

J.W.J.

Driving, crime and more notes from all over

By J.W. JOHNSON

More than 500 persons a years are killed by drunk drivers in Pennsylvania. Across the country, about three innocent bystanders are killed by drunk drivers each and every hour of the day. Drunk driving is the number one cause of death for young persons between the ages of 16 and 21. The drunk driving problem creates an estimated economic cost of over \$5 billion annually. On an average weekend night, one of out every ten drivers on the road is drunk. The abuse of alcohol is this nation's number one drug problem...period. Nuf said.

You wake up. You perform the necessary morning rituals, leave home, get into your car or truck and go to work. There are many things you've probably taken for granted from the time you opened your eyes until you found yourself on the way to work. The electric light switch, for example. But probably the thing you thought about the least is the transportation system which gets you and everyone else in this country to and from anywhere. Rail, water, air and highway all make up our system. The Interstate Highway system permits vehicles and commerce to move across the country rapidly and efficiently. And, believe it or not, our highway system in general, is among the finest in the world...but to the point, why aren't we using our rail system more? And why not use our railroad tracks as we use of

Interstate? Nationalize the rail bed totally, fund maintenance and expansion from a user trust fund (just like the Interstate) and allow anyone to use it. In a time of energy consciousness, and environmental concerns, revitalization of the rail system.

Sociologists and philosophers asserted long ago that crime is one of the prices we pay for freedom. We have been told repeatedly that crime is like the common cold, timeless and as certain to occur. In large measure, most of us have agreed with this theory. And there is little doubt that, for example, the freedom of movement we enjoy would be severely curtailed if, in an attempt to moderate crime, limits on travel freedom were imposed. But now, the very freedom which permits crime is threatening to overwhelm its creator and the millions of innocent victims who witness the dark event on a daily basis. And if the symbiotic relationship of crime and freedom is ever to be dislodged, perhaps we need to stop listening to the fatalistic cough about crime and freedom being inseparable if the latter is to survive; perhaps what we need to do is redefine freedom. A reasonable definition might be that freedom is to be assured that persons whose actions demonstrate violent behavior will be removed from the society, and redirected in their habits. Perhaps in our attempt to extend freedom to its literal limits we have forgotten that millions of persons somehow manage to live their entire lives without harming

or attacking another human being, or stealing his or her property. Those millions of persons should be provided reasonable assurances of safety, even within a free society. For too long we have been defining freedom as the right of a single individual to threaten the safety of his peers without a realistic fear of being permanently separated from his victims. The price of freedom abused should be freedom lost.

When is the National Basketball Association going to adopt former Celtic great Bob Cousy's suggestion of raising the net from 10 to 11 feet? Today's players are too strong and too tall for the current rules of the sport to test athletic ability. The game no longer rewards shooting ability or ball handling. And as we enter the second half of the National Hockey League schedule, it's time to ask again, are the abilities of professional hockey players so lacking in quality that virtually every game must dissolve into a brawl? Comedian Rodney Dangerfield has remarked: "I went to a fight the other night and a hockey game broke out." He made the remark as a joke, but the observation was quite accurate. The 1980 Winter Olympics should have demonstrated that hockey can be a thrilling sport which requires considerable skills. But it wouldn't be out of place to change the name to **sockey**, change periods to rounds and issue scorecards to fans if the current way the professional game is played in the U.S. isn't penalized out of existence.

Library news

Cherry Merry Muffin brightens the library

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The display case at the Back Mountain Memorial Library is filled with Cherry Merry Muffin collection borrowed from Christine Chamberlain of Shavertown. Christine is 8 years old and is in second grade at Dallas Elementary School. She started collecting these dolls because they smelled so good and there were many different kinds of dolls. She received her first one, Cherry Merry, when she was four years old, along with the 'timer table' for Christmas in 1989. She now receives additions to the collection for birthdays, holidays and gifts and has treasured them ever since.

The dolls in the display include Cherry Mary Muffin standing by the timer table and she smells like a cherry; Greta Grape, smelling like a grape, is on the other side of the table ready for the party; Penny Peppermint is standing at the open refrigerator door, smelling like

peppermint; and Betty Blueberry, smelling like a blueberry, is at the kitchen table. The umbrella table features cookies, muffins and an angel food cake. The oven is over to the side where all the treats are baked. There is a towel stand by the oven; and a small cherry jar with a sugar cookie. Betty Blueberry has her own special sauce with utensils with her, with the kitchen sink nearby.

There are also included in the display, a cherry basket, muffins, teapot, marmalade, pies, butter dish, cherry muffins and colored combs. Christine has included a picture of her taken at the Toys R Us store where she met Cherry Merry Muffin and joined her for a picture taking event. The interesting thing about these dolls is that they smell just like what they are. The display is very picturesque and certainly reminds us that spring is but a few weeks away. They will be at the library until April 6.

The Book Club of the library

will meet on Monday, March 21, at 1:30 in the reference room at the library. Friends and guests are welcome to attend.

New books at the library: "Last Rights" by Tim Sebastian is a novel in which the author uncannily predicts world affairs; and in this story, a bold daytime theft from a secret Moscow archive unleashes a host of buried Cold War demons—and is followed by a massive international cover-up in London, Washington and many points in between. A fascinating story.

"Prime Witness" by Steve Martin is a legal thriller. Over just five days, the rural college town of Davenport, California, is rocked by two sets of brutal murders. When two more bodies are discovered, the defense attorney is tagged as the special prosecutor who must find the murder, dubbed 'the Putah Creek Killer' and quickly. Things spin out of control.

Seedlings available from conservation district

Luzerne County Conservation District will hold its annual tree sale Saturday, April 16 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Trees available are Colorado Blue Spruce, Douglas Fir, Southwestern White Pine and White Flowering Dogwood.

These trees are two year trans-

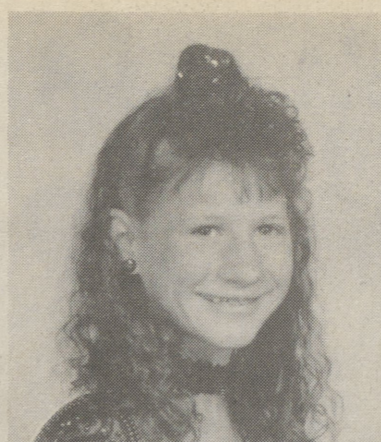
plants, except for the White Flowering Dogwood, a 3 year potted transplant. Shrubs, fruit trees, grape vines and groundcover will also be available.

Shrubs are red, yellow, orange azaleas and red and pink rhododendrons. Grape Vines are Remally (white) seedless and Con-

cord seedless. Fruit trees are Jersey mac, Macoun, Northern Spy, Stanley Plum and Redhaven Peach. Ground cover is Myrtle.

40# bags of Organic Cow Manure Compost are also available.

To obtain an order form and pricing information call 825-1844 or 779-0645.



BETH HARTSHORNE

Orange student earns first place in dance competition

Beth Harshorne, daughter of the Reverend Don and Sharon Harshorne of Orange, recently won first place in solo lyrical at the Precision Unlimited Dance Competition at the Mountain Laurel Resort.

Beth is a member of the award-winning Bobettes, which won four first places in tap, pointe, lyrical, and novelty along with the Hall of Fame Award presented to the best

group of the entire competition.

Beth and her duo partner, Kara Shilinski of Wilkes-Barre, also won three first places in tap, lyrical and pointe tap and the duo/trio award presented to the highest scoring duo or trio of the entire competition.

Beth studies dance at the Northeastern Pa. Academy of Dancing, under the direction of former Rockette Barbara Woronko Anzalone.

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