Skateboard

(continued from page 1)

also include BMX (bicycle motocross), in Wilkes-Barre, the boys

"We know there's a liability problem," Anthony said. "We believe we have found ways to prevent the borough from being held liable for any injuries. We want to show the council we're willing to help get sponsors and work on fundraisers, which could be used to help pay for insurance."

The boys feel they're being unfairly stereotyped into the negative inner-city image often seen on television. They have been scolded for bringing their boards to school and "can get into trouble for even carrying one in the borough," Anthony said.

"A few of my friends got frisked for weapons and drugs," he added. "We're a minority - enough to be noticed but too few to defend against the image," Joe said.

'We're not bad," Anthony said. "Look - I'm a patriot!" he quipped, showing off a small American flag pinned to his belt.

The boys are concerned that residents have complained about skateboarders to the police. They don't ride through flower beds or jump over curbs. Maybe it's skaters coming in from Wilkes-Barre,

"Running through a flower bed is very bad for your wheels," Joe said. "We would have to take the wheels apart and clean the dirt from the bearings.

"We're a minority enough to be noticed but too few to defend against the image."

Joe Fritz 13-year-old skateboarder

Jumping over curbs is also bad for the boards and also quite difficult to do, they added. To jump a curb, then run through a flower bed would require an Ollie and several other difficult maneuvers, which they say very few skaters whom they know can do.

"Check the bottom of our boards," Joe said, flipping his over. "Do you see any nicks? If you jump curbs you'll get them."

"Maybe they're afraid we'll get hurt on their property," Anthony suggested.

"The kids should have a place to skate," said Ralph Flower, Jared's father. "They're not bothering anyone - the majority of skaters I know are nice kids.

"Our parents say it's good for us," Joe said. "Which would you rather have - a kid who gets in trouble painting graffiti or a kid who goes skateboarding? We don't get into trouble.

Skateboarding is actually quite difficult, the boys said. It takes



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

Dallas skaters Jared Flowers, Joe Fritz and Anthony Yenason, all 13, have presented a petition to the borough council asking for a skateboard park.

many hours of practice to master the different maneuvers. On rainy days they practice in their basements or friends' garages.

Anthony, Joe and Jared aren't couch potatoes. When they aren't out on their skateboards, they

also play basketball, learn karate, go rollerblading, snowboarding and downhill skiing. They're no slouches in school either – Jared has a solid B average and Anthony and Joe are honor roll students.

"School has nothing to do with skating," Joe said.

County 911

(continued from page 1)

drive through certain areas, especially those with duplicate street names, to verify locations, he added.

"We still have many things to work out with the records," Gervenak said. "For example, the phone companies must update their records for us and trace their wires on the poles, which will help provide directions to each home and business.'

The telephone companies must also trace and relocate the incoming phone lines to the 911 system's new location in the Hanover Industrial Park, behind the Red Cross building, he said. Construction of the building is proceeding according to schedule, and the county expects it to be finished in February. Four 180-foot radio towers and microwave antennas, which will compensate for shadow zones where radio waves don't reach well, are also included.

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The new county system won't affect areas along the county's borders which presently receive 911 services through adjoining counties, Gervenak said. For example, the Back Mountain's six telephone exchanges cover 11 municipalities in three counties. Sweet Valley's 477 exchange extends into Sullivan County, while Harveys Lake's 639 and Franklin Township's 333 exchanges overlap into Wyoming County.

Adding to the confusion, Jackson Township is served by the 696 (Trucksville/Shavertown), 674/675 (Dallas) and 779 (Plymouth) exchanges.

"These calls will still be taken by the county presently providing the service," he said. "They'll then be forwarded on a special dedicated telephone line to Luzerne County. It's similar to a manual call forwarding system."

Cable TV

(continued from page 1)

"Why don't you offer Headline News, the History Channel and Turner Classic Movies," asked William Owens. "Service Electric charges the same price as you, but carries more channels.'

"For the area and number of customers we serve, we have very good service and some of the most outstanding channels available," Hilderbrandt replied, noting that Service Electric serves four times the customers that Tele-Media

Terry Oliver, RN-BSN, wanted to know why the company doesn't offer more health and medical channels. "Your service is nothing compared to Service Electric," she said. "You have a terrible selection. when I first moved here I told my fiancee I can't take the phone or cable TV companies - we almost broke up over it.'

She also asked for the History Channel, which Zagorski said is owned by A & E and often runs

remakes of A & E programs. Both Owens and Oliver have the company's Basic Plus program.

"Some of the trash that even the networks are throwing down our throats stinks," said Ron Carey, who has every channel Tele-Media offers because his grandchildren like to watch them. He also requested Turner Classic Movies and "more sports."

Adding more channels requires increasing the band width, which could be expensive, Zagorski said. Some satellite channels charge Tele-Media more than \$1 per subscriber per month to run them, he

"For an area this size, increasing our band width and installing state-of-the-art equipment would cost us about \$5 million," Hilderbrandt said. "Adding four more channels per tier of service could cost customers at least \$2 per tier."

State-of-the-art equipment

"Some of the trash that even the networks are throwing down our throats stinks."

> **Ron Carey** Shavertown

would include replacing all the older lines with fiber-optics, upgrading some of the more recently installed equipment and add Internet access and telephone service capability, Zagorski said after the meeting.

"The most cost-effective way to do it is to upgrade the system and extend the band width at the same time," he said. Tele-Media would spread the cost out through the Dallas division, not the entire com-

Fiber-optic lines would prevent the widespread outages which now occur when part of the system malfunctions, limiting outages to no more than 200 customers, Zagorski said. The fiber-optics also provide a clearer picture and telephone and Internet service capa-

Tele-Media's average local contract runs for 15 years. By law it isn't allowed to set up exclusive service agreements with municipalities - other cable companies can come into the same area, string cable and set up shop.

Tele-Media took over cable television service from Back Mountain Tele-Cable in 1986. It operates small rural cable TV systems serving between 300 and 10,000 customers from Massachusetts to Texas, and has been in business since 1970. It serves a total of about 500,000 customers. The Back Mountain is one of its larger

In addition to its recent purchase of the FM radio channel 98 Rock, Tele-Media also owns approximately 50 other radio sta-





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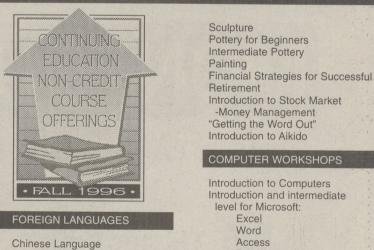


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