

Getting rid of minor loopholes

LB975 penalizes minors who drink, while keeping those who don't from trouble

Pay attention, kids! You can't just set down your beers anymore.

You may be used to seeing the cops at a party and avoiding the "possession" part of the MIP by dropping your glass, even if you're completely hammered. If the state legislature passes LB975, state law will prohibit consumption of alcohol by minors.

No longer will underage drinkers be able to tie the hands of law enforcement officials with one of the state's legal loopholes. If you're drinking - you're screwed.

And you should be.

If the legislature passes LB975, designated drivers will be protected and underage drinkers will get hammered with more than booze.

The present law has been problematic. Sure, every once in awhile a few kids get caught Bud-handed, but most of the time they dance around the law. The police are wasting their time busting parties full of kids that are too quick at putting the can on the coffee table.

Not only is the law ineffective, but it's also not administered impartially. Police in some parts of the state will give an MIP even if they don't actually see a minor in possession.

But the lawman shouldn't be punishing kids that aren't drinking. Some of them are designated drivers. Others are trying to be examples to their peers by not drinking. So possession should really mean possession.

If the legislature passes LB975, the designated drivers will be protected, and the underage drinkers will get hammered with more than booze. But if the bill is defeated, then more and more of the law enforcement will continue to try to punish minors who they

may not have actually seen in possession.

So we definitely support the bill.

But if it isn't passed, then the judicial branch should step in and help out Joe Policeman. How? The Supreme Court should look for a case in which it can rule that the word possession means having a certain percentage of alcohol in one's blood.

Because if .01 ain't possession, what is?

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Obermeyer's VIEW



Putting the I in you

I can be used in various contexts



I have to tell you something before I begin. I is the opposite of you. I is first person. You is second person. If I can use I in a way that relates to you, you might assume the identity of I because you see yourself in I, and thus, I will become you. I like that.

I am now going to tell you a few things. I think you might be interested in what I am going to say. I hope that I will impact you.

I woke up earlier today. I left my room. I went to the bathroom to brush my teeth. I picked up this paper. I started to read.

I sat down. I was not sitting down earlier, but I really wanted to sit down. I don't like to read standing up. I usually read sitting down. I want a donut, and I would like some milk. I wanted to relate that to you.

I is the most commonly used word in the English language. I often use I, to express who I am.

I am many things: "I'm every woman." "I am your worst nightmare." "I am your father."

I love you.

I hate you.

I can't live without you.

I think many songs imply who I am.

I am an all-star. I am a rock-star. I am a superstar. I'm a ghetto superstar.

Or express what I want.

"Damn, I wish I was your lover."

If I were your lover, I would not do what the song says. I would put your needs before mine. I would think of you before I would think of myself. I would never ask you to sacrifice your needs for me. I would always be there for you. I would let you go if you needed me to. I would trust you to go out at night. I would

always call.

I am single.

I left Boston, in the summer of '76. I left a good job, my wife and three kids, but I did take my dog Rex with me. I also took a bottle of whiskey and a picture of them, so I wouldn't forget. I wanted to see what the open road was like and what was going on in the West.

I got off track. I'm sorry. I am not perfect. I make mistakes. I am human. I know that sometimes I am going to fail. I know that sometimes I am going to succeed. I have to take a break. I am going to the bathroom.

Occupation in life has nothing to do with what I know, because as a 22-year-old social drinker, sports-car owner and occasional pot smoker, I don't really identify with titles. I identify with being me.

I'm back.

I am going to make a statement about the paragraph I got off track with. (I left Boston in the summer of '76. I hope you understand.)

I mentioned earlier that I is first person. I know that many authors use the first person I to tell their stories. I have read many of these stories, and many times I have felt that I have become the narrator of the story. I tried to make this point earlier, because I like when I am put in this position.

I often feel, though, that I can get

overwhelmed with the word I when I is used outside the context of a story.

I have friends who use I a lot. I went shopping, and I had to get some eggs for a casserole. But they didn't have grade A eggs, so I had to go to another store where I saw Jill. I talked to Jill for 40 minutes, then I had to come back home. But I had to get some gas before I got home, so I went to the gas station, and I got some gas, and...

I don't care. I feel bad that I don't care, but, I, still, don't, care.

(I, just, used, a, lot, of, commas.)

I know that I often use I to explain things about myself.

"I'm not aware of too many things, I know what I know if you know what I mean." (I did not write that line originally. I forgot who did. I would appreciate it, if you know, if you would send me e-mail telling me).

I is also used for people to defend their positions, by using it to make statements about themselves.

I commonly see, and hear, people use a form similar to this one: "As a 21-year-old mother of four, I know that birth control does not always work." Or possibly: "As a psychology professor at the University of Nebraska, I see directly that many people have severe emotional problems."

As a 22-year-old waiter, student, social worker, uncle and journalist, I know these things as well. I often think that my occupation in life has nothing to do with what I know because, as a 22-year-old social drinker, sports-car owner and occasional pot smoker, I don't really identify with titles. I identify with being me.

I identify being me with being you.

I am almost done with this column.

I have somewhere to go soon.

I have to go to sleep tonight.

I am

I am obsessed

with

I am obsessed with

the word

I.

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