

# Perspective

## Opinion

### Gillespie's plan concerning teenage drinking questioned

District Attorney Robert Gillespie, in an attempt to better control teenage drinking in Wyoming Valley, has instituted a brand new program whereby members of his office will be directly involved in trying to curtail the problem that seems to be running rampant in our area.

Gillespie, who received television, radio and newspaper coverage last week when he unveiled this plan, said the holiday season is a "time of joy" and he doesn't want to see our area's youth die from the effect of alcohol.

Each geographic area within Luzerne County has been assigned a telephone number under the DA's new plan. (The number for the Back Mountain area is 675-5259.)

If someone sees, hears, or knows about a party where teenage drinking is involved, that person is asked to call the telephone number assigned to his or her respective area and notify a member of the District Attorney's staff.

According to Gillespie, his staff member will then call the phone number of the house where the party is being held and remind them

that teenage drinking is against the law. Gillespie says the police department in the locale of the party will also be notified of the location of the party.

It seems that, up until the institution of this fancy-dancy plan by the District Attorney, what any good, law-abiding citizen was supposed to do was to call the local police department and let them handle party-goers who were involved in teenage drinking.

So what's different now? Obviously, nothing.

Instead of contacting your local police department about such a party - at a number with which you are probably familiar - you are now supposed to remember yet another telephone number, call the DA's office and let someone there contact the local police department.

What good is it going to do for a staff member of the DA's office to call the party house and remind them of the penalties involved with underage drinking? Nine out of 10 times they are sure to find the parents out for the evening and only the teenagers - who are very aware of the legality or lack of it

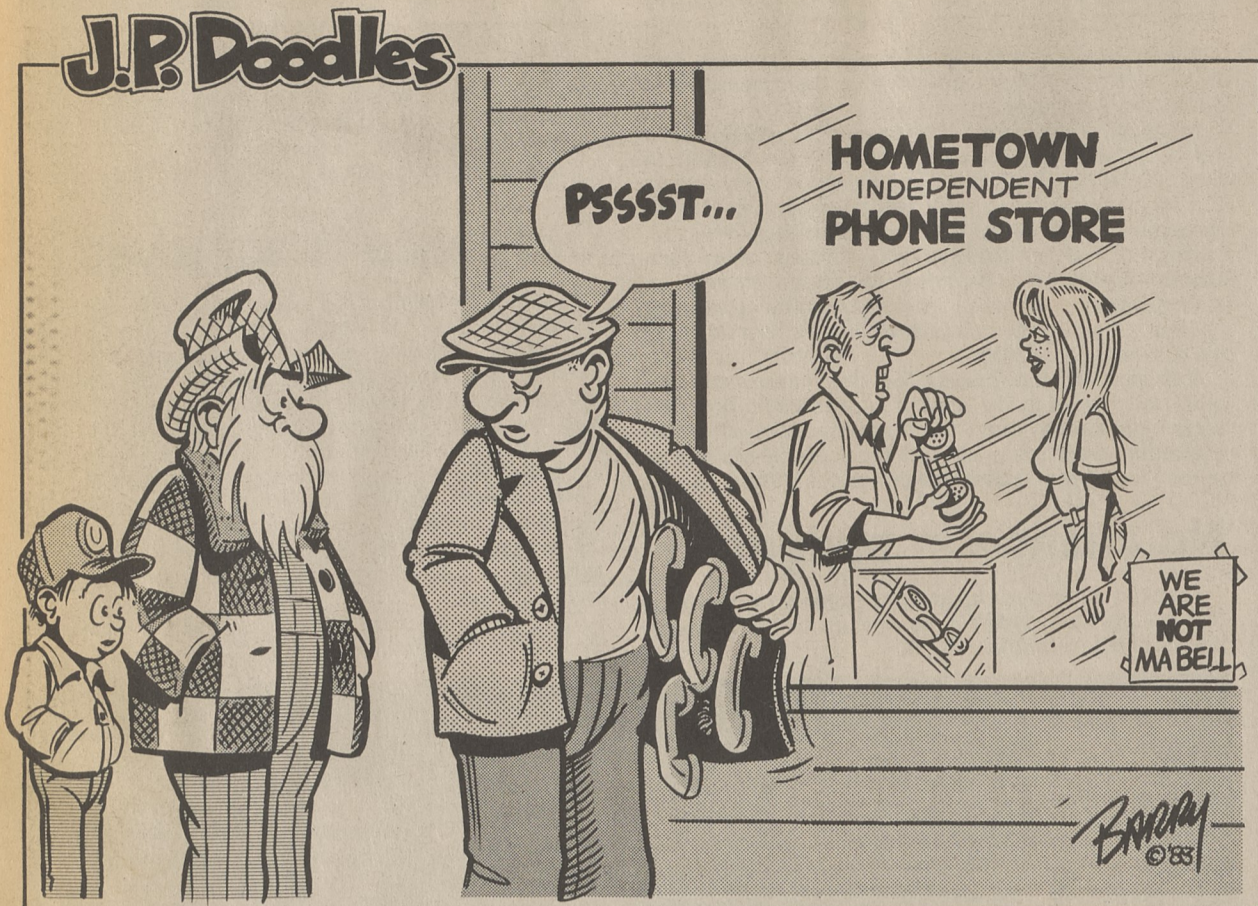
involved in teenage drinking - are there to answer the phone.

Why can't the local police departments handle such parties the same way they have been for years? Does Mr. Gillespie really expect the figures on teenage drinking to drop because of this new plan? Let's not even mention that this new plan will probably cost the county taxpayers money to have a staff member of the DA's office on call during normal party hours - Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights.

Sounds more like a publicity stunt on the part of Gillespie. But, for what reason? He's already got the lock on another four years as Luzerne County District Attorney. He doesn't have to do anything to win the hearts of the people - at least not right away.

Robert Gillespie has proven himself as the man worthy to sit in the Luzerne County District Attorney's chair. He has done an excellent job at the position over the last four years and will, no doubt, continue to do quality work over the next four years. He doesn't need to spend time instituting plans such as this.

— DOTTY MARTIN



Only yesterday

## Adam Kiefer resigns from Dallas Twp. School Board

50 YEARS AGO - DECEMBER 15, 1933

Adam P. Kiefer, president of Dallas Township School Board, tendered his resignation as a member of the board due to personal reasons. Chris Eipper, new director, was elected president.

Leonard Harvey shot a 12-point buck. Harvey shot the buck while hunting in the Poconos. He had been in the woods only a short time when he bagged his buck at 9 o'clock.

Deaths - Mrs. R. R. Streader, Trucksville; W.J. Schall, Shavertown.

Married - Alice Gordon and John Hoyt.  
You could get - Xmas trees 50c; Sunkist oranges 2 doz. 29c; coconut bon bons 20c lb.; almonds 25c lb.; coffee 15c lb.; cleanser 6 full cans 17c; pineapple 6 big cans \$1.05; peaches 6 big cans 85c; Velveeta cheese 29c lb.

40 YEARS AGO - DECEMBER 17, 1943

Arthur J. Faux's lumber mill near Orange was destroyed by fire.

A mild form of influenza raced rampant through the Back Mountain. Local physicians reported that nine out of every 10 people were affected by the disease.

Trucksville Service Mothers' Club sent 130 Christmas boxes to men and women in the service with 35 boxes going overseas. The boxes contained an assortment of candy, gum, soap, towels, toilet articles.

Married - Ellen Pritchard to Harley Misson; Naomi Rood to Richard Holdredge.

Deaths - William Monk, Dallas.  
You could get - Brown or confectioner's sugar 2 lb. 15c; lg. jar molasses 26c; 25 lb. bag flour \$1.05; coffee 2 lb. bag 47c; 50 lb. bag potatoes \$1.59; sweet potatoes 2 lb. 19c; smoked hams 35c lb.; pork loins 25c lb.; shrimp 37c lb.

30 YEARS AGO - DECEMBER 18, 1953

Norti Bertl was elected president of Dallas Community Ambulance Association.

Westmoreland High School students presented their third annual Christmas concert. The Mixed Chorus, Boys Chorus, Girls Chorus, Junior High School Boys and Girls Ensemble and the Second Grade Ensemble performed. Soloists were Mildred Kingston and Nancy Jane Jones.

Engaged - Anna Dobson to Theodore London. Naomi Veitch to Donald Lewis.

Married - Clara Cundiff to Allan R. Carnay; Dorothy Meade to John Dobson.

## Library is seeking 'friends'

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK  
Library Correspondent

Would you like to be a friend? The Back Mountain Memorial Library is looking for some more 'friends' before the end of the year in order to make our Friends of the Library 1983 campaign go 'over the top'. Financial donations in any amount are welcome, just designate the donation for 'Friends' and we will add your name to our prestigious

1983 membership list. Needless to say, the expense of operating the library has doubled and in some cases tripled since its beginning in 1945. The 'Friends' contributions are a part of our estimated budget for the year and has become a very necessary financial need. Your library needs you in so many ways, both as a patron and contributor. Be a library supporter!

New books at the library include: "Shield of Three Lions" by

Pamela Kaufman is breathtaking and exciting - a panoramic tapestry of a novel set in the Middle Ages that weaves the sights, the sounds, the smells and the pageantry of a magical age. The story is of Alix, an extraordinary young heroine. Bawdy, earthy and full of fascinating detail.

"God and Harvey Grosbeck" by Gilbert Millstein is a story in which the hero hatches a plot to try to save a little bit of old New York. It is a rambunctious, bawdy and irreverent novel, a wild, wicked ride through the windmills of Manhattan with an urban 20th century Quixote as our guide. Harvey is a cantankerous, aging curmudgeon.

"Eleni" by Nicholas Gage is a personal story of a savage war, a mother's love and a son's revenge. Nicholas is a top investigative reporter for the New York Times and devotes himself to uncovering the one story he cared about most - the torture and murder of his mother when he was a boy of nine. A search which climaxes in a confrontation.

"The Wildcliffe Bird" by Constance Heaven is an exciting new saga of romantic history. Juliet Prior is forced from Paris when a runaway carriage 'accidentally' kills her father. She flees to London, where she becomes a servant. Juliet soon discovers an unsettling and scandalous web of mysterious accidents and murder. A shattering and romantic conclusion.

The welcome mat is always out at your nearby library. For it's really YOUR library and exists for only one purpose - to serve YOU! Yes, the Back Mountain Memorial Library welcomes you and invites you to use all of its materials and services. There is something for everyone - whatever your interests or tastes. There are all sorts of books on building, making things, and 'doing'. For the adventurous, there are travel books, novels and biographies. There are love stories, westerns, murder mysteries and science fiction. The art, music and business books help with your profession. The library has your

## Guest editorial

### Let's try to control alcohol

By CLYDE DUPIN

The Christmas season is a time to be joyful. This month, the world will celebrate the birthday of Christ. It is also a time in America when business is booming and our stores are filled with shoppers.

It is also a time for Christmas parties. Some honor our Lord and others only bring shame to this Blessed Season.

One of the tragedies of this Christmas season will be the abuse of alcohol. Many well-intended parties will become drunken orgies. This is the season when many drunk

drivers will cause thousands of unnecessary deaths. Many workers wish their companies and bosses did not serve alcohol at these parties. The serving of alcohol has disrupted many a good party and caused violence and family abuse.

The use of alcohol is the reason for the majority of deaths caused by falls, fire accidents, spouse beatings, and half of all traffic accidents. It is estimated that deaths caused by alcohol may reach 200,000 in 1983. The cost of alcohol abuse in medical bills, property damage, and time lost from work may surpass \$100 billion this year.

Today, alcoholism ranks with heart disease and cancer as one of three major health problems. In America, there are 12 million alcoholics and 25 percent are teenagers.

It is time the church speaks out against alcoholism. The American Medical Association and 61 percent of the people favor labeling liquor bottles and better control of alcohol abuse. Let's ban the booze from the party and let it be a time of real joy.

(Clyde Dupin is the author of a national column entitled "Religious Viewpoint.")

## Letters

### Group hails legislative piece

DEAR EDITOR:

I am writing this to inform family and friends of people with mental retardation of the status of the Community and Family Living Amendments of 1983. This piece of legislation, S 2053, and referred to the U.S. Senate Committee after being introduced November 4th, has been hailed by disability groups as the most important piece of legislation since the landmark Education for all Handicapped Children's Act and Section 504 Antidiscrimination Amendments.

This bill would amend Title XIX Medicaid of the Social Security Act and force a reduction in institutional funding. It would restructure Medicaid so that severely disabled individuals would be eligible for medical assistance only if they reside in community or family living facilities. This does not mean that institutions would close because Medicaid funds are matched by state dollars on an almost 50-50 basis and state funding would not be affected by this federal legislation.

If enacted, the bill would pump millions of federal dollars into the community services programs and make it possible for thousands of

persons to live with their families or in community based integrated settings. The services would include room and board, habilitation, case management, respite care, nursing, medical supplies, physical and occupational therapy, speech therapy and audiology, homemaker-health aid, personal care services, adult day and specialized vocational services.

Individuals needing highly structured 24-hour care, including medical attention, would be provided this care in small homes within the community. Those needing fewer services would get them within their community, whether living at home, in foster care, a group home or an apartment and the services would be more individualized providing for the special needs of each person.

Backed by the Association for Retarded Citizens of the United States (ARC.US), The Association for Severely Handicapped (TASH) and Operation Real Rights and other disability groups, this bill would ensure that the United States would become the world's leading advocate for community services for developmentally disabled persons.

Realizing that this piece of legislation would give the 10,500 citizens with mental retardation of this county a life of dignity with services they rightfully deserve, the Association for Retarded Citizens of Luzerne County urges all parents and interested persons to contact Senator Heinz and Specter to urge their support for the Community and Family Living Amendments of 1983.

Copies of this letter should be sent to Senator Robert Dole, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Room 141, Senate Hart Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

ELLEN H. CAMPBELL  
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The Senators addresses are as follows:

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Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-4254  
The Hon. John H. Heinz III  
443 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-6324

### Call this number if you detect fraud

Secretary of the Commonwealth William R. Davis today reminded consumers to contact the Commission on Charitable Organizations if they have a question concerning an organization's legitimacy.

"During the holiday season, solicitations of charitable contributions increase dramatically, offering a fraudulent operation an opportunity to collect funds at the expense of the truly deserving charities," he said.

Davis advised consumers to make sure that they are contributing to an

authentic charity. Fraudulent operations often use names that sound similar to that of a respected organization, he said. Consumers should also always ask solicitors for identification and request literature about a charity.

Davis also recommended that donors avoid giving cash, because cash contributions are harder for the Commission to monitor.

All organizations soliciting funds in Pennsylvania are required to register with the Commission.

The seven-member commission can, through a professional staff, approve or reject authorization for a charity to solicit, investigate complaints against charities and order a charity to stop soliciting.

Applications to solicit are turned down by the Commission if the statements on it are untrue.

Consumers can call the Commission at (717) 783-1720 to see if a charity is registered.

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