

Archbishop Wood High School for Boys

Warminster, Penna

# CRACKDOWN ON ALCOHOL BEGINS; PROMS TO FACE REFORMS

by David Vasquez

It's months from the Junior or Senior Proms, and it may seem that not many people are seriously thinking about such springtime adventures.

This may be the case for most people, but it is certainly not so for the administrators of both the Boys' and Girls' schools. Recalling the serious problems that plagued last year's proms as well as those of previous years, both schools

noted the course that such abuses have taken:

"Our regular dances are marked by the presence of alcoholic beverages; our proms - it becomes an even more significant problem, and it climaxes in what at times can only be considered an orgy during Senior Week. For us to continue to hide our heads in the sand as though 'Well, it's not that much of a prob-

hol. At the Senior Prom meeting some of the many abuses were pointed out.

Fr. Gaulin noted that often enough a car trunk becomes a type of bar-on-wheels. In one instance, someone rented a hotel suite at the prom location and set up a bar, along with spreading the word to students. This plot was uncovered and hotel authorities placed a guard at the door, thwarting any attempts to obtain booze at that location.

The results of the drinking are quite serious: damage to prom halls, car accidents, injury to students and others, etcetera, etcetera.

Fr. Gaulin recounted to the parents one incident that took

place while he was at Niagara University where a student was killed as a result of drunken driving. He pointed out that "it's time for us to look at this situation and stop pretending as though it's not as bad as it is because all we need is one tragedy, and everyone is going to say, 'Why didn't we do something about it?'"

Although there were numerous unconfirmed incidents at last year's proms and post-proms, this is not the sole reason for the reforms. As Fr. Sharrett noted, "It wasn't so much just last year, it isn't just last year. I think we're all in agreement that this is something that has been building up for a number of years and

that is the reason why it came to a head this year....This isn't something that was done on a whim."

Of course, aside from the moral aspects, there are legal aspects to this problem. The legal drinking age in Pennsylvania is 21. Thus, any student who obtains and consumes alcohol is in violation of this law. This results either from forgery of cards, or cooperation from older individuals.

As it now stands, the Senior Prom is scheduled for May 15, from 9:00 PM to 5:00 AM. It will be held at King's Caterers in Levittown. Both breakfast and dinner will be served.

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Past Proms: A Cause of the Problem.

have begun to work out measures which they hope will stifle such activities this year.

The beginning of this joint effort was the meeting held on Monday, January 7. To emphasize the seriousness of the matter at hand, this meeting was made mandatory for parents of students that plan to attend the prom. Students whose parents did not attend without good reason will not be permitted to attend their prom, according to the rules outlined thus far.

It is estimated that 95% of the students were represented at the Senior Prom meeting in our gymnasium, while approximately 80% were represented at the Junior Prom meeting in the girls' gym.

The main center of discussion at the meeting was the problems that have been resulting from the abuse of alcohol. At the Senior meeting, Rev. Frederick J. Gaulin, C.M.,

would be really immoral."

In a later interview with CROSSROADS, Rev. Victor Sharrett, principal of the girls' school, also noted this moral obligation:

"The reason we feel we have to address it is because we are a Catholic high school here and we have a certain moral obligation to the students and the parents to speak of topics like this."

There are many students who do not like this year's prom proposals. Numerous students object to the fact that the seniors could not choose their own prom site. But, as Fr. Sharrett points out, "The intention is not to cause anybody to have a bad time, but to try to make it a better time for all. We don't feel that the consumption of alcohol is an occasion for a good time for anybody."

The problems of course all stem from the abuse of alco-

## G.I.S. Terminal Stolen

# PLAZA COUNSELING CENTER ROBBED

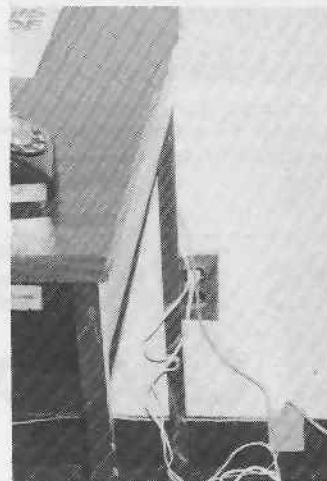
by Michael Connolly

On Dec. 17, at 8:15 A.M., it was discovered that the plaza counseling center's office had been robbed of some very valuable equipment. The discovery was made by Charles Geib.

The robbers apparently used a crowbar to pry open the back door, and carried out three phones, the GIS computer terminal, two phone couplers (for the terminal), two AM-FM radios, a stereo receiver, three tape recorders and headphones. The total cost of these items is in excess of \$2,000 dollars. A copying machine and typewriter were not taken.

As a result of these losses, working at the guidance center for the past month has been rather difficult.

According to the counselors at the guidance center, police think the people involved had a "shopping list". Clues have been scarce. It is believed the robbery took place Sunday night, because



A VALUABLE CLUE: AN UNPLUGGED CLOCK.

when the intruders unplugged the terminal, the clock was also unplugged, stopping at 10:30 P.M. A secretary at the center, Mrs. Hipp, worked

Sunday morning and everything was normal. The incident was discovered the following morning. Also, rain and foggy weather prevailed on Sunday night.

It is believed by the Guidance Center that at least two people were involved, since some of the stolen equipment (especially the terminal), were quite unwieldy.

An interesting event occurred a week after the Guidance Center robbery. The Armed Forces Recruiting Center in Hatboro also found that much of its electronic equipment had been stolen.

Until the insurance company makes their assessment, it is not known when a new terminal will be installed. In the interim, the students are the ones suffering the most. This is especially true of the seniors, who need vital college information. Hopefully, the situation will improve through the quickest means possible.

# Tuition Upped \$75

by Thomas Kuzma

With inflation being tagged as the main culprit, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia has once again announced an increase in tuition at its thirty diocesan high schools. Tuition for the 1980-81 school year will be \$725, an increase of \$75 from this year. Families with two or more children will have to come up with an additional \$175.

The fee the local parishes must pay per student will remain at \$175.

With each tuition hike the financial picture of the Catholic educational system grows more bleak. According to Fr.

Frederick Gaulin, Archbishop Wood High School for Boys went approximately \$69,000 in the red - \$58 per student - last year.

Enrollment projections for the upcoming freshman class forecast no major increases or decreases. In order for the Catholic school system in general - and Wood, in particular, to remain financially afloat in the future, there must be, according to Fr. Gaulin, cooperation among all faculty and students. The principal emphasized that the tuition increase was needed.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: One of the Family

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