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TEENS AND BOOZE:

The Hard Facts

By Joan M. Smith

DWI... A Teen Weakness

Crushed skulls, mutilated limbs, headless bodies — a scene from the latest horror movie? No. One from a reality that happens every day on our nation's highways; one with which Frank Wheeler, senior investigator for the Monroe County Examiner's Office, is all too familiar.

"They are useless deaths caused by alcohol," he said. He explained that a few years ago it was one such gruesome accident, in which four Rochester teenagers who had been drinking were killed, that resulted in the Medical Examiner Office's drinking and driving program. The project, "To Drive DWI or to Live," is handled by Wheeler, senior investigator Jerry Hoffman, and investigators John Cody and David Diegert, and is presented to high school students. It doesn't pull any punches. The slides are graphic, the facts brutal.

"We have to show the kids what happens out there," Wheeler said, "and we give them the bottom line approach. There are no more messages after us."

The message is that alcohol is the largest single contributing factor to death among teenagers, with most of the deaths resulting from alcohol-related car accidents.

According to a report by State Sen. Frank Padavan (R-C, 11th District), drivers 20 years old and younger make up 7.7 percent of the licensed driving population in New York State. A quarter of these, according to a statement by Assemblywoman Pinny Cooke, make up those involved in drunk driving collisions. Bringing these statistics closer to home, Wheeler reported that in one month — June 1980 — 14 of the 24 fatal traffic accidents involved teenagers who had been drinking.

This growing problem has produced a push to find solutions. Stricter driving while intoxicated laws (DWIs) are being enacted across the nation. Here in New York State,

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Crowds Greet Pope Joyously; Seeming Snub Mars Visit

Lagos, Nigeria — A seeming rebuff by radical Moslem leaders in the northern city of Kaduna marred an otherwise joyously-acclaimed visit of Pope John Paul II to this African nation last week.

Rivalry among three Moslem factions may have been the basis for the snub of the Holy Father. The Kaduna area reportedly is the site of the most radical Moslem group, often at odds with others of the same faith here.

The pope had planned to speak to religious leaders at

the State House in Kaduna, stressing such common aspects of the two faiths as opposition to abortion and belief in one God.

The talk was canceled by the Moslem leaders which was a departure from earlier warm relations on the trip. For instance, Nigerian Radio has been promoting the papal trip extensively in this largely Moslem nation.

And the huge crowds greeting the pontiff have been openly friendly and in a mood to celebrate. For instance, at

one Mass the thousands in attendance chanted "Stolat," Polish for "May you live a 100 years," in response to the Holy Father's greetings in their native language. And visible at one Mass was a huge sign, "Solidarity," stressing communion with the Polish people.

People chanted, danced and waved papal flags along with their Nigerian ones of green and white. They rushed police lines to get nearer John Paul in scenes reminiscent of other papal trips.

The pope, while enjoying

the celebration, also used the visit to reiterate some stern messages. He condemned modern influences such as divorce, contraception and abortion and called for strengthening of family values.

He also condemned polygamy, widely practiced in Africa, even among Roman Catholics.

At a youth rally, he warned against physical temptations and against the "escapism" of drink and drug abuse.

State Catholic Conference Lists Legislative Concerns

Albany — More than two dozen legislative proposals form the backbone of the State Catholic Conference Legislative Agenda for 1982.

"Following statewide consultation, the Public Policy Committee of the conference unanimously endorsed the 28 proposals and will actively work on them with the State Legislature," said J. Alan Davitt, executive director.

"We are interested in many areas of human concern," said Charles J. Tobin, conference general counsel. "But we have highlighted these as especially achievable this year. We will react and take positions on other issues of significant concern in the legislature as we always have in the past."

The conference represents the eight dioceses in the state and its Public Policy Committee advises the bishops on public affairs.

The program is divided under seven headings, "for easy reference and with no indication that one is more important," Tobin said.

In the Social Concerns area, the conference urges:

1. Preventive health and social services for the elderly and disabled; helps to keep families intact;

2. Sheltering the homeless by providing additional temporary shelters for the needy;

3. Increasing the state minimum wage for farm-workers to \$3.35 since it has not been changed for six years;

4. Passing through directly to local service agencies federal government funds which are available under Title XX programs.

In the Economic and In-

come Security area, the conference supports:

1. Maintenance of current aid to families in need;

2. Maintenance of funding for Medicaid for the needy at 1981 levels.

Under the Protection of Human Life, the conference urges:

1. Ending of state funding of abortions through Medicaid;

2. Defeat of any death penalty statutes;

3. Protection of young pregnant women through increased prenatal and postnatal care;

4. Assurance that young mothers and their families are fully informed of the consequences of an abortion and have fully consultation with each other.

In the Education area, the conference recommends:

1. Assuring that all children in all school districts receive adequate health and welfare services;

2. Transportation when nonpublic schools are in session, whether public schools are meeting or not;

3. Increasing the state assistance for textbooks for public and nonpublic school students.

In Health Care, recommended are:

1. Minimum provisions of health services for all children;

2. Increased local community services for the mentally ill, retarded and developmentally disabled.

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FATHER HEWES

A Staunch Pro-Lifer Decides To Support Hatch Amendment

By John Dash

For the past 14 years Father James Hewes has been scraping his political savvy against the grain of American social consciences, and honing his knife in the process, most recently on the Hatch Human Life Amendment.

Now he's not only for it, he's pushing it.

The newly-named administrator of Mt. Carmel parish acknowledged last week that at first he "reacted negatively," to press reports that the nation's bishops had moved to promote the amendment sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Orrin Hatch.

Hatch's amendment states that abortion is not a constitutionally established right and that laws restricting abortion may be enacted by Congress and the states, the more restrictive laws prevailing in questionable cases.

Father Hewes said last week that a number of pro-life activists have not given their support to the Hatch Amendment.

For several years, he said, pro-lifers have fought for the Hyde Amendment, which cut off Medicaid funds for abortions, and the Helms-Hyde "paramount" human life amendment which states that the "paramount right to life is invested in each human being from the moment of fertilization, without regard to age, health, or condition of dependency."

In the meantime, he said, there has been evidence of "significant change" in the membership of both the Senate and the House of Representatives; sympathetic legislators now constitute a simple majority and are now chairmen of several important committees.

During this period, he said, "the bishops saw the Helms Amendment as a ways away" from possibility of passage and were conducting hearings on a human life bill.

The measures under question were seen as objectionable because they would not label abortion as homicide, they

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