

Bankruptcy

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Hultquist & Giffin

Attorneys at Law
(217)283-7711

Lourdine Florek
editor

just the facts

Monday, May 1, 1995

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

Susan Comstock
ad manager



Police News



Diane Edwards, 816 E. Seminary, reported Thursday that someone took a Super Nintendo from her home.

Jason L. Dunavan, 404 Harrison, Rossville, reported Thursday that someone damaged the driver's side door of his 1989 Chrysler LeBarron while it was parked in the 700 block of East Honeywell.

Derick F. Stewart, no age given, of 504 E. Thompson Ave., was arrested at 3:09 p.m. Thursday for disorderly conduct (filing a false police report).

Stewart's arrest came after he reported last week that money had been stolen from his home. Police said an investigation showed the money had not been stolen and that Stewart was aware of that when he made the police report.

He was released on a notice to appear.

A **Monical's Pizza** employee on Thursday turned in a plastic handbag with a blue floral print. The bag contains keys and other items. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

Stuart W. Icenogle, 23, of 13 Toni Lane, Urbana, was arrested at 10:25 p.m. Thursday, charged with driving on revocation, operating an uninsured vehicle and illegal transportation of alcohol. He was taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville.

A passenger in Icenogle's vehicle, **James F. Shoulder III**, 20, of 1409 Hudson Dr., Rantoul, was charged with illegal possession of alcohol. He was released on a notice to appear.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 6:30 p.m. Friday. **Ruby M. Clayborn**, 602 E. Main, was backing up at Floral Hill Cemetery when she struck a pole.

Deanna L. Ramsey, 824 E. Wyman, reported Friday that someone slashed a tire on her 1987 Ford.

Rodolfo Macillas, 27, of 406 E. Main, was arrested **POLICE** on other side

Obituaries

SINN - **K. Evelyn Sinn**, 76, of rural Cissna Park, died at 4:27 a.m. Thursday, April 27, 1995, at home. Funeral services were held Saturday at the Ford-Baier Funeral Home in Paxton. Burial was in the Cissna Park Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to establish a scholarship fund for future teachers.

Weather

Rain likely today. High in the mid or upper 50s. Tonight, rain ending. Low in the low 40s. Tomorrow, cloudy. High near 58. Low near 45.

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May 1: Revé McGraw, Fisher

May 2: Joan Weaver, Linsenville, PA.

May 3: Tom Kirts, Hoopeston

May 4: Sara Bond, Hoopeston

May 5: American Legion, Hoopeston (donated back)

Briefly

Royalty crowned

Jill Feller and **Ed Freeland** were crowned queen and king of the Hoopeston Area High School prom held Saturday night.

Members of the court were **Janell Morris**, **Aubrey Schellhardt**, **Kellie Langdoc**, **Lisa Lohnes**, **Jeff Nelson**, **Ben Sollars**, **Adam Knittel** and **Bryan Brown**.

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Would legalizing marijuana really lead America to pot?

The days of head shops are long gone, but the debate about legalizing marijuana rages on.

This point was brought home during last week's Neighborhood Watch meeting.

Mike Banc of the Vermilion County Metropolitan Enforcement Group (VMEG) spoke on the war against drugs. When he threw the floor open to questions, he was asked about legalization, something he does not favor.

Marijuana - pot, reefer, killer weed - has been around for a very long time. Smoking it, possessing it used to be legal, but that, too, was a long time ago.

For many, the battle lines are clearly drawn. Law enforcement officials are against legalization because pot, like cocaine and heroin, is a drug.

Those in the criminal justice system say that pot leads to stronger, addicting drugs, which, in turn, causes the crime rate to escalate as addicts steal to fund their habit.

But is there any difference between that argument and saying that beer drinking leads to imbibing demon rum?

There are sound reasons for not smoking pot. It messes with the body in ways alcohol doesn't. THC, the mind-altering chemical in marijuana, has been shown to have negative effects on the brain.

Then there is the effect on personality. Chronic smokers often lose their drive to achieve. Not to mention weight gain from the munchies.

During the 1960s and the 1970s, pot enjoyed a modicum of social respectability. It seems almost everyone was toking away.

Then came government reports on the dangers of pot. Marijuana was blamed for everything from soldiers shooting fellow soldiers in Viet Nam to people committing suicide while under the influence.

Pot was considered the root of all evil.

Unfortunately for propagandists, thousands of

people who toked went on to lead productive lives. Why, even the leader of our nation admits he smoked it once, even though he didn't inhale.

(OK, so maybe that example blows my argument to pieces.)

It seems the resources used to fight this particular battle in the war on drugs could be put to better use.

In this battle, the money spent on fighting marijuana, a cherry bomb in the drug user's arsenal,

could be better spent fighting against the big guns: cocaine, crack, PCP, LSD.

People - many of them generally upstanding citizens - have had their lives go up in smoke because they possessed some of the green, leafy material.

There are those who say more people will smoke pot if it is legal, yet there are those who smoke it specifically because it is not.

If pot were legal, the government could tax the billions spent purchasing the stuff. That would certainly help reduce the deficit. The stuff, like alcohol, could be regulated.

That's not likely to happen soon, however. Organizations such as the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) have fought this for years.

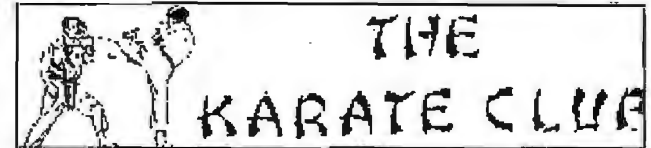
The government, however, continues this phase of the drug war. It - like some of our recent military actions - is a battle they can't win.

Perhaps they should choose their battles more carefully.



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*Ole Country Inn *Minuteman *Feedbag

Milford

*Dixie's *Minuteman *Casey's *Dairy Queen

Wellington
Coffee Corner

Police continued from other side

rested at 7:47 p.m. Saturday, charged with driving with a suspended license and illegal transportation of alcohol. He was released on \$100 bond.

Richard L. Giles, 402 W. Maple, reported Saturday that some checks had been stolen and cashed.