

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ABC INVESTIGATORS TEAM WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TO
ARREST FIVE SUSPECTS FOR FURNISHING ALCOHOL TO MINORS**

Investigators from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and Yuba County Sheriff's Department arrested five suspects Tuesday night, January 18, 2005 in Linda and Olivehurst for furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors. The operation was conducted in the general vicinity of Olivehurst Ave. and Feather River Blvd.

ABC Investigators and local law enforcement conducted a program called a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation which targets adults who purchase alcohol for people less than 21 years of age. Under the program, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a liquor or convenience store and ask patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates in some way he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol.

If the adults comply, investigators then arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

The program is intended to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Statistics show they generally have a higher rate of involvement in crashes while driving under the influence of alcohol than adults. Studies also show the combination of alcohol and youth tends to increase criminal conduct. According to the American Medical Association, underage drinking can increase chances of risky sexual behavior and teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, compromise health, and result in unintentional injury and death.

The ABC is a department of Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Sunne Mcpeak, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.