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Despite laws, minors say alcohol is easy to obtain

Editor's note: Normally, The Post discourages the use of anonymous sources. However, the sensitive nature of this story demanded that we allow the youths we spoke with to remain unidentified.

By SCOTT A. DAVIS
Post Staff

The circumstances surrounding the shooting death of Richard Hillman earlier this month are a sobering reminder that no matter what the law says, minors can obtain and consume alcohol.

One way minors in the Back Mountain say they obtain alcohol

is through their parents. Several minors told The Post that their parents give them alcohol. The minors would not allow their names to be printed, saying they fear prosecution.

One 17-year-old Dallas youth said he has access to alcohol through his parents. "My parents give it to me," the 17-year-old said, "as long I promise not to drink and drive. They figure I would get it someplace else anyway."

The youth said his parents have allowed him to drink since he was 14-years-old. "I was arrested once, but my parents paid the fine," he said.

"Most stores are strict about the age of their customers. The trick is to find someone over 21 to buy it for you."

15 year-old, Dallas

The youth said he never drinks and drives, and said he has called his parents for rides several times. "They do not get mad. Once they threatened to stop giving me drinks, but nothing ever happened," he said.

A 19-year-old Trucksville youth said he also obtains alcohol from his parents. "At first, my mom did

not want me to drink and my dad would have to slip me a beer," the youth said. "Now, I can get it from either of them."

The 19-year-old said his parents will not give his friends alcohol, but said he has friends whose parents will give alcohol to other minors. "My friend's parents give him cases (of beer) at a time. He

brings them to our party spot," he said.

Dallas Borough Police Chief John R. Fowler said he believes parents give alcohol to their children because, "They want to be buddies more than parents." Chief Fowler stressed that he has not had any cases where it was proven a minor obtained alcohol from his or her parents. "I do not know of any cases," Chief Fowler said, "but it does go on."

Chief Fowler warned that parents who supply their underage children with alcohol are violating the law and would be prosecuted. The Department of Transporta-

tion sends a pamphlet with all driver's license registrations and renewal forms. According to the pamphlet, "Any adult who buys alcohol for anyone under twenty-one, even their own children...will receive a mandatory fine of \$1,000 for the first offense and \$2,500 for each following offense."

"I only drink at home; in my own house," said a 19-year-old Harveys Lake youth. "My parents and I have an agreement. I stay home and I can drink. If I go out, I do not drink," he said.

Chief Fowler said that parents See MINORS, pg 5

Suspect found guilty in Burger King robbery

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Fedro Carter Jr. of Meshoppen was found guilty on four counts Friday in connection with a robbery at Back Mountain Burger King restaurant in Shavertown in January.

Luzerne County Assistant District Attorney Michael S. Melnick, who prosecuted the case last Thursday, said that the Luzerne County jury took only about three hours of deliberation to return a verdict of guilty on four counts: robbery, theft, receiving stolen property and simple assault.

Carter is one of the two men accused of holding up the Burger King Restaurant in Shavertown on January 9, just before the restaurant closed for the night. The two men pistol whipped employees and left with \$135.

The other man has not yet been taken into custody, but Kingston Township police are still working on leads which they believe will be helpful in apprehending him.

Atty. Melnick stated that Burger King employees were key witnesses for the prosecution during the three days of the trial and told the court that the employees were in fear of their lives when the holdup took place.

The defense counsel for Carter, Atty. Youngelaus called several witnesses to the stand but Atty. Melnick indicated that they did

more discredit than good. Melnick said one witness admitted when placed under oath that he had lied to an investigator and withdrew a previous story that Carter had been at the witness's apartment the night of the robbery. Another witness has had 13 convictions from Florida to Georgia to Texas to Pennsylvania and said he was an alcoholic and blacked out at times, according to Melnick. The witness testified that he remembered the night of the robbery because it was such a bitter cold night, but a meteorologist called by the prosecution said the weather was mild.

Judge Bernard Podcasy remanded Carter to Luzerne County Prison until he is sentenced at a later date. Atty. Melnick indicated to The Post that the district attorney could seek a five-year mandatory sentence in a state prison for using a handgun in the robbery.

Following the trial, Kingston Township Police Chief Paul Sabol cited Sgt. James Balavage, Patrolmen Michael Moravec and Robert Weiss, for their intensive investigation which resulted in the apprehension of Carter. "It was their persistent work on the case which resulted in the conviction of Carter on the four counts. They set excellent examples for our department. I am also appreciative of the cooperation given us by members of other Back Mountain police departments," Sabol said.



Woman at the well
Jaclyn Walkowiak of Pinetree Drive plays the proverbial woman while at vacation bible school last week at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Dallas. (Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

Charges filed in youth's slaying

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Lehman Township Police Officer Barney Dobinnick and State Trooper Carl Allen filed charges Friday, June 23, against a juvenile in connection with the fatal shooting June 11, of 18-year-old Lake-Lehman graduate Richard Hillman.

The petition filed by the police charges the juvenile with manslaughter and involuntary manslaughter.

No date has been set for a hearing and the juvenile will be notified by mail of the petition which was filed in Luzerne County Juvenile Court.

On Thursday, District Attorney Correale Stevens announced that his office intended to charge the juvenile with one count of voluntary manslaughter and involuntary manslaughter.

The juvenile has not been taken into custody because he is not considered to be a danger to the community. Now that the petition has been filed it will be up to Judge Chester B. Muroski to set a hearing date. Muroski must also determine if the charges are appropriate.

If convicted by a juvenile court

of the charges, the juvenile could be kept in custody in a juvenile detention center until his 21st birthday, then spend additional time in jail after that.

Although announcing his office's intention of filing charges, the district attorney stated that his office is still investigating other phases of the case, specifically those involving the furnishing of alcoholic beverages to minors.

The juvenile and Hillman reportedly argued at a graduation party they both attended, according to friends. The underclassman is said to have left the party after the fight and later Hillman left to go home.

At about 5 a.m., police say that Hillman went to the home of the juvenile on Swamp Road, Lehman Township. During a fight there, the juvenile took a .22 caliber revolver from the home and allegedly shot and killed Hillman.

Interviews conducted by the district attorney's staff of many persons present at the graduation party or who had been in contact with Hillman or the juvenile during the weekend of June 11 indicate the arguments were over a former girlfriend of Hillman's who had begun dating the juvenile.

DAMA told to come up with new expansion plan

By SCOTT A. DAVIS
Post Staff

The Department of Environmental Resources has rejected an expansion proposal submitted by the Dallas Area Municipal Authority, pushing to project back to the planning stages.

The proposal called for the upgrading of the authority's existing waste treatment plant to handle 2.6 million gallons of water each day. The plant also proposed to filter 400,000 gallons of surface and storm water which flows into the treatment system.

DER rejected the proposal last week. According to DER spokesman Mark Carmon, DER wants DAMA to design a new plan that would prove to be more cost effective and environmentally sound.

DER instructed DAMA to stop all design work and return to planning a new proposal, including a detailed cost analysis for each proposal. The new proposal's target date has been set for November 1989.

The rejected upgrade proposal would have cost approximately \$1.5 million to complete. DER told DAMA to consider two alternatives.

One possibility would be to upgrade the plant to handle 3 million gallons per day, without the filtration of surface and storm water. This option would cost approximately \$4.9 million dollars.

The other involves connecting DAMA to another area sanitary authority.

"There is a preliminary study for See DAMA, pg 3

First library horse show raises \$2000

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Chairperson Kathy Shaskas said that the first Back Mountain Memorial Library Benefit Horse Show was a huge success. More than 200 entries attended the show held last Sunday at the Luzerne County Fairgrounds.

They galloped, trotted, cantored and walked their horses in the categories which were divided for all ages and experience.

Shaskas, who is a riding instructor, and her husband John, who is chairperson of the auction for the second consecutive year, decided on the horse show as a new attraction to raise funds for the library. Each rider paid an entry fee of \$5 or \$7 which benefits the library. It is hoped the horse show will become an annual event to help supplement the funds raised by the dinner dance and the auction.

Blue first prize ribbons and silver bowl trophies were paid for by sponsors and the county contributed the use of the fairgrounds. Profits from the food stand also went to the library.

Shaskas estimated the horse show netted approximately \$2,000, which will be used for the everyday expenses of the library.

Jeff Ayers of Allentown served as judge, issuing orders to the riders in the ring. Ayers is a registered judge and a professional horseman. The judging was divided into numerous categories including a 'most pleasurable' category which applies to the ride given by the horse not the appearance.

Assistant librarian Nancy Kozemchak spent the day at the horse show working wherever needed but she spent a portion of her time looking for the coolers before she finally learned the coolers she was looking for were the cool-down

blankets for the horses. "Who says you can't learn something new," laughed Nancy.

Winners in the various classes included Magee Allegruce, champion; Heather Brosh, reserve champion,

Junior Equestrian Class; Jennifer Connell, champion; Laurie Barna, reserve champion, Senior Equestrian; Silver Spoon, J. Connell, champion; Many Stars, L.Garlan, reserve cham-

See HORSE, pg 2



No one can talk to a horse, of course
Except for Robin Pavlick, Lake Silkworth, who explains in detail to her horse Wally Ballou the lay of the track at the Back Mt. Library Horse Show. It did some good because they placed second in the Senior Equestrian Class. (Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

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- ### Coming up:
- BLOOD DRIVE - Thurs., July 6, 12 Noon-6 PM, Trucksville United Methodist Church, Church Street
 - DALLAS TWP. SUPERVISORS - Wed., July 5, 8 PM, Dallas Twp. Building
 - LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL BOARD - Thurs., June 29, 8 PM, Music Room of the Lehman-Jackson Elementary School
 - FRANKLIN TWP. PLANNING COMMISSION - Mon., July 3, 6:30 PM
 - FRANKLIN TWP. SUPERVISORS - Mon., July 3, 8 PM
 - JACKSON TWP. SUPERVISORS - Mon., July 3, 7:30 PM, Jackson Twp. Fire Hall
 - KINGSTON TWP. ZONING HEARING BOARD - Mon., July 3, 8 PM, Kingston Twp. Municipal Bldg.