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## Drug abuse

### Alcohol bigger problem?

BY GLEN HOFFMAN

Is the consumption of illegal drugs, which includes the usage of alcohol, increasing among area youth? Many local authorities express a disappointed yes and tell why.

Lake-Lehman Principal James Nicholas thought for a moment then said, "I don't think that more and more youths are using drugs; these days alcohol is the greater problem."

"Alcohol, such as beer and wine, is being abused because it is more socially acceptable than drugs," said Nicholas. "There is a social willingness to accept alcohol; parents are compromising by saying 'thank goodness youth are only drinking alcohol, and not doing drugs.'"

"It appears to me that students feel it is not as fashionable to use drugs as it once was," said Nicholas.

Father George Jeffery, of Our Lady of Victory, Harveys Lake, said that the abuse of alcohol is increasing because of the availability of the substance.

"Youth obtains alcohol through friends-peers," said Father Jeffery. "According to the National Institute of Health, 40 percent of all people have at least tried alcohol."

"The consumption of alcohol is on the rise because young people are ignorant of the harmfulness in both the short and long run," said Father Jeffery. Guidance and information

should be given to children about the harm of alcohol, beginning from school grade one."

Father Jeffery said that youths' inability to cope with daily problems, and peer pressure, cause alcohol abuse. "Instead of dealing with a problem - large or small - it is easier for a young person to take a drink," said Father Jeffery.

"The problem of alcohol abuse is in epidemic proportions," stated Father Jeffery. "But people are reluctant to do enough about the problem because of the stigma of alcoholism-people do not want to be associated with alcohol abusers."

"General Motors calls alcoholism the billion dollar problem because of the decrease of productivity and worker morale," said Father Jeffery. "It would cost less to rehabilitate alcoholics compared to the loss in job performance costs."

Carmen Ambrosino, executive director of the Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services, Kingston, said, "drug abuse is increasing because we live in a world which has lost sight of ideas such as strength and fortitude. Instead of youth reaching for an answer, they have a tendency to look towards a drink."

"Drug and alcohol abuse may be increasing in view of the fact that our case load is on the rise," said Ambrosino. "About six years ago we processed three cases every month. Now we process 42 active cases each month."



DAWN MARIE HARRIS, age two, won the hearts of everybody at the Monroe Township Community Association Halloween party Friday night. She is the daughter of Richard and Susan Harris, Kunkle. (Mark Moran Photo)

## Ku Klux Klan visits Noxen

While most of the Noxen community was in church Sunday morning a week ago, the Ku Klux Klan came to town.

"I thought they were funny," said Thelma Siglin, "but my son didn't like it." She said they came to town in pickups, and jeeps and that there were possibly a dozen of them. "Some of them dressed in robes and hoods, and some had nothing covering their faces," she said.

Mrs. Siglin's grandson saw them and ran into the house to tell his sister to come out and see. "They're all out halloweening," his grandmother reported. Some of the children took the literature the Klan was passing out and placed it on the street with stones to hold it down.

Apparently most Noxen residents are taking the white supremacists in stride, although somewhat nervously. "The world is full of all kinds," said Mr. Siglin, who operates a service station at the community's hub.

"I would say that most people are not too pleased about it," said a lady at the TNT Country Store.

Klan members whose faces were uncovered were apparently strangers to the community, but some hinted local people may have been involved.

The Klan was distributing copies of its monthly publication The Klansman along with some pamphlets: "The Illegal Alien Problem" and "Fusion of the Races", and "An Introduction to the Invisible Empire-Knights of the Ku Klux Klan."

The Klan, which was formed after the Civil War and the freeing of slaves as "the savior of the white south, and thereby, the preserver of

the purity of the white race for all of America," is not new to the Back Mountain. Some old timers recall the burning of crosses on the spot where College Misericordia now stands. Crosses were burned on the hill facing down the main street in Noxen also.

Reverend Jerry Tallent, pastor of Noxen Independent Bible Church, feels that some parts of the Klan's program, such as America first, acceptance of the Constitution as written, free enterprise and positive Christianity, are worthwhile, but he cannot accept their implacable hatred of all races unless white, and unless non-Jewish.

"Some things are basically sound and good," said Rev. Tallent, "but we need to look at their entire program." He said it is difficult to accept something as good when it includes something that is bad.

The Klan was also reported soliciting support in the Harveys Lake area as well.



## The pain of drug abuse

Aspirin safely, effectively, and to be sure, legally cures common muscular pain. But the pain of social failure, the pain of personal inadequacy, and the pain of the boredom, frustration, and pressure of life is increasingly being relieved by unsafe ineffective, and illegal drugs called alcohol, cocaine, and marijuana.

The pain that illicit drug users seek to relieve is rooted in a variety of causes such as peer pressure, problems in the home, and the desire to experiment, according to John Zezza, drug and alcohol treatment specialist.

Mr. Zezza, is a specialist with the Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services, Kingston.

The twinge of stress a child feels at home when an ordeal is in the wake, explodes into agony as a divorce, a severe illness, or child abuse wrecks his home life.

"A child may withstand devastating events at home, but if the parents present a lax attitude towards alcohol or drug usage, the child may become involved with drug abuse," said Zezza. "Drug abuse may occur as a superficial relief from the pain of a harsh home life."

"The relief by illegal drugs in the user is in the form of a pleasurable effect, a euphoria," said Zezza.

"But with repetitive use a psychological and physical dependency develops causing mood alteration and depression. Drug abuse then becomes the problem, and the event that cause the use of drugs becomes secondary and unsolved."

Outside of the home problems, peer pressure is also a major cause for drug abuse, according to Zezza. Young people tend to experiment with drugs with greater willingness as an individual loses his identity becoming relatively anonymous in the crowd.

"In a group, young people tend to share responsibility for their use of drugs, and if they get caught they are not alone to face the legal consequences. Also other people in the group may know more about drugs than a certain new user in the group."

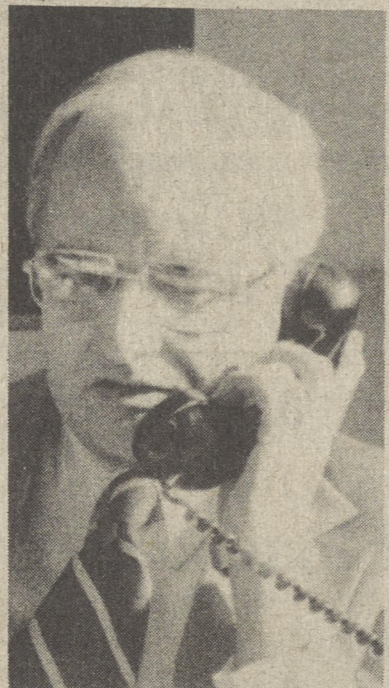
Many specialists in the drug abuse field expressed their view that the causes of drug abuse must be thoroughly understood in order to treat the drug abuser. If the pain a drug abuser feels could be resolved in a helpful manner, than drug abuse cases may decrease.



"The use of drugs among young people is increasing because there is not enough awareness in society of the harm of drugs and society is not cracking-down on pushers and users," said Barbara Edwards, College Misericordia freshman.



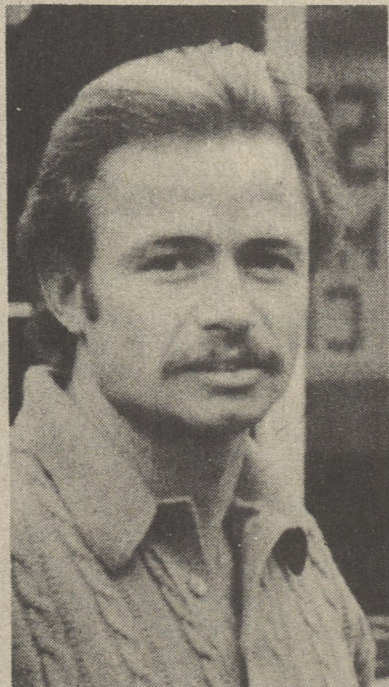
"Drugs are something to do. More younger people are taking drugs because they cannot get into bars until they are 21, so they do drugs," said April Yonkin, a junior. "More people are doing drugs because the crowd is, drugs are sort of a social event."



"I don't think more and more are using drugs; alcohol is more of a problem today," stated James Nicholas, principal of Lake-Lehman High School.



"Drug use is increasing because young people feel freer to try different experiences," said senior Barbara Dombroski of College Misericordia. "People do not think the use of hard drugs is such a big deal anymore. About 15 years ago parents would have dropped dead if they found their child taking drugs, but today it would not mean that much."



"Young people are doing more drugs and alcohol because they feel that their life is not personally satisfying," said Charles Dolloff, owner of Garden of Eden, Dallas. "Today's youth are not involved enough in clean activities such as sports, or the arts, or work. They have too much free time, and when boredom sets in young people sometimes turn to drugs as something to do."



"Drug usage is on the rise because they are easier to obtain," said freshman Karen Linker. "You get the sensation, a high, that great feeling of relief I suppose. Young people must think that drugs are not just an escape, but a great escape."

## Fire Co.s to share \$30,000

Local volunteer fire companies will share nearly \$30,000 in volunteer firemen's relief association and paid pension fund allocations being distributed by the Department of the Auditor General.

The state contribution to the firemen's relief associations and pension funds comes from a two percent gross premiums tax on "foreign" fire insurance companies, and from surplus money in the Fire Insurance Tax Fund. "Foreign" refers to a company incorporated out of state.

Each community's payment is based on the amount of premiums written by a foreign fire insurance company for that community's residents and businesses.

Back Mountain communities and the amounts due are: Harveys Lake, \$968.48; Dallas Twp., \$3130.66; Jackson Twp., \$1955.04; Lake Twp., \$1162.50; Franklin Twp., \$696.94; Lehman Twp., \$1791.68; Dallas Boro, \$6952.88; Kingston Twp., \$10,146.38; Ross Twp., \$2695.06 and Noxen Twp., \$276.44.

## Police Reports

### Bike rider narrowly avoids injury

Thomas Watkins of 103 Shawnee Avenue, Plymouth, lost control of his Scorcher ten speed bike while traveling south on Route 309, Sunday.

Eye witness Eric Stolarick of 4 North Main St., Shavertown, said that he saw two cars swerve around Watkins who was lying on the road.

Kingston Twp. police said that Watkins, who was admitted to the Nesbitt Hospital, may have lost control when a strong gust of wind tumbled the bike. Ptm. Gary E. Beisel is investigating the accident.

### \$960 egg

Robert E. Anderson of 190 Butternut Rd., Shavertown, pleaded not guilty to the charge of throwing eggs at the home of Dallas Area High School principal, Brooke Hunt of Lehman Ave., Dallas.

Charged with criminal mischief by Ptm. James Tupper of the Dallas Borough Police Department, Anderson said that he may have given a ride to the people who threw the eggs, but he did not throw any eggs, according to the records of the prehearing before Magistrate Leonard Harvey, Dallas.

A hearing before Harvey set for November 6 at 6 p.m., will decide whether Anderson must pay the estimated damages of \$960.00.

### Tires stolen

James Greger of 26 Fox Hollow Drive, Dallas, reported to the Dallas Twp. police that his car was jacked up in his driveway and two snow tires were removed, Monday. The tires are valued at \$150.00.

### Hanson charged

Scott Allen Hanson of 1396 Main St., Port Griffiths, is charged with robbery and theft by the Dallas Twp., police.

Hanson is suspected to have robbed Yalicks Farm Market, Harveys Lake Highway, last Thursday. Hanson was committed to the Luzerne County Prison in default of \$5,000 bail.

A preliminary hearing is set for November 6, at 2 p.m., before Magistrate Earl Gregory, Kingston Twp.



"Peer pressure and academic pressure are major reasons for increased use of drugs," said Patty Kubasti, a freshman. "Taking drugs is an easy way to escape the problems of life such as the great need for money and prestige."



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