

Equal Time

Last week a tough teenage curfew law went into effect in Trenton, N.J.: youths under the age of 17 must be off the streets by 10 p.m. weeknights, and by midnight on weekends. This is the third New Jersey city to declare a curfew (Willingboro, Bordentown); and Detroit, Mich. enforced a curfew last summer.

Teenage curfew law: Is it fair? Is it needed?

AQUINAS

JEAN RIVOLI
Freshman
soccer

"I don't think it is fair. If you have to run an errand and you are not allowed out on the streets after a certain time, it is not fair. I think it is a strike against a person's liberties. It all depends on who the people are whether the curfew would cut down on crime. Police have to keep an eye on people whether there is a curfew in effect or not. Adult crime is just as high as teenage crime. If other states start having a curfew, than New York State will probably follow."



PAT YEHL
Freshman
band

"It violates people's rights. I don't think it is up to the city to declare a curfew. It is up to the parents. I think any type of curfew is against individual rights. There are adults who commit crimes — not just teenagers. Since a curfew would be a law kids will try and break it. If some cities get away with declaring a curfew it will probably set a trend."



DEBBIE PIGNATO
Freshman

"I think a curfew infringes on people's rights. A lot of kids work after 10 p.m. and if they can't be on the streets it is wrong. It is up to the parents to set the curfew not the government. I don't think a curfew will prevent crime because if someone is really set on committing a crime he or she will find a time. I think 11 p.m. is a good curfew time for parents to set."



MARK LEWIS
Freshman

"I think it is unfair and it doesn't sound legal. What is going to stop say an 18-year-old from committing a crime? A penalty should be put on the parents if their children vandalize and then let them set the curfew. It is up to the parents, not the government to set a curfew. I think 1:30 a.m. is a good curfew for parents to set. I think you will see curfew laws set in the bigger cities but not in Rochester."



ZANE CARPENTER
Freshman
football

"A curfew is not needed and shouldn't be there. If the kids want to go out they will go out. So all you are doing is policing kids who haven't done anything but break a curfew law. The parents and kids should sit down and decide a time between them and parents should show a little leniency. I think during the week the parents should set a curfew at 11 p.m., and on weekends at 2 a.m. A few cities might follow the cities in New Jersey with curfews but I don't think it will catch on."



MICHELLE TUTTLE
Freshman
basketball

"As everyone else has said it is not fair. If a crime is going to be committed it will be committed — and by adults not just by teenagers. The only people who are going to get hurt by the curfew are the parents. They are going to wind up paying for it (in fines and court appearances). Curfews will be useless as a crime-prevention method. Crime won't stop. Setting curfews may spread but like many other laws it will be broken."



Rap Around

Joan M. Smith, Editor



Winner's Circle

RapAround weekly will run a photo of a group of students taken somewhere in the diocese. One person will be circled and if that person brings the clipping to the Courier-Journal before noon of the Tuesday following our publication date, he or she will receive \$5. This week's photo was taken at McQuaid during a Christmas liturgy. The person circled should bring the clipping to Joan M. Smith, Courier-Journal, 114 South Union St., by noon, Tuesday, Jan. 17, to receive \$5.

On a Saturday Night:

There's Something for Everyone

By Joan M. Smith

What began as a parish coffeehouse has expanded into a popular happening.

The what is the "Ark," a youth social group, and the happening is a monthly get-together for young adults at the St. John of Rochester Parish Center, Ayrault Road, Fairport.

The Ark originated three years ago in St. John's parish, and since then has grown to include a board of directors of young adults from many parishes — Resurrection, St. Louis, Assumption, St. John's; and schools: Fairport, Pittsford-Mendon, McQuaid, Our Lady of Mercy, Barker Road Junior High, and St. John's.

Members of the board coordinate the monthly social event which is usually on the third Saturday of each month. They handle the publicity, obtain the bands, prepare and serve the refreshments and collect the admission which is \$2 per person and \$3 per couple.

All young adults from all parishes and schools are welcome to the events which feature dancing to live bands like "Tension" and "Mirage", and games like ping-pong, foosball, Atari, air hockey.

In a recent interview with Ark board members, Michelle Artl, who is from Resurrection parish and attends Fairport High School, explained the purpose of Ark. "It's to keep the kids off the street and provide them with something to do other than partying," she said.

Has Ark achieved that goal? Definitely said the board members and Robert Maddamma, an adult adviser, agreed. According to Maddamma, when Ark was a coffeehouse it was fre-



Ark workers include Michelle Artl, Tina Hynes, Michelle Swagler, Paula Memmo, Mary Ellen Konz, Greg DeSmith.

quented by 40 to 50 young adults. Now with the bands and games "it has become a big social event," he said, attended by 150 to 200 young adults.

Maddamma and his wife Carol besides being advisers also chaperone the dances as do Mr. and Mrs. Oweff Hynes, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Morales.

Although the chaperones are there, it is the young adult managers who do the policing, "and we haven't had an incident in three years," Maddamma said.

Does the fact that there are chaperones inhibit those who come to the Saturday night festivities? Not at all, Ark members said. "There's a lot of freedom for the kids," Michelle Swagler said, "but there are the adults around to watch over things."

Michelle and her fellow board members think they have something unique in

Ark — unique because "it's the only place you can go and not worry about peer pressure," said Michelle Artl.

Unique because "it happens every month and there is a feeling of closeness with your peers," commented Greg DeSmith.

Unique because "it doesn't cost much," explained Mary Ellen Konz.

And unique because "I get to see my friends," said Tina Hynes, who invited, "At

least come and see what it's like."

Next Ark event will be at 7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 21 and will feature the music of "Mirage."

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