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Lourdine Osborne
editor

just the facts

Monday, April 4, 1994

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
(217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL 60942

Susan Comstock
ad manager

Police News

No tickets or injuries were reported in a two-vehicle accident at 3:05 p.m. Thursday. A car driven by George Francis Anderson, 325 E. Penn, collided with a van driven by Thomas McConnell, East Lynn. The accident occurred in the alley between Penn and Washington streets.

Tammy Kinnaid, 515 E. Penn, reported Thursday that someone scratched her 1990 Plymouth Sundance while it was parked at 105½ E. Penn St. Police are investigating.

Earl Jay Burton, 24, of 723 N. Seventh St., was arrested at 10:10 p.m. Thursday. Burton was charged with disorderly conduct after he allegedly disrupted traffic on the 100 block of North Market and screamed at people in the area. Burton was released on a notice to appear.

The Hoopeston fire department was called to two fires Friday.

Obituaries

CARTER - Velma L. Carter, 76, of Hoopeston, died at 11:10 a.m. Saturday, April 2, 1994, at her daughter's home in Hoopeston. A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. today at the Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in floral Hill Cemetery. There was no visitation. Memorials are suggested to the first Christian Church of Hoopeston.

HERRON - Robert Leslie Herron, 88, of Potomac, died at 4 a.m. Saturday, April 2, 1994, at St. Mary's Hospital, Kankakee. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Wolfe Funeral Home, Potomac. Burial will be in the Potomac Cemetery. Visitation will be from noon until the time of services Tuesday at the funeral home.

The first fire was reported at 11:43 a.m. at M&N Pallet Company on South Second Ave. A fire there had gotten out of control.

The department was then called at 3:04 p.m. to a car fire at 217 E. Main.

William E. Drollinger, 22, of 502 W. Elm, was arrested by Hoopeston police at 11:59 p.m. Saturday.

Drollinger was charged with improper lane usage, driving under the influence of alcohol, driving under the influence of alcohol with a concentration of breath over .10 and leaving the scene of an accident with vehicle damage.

According to police, Drollinger was traveling on the 600 block of East Young when his car left the roadway, going through a yard at 628 E. Young. When Drollinger's car hit the curb, his front tire blew.

Drollinger then allegedly backed up to leave the scene, hitting a parked car owned by Jason Wisdom of 505 E. Main.

Drollinger was later arrested by Hoopeston police. He was released after posting a \$300 cash bond.

Charles D. Huddleston, 526 W. Elm, reported to police Sunday that someone forced entry into his garage. Police are investigating.

Weather

Becoming cloudy, windy and warmer today with a 30 percent chance of showers. High in the upper 50s or lower 60s. Tonight, rain possible. Low in the upper 30s. Tomorrow, rainy. High near 56, low near 44.

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to talk of many things...
Of cabbages - and kings."

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SERVICES

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VEHICLES

1990 GMC S-15, 5-speed truck. 63,000 miles. \$5,500 OBO. Call (217)283-5559. 94-98

1983 Chevy Caprice. 4-door, V-6 classic. \$350. Call after 4:30 p.m. (217)748-6247. 94-tfn

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Rossville-Alvin High School policy change gets failing grade

A rose by any other name would smell as sweet. But would a mid-semester exam by any other name strike dread and fear into the hearts of students?

I refer, of course, to the Rossville-Alvin school board's recent decision to abolish mid-semesters because they conflict with other things.

What a bunch of hooley!

You will recall the board's unanimous decision came after the timing of this year's tests conflicted with the girls' basketball tournament.

To avoid such inconveniences next year, the board voted to do away with the tests - at least for next year.

The decision stinks to high heaven for several reasons.

First, by golly, when most of us were in school, we had mid-semesters, and it didn't kill us, either. Sometimes we didn't do very well on them, but we sweated through the cramming, took them and, overall, weren't any the worse for wear.

(Of course some of us also walked six miles to school, uphill both ways, but that's another column.)

And maybe I'm missing something here, but isn't school supposed to be about education, not extra-curricular activities?

School is the place we send our children to learn to read, write and do math.

That the kids also get to participate in sports, act in plays and do other fun things is nice, but not necessary.

That's why they call those things EXTRA-curricular activities.

You have activities dealing with the curriculum - homework, studying, testing, etc., and then you have EXTRA-curricular activities.

Rossville-Alvin parents, and even some teachers, have said privately that they worry about the students' abilities to function in the world because

many students are promoted even though they are woefully unable to meet the basic requirements of their grade levels.

The policy change sends the wrong message to the kids. It says education isn't really important.

And that's wrong.

Very few of our local athletes will earn their living from sports accomplishments. Most won't play professionally, won't get the obscene endorsement contracts.

Most students will have to support themselves in a world where reading, writing and arithmetic are necessary for survival.

To perfect those skills, students need to be taught AND tested.

And just why can't students prepare for semesters and games at the same time?

Students must know that education - not extra-curricular activities - is the school's top priority.

Another disturbing facet of this decision is that it was passed unanimously. No board member dissented. Apparently, not one of them sees any advantage to mid-semester exams.

In fact, board members said the change would benefit students. Teachers, they said, could still give tests but not call them "semester" exams.

And let us not forget, the number of weeks in each semester will remain constant.

Those are mighty poor reasons for changing the policy.

I will be the first to admit that schools are overburdened. Society expects them to teach kids everything, from 2+2=4 to AIDS awareness.

Schools are also expected to discipline kids (without the benefit of corporal punishment) and make them fit members of society.

It's a large but most schools do the best they can to meet the demands placed on them.

But the Rossville-Alvin school board shirks that responsibility and deserves a big, red F.



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