

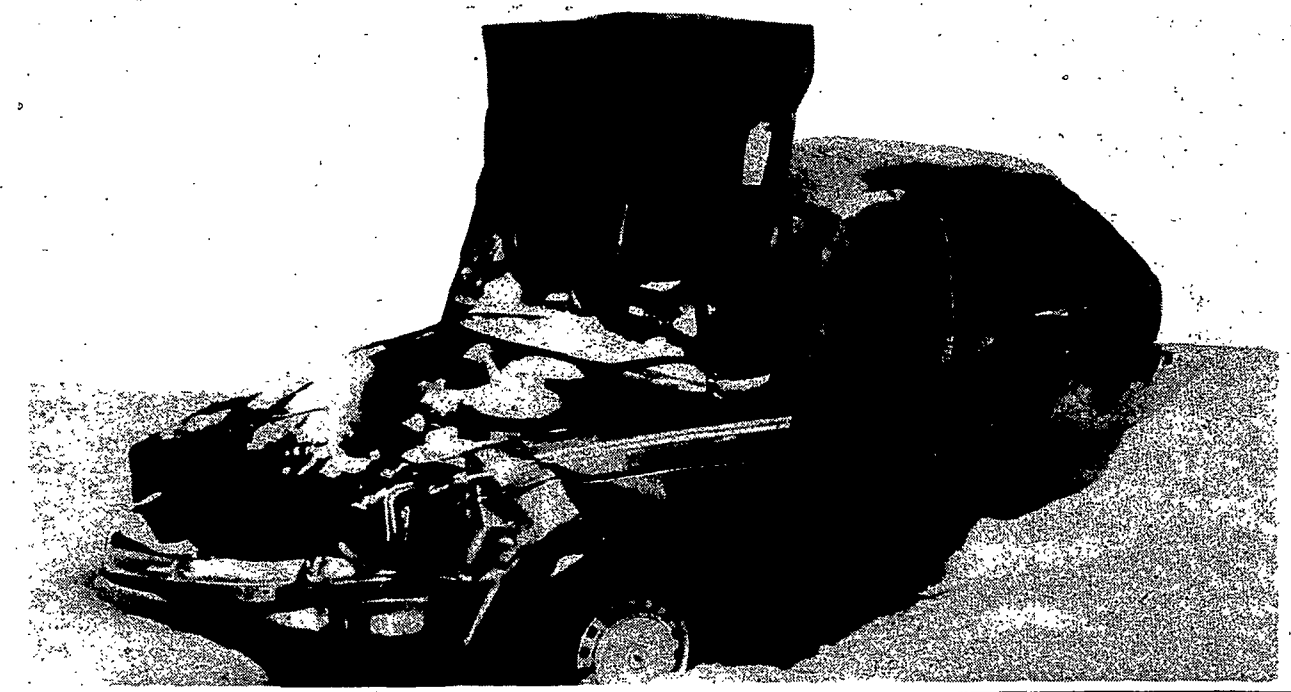
Teens and Booze

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stiffer DWI penalties went into effect on Jan. 1. First offense for driving while ability impaired is a mandatory \$250 fine and/or up to 15 days in jail, and 90 days' suspension of license; second offense within five years means a minimum fine of \$350, a maximum of \$500, and/or 30 days in jail, and a 180-day suspension of license. Third offense within 10 years entails a minimum fine of \$500, maximum of \$1,500, and/or 90 days in jail, and a minimum of six months' revocation of license.

DWI laws for the first offense mean a minimum fine of \$350, a maximum of \$500, and/or one year in jail, and a minimum of six months' revocation of license. Second offense within 10 years entails a minimum fine of \$500, a maximum of \$5,000, and/or up to four years in jail, and a minimum of six months' revocation of license. If, when stopped for DWI, a driver refuses to take the breathalyzer test, the license is taken then and there.

Another solution evolving is the raising of the legal drinking age. After two decades of dealing with lower legal drinking ages, which both the National Safety Council and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration attribute to the steadily worsening under-20 driving record,



many states have established a higher legal drinking age. In New York State there is pending legislation, sponsored by Sen. Pavadan and supported by the State Catholic Conference, to raise it to 19.

There have also been proposals to raise the age for obtaining a driver's license.

But is legislation the answer? Regarding the legal drinking age, young adults have repeatedly said that regardless of what the legal age is, teenagers are going to drink and are able to obtain the liquor to do so. (See Equal Time in RapAround.)

Concerning the DWI laws, one young gentleman said that until drinking and driving becomes socially unacceptable the DWI problem will continue.

Up to now it has been socially acceptable to drink and drive, but according to Shirley Connell, assistant program director for the Rochester Chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism, what the new laws are doing is motivating a non-acceptance. "You are not going to legislate people's drinking but you will get them off the road," she said.

Both Ms. Connell and Wheeler said teenagers are aware of the problem. "Our program has a profound effect on them," said Wheeler. "They seem to be listening."

"Teens are thinking responsibly," said Ms. Connell, and

Programs Available

Presentations on teen drinking/driving and alcoholism are available for schools, businesses and community organizations. Anyone wishing to schedule the "To Drive DWI or to Live" program may contact Edward Riley, administrator to the Medical Examiners Office, at 271-3434. This is a non-funded program and anyone wishing to contribute may also call this number.

To schedule a presentation from the Speakers Bureau of the Rochester Chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism, Ms. Shirley Connell, assistant program director, may be reached at 271-3540.

told about a growing custom among teens at prom time. More and more couples, she said, are renting limousines and letting a chauffeur do the driving. She also pointed out that people are drinking less at parties, that there is less pressure on them to drink, and that they are making their own decisions.

So the message seems to be taking hold. Yet, the mature and responsible decision not to "drive DWI and to live" still rests with the teenager.

NEXT WEEK: The Jekyll and Hyde of Alcohol.

Pro-Lifer

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would need state enabling legislation, they had loopholes and pro-life constitutional lawyers felt both that the language of the bills in question was unconstitutional and that they would not stand up to challenge before the Supreme Court.

It was then that Sen. Hatch, a Republican from Utah, asked the U.S. bishops to throw their collective weight behind his bill, Father Hewes said.

When the bishops agreed, he said, "I reacted negatively."

Initially, he said, he reacted that way because he thought the measure dealt more with questions of "states rights" than abortion, and, "I thought it was a compromise that would slow down the momentum the pro-life movement has built up over the years. I was very upset."

Nevertheless, he said, he committed himself to reserving his judgments until he had studied the question more carefully.

During that period of study, he said, he came to realize that the abortion was not secondary to the question of states rights; and, "I began seeing 'Hatch' as an ingenious strategy."

"What Hatch says is let Congress and the people back into determining law in this very vital area."

Father Hewes intimated that the 1973 Supreme Court decision on abortion usurped the power of the people and Congress to determine law on abortion.

Hatch therefore appeals, he said, "to a very broad section of society. Hatch appeals to the middle ground."

Father Hewes refuses to speak negatively about those in the pro-life movement who refuse to support the Hatch Amendment. He said he feels that the case is simply one of not understanding the bill, and that once the Hatch is passed, it will be they who will "remind us that we need further legislation."

Nevertheless, "Today, what's legal is moral. Our consciences are dulled. We're in a critical time and the Hatch is realizable," Father Hewes said, echoing Cardinal Terence Cooke who initially promoted the measure among the nation's bishops.

"We realize that this is just a first step," he said.

However, "Hatch gives us a sense again of what a smoke-screen was raised by the rhetoric of the pro-abortionists," in the early days, he said.

Not only will the Hatch Amendment need enabling legislation to be effective, Father Hewes said, passage will demonstrate that "it will be important for the Church to work for alternate systems of care. It's going to increase our commitment to women."

"And in the same line, it's going to give us the impetus to change those social structures which promote abortions," he said.

"We must address ourselves to those structures that make life so cheap."

"It's not enough to protect the right to life without protecting the right to food, peace ..."

Berrigan Visits Brockport

Father Daniel Berrigan will be at Brockport College at 8 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 18. He will be speaking in the Seymour Union Ballroom on the Brockport campus about

"The war-making state and the peace-making citizen." He is being sponsored by The Students Against the Draft and Military Aggression (SADMA). Admission is free.

Bishops

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Under Criminal Justice, the conference urges:

1. Expanding the alternatives to incarceration;
2. Expanding the Crime Victims Compensation program;
3. Restructuring the criminal justice system to end overcrowding and inhumane conditions for prisoners.

Among other programs are raising the minimum drinking age to 19; tighter controls on pornography, especially where children are involved; new housing for the rural, low-income, elderly; and adapting the state income tax charitable deductions to the federal provisions.



NCCP Aide

Father Daniel F. Hoye, 36, has become the youngest man ever elected general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the U.S. Catholic Conference. A native of Taunton, Mass., and a priest of the Fall River diocese, he replaces Rochesterian Thomas C. Kelly who was named bishop in 1977 and archbishop of Louisville, Ky., Dec. 29.

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