up is a young alpha male who, after throwing the ball, flashes her a grin brimming with expectation. She gives an ironic, uninterested wave. He runs off.

Meanwhile, her friend—who’s equally stunning of course, because all attractive women travel in pairs—arrives carrying a bucket of Coronas on ice, lime wedges and all. Footballs begin raining in from all sides. End scene.

By the end of the commercial, you’re so interested in the ad that you forget what it’s about. Is it about men and women? Of course not. It’s about connecting Corona with beach weather, so the next time it’s a beautiful summer day you think about drinking a cold one.

Unfortunately, Canopy Growth is not fully leveraging Constellation’s marketing savvy. They simply took an endorsement via investment, a 9.9% minority stake for about $191.0 million.

Why did Constellation Brands make the investment? According to Viven Azer from Cowen Inc, it’s because “Consumer survey work suggests [about] 80% of consumers reduce their alcohol consumption with cannabis in the mix.” (Source: “The Company Behind Corona Beer Just Bought Into the Marijuana Business,” Fortune, October 30, 2017.)

In other words, Constellation recognizes marijuana as a threat. But rather than waiting patiently for risk to manifest itself, the company is actively hedging its bets.

**Aphria-Great North Distributors**

Aphria’s partnership with Great North Distributors is much more hands on. According to the deal, Great North will have exclusive distribution rights for Aphria’s products.

From Aphria’s perspective, the agreement provides them an “unparalleled sales network” and an ability to “hit the ground running from the very first day of legal adult-use sales.” Source: “Aphria selects Great North Distributors, a Canadian subsidiary of Southern Glazer’s Wine & Spirits, for Canada-wide distribution of adult-use cannabis,” Cision, May 17, 2018.)

Doug Wieland, Executive Vice President and General Manager of Southern Glazer’s Wine & Spirits Canada, commented on the groundbreaking deal, saying: “Our decision to become the first beverage alcohol distributor to facilitate the legal distribution of cannabis in Canada reinforces our innovative, first-mover position in the industry.”
Analyst Take

I think that Canopy Growth and Aphria will both benefit from their association with big alcohol companies. It would be hard to argue the opposite.

Not only did Canopy gain a cash infusion and a rubber stamp on its brand from its deal with Constellation, it possibly foreshadows a giant merger down the road.

Meanwhile, Aphria got rid of distribution headaches by simply outsourcing those tasks.

Overall, there’s no denying that big alcohol companies and emerging weed stocks are playing the same game. We will continue to monitor the market for more signs of collaboration and possible merger opportunities.

The Trademark Trial and Appeal Board Finds There is “Something More” Sufficient to Show That Restaurant Services are Related to Alcoholic Beverages

In In re Honeyhole Sandwiches Inc., Serial No. 87138294, the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (“TTAB”) agreed with the Examiner in refusing the registration of HONEYHOLE SANDWICHES because it was confusingly similar to HONEY HOLE under Section 2(d) of the Trademark Act. In this decision, a strong mark, a menu, and the private labeling trend proves to be “something more” to show that alcoholic beverages and restaurant services are related. This decision is also consistent with the trend in the Trademark Office when examining applications for food, alcoholic beverages, and restaurants in finding that seemingly unrelated goods are related, e.g. alcoholic beverages and cigars; or beers, on the one hand, and vodka on the other.

The Applicant sought registration of HONEYHOLE SANDWICHES for “restaurant with bar specializing in serving proprietary unique sandwiches, local beers and alcohol in a vibrant, eclectic environment” in Class 43. The examiner refused registration, citing the registration for the mark HONEY HOLE for “alcoholic beverages except beers” in Class 33.

In evaluating the du Pont factors, which the TTAB considers in determining a likelihood of confusion, the TTAB unsurprisingly found that the dominant part of Applicant’s mark “HONEYHOLE” was similar in sight, sound, and meaning to Registrant’s “HONEY HOLE” mark.

More notably, in looking at the similarities between the goods and services, the TTAB found that the Examiner met the “something more” requirement to show a relatedness of the goods and services. The Federal Circuit requires that “[t]o establish a likelihood of confusion a party must show something more than that similar or even identical marks are used for food products and for restaurant services.” Under this requirement, simply because a restaurant offers certain beverages does not mean that the food or beverage is related to the restaurant services.

To determine whether there is “something more” rendering the food or beverage related to restaurant services, the TTAB will examine evidence of a specific commercial relationship between the food or beverage and restaurant services and evaluate whether consumers would be likely to believe that an association exists between the food or beverage items and the restaurant services. The requirement may also be met when the registrant’s mark is a strong mark.

Here, the TTAB noted that HONEY HOLE was a strong mark and that Applicant’s application specifically included “serving ... alcohol.” The TTAB also found that the Applicant’s specimen supported a finding of relatedness. The specimen identified “HONEYHOLE COCKTAILS!” as part of the menu which was used just below the HONEYHOLE SANDWICHES mark.

The TTAB also examined evidence of third-party registrations of the same mark for alcoholic beverage and restaurant services. While the TTAB noted that third-party registrations alone are insufficient to show the requisite “something more,” the Examiner also submitted evidence showing that restaurants offer private-label alcoholic beverages under the same mark for their restaurant services, as well as news articles about the trend in
restaurants to offer private label alcoholic beverages. The Examiner submitted evidence of online advertising by
companies offering to create private label beverage lines for restaurants. Based on this additional evidence, the
TTAB found that there was probative evidence establishing that alcoholic beverages and restaurant services are
similar.

Relatedly, the TTAB found that the trade and distribution channels for Registrant’s alcoholic beverages included
restaurants, and that Applicant sold alcohol at its restaurants. There was no evidence of any restrictions on
distribution or that the consumers were anyone other than the general public. Accordingly, the TTAB found that
the trade channels and classes of consumers were similar.

This decision highlights the interesting impact that the growth in the private label alcoholic beverage has on
trademark owners seeking registration. The more expansive the private label trend gets, the more related other
goods and services become. For trademark owners of alcoholic beverages, this only gives further reason to do
your due diligence in the beginning before investing time and financial resources in building your brand. A
trademark clearance search will provide trademark owners a better understanding of potentially related goods
and services that could bar federal trademark registration.

Opinion: Why Can’t Native Americans Make Whiskey?

The New York Times
By C. Jarrett Dieterle and Kevin R. Kosar
June 4, 2018

In 2016, the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, in southeastern Washington State, began selling
craft spirits and beer at a restaurant in their Lucky Eagle casino. But when the Chehalis wanted to start making
their own hooch, the federal government said no.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs informed the tribe that federal law prohibits the building of a distillery on tribal
grounds. The Chehalis would have to continue to purchase spirits from producers off the reservation.

Small-scale distilling is a booming business, providing much-needed jobs and revenue for state and local
governments. So why are Indian tribes legally prevented from joining in?

This distilling prohibition originates from an 1834 law regulating trade on Indian lands. The law threatened fines
and asset forfeiture for anyone who sold, possessed or made strong drink of any kind on tribal grounds. In drafting
the law, Congress appears to have been partly motivated by concerns over non-Indian settlers dodging federal
alcohol taxes by setting up distilleries on tribal grounds. But Congress could have dealt with this matter
straightforwardly by taxing alcohol production on the reservations.

It was a darker motivation that led Congress to ban booze entirely: a condescending view of Native Americans as
helpless to resist the intoxicating allure of alcohol. During that era, the stereotype of the drunken Indian was
pervasive, and federal lawmakers enacted laws intended to “protect” Native Americans from both themselves and
deceitful liquor traders. The 1834 statute’s stated secondary purpose indicates as much, describing itself as an act
“to preserve peace on the frontiers.”

The ban, which was signed by Andrew Jackson, was a piece of a broader paternalistic policy scheme that treated
American Indians as wards of the state. Indians, the thinking went, were uncivilized, incapable of enlightened self-
rule and bound to be fleeced by white settlers. So the federal government solved the “Indian problem” by putting
them on reservations, where they could be protected by the Department of War. To add further insult, soldiers
stationed on reservations were exempted from the booze ban and enjoyed government-supplied daily whiskey
rations.
In the 1950s, Congress amended the 1834 law to permit the sale and possession of alcoholic beverages on reservations, but it left the ban on distilling intact. Indians could make liquor only if they moved off the reservation.

In recent years, members of Congress have introduced several bills to repeal outdated and offensive laws governing Native Americans and reservations, including one that targets the distilling ban. Repealing this prohibition would be a worthwhile — if modest — down payment on clearing away these types of laws. At the same time, it would foster much-needed economic development on Indian reservations. The Chehalis have estimated that their proposed distillery and brewery project would create up to 100 jobs, a reasonable expectation, given the recent renaissance of craft distilling around the country.

The craft spirits industry created nearly 6,000 jobs in the last year, while the number of distilleries grew by over 20 percent; today, there are more than 1,500 nationwide. This momentum shows no signs of stopping; distillery investments were projected to double from 2016 to 2017, the latest year for which data are available. Even more impressively, data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics suggest that breweries, wineries and distilleries created the second most manufacturing jobs of any industry in 2017.

This type of job growth would be particularly welcome on tribal reservations, given the economic woes facing Native Americans. Over two-thirds of areas with majority Native American populations have unemployment rates above the national average, with some as high as 20 percent. Denying Native Americans access to this fountain of decent-paying, blue-collar manufacturing jobs based on nothing other than an ancient and offensive law is indefensible.

Permitting Native Americans to distill their own spirits may set off a renewed round of paternalistic hand-wringing. Studies have long pointed to heightened alcohol consumption rates among Native Americans, which provides fodder for opponents of tribal distilling. While concerns over alcoholism should be taken seriously, there are better ways to address this longstanding problem, such as increased education and treatment. It also is important to recognize that abolishing the 1834 act would not expand access to liquor, but merely shift who profits from its production.

During his testimony in support of repealing the distilling ban, Harry Pickernell, chairman of the Chehalis tribe, noted that the official policy of the United States government is to “support tribal self-determination and self-sufficiency,” which means that tribes must be able to provide for their members through economic development. Congress should let them open distilleries and do exactly that.

How Many Liquor Bottles Can You Find in This 1931 Map of Chicago?

The “Gangland Map” features drunken fish and goofy jokes alongside descriptions of brutal murders.

Atlas Obscura
By Cara Giaimo
June 4, 2018

https://assets.atlasobscura.com/article_images/lg/56381/image.jpg (VIEW THE ENTIRE MAP)

On February 14, 1929, around 10:30 a.m., Clark Street in Chicago was rattled by gunfire. The city’s most powerful gang leader, Al “Scarface” Capone, had finally sent some hit men after a rival gang. When the shots subsided, seven people were dead. It was, the Chicago Tribune later put it, “the most infamous of all gangland slayings in America.”

In the years since, the killing—now known as the “St. Valentine’s Day Massacre”—has been recreated in films, plays, and television shows. But in 1931, a Chicago cartographer gave it an unconventional treatment. In the northeast corner of a map of the city, in between carefully labeled streets, is a tiny cartoon version of the massacre: four gunmen, two disguised in policeman blue, wearing wide-brimmed hats, shooting at their victims. Next to it, an account of the slaying is written neatly on a scroll held aloft by two cherubs.
This is just one of the many events depicted in A Map of Chicago’s Gangland—a cynical, hyper-detailed portrayal of a city gripped by chaos. Sometimes hilarious and always gruesome, the 1931 map shows a Chicago riddled with corrupt police, incompetent detectives, and hiccuping bootleggers.

The St. Valentine’s Day Massacre.

Rumors swirl around the map like gin in a decanter. For one thing, it’s unclear exactly who drew it. “We don’t know who the artist was,” says Lucy Garrett, a gallery assistant at Daniel Crouch Rare Books. (The dealership is currently selling a copy of the map and will be displaying it at the London Map Fair on June 9 and 10.) It was published by a Chicago-based company called Bruce Roberts, which, she adds, is similarly shrouded in mystery: “We haven’t been able to find any more information about them except for a few other books they published,” which include a bridge strategy manual and a guide to marital sex. “It seems that they had a very wide remit.”

We do know that whoever made it was well-versed in map history. “It’s riffing on earlier, older maps,” says Garrett. Even the title, A Map of Chicago’s Gangland from Authentic Sources, is a throwback to a practice of centuries before. “On older maps—16th to 18th-century maps—it would say, “A map of wherever, from the best sources,” explains Garrett. “That’s because the people who were drawing those maps had not actually been there.”

This selection from the Gangland Map is chock full of details.

In this case, it seems safe to assume that the cartographer was familiar with the city. The map’s title—along with its statement of purpose, “Designed to Inculcate the Most Important Principles of Piety and Virtue in Young Persons And Graphically Portray the Evils and Sin of Large Cities”—seem somewhat tongue-in-cheek, in keeping with the rest of its aesthetic.
Stylistically, the map also has a clear precedent: The Wonderground Map, a whimsical take on London by the graphic designer Leslie MacDonald Gill. That map was published in 1915, and quickly spawned imitators as far afield as Mexico and Australia. The Map of Chicago’s Gangland “is very much in this style—pictorial, cartoonish, with little snippets of information integrated into it,” says Garrett. It’s even got a similar color scheme, and a border with a poem running around it.

Even standard map features were given a thematic twist. In this case, the “North” compass point is a shooting gun.

The subject matter, though, is quite different. In the Wonderground Map, a cartoon fish swimming in the Thames says “I’m a beggar for sardines.” In the Gangland map, its cousin from the Chicago River brags “I get an alcohol rub every day.” London’s miniature populace discusses polo and being late for tea, while Chicago’s chats about gin and weapons. And where the corners of the Wonderground Map are decorated with coats of arms, Gangland’s depict scenes of infamy, like “Armored car used by gangsters in making social and business calls,” and “Lawyer running to ‘spring’ his client with an habeas corpus writ.”

This juxtaposition of strife and silliness makes reading the map somewhat dizzying; these crimes, of course, had real victims. One intersection near the river, nicknamed “Death Corner,” was the site of a number of gang-related executions. On the map, the spot boasts a stack of skulls and crossbones, and is captioned almost gleefully: “50 Murders—count ‘em.” Throughout, other deaths get similarly flippant illustrations and descriptions.

Dead Man’s Tree.

Even the scale bar is a morbid parody, ranging from “One Shooting” all the way to “Massacre.” This vertiginous tone might help to explain another rumor attached to the map: That authorities, upset at the image of the city it portrayed, destroyed most copies of it before the 1933 World’s Fair.
In certain cases, the japery also comes at the expense of accuracy. As organized-crime expert John Binder recently told the Chicago Tribune, the map contains some crucial mixups. “They’re showing the West Side O’Donnell gang as being around Douglas Park,” Binder said. “That was controlled by the Valley gang.” And despite the description of the drainage canal as “a favorite disposal station”—and the two tiny thugs shoving someone into the water—Binder says people didn’t often dump bodies there.

If you want something that will tell you where that era’s criminals actually did their business, you might be better off with Chicago’s Gangland, a more precise (if less lively) rendering of the area’s hangouts and hideaways, made in 1927 by the sociologist Frederic Thrasher. If you want another view of a strange time, though—one complete with drunken fish and tire-stealing bootleggers—this map is worth a look.

Vitamin Supplement Aimed at Helping Consumers Feel Better After They Drink Alcohol Expands into More Stores, Including Beverage and Liquor Stores

Nutritional Outlook
By Jennifer Prince
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A company called B4 is expanding U.S. availability of its eponymous vitamin-based “precovery” supplement across 300 stores on the West Coast and in the South, bringing the total number of retailers carrying the supplement to 800. B4 is a non-caffeinated beverage supplement with electrolytes, amino acids, vitamins, and minerals that is said to help combat the aftereffects of alcohol consumption.


John Mansour, cofounder, creator, B4, tells Nutritional Outlook that the particular mix of vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, electrolytes, and amino acids in B4 helps the body “continue to process and remove the damaging alcohol and its byproducts to keep the liver protected and damage from occurring.” Some of the active components in B4, including vitamins B3 (niacin) and B6 (pyridoxine), zinc and calcium, and plant extracts like milk thistle extract (Silybum marianum), help to protect the liver, Mansour says. He adds that B4 also contains glutathione, which is “the body’s most powerful antioxidant produced in the liver.”

The company says that consuming one can of B4 prior to drinking yields best results; however, it also notes that drinking B4 during or after alcohol consumption can also help to “replace what the body has depleted.” Adds Mansour: “Our goal is to make sure your body is prepared for the battle alcohol puts it through.”

According to Mansour, B4 can also be taken as a vitamin supplement even without drinking alcohol. “Everything is processed through your liver,” he explains. “The vitamins will help support overall liver health, and your body will get rid of any excess.” Also, although B4 is caffeine-free, its high concentration of B vitamins may provide a natural metabolic energy boost, he says.

While similar products exist in liquid, powder, and pill forms, Mansour says, he states that B4 was the first company to market its supplement as a “pre-drinking” supplement. Aside from that distinction, he says, B4 is a unique product for a few reasons. Some of the competitor products that focus on mitigating the effects of alcohol consumption post-drinking are advised to be taken in the morning after a night of consuming alcohol, rather than prior to consuming alcohol. Other types of products consumers may typically take after consuming alcohol include caffeine and aspirin, which Mansour says is not a viable solution for addressing hangover symptoms due to the potential negative combined effects of alcohol and aspirin on the liver.

B4 comes in grape, orange, or berry flavors, and can also be purchased online. Mansour says that B4’s largest consumer category is men and women between the ages of 24-35 “who are social drinkers and like to go out, but also have to wake up and be responsible in the morning”; for example, young professionals, parents, and generally health-conscious consumers.
“Our product continues to gain popularity, as consumers experience its effectiveness in helping them wake up ready for the day after a night of drinking,” said Mansour in a press release. “We’re excited to make the product more accessible and believe consumers deserve transparency about how the body processes alcohol and why our exclusive, science-based formula can help.”